

W. Secret 251

Chapter 251: Bluebird

“My Neverending Book!”

A greedy glare shone from Wizard Ubik’s face to the point where he did not even give the mysterious woman much attention and had run forward carelessly, his body flickering with violent Elemental fluctuations.

“Scram!”

The mysterious woman shot a casual glance at the Neverending Book on the ground, then lifted her head, extended her hand and pointed at Ubik.

“Crackle crackle.”

Streams of ice crystals appeared in midair, turning into hair-like ice threads that were sparkling and crystalline, they held a certain beauty but also radiated a strange terrifying aura.

The multitude of ice threads was incomparably sharp. They covered the area, hanging in midair, just like a web would and slashed down viciously at Ubik.

“Crack.”

Wizard Ubik initially had a layer of Defensive spell over him that covered his entire body, and he seemed to be wearing a Defensive robe as well. However, at this moment, under the sparkling and crystalline ice threads, these defensive measures were of no use at all. Without any warning, his whole body was slashed into countless pieces.

In an instant, the acrid smell of blood pervaded the air. The atmosphere had fallen into complete silence, including Wizard Sabis, Wizard Gill, and the two Spell Casters who had suddenly appeared. They had all stopped what they were doing with an astounded look on their face, fixing their gaze on this mysterious woman who wore a black hat.

Ubik had been a bona fide Fourth-level Spell Caster. Although he was an average one, in this crowd of Spell Casters, Ubik could definitely be considered as an extremely powerful Spell Caster.

However, Wizard Ubik who had been this powerful was killed in one attack from this mysterious woman whose origins were unknown, making the other Spell Casters shift uneasily.

“Black hat, feather... I know who she is! She’s one of the most ruthless Spell Casters in Ozmu, Bluebird!”

At last, the two mysterious Fourth-level Spell Casters divulged the identity of the mysterious woman. It was the gifted Spell Caster Bluebird from Ozmu, the mere mention of her name would turn people pale.

If it was said that Weiss was one of the Third-level Spell Caster whose capability was relatively stronger in Ozmu, then Bluebird would be presented as one of the most terrifying Third-level Spell Caster. Naturally, her powers were even stronger than Weiss.

In the past, Bluebird had slain a Spell Caster clan that had four Fourth-level Wizards all by herself. She went on to massacre every Spell Caster in the clan without sparing anyone, not even the Normies. Since then, this act had secured her terrifying reputation and she was called one of the most ruthless Spell Casters in Ozmu.

In Ozmu, they would only dispatch Third-level Spell Casters when dealing with most Spell Caster clans. Only when they were facing a few Spell Caster organizations or one powerful Spell Caster organization would they send out Spell Casters who were Fourth-level and above.

Therefore, though Bluebird was just a Third-level Spell Caster, in the eyes of many Spell Caster clans and roaming Wizards, she was the frightening and powerful Bluebird whom no one was willing to provoke.

“Bluebird, what is she here for? Did she come for the Neverending Book?”

Looking at this woman who looked so pretty but was the legendary Bluebird who had garnered a fierce reputation in Ozmu, Wizard Rhind felt his heart tighten slightly.

Even if he was facing Ubik, Sabis, or even these Fourth-level Spell Casters, Rhind would not be as nervous as he was now, as he had already planned out his countermove.

If Bluebird had come because of the Neverending Book, then there was no possibility that the Shadison clan would be able to hold on to the Neverending Book any longer.

However, Bluebird's gaze did not land on the Neverending Book on the ground at all. Her eyes were constantly sweeping across the crowd as if she was looking for something.

Finally, her gaze fixed onto a figure that was wearing a long Wizard robe...

...

"This woman... how terrifying and powerful!"

Shireen, who was leading Haya, Emily, Emma, and the other Spell Casters to somewhere safer, surreptitiously observed Bluebird who had appeared in Shadison Manor.

They had previously witnessed the frightening battle between the Fourth-level Spell Casters with their own eyes. Every spell seemed able to easily destroy an entire war fort. Spells like those were already at an inconceivable level of power to them, as if such spells could never be defeated.

However, the mysterious woman who did not seem to be a Fourth-level Spell Caster had appeared now and was able to easily kill the powerful Fourth-level Spell Caster Ubik with a single gesture of her hand.

At this point, these newbie Wizards who had never traveled far away and only stayed quietly in their clans truly understood that even low-level Spell Casters could have such a terrifying extent of power.

"Who is Bluebird looking for?"

Shireen wrinkled her brow. She saw that the powerful Bluebird took no notice of the Neverending Book on the ground, but instead had lifted her gaze as if she was continually looking for something.

All of a sudden, Bluebird's eyes focused slightly, zeroing in on a figure in the crowd. Shireen followed Bluebird's gaze.

"That... that is the Wizard Merlin whom we met on our way here?"

Shireen stared in bewilderment and uncertainty at the black-robed Wizard in the crowd. Was Bluebirds' target Wizard Merlin all along?

Shireen did not notice at all that Emma was beside her and upon seeing the black-robed figure in the crowd, broke out into an overjoyed smile that was filled with disbelief...

...

"Merlin, come on out!"

A cold smile tugged at the corner of the aloof Bluebird's mouth as her eyes fixed firmly onto Merlin in the crowd.

Laurinka felt a jolt in her heart and looked anxiously at Merlin beside her. It was not just Laurinka, almost all of the Spell Casters were now looking towards Merlin.

After knowing that this mysterious woman was the infamously terrifying Bluebird, these Spell Casters no longer dared to make a move. They knew that with the arrival of Bluebird, no one would be able to take away the Neverending Book.

However, it turned out that Bluebird's target was not the Neverending Book, but she was here to look for Merlin.

Conversely, Merlin appeared to be rather taken aback. He immediately thought of Weiss – back then he had killed Weiss in Floating City. He should have known that those from Ozmu would not leave the matter at that.

However, in the past, the people from Ozmu would spare no effort in enticing genuine prodigies, yet looking at Bluebird who wore a grim expression, she did not appear to be trying to entice Merlin at all.

Seeing that Merlin had gradually come out from the crowd, a smirk slowly grew on Bluebird's face but it was an icy smile which could strike great fear in the depths of everyone's heart.

"Merlin, I've searched all the way from Floating City to here... Although I've spent quite a long time, it was worth it just to find you!"

Her frosty tone revealed a strain of murderous intent.

Merlin frowned slightly. "It's Ozmu who sent you to kill me?"

After the changes that happened in the Dark Magic Region, Merlin had also made careful inquiries about matters regarding Ozmu. He discovered that Ozmu was a really remarkable organization. They seemed to be on bad terms with every Spell Caster organization and were always on the hunt for prodigious Spell Casters.

Not even the large Spell Caster organizations knew how many powerful Spell Casters there were in Ozmu. It was precisely due to Ozmu's deep and far-reaching inner workings that they were able to hold off a few large Spell Caster organizations simultaneously.

As for Ozmu's method of operation, it seemed that they particularly valued gifted Spell Casters, especially those who were not roped in by any organizations yet. They would entice these Spell Casters by any means necessary and there would never be a situation where they sent out people to kill off these gifted Spell Casters.

Even if it was a Wizard who belonged to an adversarial Spell Caster organization, even if it was a prodigious Wizard who had just killed a Spell Caster from Ozmu, as long as they were willing to become Ozmu's member, Ozmu would accept them with open arms.

Now that Merlin had revealed his identity as a Six-Elemental Spell Caster, in addition to possessing Demon Abilities, it was impossible that Ozmu would not have noticed him. Merlin was even prepared if someone from Ozmu had come forward to tempt him into joining, he wanted to see what Ozmu would have used in order to attract so many gifted Spell Casters who did not hesitate even for a moment to turn their backs on their own Spell Caster organizations.

However, facing this mysterious woman Bluebird currently, her intent to kill was clearly shown all over her body. She did not even try to conceal this intention.

“You can never join Ozmu!”

Bluebird barked out a cold laugh. Following that, violent Elemental fluctuations exploded from her body. In that instant, Merlin seemed to have been placed in a field of ice and snow, feeling that an endless amount of Ice Element was descending in a flash!

Chapter 252: Suppression

“Pandora Demon Ability, Fiery Collapse!”

Sensing the chill surrounding his body, a sharp light flashed in Merlin’s eyes as he cast Fiery Collapse without the least bit of hesitation.

Instantly, a raging fire flared up, soaring into the sky to form a sea of fire. The white flames burned and twisted in mid-air. The Pandora Demon Ability of ice threads which had easily sliced Wizard Ubik into innumerable pieces was now faced with Fiery Collapse where the ice threads melted one by one.

The ice threads that Bluebird had wielded were in fact, a petrifying type of Pandora Demon Ability. As a result, Wizard Ubik, who had not taken any precaution against it had naturally been slain with no difficulty.

“Wind of Freedom!”

Merlin cast Fiery Collapse but did not stop there. Instead, he cast Wind of Freedom, and immediately, a violent gust of Wind Elemental fluctuations surged around him. In the blink of an eye, his figure turned into a streaking blur that dashed toward Bluebird.

Recognising that Bluebird was a formidable foe, Merlin decided he would go full-on against Bluebird. Hence, he had used his strongest spell on the get go.

“Earth Shield!”

Bluebird's expression was still blank. A layer of dirt-yellow light appeared over her body, and it began to rapidly form a shield which enclosed her.

This was a Third-level Earth-type Defensive spell. In addition, it was a well-known spell among the Third-level Defensive spells. Bluebird had already cast her Defensive spell, and upon seeing that Merlin was still dashing forward, she frowned for the first time. Following that, she put both of her hands together, and her fair fingers stabbed the air repeatedly.

“Swish! Swish! Swish!”

Innumerable ice threads appeared three times in a row, forming a large web in the air. In one move, the icy chill that it emitted froze the white flames which covered the entire sky.

“Crack! Crack!”

The ice crystals fell to the ground and shattered but the surroundings were already in a complete mess. The collision of Merlin's Fiery Collapse and Bluebird's Ice-type Pandora Demon Ability was far more frightening than the spells of the Fourth-level Wizards from before. Even the robes and Defensive spells would not be of any use upon one contact.

“Pandora Demon Ability, Glacial Finger!”

Merlin's body flickered with violent Wind Elemental fluctuations. At the same time, as he neared Bluebird, he cast Glacial Finger.

“Whoosh!”

The frost of Glacial Finger shot straight toward Bluebird. The surface of the ground was completely frozen, and even the dirt-yellow layer of Earth Guard over Bluebird's body was encrusted in a thick layer of ice crystals.

Merlin's Glacial Finger was able to easily demolish Third-level spells. Earth Guard was considered a Third-level spell even though it was a relatively difficult spell to cultivate among Third-level spells.

“Bang!”

The ice crystals shattered abruptly, and Merlin saw a flying spear made of condensed Wind Elements. It broke the ice crystals in an instant and then flew toward Merlin at an inconceivable speed

“A second Pandora Demon Ability!”

Merlin felt a slight shock in his heart but he reacted soon enough. He was able to possess Fiery Collapse, Glacial Finger, and Darkness Heart – three types of Pandora Demon Abilities. So, having two Pandora Demon Abilities was not surprising for Bluebird, a prodigy from Ozmu who had made countless Spell Casters tremble by the mere mention of her name.

Ozmu’s system ran even deeper than many large spell casters’ organizations, so it was not surprising that they possessed many Pandora Demon Abilities. However, even if one had the cultivation method for a Pandora Demon Ability, one would still require many precious items, Ozmu would not just freely provide these treasures.

Therefore, these items needed to be acquired by the Spell Casters themselves. Some of the cultivation requirements for Pandora Demon Ability were even rather demanding. Bluebird was very competent to be able to cultivate two Pandora Demon Abilities. So, it came as no surprise that she gained such an infamous reputation even in Ozmu, with its concentration of prodigies.

“Buzz.”

Merlin’s Mind Power quickly activated the robe he was wearing. In an instant, dense lines of runes emerged on the robe. This was Merlin’s first time activating the full defensive powers of the robe.

Merlin had spent a large number of contribution points to exchange for this robe in the Resource Tower of the Dark Magic Region. Moreover, the robe was able to withstand Third-level spells attacks.

Although the flying spear of Bluebird’s Pandora Demon Ability surely had not much force left after breaking through Glacial Finger, it was still far stronger than a Third-level spell.

Therefore, the main issue was whether the robe Merlin was wearing would be able to stop the attack since the flying spear Bluebird had conjured using her Pandora Demon Ability was obviously a strength-type one, possessing a tremendous amount of force.

“Thump!”

The flying spear crashed heavily into Merlin, and the surface of the robe began to flutter rapidly. Countless runes firmly grasped the flying spear, just like a giant hand, stubbornly holding it back.

However, the moment the flying spear came in contact with Merlin, he understood the extent of its force. If he was an average Spell Caster, it was likely that such a terrifying, jarring shock would cause heavy injury.

“Humph!”

Nonetheless, Merlin’s physical attributes had recently undergone a huge upgrade. Such a force was nothing to him at all. So, he snorted lightly, and a white blaze flickered over his body once again.

“Pandora Demon Ability, Fiery Collapse!”

White flames instantly rose up. This time, with no regard to what it cost him, Merlin mobilized all the Magic Power in the Spell Models of Fireball and Furious Flame within his Awareness, and cast Fiery Collapse.

Thus, the flames of Fiery Collapse immediately flared up. Its power was much stronger, instantly burning the flying spear until it turned into ash. Furthermore, the flames quickly extended toward Bluebird, burning all the way.

“Dark Light Realm!”

Without any hesitation, Merlin quickly unleashed Darkness Heart as he cast Dark Light Realm.

In a flash, half of the sky turned pitch-dark. The light rays were constantly distorted, and not even Mind Power was able to examine the surroundings. The power of Dark Light Realm which was enhanced through Darkness Heart, had been greatly increased. The average Third-level Mind Power would be pulled into the illusion.

If one had Fourth-level Mind Power, then one would be able to break free from the clutches of Dark Light Realm, and not be caught in the illusion. This was a point that Merlin lamented. He had originally thought that through the enhancement of the third type of Darkness Heart, the power of Dark Light Realm would greatly increase, causing even Fourth-level Spell Casters to be trapped in the illusion.

However, the actual reality was unlike that at all. Any Third-level Mind Power wouldn't be able to resist Dark Light Realm after the enhancement of Darkness Heart, but it was unable to cause Spell Casters with Fourth-level Mind Power to fall into the illusion.

It might be those Spell Casters whose Mind Power had just reached Fourth-level would slightly feel the influence of Dark Light Realm but it would only be a minor influence. Hence, they would not be trapped in the illusion at all.

In the past, it was due to Weiss' Mind Power which had reached Fourth-level that he was not trapped in Merlin's Dark Light Realm. Although Bluebird, who was currently enveloped by Dark Light Realm, was not a Fourth-level Spell Caster, Merlin had no guarantee that he was able to trap her in the illusion at all.

“Boom!”

As expected, a powerful burst of Mind Power soared into the sky, instantly piercing the darkness. Merlin's Dark Light Realm was dispersed by Bluebird, for her Mind Power had indeed reached the Fourth-level. It seemed that every Ozmu prodigy had very strong Mind Power.

Nevertheless, Merlin had long been ready. He had never stopped and had always been rushing toward Bluebird. Even though the two of them used Pandora Demon Ability, spells, and such, causing a huge commotion and astounding onlookers, in reality, the time that had passed was just a short while.

“Whoosh!”

Merlin was already in front of Bluebird. He could see a different expression on Bluebird's detached face for the first time.

“Die!”

With a cold smile on his face, Merlin brandished his arm and striked down with his fist.

A Spell Caster using his fist? This was something preposterous to all Spell Casters present. They even found it hard to believe, but none of them laughed.

Merlin was a First-level Spell Caster, and many Spell Casters already knew his identity. In the huge battle between the Doret and the Shadison clans earlier, a First-level Spell Caster would be no more than a cannon fodder, unable to significantly influence the outcome.

However, a First-level Spell Caster like Merlin now was able to engage in battle with Bluebird on an equal level. Moreover, from the series of moves in the battle, Merlin had the upper hand, constantly suppressing Bluebird.

This was something witnessed fully in public by the crowd of Spell Casters. They saw clearly that Merlin was completely able to suppress the infamous Bluebird of Ozmu.

“Bang!”

Under the single strike of Merlin’s fist, Bluebird was unable to laugh anymore. As soon as the fist landed, she felt a suffocating sensation as if the air was compressed from all directions.

Even the intermediate Elemental Swordsmen who had excellent physical attributes, great close combat skills, and the ability to threaten Spell Casters, could not compare to this.

“Now is the time, open up!”

Merlin sensed that there was a moment of weakness when Bluebird was casting Earth Guard. When she was casting Earth Guard for the second time, she was disturbed momentarily by Merlin’s Dark Light Realm, so she did not manage to cast it in time.

Although the time taken to cast a spell was extremely short and could almost be disregarded, Merlin was looking for precisely an opportunity like this. So, how could he let it slip?

Therefore, he struck directly. His arm seemed to have grown by a full size, pummeling until the air was hissing with the impact.

“Crack!”

The dirt-yellow light held up somewhat for only a moment, then, under Merlin’s enormous strength, it flickered a few times and shattered instantly like an eggshell.

In the instant that Earth Guard was broken, an expression of disbelief crept over Bluebird’s face. She had two types of Pandora Demon Abilities. Not even Fourth-level Spell Casters were a match for her, and in her eyes, Weiss was merely an egotistical and arrogant moron.

However, she was now about to end up like Weiss.

“No! I mustn’t die. Kleis still needs me...”

Bluebird cried out hoarsely but Merlin did not hesitate in the slightest. The moment that Earth Guard had shattered, white flames appeared in his hand, swallowing Bluebird’s figure in an instant...

Chapter 253: Student?

Bluebird’s entire body was submerged in white flames, leaving only her mournful cry. “Merlin, Kleis will find you. You’ll never be able to surpass Kleis. Haha...”

With a blank face, Merlin quietly watched Bluebird who descended into madness within the flames. Once one was caught in Fiery Collapse, even if one had a robe, it was impossible to withstand it.

After a short moment, Bluebird had no life force left and gradually disappeared along with the blaze. Soon, her body reduced to ashes, leaving only a ring that had fallen to the ground.

“Kleis? It turns out that it’s because of Kleis that you’ve come to kill me. It’s a shame that you were willing to go against Ozmu’s orders. Now that you’ve ended up like this, your Kleis is unable to save you at all...”

Merlin muttered in a low voice. There was now a burnt ring in his hand. This was Bluebird’s ring, which was now in his possession.

He had vaguely surmised the relationship between Bluebird and Kleis from Bluebird's words earlier. This time around, Bluebird had even gone against Ozmu's orders, for she did not "entice" Merlin. Instead, she tried to kill him right away, resulting in her own demise by Merlin's hands.

Once Bluebird was dead, the eyes of every Spell Caster shifted to the Neverending Book lying on the ground. However, the previous battle between Bluebird and Merlin had planted a hint of fear in their hearts, so naturally, they did not dare to come forward and retrieve the Neverending Book.

Nonetheless, Merlin did not even glance at the Neverending Book on the ground. Instead, he turned around immediately, and said to Laurinka, "Laurinka, let's go. There's nothing to see here."

"Hmm? He doesn't want the Neverending Book?"

Many Spell Casters were shortly speechless. Seeing that Merlin did not want the Neverending Book lying on the ground, they began to form ideas.

Very soon, the Shadison clan's leader, Wizard Rhind, swiftly picked up the Neverending Book from the ground. He stared at it, and then at Merlin who was turning to leave. His expression revealed that he was wrestling with a complicated decision.

In the end, Wizard Rhind gnashed his teeth harshly and shook his head slightly. "Wizard Merlin, hold on!"

"Hmm? Wizard Rhind, what's the matter?"

Merlin furrowed his brow and asked in a low voice.

Wizard Rhind held the Neverending Book in his hand with a complicated look on his face. He clenched his jaw and handed the Neverending Book to Merlin and softly said, "Wizard Merlin, I better give you the first volume of the Neverending Book. Otherwise, I'm afraid that the Shadison clan will know no peace from now on."

Wizard Rhind looked around somewhat helplessly at the surrounding crowd of Spell Casters. He had now understood that with the strength of the Shadison clan, it was completely impossible to hog onto the Neverending Book. Even if they publicly disclosed the spells in the Neverending Book,

they would still attract the attention of Spell Casters who wanted to obtain information about the so-called “second and third volumes of the Neverending Book” from the first volume.

Therefore, under the pressure of these circumstances, Wizard Rhind knew that the Shadison clan would only be safe and sound if Merlin received the Neverending Book.

Not only did Merlin have great strength but he was also able to kill the infamous Bluebird from Ozmu. Furthermore, Merlin had the entire Dark Magic Region backing him. This was a spell casters’ organization, and no one would dare to confront Merlin over a mere volume of the Neverending Book. The retaliation of the Dark Magic Region was surely not something that any roaming Wizard or Spell Caster clan could withstand.

Merlin lifted his head and looked at Wizard Rhind, then nodded gently. He knew clearly the situation that the Shadison clan was facing and understood Wizard Rhind’s reasoning. No matter what, they would not be able to hold on to the Neverending Book, so they might as well bestow it upon Merlin in front of everyone, in order to befriend Merlin and perhaps shift the attention of the roaming Wizards.

“I’ll take the Neverending Book then!”

Merlin hesitated for a moment but in the end, he agreed to receive the Neverending Book. There were plenty of spells in it, which would be greatly beneficial for him to fill up the number of spells within the Matrix.

In particular, the first volume of the Neverending Book might perhaps truly contain the location of the second and third volumes of the Neverending Book.

“The Neverending Book is a very generous gift, so of course I must return Wizard Rhind a similarly generous gift!”

A mysterious smile tugged at the corner of Merlin’s mouth, following which his gaze suddenly turned to the Fourth-level Spell Caster of the Doret clan, Wizard Sabis.

Seeing Merlin’s stare, Wizard Sabis’ face changed, and a turbulent wave of Wind Element immediately emerged around him. Subsequently, he speedily retreated, yelling, “Regarding what happened today, we, at the Doret clan will not bother the Shadison clan by looking into this!”

“Pandora Demon Ability, Fiery Collapse!”

Without a moment’s notice, Merlin pointed his finger and the terrifying white blaze instantly flared up once more. Only this time, it was aimed at Wizard Sabis.

Wizard Sabis had previously witnessed that the white flames released by Merlin were able to reduce the haughty and contemptuous Bluebird into ashes, so he knew that he stood no chance against it .

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!”

Even though Wizard Sabis had tried his opportunity to escape, he could not outrun the speed of Fiery Collapse. The flames covered the sky, forming a giant blinding screen of fire that enclosed Wizard Sabis in the middle.

Even if the Defensive spell on Wizard Sabis was a Fourth-level spell, it was of no use as Merlin had already completed cultivating the first stage of Fiery Collapse. It could merely hold out for a short moment.

In a few moments , the Defensive spell on Wizard Sabis collapsed and he was engulfed by the white flames the same way Bluebird had been previously.

“Tssss.”

Even Wizard Rhind sucked in the air through his teeth. However, after seeing that Wizard Sabis was dead, an ecstatic beam immediately blossomed on his face.

Wizard Sabis had been the strongest Spell Caster in the Doret clan. Once he was dead, the Doret clan, which had always been at loggerheads with the Shadison clan, fighting them openly and undermining them covertly in Tolle City, would completely be unable to withstand the Shadison’s clan subsequent attack.

“Haha, Wizard Merlin, that is a generous gift indeed!”

Wizard Rhind could not help but roar with laughter. Following which, his gaze fell menacingly onto the remaining Spell Casters from the Doret clan. This was the best opportunity for the Shadison clan to thoroughly exterminate the Doret clan.

“Let’s go, Laurinka!”

Merlin kept the Neverending Book. He had dealt with Wizard Sabis. Without any Fourth-level Spell Caster, the Doret clan had no strength to strike back at the Shadison clan. It was only a matter of time before they were totally swept out of Tolle City.

Laurinka bobbed her head, finally letting out the breath she had been holding inside. The Shadison clan was able to avert a crisis and even turned the situation around, all thanks to Merlin.

However, just as Merlin was about to leave, he saw a familiar figure standing before him, blocking his way.

Before this, Merlin had sensed that he saw someone familiar, but he could not recall who it was. Nonetheless, as he saw the person standing before him now, a recollection finally surfaced in his mind.

“Teacher!”

The one who was standing in his way was Emma, who used to be a young maiden from Ditas Town. Emma had now grown into a beautiful woman, her eyes twinkling with unmatched excitement.

“Teacher? Wizard Merlin is Emma’s teacher?”

Shireen, Haya, and the rest who were originally with Emma were stupefied for a moment. They had never held any hope at all regarding the “teacher” who Emma was always looking for.

However, Emma’s teacher was, in fact, Wizard Merlin who had killed Bluebird earlier. This made Shireen and Haya momentarily doubt that Emma’s teacher was truly the powerful Merlin, it was inconceivable.

“Emma...”

In his mind, Merlin was still recalling the innocent and carefree Emma from two to three years ago. Back then, he had given Emma three Zero-level spells and even made a three-year pact.

However, this three-year pact was merely something that Merlin had gone along with at that time. Up until now, he had forgotten about it. If he had not bumped into Emma here, he would not have remembered at all that he still had one such “student” in Ditas Town.

“Emma, since you’re here, follow me to Shadison Manor first.”

Merlin said to Emma. However, Emma looked toward Shireen, Haya, and the rest. Merlin had known Shireen and Haya long ago – they were two Wizards whom he had met when he was on his way to Tolle City.

“Come along as well.”

Merlin nodded his head and said in a calm voice. Following that, Shireen and the rest, with a gleeful expression, followed behind Merlin as they walked into Shadison Manor.

Chapter 254: The Mysterious Light-type Spell

Peace was restored within the Shadison Manor. The previous scuffle between the Shadison and Doret clans merely occurred in the external surroundings of Shadison Manor and did not spread to the depths of the manor.

Therefore, the manor was currently still in a good condition. Many Spell Casters were hurriedly dashing in and out of the manor but when they spotted Merlin, they immediately became solemn and bowed slightly toward him.

At this point, there was no one who did not know who Merlin was in the Shadison Manor and even the entire Tolle City.

Merlin promptly brought Emma and the rest into a room. Besides Emma, there were also Shireen and Haya whom he had met on the way here, as well as Emily and Tafel. They were staring at Merlin curiously. From their perspective, Bluebird was already powerful to an inconceivable extent.

However, Merlin was able to defeat Bluebird and killed her. Merlin had far surpassed any average Spell Caster. Moreover, Merlin was currently just a First-level Spell Caster!

This astounded Shireen and the rest. It was the first time they had met a Spell Caster who turned out to be First-level but who was still powerful to such a degree!

“Very well, Emma. Originally, I had only agreed to the three-year pact as I was caught up in the moment. I didn’t expect that you would successfully construct the three Zero-level spells I gave you. After a few days, you’ll follow me back to the Dark Magic Region!”

As soon as he spoke, an elated expression appeared on Emma’s face. Although she had not been a Spell Caster for long, she knew the difference between roaming Wizards and Wizards from spell casters’ organizations.

What Merlin said meant that he had undoubtedly acknowledged Emma as his student. Furthermore, he had agreed to bring Emma to the Dark Magic Region for her to be a Spell Caster.

“Congratulations, Wizard Emma. It’s not that easy to enter the Dark Magic Region.”

Wizard Shireen said somewhat admiringly to Emma. She had been a First-level Spell Caster for such a long time and had wanted to join a spell casters’ organization with the help of her clan but was ultimately unsuccessful.

She knew how hard it was to enter the Dark Magic Region. Even mighty Spell Casters within the Dark Magic Region were unable to directly bring in Spell Casters from the outside. Only Spell Casters who had some sort of token from the Dark Magic Region would be able to become a Spell Caster in the organization.

Thus, Shireen looked toward Merlin with a trace of doubt.

Merlin sensed Shireen’s gaze and shook his head slightly. Following that, he retrieved a mysterious ring from his own ring. He obtained this Dark Magic ring when he left the Dark Magic Region and killed Wizard Neil back then.

“This is a Dark Magic ring. You can rely on this ring to join the Dark Magic Region and become its temporary member!”

Merlin handed the Dark Magic ring to Emma. By this point, Shireen, Haya, and the rest no longer doubted whether Merlin would be able to help Emma join the Dark Magic Region.

“Emma, congratulations. After you’ve become a Wizard in a spell casters’ organization, it’ll be possible for you to become a First, Second, or Third-level Spell Caster, or even stronger than that!”

Emily, Tafel, and the rest each wished Emma well respectively.

“Wizard Merlin, we had really troubled you earlier on the journey here!”

Shireen said to Merlin softly.

Merlin waved his hand lightly. “It was only a small effort on my part. Laurinka, escort them and stay in the manor. Come and find me if there’s any matter.”

Merlin considered these people to be the ones who “protected” Emma, which was why he said that. Otherwise, even though he had chanced upon Shireen and Haya once before, he would not have arranged matters for them so thoughtfully.

“Teacher, I’ll take my leave first.”

Emma could tell that Merlin seemed to desire a moment of contemplation, so she said goodbye and left the room.

After a short while, Merlin’s room became quiet.

Thereafter, Merlin took out the Neverending Book. This volume did not seem very thick, and its surface was covered in mysterious symbols. In one glance, Merlin was able to tell that these were runes.

The mysterious runes were a field of their own. They were passed down from ancient times, and along with alchemy, potions, and spells, they were termed as the Four Disciplines of Spell Casters. As long as one mastered any one of these disciplines, they would be very accomplished.

However, most Spell Casters concentrated on constructing Spell Models, devoting the majority of their energy to spells. Nonetheless, some ancient books had vaguely indicated that the ancient Spell Casters were involved in all the Four Disciplines, each field being as equally important as spells.

At the moment, other than knowing how to construct spells and some rudimentary potions, Merlin had never properly studied runology and alchemy. Even the construction of his spells was reliant upon the Matrix. However, he had only learned a little about spell construction through constant practice.

Nevertheless, although Merlin did not know what the mysterious runes in the Neverending Book meant, he knew how to use it. All he needed was to use his Mind Power to somewhat activate the Neverending Book in order to see the various spells contained in it.

“Hum...”

Following the abrupt activation of the Neverending Book by Merlin’s Mind Power, the book shot out a white ray of light. Within that white light, spells were displayed one after another.

There were many types of spells including Fire-type, Wind-type, Earth-type, and more. There were even Darkness-type spells but they were no match for the more complicated Darkness-type spells that Merlin had obtained from Abyss Fort. Ostensibly, the spells in the Neverending Book had medium strength and were rarely complex or unique.

Merlin activated the Matrix and began to record the spells one by one. When the Shadison clan was exhibiting the spells earlier, some of the spells were not completely displayed. Now that Merlin had the Neverending Book, he immediately realized this.

There was indeed a great number of various spells in the Neverending Book. When the Shadison clan was displaying the spells, they had only shown a majority of them. There were a few spells which they thought were stronger but did not display and kept them hidden.

As Merlin recorded the spells with the Matrix, he was also carefully examining these spells. When he had gone through over half of the spells in the Neverending Book, he began to furrow his eyebrows. It was because he had discovered a number of Water-type spells in the Neverending Book but he still had not seen any Light-type spells.

The Neverending Book had been around since ancient times, yet it held no records of Light-type spells. This indicated that a very long time ago, at least no later than the appearance of the Neverending Book, the usage of Light-type spells was possibly discontinued due to an unknown reason.

It was either this or that there was no way to use Light-type spells at all.

“As long as there’s light, a place should be flooded with Light Element. All that’s needed is some Light-type Spell Model in order to make a simulation in one’s Awareness. So why aren’t there any Light-type Spells?”

Merlin increasingly felt that the disappearance of Light-type spells might be strongly linked to the Church of Light as back when he was battling against Wizard Jason in Blackwater City, Wizard Jason had used Light-type spells. This meant that Light-type spells did exist, and for some unknown reason, there were no Light-type spells among the Spell Casters.

‘Not even the ancient Neverending Book had Light-type spells...’

Merlin shook his head and dispelled these thoughts from his mind, following which he patiently waited for the Neverending Book to display all its spells.

After the Neverending Book had displayed all its spells, its light began to slowly fade away. Up until the very last spell, Merlin had not seen even a single clue regarding the second or third volume of the Neverending Book.

“So, was it really the Doret clan who spread this fake news in order to secure the alliance of roaming Wizards?”

Merlin began to mull over this and did not discount this possibility as the report that the first volume of the Neverending Book would contain clues regarding the second and even the third volumes was initially announced by the Doret clan.

However, Merlin still did not believe that there was not even a single link between the three volumes of the Neverending Book. Hence, he looked through it carefully once more. Unfortunately, he could only give up hopelessly.

Perhaps the three volumes of the Neverending Book did not share any links after all, for there were no valuable clues.

“It might be that it’s similar to the casting tools transfigured by Wizard Bell, and the connection would only show itself if it was nearby... If that really is the case, then this volume of the Neverending Book might still be of some use.”

As countless thoughts raced through Merlin's mind, he mumbled softly, after which he kept the Neverending Book. He would study it closely when he had time in the future.

"Bluebird's ring..."

An ink-black ring suddenly appeared on Merlin's palm. It was the ring which had belonged to the arrogant Bluebird. Although she had been burnt to ashes by Fiery Collapse, the ring was still in perfect condition.

Merlin was intrigued by Bluebird's Ice-type and Wind-type Pandora Demon Abilities. These two Pandora Demon Abilities evidently belonged to Ozmu for they were extraordinary. In some aspects, Bluebird's Pandora Demon Ability of ice threads was even mightier than Merlin's Glacial Finger.

If it was not for Merlin's excellent physical attributes in addition to the superb powers of Fiery Collapse, Merlin would have no way of killing Bluebird who possessed two Pandora Demon Abilities.

Moreover, Merlin had three types of Pandora Demon Abilities but Dark Light Realm, which was enhanced by Darkness Heart, was not of much use against Bluebird.

If only Merlin's Dark Light Realm could be even more powerful or if Merlin constructed the Second-level Darkness-type spell, Darkness Tide, then it would be effective against the stronger Spell Casters.

The stronger his opponent's Mind Power was, the greater their resistance against illusions. On average, the prodigies of Ozmu had formidable Mind Power, so Merlin's Dark Light Realm was not very useful against the Spell Casters of Ozmu in this sense.

Naturally, Merlin wanted to construct the Second-level spell, Darkness Tide but now was not the time. He had to wait until his Mind Power was increased by one or two times more before he would attempt to construct the Second-level spell, Darkness Tide.

"Let's see if there's any Pandora Demon Ability in the ring!"

Merlin fixed his gaze on the ink-black ring in his hand, then reached into the depths of the ring with his Mind Power and began his search.

Chapter 255: The Limits of the Bell Space

There were not many things in the ring. There were some elemental crystal stones and potion materials but these were not Merlin's target. His target was Bluebird's two types of Pandora Demon Abilities.

However, after he had searched the contents of the ring, his face gradually darkened, as he asked in a low voice, "Nothing? How can there be no cultivation method of Pandora Demon Ability?"

After Merlin killed Weiss, he had retrieved the cultivation method of Destructive Wind from Weiss' ring. Although he was unable to cultivate it because of its spell type, he had ultimately obtained a cultivation method for a Pandora Demon Ability. He might even be able to exchange this Pandora Demon Ability for another Pandora Demon Ability of similar value with the Dark Magic Region.

However, despite Bluebird's evident possession of two types of Pandora Demon Abilities, he did not find any Pandora Demon Ability in her ring.

Merlin knew that Bluebird surely did not have the exact cultivation method of the Pandora Demon Abilities on her. Instead, she had etched them forever in her mind. This inevitably caused Merlin to be somewhat disappointed.

Merlin might have no way of cultivating a Wind-type Pandora Demon Ability but that Pandora Demon Ability of ice threads was mightier than Glacial Finger. If he had obtained that Pandora Demon Ability, he would most likely be able to cultivate it.

However, he quickly recovered from his disappointment. After all, it was impossible that every Spell Caster he met would carry precious Pandora Demon Ability or spells with them. For instance, Merlin did not keep the cultivation methods of Glacial Finger, Fiery Collapse, or even Darkness Heart in his ring. Instead, he recorded them all in the Matrix.

Even if Merlin's ring fell into the hands of some other Spell Casters one day, they would not be able to find a single Pandora Demon Ability on Merlin.

After searching repeatedly, Merlin could not find the cultivation method of Pandora Demon Ability in the ring. However, when he was just about to withdraw his Mind Power from the ring, he felt a sort of “icy” sensation.

This icy sensation was peculiar because Mind Power was formless. Regardless of whether it was a frigid chill or scorching heat, Mind Power should not feel anything. Nonetheless, Merlin’s Mind Power was currently feeling an extreme “icy” sensation in Bluebird’s ring.

“Whoosh!”

Merlin immediately searched for the source of this “icy” sensation and finally saw a huge, black wooden box which seemed enigmatic.

Furthermore, the “icy” sensation that his Mind Power sensed was emitted from the black wooden box.

“There’s something strange about this wooden box!”

Merlin muttered to himself before retrieving the black wooden box. As he placed it on the table, he saw that layers of ice crystals formed and solidified instantly around the black wooden box.

“What a cold sensation... What’s really in the wooden box?”

Even Merlin was astonished. As he stared at the solidifying ice crystals, a trace of firelight appeared on the tip of his finger right away.

This was Merlin’s Fireball. The scorching heat rapidly wrapped around these ice crystals. What was astounding was that the ice crystals did not melt one bit under the heat of Fireball.

Merlin’s eyes sharpened slightly, following which he pointed his finger again. This time a stream of white fire flew out and in a flash enclosed the ice crystals wrapped around the black wooden box.

“Crack! Crack! Crack!”

Under the white flames of Fiery Collapse, the ice crystals around the wooden box began to melt rapidly.

The blaze was soon burning around the black wooden box. Merlin casually retrieved Fiery Collapse and with one hand, he smacked fiercely on the box.

“Snap!”

Although the black wooden box was well-built, it could not withstand Merlin’s terrifying strength at all. It was opened by Merlin immediately, revealing a piece of ice as pure white as polished jade, which was wrapped in a shimmering, golden cloth.

This piece of ice was only the size of an egg but the chill it emitted would astound anyone. Streams of cold air extended in all directions, and any area that was covered by this chill was frozen in a mass of thick, solid ice crystals.

These were ice crystals that Merlin’s Fireball had no way of melting. It was enough to show that this piece of ice was not ordinary.

“Could this be a thousand years’ ice bone marrow? Or even older?”

Merlin’s heart gave a jolt. He recalled that back when he was cultivating Glacial Finger, he had used the hundred years’ ice bone marrow, which was an object of extreme cold. Nonetheless, its chill was far less petrifying than this egg-sized piece of ice.

Only the thousand years’ ice bone marrow, or one which was even older, would be this cold.

“Thousand years’ ice bone marrow. This is good, too. This way, when I’m a Fourth-level Spell Caster, I won’t have to worry about being unable to cultivate the second stage of Glacial Finger.”

A smile appeared on Merlin’s face. When his Glacial Finger had reached the second stage, he would need a thousand years’ ice bone marrow or one which was even older. However, he had been unable to find a hundred years’ ice bone marrow, let alone a thousand years’ ice bone marrow.

Not even the Dark Magic Region had these treasures, nor Sterling House in Floating City. One would need to rely on chance to obtain these treasures. Without these treasures, he would be like

Wizard Riesen back then, ultimately unable to cultivate Fiery Collapse despite having the cultivation method.

Bluebird had surely gone through great difficulties to find this thousand years' ice bone marrow. After all, she was also cultivating Pandora Demon Ability of ice threads. Perhaps when she became a Fourth-level Spell Caster, she would need this thousand years' ice bone marrow to cultivate that Pandora Demon Ability.

Regardless, this was now a great convenience for Merlin!

Although Merlin did not obtain Bluebird's Pandora Demon Ability this time, he had acquired this thousand years' ice bone marrow, which could be treated as a bonus surprise. He was delighted and placed the ice bone marrow into his ring.

Merlin lightly shut his eyes and began recollecting his previous scuffle with Bluebird. Although the fight between them took only a short while, it was deadly. One moment of carelessness and he would have lost without any chance of recovery.

Bluebird's death was largely due to Merlin's physical attributes. He was so strong that a blow from him had enough momentous strength to destroy Bluebird's Defensive spell.

It should be known that even though Bluebird's Defensive spell was a Third-level spell, it was among the best of those spells. Even Fifth or Sixth-level Elemental Swordsmen would have no way of breaking down Bluebird's defense.

It could be that only advanced Elemental Swordsmen of the legends, which were Seventh-level or above, would be able to go against Third-level spells. Nevertheless, Elemental Swordsmen like those were far too rare and were even more uncommon than Seventh-level Spell Casters.

Merlin took out the four relief sculptures from his ring once more. These four mysterious relief sculptures each had a different posture on them. It was likely that practicing only the first three postures would only increase his physical capabilities for a moment, and it would merely be a small increase.

However, once he had practiced the posture on the fourth relief sculpture, there was an instant change. His physical attributes were strongly enhanced, and his strength became frightening. Although the posture on the fourth relief sculpture required a long time of practice before he felt its

effects, once his body underwent the transformation, he would gain a strength that was comparable to most Spell Casters.

Therefore, the more Merlin looked at these four relief sculptures, the more he sensed the mystery they contained. There were surely more than just these four relief sculptures. Once all the sculptures have been collected and practiced, what was the level of transformation that the body would undergo?

Before this, Merlin had always felt that these relief sculptures might be how the Spell Casters from the Molta Empire era improved their physical attributes. However, now that he had experienced the ferocious surging strength of his body, Merlin thought that there would be more to these relief sculptures.

As long as one practiced up until the mysterious posture on the fourth relief sculpture, one would immediately have a strength which was comparable to most Spell Casters. Not even Third-level Defensive spells were able to block an explosive blow from Merlin's unadulterated physical strength. It was enough to show that after his body transformed, his strength had also become terrifying.

Now, Merlin somewhat believed that these mysterious relief sculptures formed their own system, completely distinct from the systems of Spell Casters or Elemental Swordsmen. Once he had cultivated them to a high level, he would be able to contend against powerful Spell Casters!

Of course, this was all just Merlin's conjecture. Even if his bodily strength was greatly enhanced, it was impossible to rely on just his physical capabilities to fight against Third-level Spell Casters.

Merlin did not believe that his body would be able to withstand an attack from a Third-level spell. Perhaps that might be possible with the postures on these mysterious relief sculptures, in addition to some special preparations such as armor that had great defensive capabilities against spells.

If there really were such an armor, then the strong individual who cultivated these mysterious relief sculptures would become incredibly scary in an instant.

"I must take notice of these mysterious relief sculptures from now on. If I could find the fifth, sixth, seventh piece..."

A smile gradually crept on Merlin's face. If only he could obtain more mysterious relief sculptures, then he would persist no matter how long it took to practice them. As a First-level Spell Caster, his

life was much longer than a Normie's, and if he continued his cultivation to become a Second, Third, or even Fourth-level Spell Caster, his lifespan would be even longer.

With such a long life, no matter how long it took to cultivate the relief sculptures, Merlin would ultimately be able to fully practice them. However, he had been in the Kingdom of Blackmoon for such a long time but had not come across any relief sculpture. He would need to depend on his luck if he would find any more of them in the future.

“Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!”

Just as Merlin was daydreaming about finding more relief sculptures, the Bell Space on his chest suddenly began vibrating.

Merlin felt a jolt of surprise and immediately extended his Mind Power into it.

Within the Bell Space, Merlin's Mind Power duplicate was already very strong at this point. It was twice as strong compared to Merlin's initial Mind Power duplicate when he had first entered.

“How fast... The speed of cultivating Mind Power in the Bell Space is indeed incredible!”

Merlin also felt somewhat surprised, but more than that, he was overjoyed. His Mind Power duplicate was now strong enough to the point where it could even generate tremors in the Bell Space.

This meant that the Bell Space was not limitless. Mind Power, spells, or even Pandora Demon Abilities simulated in the Bell Space all had a limit. Once the limit was exceeded, it could no longer be simulated in the Bell Space.

Currently, Merlin had left the Mind Power duplicate in the Bell Space to constantly carry out Mind Meditation, causing its Mind Power to grow rapidly to the point where it reached the limit of the Bell Space. Merlin would need to absorb this Mind Power duplicate in order to continue his Mind Power Meditation in the Bell Space.

As he considered this, Merlin naturally had no trace of hesitation. He mobilized almost all his Mind Power and began fusing with the Mind Power within the Bell Space.

Chapter 256: Didimoss, the Black Cat

The Mind Power duplicate in the Bell Space fused into Merlin's Mind Power causing a sudden surge in the overall mind power he had control of. The unexpected surge caused Merlin to tremble as he adapted to the change.

This growth was not unusual for it was just like the Mind Power obtained through Merlin's own meditation. In truth, the Mind Power duplicate in the Bell Space was inseparably linked to Merlin.

Therefore, the Mind Power received through the meditation of Mind Power duplicate was completely compatible with Merlin's Mind Power.

Merlin's Mind Power was wildly growing. In fact, for Merlin, the Mind Power duplicate in the Bell Space was giving more than expected. Merlin had initially estimated that the Mind Power duplicate would increase his Mind Power several times but did not think that the limits of the Bell Space would be able to accommodate such enormous Mind Power.

Thus, Merlin could only absorb the Mind Power duplicate for now, then leave another Mind Power duplicate in the Bell Space to continue the Mind Meditation Method. This rate of growth was quicker than when he consumed Phantasmal Magic Potion.

"Such strong Mind Power... It seems that it's still lacking by a little. The Second-level Darkness-type spell Darkness Tide requires high demands of my Mind Power. With my current Mind Power, I could forcibly construct Darkness Tide but there's a certain level of risk."

Merlin felt his Mind Power rapidly increase within him, and many thoughts flashed across his mind.

Naturally, he wanted to construct the Second-level spell, Darkness Tide, which would greatly improve his offensive capabilities. With the more powerful illusive effects of Darkness Tide, Merlin would be able to easily trap Fourth-level Spell Casters into the illusion.

However, as Merlin constructed more spells at higher levels, he became even more cautious. If he was not sure of the success rate, he would not hastily create a Spell Model.

Therefore, Merlin decided to wait until he had returned to the Dark Magic Region when his Mind Power would be more adequate before he began to construct the Second-level Darkness-type spell, Darkness Tide.

"It's time to leave Tolle City. Although I don't know how Ozmu would react, it's better to be safe than sorry!"

Merlin knew clearly that as a result of killing Bluebird and Weiss, even if it was Bluebird who picked a fight, there was a possibility that henceforth, Ozmu would feel an obligation to exterminate Merlin instead of trying to recruit him.

This was a decision that needed to be made by the higher-ups in Ozmu. Merlin was not foolish enough to stay in Tolle City, awaiting their retaliation. It was best to return to the Dark Magic Region. Ozmu would not break the pact between the Dark Magic Region and other spell casters' organizations over a single First-level Spell Caster like him.

"Laurinka!"

Merlin raised his head and softly called out toward the doorway.

“Creak...”

Laurinka quickly entered, and asked respectfully, “Wizard Merlin, what are your orders?”

Looking at her behavior, Merlin nodded inwardly to himself. By now, the Dark Magic Region was already familiar with her new identity as Merlin’s attendant.

An attendant’s purpose was to serve. It was not that easy to act as a Spell Caster’s attendant, having to be by the side of the Spell Caster at all times. If there were any demands, the attendant must fulfill them immediately.

At least, up until now, Laurinka had been performing well.

“Laurinka, call Emma here. I’m getting ready to return to the Dark Magic Region.”

Merlin smiled as he spoke. A glint of joy shone in Laurinka’s eyes. She was willing to become Merlin’s attendant because it would allow her to return to the Dark Magic Region.

However, the true benefits of being a Merlin’s attendant would only be beneficial once they returned, Laurinka would get the opportunity to train and become a First-level Spell Caster.

Laurinka nodded, then proceeded to leave the room to get Emma.

Merlin waited for a short moment before Laurinka brought Emma to the room.

“Teacher!”

Emma cried out reverently.

“Emma, I’m about to bring you back to the Dark Magic Region. Say your goodbyes to your friends, for it might be hard for you to see them again.”

Merlin’s heart was filled with remorse. Ever since he had entered the Dark Magic Region, he seldom visited even his own home. In so many years, he had only returned to Prakash City once. After Emma joined the Dark Magic Region, he was afraid that she would find it difficult to meet her friends again.

Emma’s face clouded over a little, but she quickly recovered, for she had prepared for this long ago.

“Teacher, I’ll bid them farewell now!”

Emma bowed slightly toward Merlin then left the room. Looking at Emma’s departing figure, Merlin suddenly began to miss his family members in Prakash City.

“Macy and Yaguez have married already, and perhaps they even have a child. I don’t know when I’ll be able to return to Prakash City once more...”

Merlin let out a long sigh. Although he felt a sense of concern and yearning, this was the path he had chosen at the start. He did not regret his decision but he had to endure his longing for his loved ones.

Very soon, Emma and Laurinka returned to Merlin. They were ready.

“Alright, let’s go then!”

Merlin did not inform the people of the Shadison clan, for he knew that Laurinka would have already let them know beforehand. Thereafter, Merlin led Emma and Laurinka out of Tolle City.

The Dark Magic Region was a mysterious place. No one knew where the Dark Magic Region was exactly, so when Merlin and the rest returned there, they had to go through the Runic Magic Circle of the Dark Magic Region. Laurinka was familiar with where these Runic Magic Circles were located, and quickly brought Merlin and the rest to a concealed Runic Magic Circle.

Merlin shot a look at Laurinka. She had no way of going through the Runic Magic Circle as she did not have a Dark Magic ring.

Merlin and Emma both had a Dark Magic ring, so they could enter the Dark Magic Region. On the other hand, even though Laurinka was Merlin's attendant, he was still required to go back to the Dark Magic Region and request for a Dark Magic ring for attendants.

Only an attendant's Dark Magic ring would allow Laurinka to return to the Dark Magic Region once more. Thus, Merlin said to her, "Laurinka, wait here for some time. When the time comes, I'll go through the Runic Magic Circle and bring you a Dark Magic ring."

A smile broke out across Laurinka's face, and she nodded. "Wizard Merlin, there's nothing really dangerous around. I'll be waiting here then."

Merlin bobbed his head, following which he brought Emma into the middle of the Runic Magic Circle. Instantly, the mysterious runes appeared, enclosing Merlin and Emma in their midst.

"Whoosh!"

A white beam of light flashed, and the figures of Merlin and Emma were gone in the blink of an eye.

...

On the warm, serene beach, a white light shone, and the silhouettes of Merlin and Emma could be seen slowly walking out from the light.

Merlin was already familiar with the surroundings of the Dark Magic Region. So, after the Runic Magic Circle brought them to the Dark Magic Region, he headed straight to the giant stone tablet.

As for Emma, she was full of curiosity, observing everything everywhere. She had heard about the spell casters' organizations of the legends countless times and had been looking forward to this moment. Therefore, she was curious about everything regarding the Dark Magic Region.

"Sir Didimoss!"

Merlin came before the stone tablet and called out in a respectful manner. Even though he was already a First-level Spell Caster, and was furthermore a prodigy who was the priority of the Dark Magic Region's nurturing, he was still deferential in his manner toward this spirit of the stone tablet, Didimoss.

Even with his current powers, it was difficult for him to tell what kind of terrifying strength Didimoss possessed.

"Swish!"

A glow immediately floated out from the stone tablet, and gradually turned into an impressive black cat. This was the spirit of the Dark Magic Region's stone tablet, Didimoss.

Didimoss eyed Merlin, then switch his gaze to Emma who was behind Merlin, speaking in a sharp voice, "Not bad, Wizard Merlin. You've brought another Spell Caster to the Dark Magic Region."

"Sir Didimoss, here's your favorite Ice-type elemental crystal stones."

Merlin retrieved a handful of elemental crystals stones from his ring and tossed them to the black cat. At the moment, Merlin's ring was not lacking in elemental crystal stones. After all, he had obtained all the riches from the rings of Weiss and Bluebird. Of course, the number of elemental crystal stones he now possessed was unimaginably high.

The black cat Didimoss swallowed all the elemental crystal stones in one gulp and revealed a face full of satisfaction. He looked at Merlin appreciatively. "Not bad, not bad, it's been a long time since someone was able to fill me up... Speak, what do you need? The great Sir Didimoss will surely satisfy your request!"

The magnificent black cat talked a big game but this was just what Merlin wanted to achieve. He had visited Didimoss especially for a matter which required Didimoss' assistance.

"Sir Didimoss, I do have to ask for your help. During my time outside, I unexpectedly obtained the legendary first volume of the Neverending Book. It was rumored that in the first volume, there were clues about the second and third volumes of the Neverending Book. However, no matter how I tried, I was unable to find them. I wonder if Sir Didimoss would be able to help me point out the clues in the Neverending Book?"

Merlin briefly explained the matter. His goal was to ask Didimoss to aid him in searching for the clues regarding the second and third volumes of the Neverending Book.

He dared not underestimate this black cat in the slightest. Didimoss was a spirit from a Runic Magic Circle which was personally engraved by the founder of the Dark Magic Region, the Great Wizard Fidel, a long time ago. Besides his lack of flesh and blood, Didimoss was in fact not much different from the average living being.

Moreover, Didimoss was ancient, older than almost all the Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region. Perhaps he might know something about the Neverending Book.

"You said you've obtained the Neverending Book?"

The black cat Didimoss, who was initially acting grand, stiffened all over upon hearing Merlin's request. His piercing eyes fixed onto Merlin, and the surrounding air seemed to solidify in an instant. Merlin felt a formless burst of pressure rolling over him from all directions, making him feel like he was suffocating.

Only then did Merlin truly realise how powerful was this Runic Magic Circle spirit created by the Great Wizard Fidel!

"That's right, the Neverending Book. Sir Didimoss, please have a look!"

As soon as Merlin spoke, the Neverending Book of the legends appeared in his hand, flickering with a faint glow.

Chapter 257: Clue I

“It really is the Neverending Book... You’re lucky to obtain the Neverending Book and bring it here to me. If it was anyone else, they would have no way to decipher the runes of the Neverending Book. However, the great Sir Didimoss is able to do it!”

The magnificent black cat’s voice became sharper. Following that, Merlin sensed that the stone tablet which stood on the beach was beginning to shake softly, after which mysterious runes appeared one by one and were slowly grasped by the black cat.

At the same time, Merlin perceived that streaks of powerful Mind fluctuations had emerged around the black cat. This gust of Mind Power made Merlin scared out of his wits.

Mind Power was something intangible. In reality, it was unable to cause any physical injury to anyone. However now, Merlin could feel the waves of Mind fluctuation around the black cat Didimoss as if once Didimoss’ petrifying Mind Power was targeted at him, he would have no resistance at all.

“Inscription, open!”

Didimoss pronounced a few ancient, mysterious characters, following which the enigmatic runes on the stone tablet were quickly engraved into the Neverending Book in Merlin’s hands.

The Neverending Book began to shine with waves of white light as if it was struggling mightily, but after a moment, the white light of the Neverending Book gradually weakened until it finally faded away.

What caught Merlin off guard was that this time, what he saw was a completely new volume of the Neverending Book. In this volume, lines of Molta language were recorded, containing an abundance of information. Merlin looked over the contents roughly and began to feel rather ecstatic for this information was about the clues on the second and even the third volume of the Neverending Book.

“Alright, the runes of the Neverending Book have been deciphered. How exhausting. I’m afraid I’ll have to sleep for a few months. Wizard Merlin, your elemental crystals stones were delicious but the great Sir Didimoss has given you his help. Whether or not you can locate the second and third volumes of the Neverending Book is all up to you...”

With that, the black cat Didimoss immediately transformed into a cloud of black fog and disappeared into the stone tablet.

Merlin bowed slightly toward the stone tablet. He knew that this time around, Didimoss had exhausted a lot of energy to decipher the runes of the Neverending Book. After all, the Neverending Book was a legendary treasure, and the Runic Magic Circles it contained could not be easily deciphered.

“Teacher, this is...”

Emma, who was standing on one side, was stunned by the scene she had just witnessed. The marvelous Didimoss was able to speak the human language, and the powers he possessed were even more inconceivable to her.

Merlin did not explain much but kept the Neverending Book instead. He was ready to closely examine the secrets of the Neverending Book once he had returned to the Dark Magic Region.

“Let’s go. Didimoss is a spirit of a Runic Magic Circle personally engraved by the Great Wizard Fidel, the founder of the Dark Magic Region. He’s a peculiar creature, older than any Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region.”

Merlin gave Emma a simple introduction of the black cat Didimoss. Even though Emma only half-understood it, she recognized that this marvelous black cat had an impressive position in the Dark Magic Region. Thus, she also bowed deeply toward the stone tablet before she followed Merlin into the Dark Magic Region.

“This is the Dark Magic Region!”

Merlin heaved a small sigh. Looking at the familiar scene before his eyes, and the blocks of towers rising into the sky, his heart seemed to relax. He had already completely assimilated into the Dark Magic Region and had inadvertently become a part of the Dark Magic Region long ago.

Therefore, he felt a sense of belonging in the Dark Magic Region as if he had returned “home” to Prakash City.

Emma was inquisitive and in high spirits, continuously inquiring about the towers soaring into the sky, so Merlin answered her questions one after another.

“Alright, Emma, you should slowly familiarize yourself with the Dark Magic Region. However, I’m not a Fourth-level Spell Caster, so I don’t have an individual tower which I built. Thus, I have no way of accepting you as a student in my Wizard Tower. You still need to head over to the gray-robed Wizards for your appraisal – they’ll eventually assign you to the tower of some other Wizard.”

Merlin had not become a Fourth-level Spell Caster and was unable to individually build a Wizard Tower, so he had no way to immediately take on Emma as his student.

Nevertheless, Merlin had explained to Emma before that if she joined the Dark Magic Region, she would need to abide by their rules. Even if Emma was assigned to another Spell Caster’s tower, Merlin would still be her “teacher” as long as she was willing.

“Go ahead, I’ll wait for you outside.”

After he spoke, Emma nodded and drew in a deep breath. She walked into one of the towers. There, they would test her Spell Caster Quality as well as assign her to a Wizard Tower.

Seeing that Emma had gone in, Merlin quietly waited outside. Regarding Emma’s Quality, her Mind Power was not very strong, and she had only constructed three Zero-level spells. According to the Dark Magic Region’s system, she would most likely be assigned to Wizard Leo’s tower.

If that was the case, it would save them a lot of trouble.

After a long time, Emma came out. A dejected expression hung on her face, and when she saw Merlin, she was somewhat hesitant to speak.

Merlin smiled. “How was it, which Wizard’s tower were you assigned to?”

Emma shook her head helplessly. “My Spell Caster Quality was terrible, and I was assigned to Wizard Leo’s tower... Teacher, I’ve embarrassed you!”

From Emma's perspective, Merlin was able to be so strong when he was only First-level. It was clear that in the Dark Magic Region, he was the cream of the crop. Emma was somewhat disturbed that as his student, she had inferior Spell Caster Quality.

However, Merlin breathed a quiet sigh of relief, and a smile appeared on his face. "As expected, you're assigned to Wizard Leo. There's no need to be so despondent. I did not explain to you that, I'm Wizard Leo's student, and am staying in Wizard Leo's tower at the moment. Your assignment to Wizard Leo's tower saves us a lot of trouble. I'll explain your situation to Wizard Leo."

"What? Teacher, you're also assigned to Wizard Leo's tower? The Spell Caster inside said that only Spell Casters of the lowest Spell Caster Quality would be assigned to Wizard Leo's tower..."

Emma still found it rather unbelievable that Merlin was also assigned to Wizard Leo's tower.

Merlin's features gradually became stern, and he said solemnly, "Spell Caster Quality is not everything. What's more, Wizard Leo is one of the strongest Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region. You should feel lucky to be able to be in his tower. Alright, as for the rest, you'll know about them later. Firstly, I'll bring you to Wizard Leo's tower."

Emma bobbed her head and followed closely behind Merlin.

In a short while, Merlin had brought Emma to the front of Wizard Leo's tower. It looked the same as before, but only when he returned here did Merlin feel truly comfortable.

"Come on."

Merlin and Emma walked into the tower. On the first floor, Wizard Howl was engrossed in studying his potions as always. Merlin knew that Wizard Howl was obsessed with potions. In the past, he had thought that Wizard Howl, being a First-level Spell Caster and an official member of the Dark Magic Region, would have been very strong.

However, as Merlin slowly leveled up to a First-level Spell Caster, his horizons were gradually broadened, and he learned some things about Wizard Howl.

Although Wizard Howl had successfully leveled up to a First-level Spell Caster, the Spell Model he had created in the beginning had left him with an unseen affliction. As a result, he needed potions to sustain himself.

This constant suffering due to an unstable Spell Model was a situation similarly faced by Wizard Hill. It was because of this that Wizard Howl was so obsessed with potions. He hoped that through potions, he would be able to thoroughly cure his affliction.

Nonetheless, in so many years, Wizard Howl had not leveled up to a Second-level Spell Caster. It was evident that he had failed, and the potions he was preoccupied with did not completely cure his internal affliction.

Merlin shook his head slightly. A Spell Caster of this sort, without any hope, was the most pitiful. It was not surprising that besides anything to do with potions, Wizard Howl had a certain detached attitude toward other matters.

“Let’s go, I’ll bring you to meet Wizard Leo. He’s on the highest floor of the tower!”

Merlin brought Emma to the Runic Magic Circle on the first floor and activated it in a routine manner. A white light flashed instantly, and Merlin and Emma’s figures vanished from the first floor.

After they disappeared, Wizard Howl, who had been immersed in his potions, raised his head lightly. As he looked at the Runic Magic Circle from the corner of his eyes, a forlorn look grew upon his face...

...

“It’s Merlin, I suppose. Come in!”

Merlin had just reached Wizard Leo’s room when he heard Wizard Leo’s voice coming from inside.

“Creak...”

Merlin pushed the door and entered. He saw that Wizard Leo was beaming, appearing to be in good humor.

“Wizard Leo!”

Merlin bowed forward slightly but felt rather puzzled. He did not know why Wizard Leo seemed to be overjoyed today. Ever since he had joined Wizard Leo's tower, Merlin had seldom seen Wizard Leo crack a smile.

“Merlin, well done. You killed Weiss and defeated Bluebird – two of Ozmu's prodigies. Haha, your reputation now has surpassed my own!”

The blood-red third eye on Wizard Leo's forehead flickered slightly with rays of crimson light. Merlin, who understood the behavior of Wizard Leo well, immediately knew that Wizard Leo was truly ecstatic.

Merlin did not expect that the news would spread so quickly. He had just returned to the Dark Magic Region, and the news had already reached them.

Seeing Merlin's expression, Wizard Leo seemed to guess Merlin's thoughts, and said, “Merlin, the news was able to spread so quickly was not because of you but because of Ozmu. We had just signed a pact with Ozmu, so of course, we're following Ozmu's every move closely. In addition, it's not like Weiss and Bluebird were obscure nobodies, so naturally, we kept track of their whereabouts.”

Merlin nodded. It turned out that it was because Ozmu was observed by the Dark Magic Region and other spell casters' organizations that they would so quickly know that he killed Weiss and Bluebird.

“Teacher Leo, there were some things which I was hiding from you. It's about my Pandora Demon Ability...”

Merlin muttered to himself for a long time before deciding to tell Wizard Leo about Glacial Finger and Fiery Collapse. After what happened when they visited Abyss Fort, Merlin already had absolute trust in Wizard Leo. His possession of these Pandora Demon Abilities was not something he had to conceal from Wizard Leo anymore.

Chapter 258: Clue II

Merlin was just about to tell Wizard Leo about his possession of Pandora Demon Ability but Wizard Leo waved his hand lightly. “Whatever Pandora Demon Ability you have, that's your secret. You don't have to tell me.

“I’m just feeling gratified. What is Kleis in comparison? You’re far more outstanding than Kleis. Weiss and Bluebird are only the beginning. In the future, you must kill Kleis with your own hands, understand?”

A beam of light abruptly shone out of the crimson third eye on Wizard Leo’s forehead, and he wore a grave expression.

Merlin was somewhat taken aback. According to the pact between the Dark Magic Region and Ozmu, Spell Casters above Fourth-level were not allowed to make any moves. However, Merlin was not a Spell Caster above Fourth-level, but a First-level Spell Caster. Even if he leveled up in a short time, he would still merely be a Second-level Spell Caster.

Only Merlin would have the opportunity to kill Kleis who had betrayed the Dark Magic Region!

“Teacher Leo, I’ll keep this in mind. If I encounter Kleis in the future, I’ll kill him myself!”

Merlin replied in a low voice, a glint of determination flashed in his eyes.

Wizard Leo gave him a desolate smile and slightly bobbed his head. “Very well. Surely you’ve come to find me for some other matter as well?”

Wizard Leo wore a half-smile as he looked toward the direction of the door.

Merlin’s heart leaped, and he hurriedly gestured for Emma to come in, following which he said to Wizard Leo, “Wizard Leo, her name is Emma. Three years ago, I met her outside by chance and saw that she had Spell Caster Quality, so I gave her some spells. I didn’t think that in three years, she would consecutively construct three Zero-level spells. Therefore, I unofficially took her on as my student, and she’s been assigned to your Wizard Tower.”

Merlin briefly explained Emma’s situation to Wizard Leo. Emma, despite seeing that Wizard Leo’s appearance was rather scary, still steeled her nerves and bowed toward him.

“Not bad, Merlin. Since you’ve approved of her, you’ll have to guide her through her cultivation in the Dark Magic Region.”

Wizard Leo did not mind but instead handed the matter over to Merlin. The hardest thing to do for someone with a temper like Wizard Leo's was to handle a student.

"Oh right, Wizard Leo, there's one more thing I need your help. I've become a First-level Spell Caster, and have found an attendant, who's also your previous student, Laurinka. As she did not become a First-level Spell Caster, she was stripped off her Dark Magic ring and was sent away from the Dark Magic Region. Thus, now she has no way of entering the Dark Magic Region and is still waiting outside. I need your help, Teacher, to help me apply for an attendant's Dark Magic ring."

Merlin quickly clarified the matter of Laurinka. Wizard Leo flapped his hand and appeared rather impatient. "That's a trivial matter. I'll send for someone to bring the Dark Magic ring used by attendants, but you understand that according to the Dark Magic Region's rules, any trouble caused by your attendant is equivalent to trouble caused by you. Therefore, you must be prudent in selecting an attendant."

Merlin nodded. An attendant was a representative of a Spell Caster, so many Spell Casters even after becoming Second- or Third-level in the Dark Magic Region, still had no attendants. That was because they were judicious in selecting an attendant, so if there was no one suitable at the moment, they could only choose not to accept any attendant for now.

With Wizard Leo's help, a Spell Caster arrived at the tower soon enough, delivering a Dark Magic ring used by attendants to Merlin. As soon as the ring was delivered, Merlin's servant, Laurinka, was in fact already in the Dark Magic Region's records. That way, there would be no errors.

With the Dark Magic ring, Merlin brought Emma away from Wizard Leo's room. After they came out, Emma heaved a sigh of relief. With some residual fear, she asked, "Teacher, that was Wizard Leo just now? He's really scary..."

Merlin knew that there were not many people who would be unafraid of Wizard Leo's terrifying appearance. However, he had known Wizard Leo for a long time and had a clear understanding of Wizard Leo's character, so he was not frightened.

"Emma, Wizard Leo's a good person. You'll learn that after some time. Come on, I'll bring you to your room. You can rest first, and slowly familiarize yourself with the Dark Magic Region later."

Merlin helped Emma settled in the tower, and briefly went through a few things she should take note of before he hurriedly rushed back to where Laurinka was.

“Laurinka, put on this Dark Magic ring, then you may return to the Dark Magic Region once again.”

Merlin gave a small smile and handed the Dark Magic ring to Laurinka.

Laurinka appeared to be very moved as she could finally return to the Dark Magic Region. Back then, when she was sent away from the Dark Magic Region, she felt that all her dreams turned to dust like there was no hope left. She would still be a nobody even if she returned to her clan.

However, with Merlin, she had become his attendant now. From this day onward, her chances of becoming a First-level Spell Caster were greatly increased. Moreover, due to Merlin’s extraordinary status, she would no longer be someone insignificant even though she was merely Merlin’s attendant.

“Swish!”

With her stirred up emotions, Laurinka and Merlin went through the Runic Magic Circle together and returned to the Dark Magic Region once again.

...

“Whew...”

Merlin finally returned to his room and heaved a long sigh. Only when he was back in the Dark Magic Region would he feel so relieved and comfortable.

“Earlier, Sir Didimoss deciphered the runes of the Neverending Book. Only then did this legendary treasure revealed its true appearance. Perhaps there really are clues to the second and third volumes of the Neverending Book in it.”

Merlin mumbled to himself, and then quickly retrieved the volume of the Neverending Book from his ring.

Currently, due to its runes deciphered by Didimoss, the Neverending Book no longer looked like it previously did. With its bright shining light, it used to appear plain and unadorned.

However, this was the true appearance of the Neverending Book. Merlin quickly checked the cover of the book, on which appeared some mysterious words in the Molta language.

Merlin began to go through the mysterious Molta language carefully.

“The three volumes of the Neverending Book contained some spells and Pandora Demon Abilities which I created when I had nothing better to do. Initially, it was just something I scribbled in passing, something I planned to destroy. However, after some thought, I felt that it would be a shame to do so. Therefore, I’ve placed the three volumes of the Neverending Book at three different places. The second volume is on a beach somewhere near the Death Sea. Naturally, one would be able to find it with the first volume.

“The third volume of the Neverending Book is at Rock Cavern. One would be able to locate the third volume if one is equipped with the first and second volumes!

“For anyone from future generations lucky enough to collect all three volumes of the Neverending Book, the spells and Pandora Demon Abilities are only a small plaything. On an impulse, I’ve sealed a Maxim in a hidden place. Only by gathering all three volumes of the Neverending Book would one be able to find and obtain this Maxim...”

Having finished reading the words in Molta language of the Neverending Book, Merlin was astounded.

The one who wrote this passage in Molta language was undoubtedly the Spell Caster who passed on these three volumes of the Neverending Book. Nonetheless, in this Spell Caster’s eyes, the spells and Pandora Demon Abilities in the Neverending Book were only a “small plaything”, not worth mentioning.

The bigger treasure left behind by this Spell Caster was a Maxim that he had sealed away.

What was a Maxim? Merlin was not clear on that but he vaguely knew that even the Great Wizards were unable to master Maxims. For instance, the Spatial Rings worn by many Spell Casters, in fact, were implanted with a Maxim. However, the Great Wizards themselves were unable to transfigure such a Maxim.

Even the Bell Space that Merlin had obtained also contained a Maxim.

Therefore, even though Merlin was unsure what a Maxim was, he knew that it was something even Great Wizards dreamed of – to think that a mysterious Spell Caster had left behind a Maxim.

Nevertheless, this required a person to collect all three volumes of the Neverending Book. Merlin had only heard of the Death Sea, but it was too far away. It was not even in the Kingdom of Blackmoon, but further down south, past the different areas of influence belonging to many spell casters' organizations, where one would finally reach a sea that stretched as far as the eye could see.

That would be the Death Sea. Not even Spell Casters who were above Fourth-level would dare to say that they could reach the Death Sea. It might be that only Seventh-level Spell Casters would be able to reach the Death Sea despite the difficulties.

Although the second volume of the Neverending Book would be difficult to retrieve, there was ultimately still a sliver of hope. As for the third volume of the Neverending Book, it was hidden by the unknown Spell Caster at Rock Cavern. Merlin had never heard of any place called Rock Cavern so it would be almost impossible to find.

With no way of compiling all three volumes of the Neverending Book, one would naturally be unable to obtain the sealed Maxim. Therefore, regardless of how beneficial or tempting it was, it did not matter.

“With my current capabilities, I’m unable to even reach the Death Sea. It’s practically an impossible task to obtain the second volume of the Neverending Book...”

Merlin shook his head helplessly. It was far too difficult to retrieve the second and third volumes of the Neverending Book. Even if it could be done, it would definitely not be completed in a short time.

Following that, Merlin offhandedly kept the Neverending Book, and instead, took out the Pandora Demon Ability, Destructive Wind, which he had taken from Weiss!

This was a Wind-type Demon Ability with decent power. However, Merlin’s Wind-type spells were Speed spells, so he had no way of cultivating Destructive Wind. The Dark Magic Region had Pandora Demon Abilities as well, so Merlin was thinking of exchanging Destructive Wind for another Pandora Demon Ability which he could cultivate now, and which would be helpful to him.

For something as significant as exchanging a Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region, the first person who came to Merlin's mind was Wizard Leo. If he had Wizard Leo's assistance, then the trading of a Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region would surely go more smoothly.

With that in mind, Merlin walked out of the room once more.

...

"Teacher Leo, I'm afraid there's something I need your help with."

Merlin stood before Wizard Leo and spoke respectfully.

"Go on, what is it?"

Wizard Leo asked nonchalantly with a calm expression.

Merlin drew in a deep breath, and calmed his turbulent emotions, after which he said softly, "Teacher Leo, I would like to exchange a Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region!"

"Hmm? You want to exchange a Pandora Demon Ability?"

Wizard Leo's initially peaceful face immediately shifted slightly. The blood-red third eye on his forehead flashed open as well, fixing its glare on Merlin.

Chapter 259: Dark Magic Space

Merlin nodded with a serious expression; he indeed intended to exchange a Pandora Demon Ability.

"Pandora Demon Abilities are usually the most important secret in all spell casters' organizations. Even I have never received a Pandora Demon Ability from the Dark Magic Region. Only those who have made a huge contribution to the Dark Magic Region will be rewarded with a Pandora Demon Ability. You must realize how important a Pandora Demon Ability really is. Are you sure you want to exchange it with the Dark Magic Region?"

Wizard Leo kept reminding Merlin of the importance of Pandora Demon Ability. He had Darkness Eye in the past, but he did not exchange it with the Dark Magic Region.

In fact, many Spell Casters would not exchange their Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region willingly should they obtained it as it was too difficult to find even one Pandora Demon Ability.

Merlin directly stated his reason. He explained in a low voice, “Teacher Leo, the Pandora Demon Ability doesn’t suit me, so I want to exchange for a more compatible Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region.”

“It’s the Pandora Demon Ability that you got hold of after killing those from Ozmu, right?”

The red vertical eye on Wizard Leo’s forehead stared straight at Merlin as he asked with a smile.

Merlin nodded, knowing that he could not lie to Wizard Leo.

Upon seeing the nod, Wizard Leo let out a cold sneer. “Hehe, only Ozmu possesses so many Pandora Demon Abilities. They don’t even mind to use the Pandora Demon Ability to tempt those genius Spell Casters.”

Wizard Leo hated Ozmu from the bottom of his heart, so his tone was always filled with abhorrence.

After saying that, Wizard Leo paused a little, and calmed down. “Let’s go. We’ll have to see Wizard Heusius if you want to exchange your Pandora Demon Ability!”

Following that, Wizard Leo brought Merlin out of the tower and headed toward the few tallest towers in the Dark Magic Region.

It was not Merlin’s first time in the tower of a Seventh-level Spell Caster, so he appeared rather collected.

With Wizard Leo, it became easier to find Wizard Heusius. Without taking much time, Wizard Heusius appeared.

“Leo, what are you up to this time?”

Wizard Heusius glanced at Wizard Leo with a helpless look on his face.

“Hehe, old fool, I’m naturally here for an important matter. It’s about my student, Merlin. Old fool, I’m sure you’ve heard of it?”

Wizard Leo did not state their aim straightaway. Instead, he asked Wizard Heusius.

Heusius took a knowing glance at Merlin and squinted his eyes. Chuckling softly, he said, “How would I not hear about it? This time, Merlin has eliminated two prodigies of Ozmu – Weiss and Bluebird. Tsk tsk. Never mind about Weiss but Bluebird is the Wizard who has caused countless troubles to many spell casters’ organizations. She possesses two Pandora Demon Abilities and is exceptionally strong. But she has died by the hands of Merlin. Leo, you got an excellent student there!”

The information of Merlin eliminating Weiss and Bluebird might not be known to average Spell Casters but the higher authority of the Dark Magic Region could have received the news first-hand.

Weiss and Bluebird were simply Third-level Spell Casters; they could go around causing trouble without being restricted by the pact. In fact, this matter had greatly troubled spell casters’ organizations such as the Dark Magic Region.

The pact with Ozmu only restricted the actions of Spell Casters of Fourth-level and above. However, many ordinary Fourth-level Spell Casters could not stand against Weiss and Bluebird anyway. The spell casters’ organizations were fairly concerned about this matter. Little did they expect that Merlin would kill both of them. As his feat shocked the spell casters’ organizations, he had also resolved a hidden concern among spell casters’ organizations.

Wizard Leo nodded and said, “After killing Weiss and Bluebird, Merlin has obtained a Pandora Demon Ability...”

Wizard Leo did not continue his words. Instead, Wizard Heusius’ expression changed slightly, then he revealed a hint of elation. “You’re saying that Merlin has obtained a Pandora Demon Ability?”

After a slight pause, Wizard Heusius seemed like he had understood something as he squinted his eyes at Wizard Leo. “Leo, you’re not here to tell me this news, am I right?”

“That’s right. Merlin wanted to use this Pandora Demon Ability to exchange for another Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region.”

Wizard Leo finally stated their aim for being there. Heusius was not surprised at all. In fact, he had already guessed it.

“Exchanging for another Pandora Demon Ability? You can indeed exchange Pandora Demon Ability with another one in the Dark Magic Region. Otherwise, you have to make a huge contribution to the Dark Magic Region to be rewarded with a Pandora Demon Ability. Hehe, that’s why I haven’t cultivated any Pandora Demon Ability until now. Leo, you’re one lucky guy since you have Darkness Eye...”

Even the Seventh-level Spell Caster, Heusius, did not possess a Pandora Demon Ability, proving how rare and precious a Pandora Demon Ability was. It was extremely fortunate of Merlin to obtain a Pandora Demon Ability. Wizard Leo was the same since he had obtained the Pandora Demon Ability accidentally.

Furthermore, there were only a small number of Spell Casters who were rewarded with Pandora Demon Ability after making a large contribution to the Dark Magic Region. After all, not all spell casters’ organizations could have such vast resources comparable to Ozmu.

“Merlin, I can’t make the decision for you to exchange for Pandora Demon Ability. The Dark Magic Region may not have the Pandora Demon Ability that you’d like to exchange with. In addition, your Pandora Demon Ability must be of equal value with the one you want to exchange for. After all, there are still distinctions between various Pandora Demon Abilities. Let’s go. Let me bring you to a place. The Pandora Demon Ability you’d be able to exchange for would depend completely on your own luck.”

After saying that, Heusius walked into the deeper parts of the tower. Merlin looked at Wizard Leo who was beside him.

Wizard Leo nodded. “Follow Heusius.”

Merlin took a deep breath and quickly caught up to Heusius as they headed toward the deeper parts of the tower.

The tower of the Seventh-level Spell Caster was not much different from the others. Merlin simply trailed behind Heusius, both remained silent. Then, they reached a complicated Runic Magic Circle.

“Only the towers of the Seventh-level Spell Casters have such Runic Magic Circles. Even your teacher, Wizard Leo, doesn’t have this Runic Magic Circle. Via this circle, you’ll reach the true core region of the Dark Magic Region – the Dark Magic Space!”

“Dark Magic Space?”

After being in the Dark Magic Region for such a long time, this was Merlin’s first-time hearing about a place called the “Dark Magic Space”, so he glanced at Wizard Heusius with a questioning look.

Meanwhile, Wizard Heusius shook his head. “This is the most important place of the Dark Magic Region. You’ll know when you see it.”

Thereafter, he brought Merlin into the Runic Magic Circle and a white light flashed, immediately encompassing Merlin and Wizard Heusius.

“Swish!”

Both disappeared in the blink of an eye along with the flash of light.

...

“Boom!”

Two figures instantly appeared along with the flashing light in a secretive space. They were Wizard Heusius and Merlin.

As soon as Merlin had arrived at the place, he scanned his surroundings. He realized that there was no sky here nor was there any land. It was as if Heusius and he were floating in the air.

In this space, there was a light that lit up the entire space just like the day. Moreover, there were many densely-written and complex mysterious runes etched all over the space.

This was the “Dark Magic Space” Wizard Heusius had mentioned earlier.

“Merlin, the Dark Magic Space is very unique, and it isn’t created by the Great Wizard Fidel. After all, this is a stable space, the product of the Maxim. Even the Great Wizard Fidel can’t manipulate the Maxim.

“We can place unique Elements in the Dark Magic Space, so there are places here that are rich in Fire Elements, Wind Elements, and so on. We can even concentrate a certain type of Elements in one place, then synthesize elemental crystal stones or precious treasures after going through a long period of accumulation.”

Merlin could not help but feel astonished at the fact that such a wonderful yet stable space existed. It was much stronger than his Bell Space. However, the Bell Space might still be incomplete at this point; Merlin had not collected all the casting components just yet. Thus, the Bell Space was currently far less stable than the Dark Magic Space.

However, the Bell Space had the simulation function while the Dark Magic Space could probably only be capable of nurturing Elements and producing elemental crystal stones besides being stable and secretive. After all, the elemental crystal stones were the product of all types of Elements after going through a long period of changes.

Other than the elemental crystal stones, rare treasures such as the hundred years’ ice bone marrow might appear should the Elements had been accumulated here for a sufficiently long time, be it hundreds or thousands of years.

With such a wonderful function, it was not surprising that the Bell Space was kept confidential. Only the Seventh-level Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region knew about this place.

Wizard Leo might know some information about the Dark Magic Space, but he could not enter this place.

The Dark Magic Space was not created by the Great Wizard Fidel. Instead, it was an object that was obtained incidentally. It might have been passed down since the ancient times. It was the same case for Merlin’s Bell Space.

After the Great Wizard Fidel had obtained the Dark Magic Space, he had treated it as the most important secret in the Dark Magic Region.

“The Dark Magic Space contains many Seventh-level spells. Although the Seventh-level spells are of no use if the user hasn’t derived and constructed it on his own. How about reading the experience and notes of the Seventh-level Spell Casters when they derived their own spells? Hehe, there are many records here that contain the experience of Seventh-level Spell Casters when they derived their Seventh-level spells. Sometimes, we would show them to some Sixth-level Spell Casters, hoping that the records can inspire the Spell Casters.”

Wizard Heusius pointed to the rows of shelves in the Dark Magic Space as he introduced them to Merlin.

Merlin was surprised by what he had seen. This was the true resources available in a spell casters’ organization. Many Seventh-level spells might not be of any use, but the process of which the Seventh-level Spell Casters had derived their spells was invaluable. Some Sixth-level Spell Casters might be inspired by the records, then went on to derive a brand-new spell, thus becoming Seventh-level Spell Casters.

“There’s certainly a large barrier between Spell Caster clans and spell casters’ organizations. The difference is simply too large to overcome...”

Merlin shook his head slightly. It was not surprising that a Spell Caster clan could hardly stand against a spell casters’ organization no matter how powerful it was. The Dark Magic Region was only a small-scaled spell casters’ organization, but its resources were not something attainable for any Spell Caster clan.

Even the Sterling House, founded by the Great Wizard Sterling, would not have as many resources as the Dark Magic Region after hundreds of years. After the Great Wizard Sterling left the Sterling House, it was feared that this powerful influence would immediately fall apart; it could not be passed down for many generations like the spell casters’ organizations could.

Chapter 260: Guardian Wizard

The Dark Magic Space was huge; Wizard Heusius was still introducing the place to Merlin in detail.

Without realizing it, Wizard Heusius had brought Merlin to a place that was densely etched with runes. At this place, Merlin saw a figure who wore a black Wizard's robe. The figure was tall, but he was sitting cross-legged on the floor, meditating. His entire being did not give off any aura at all – just like a dead man.

Wizard Heusius halted and spoke softly to Merlin, "This is the Guardian Wizard of the Dark Magic Space."

"Guardian Wizard?"

Merlin was full of questions, but Heusius' expression remained grim as he said, "That's right. Guardian Wizard. Other than Didimoss, there's probably no one in the Dark Magic Region who knows about his name and his origin. The Guardian Wizard has been here ever since I joined the Dark Magic Region. He never goes out and has always stayed in the Dark Magic Space, protecting this place. He may even be related to the Great Wizard Fidel..."

It was apparent that Heusius held a lot of respect toward the mysterious Guardian Wizard, while Merlin was slightly surprised. The Guardian Wizard did not look old, but little did Merlin expect him to have stayed in the Dark Magic Region for such a long time.

"Alright, Merlin. Take out your Pandora Demon Ability. If you want to bring anything out of the Dark Magic Space, you must gain the permission of the Guardian Wizard. Without it, no one can bring anything out of here."

Merlin nodded. He took out Destructive Wind which he had gotten from Weiss, from his ring.

Wizard Heusius did not even look at it and directly passed it to the Guardian Wizard. He said to the Guardian Wizard respectfully, "Guardian Wizard, this is Merlin, an official member of the Dark Magic Region. He has obtained a Pandora Demon Ability by luck and wishes to exchange for another Pandora Demon Ability with the Dark Magic Region. Please have a look at it, Sir."

The Guardian Wizard who had kept his eyes closed slowly opened his eyes. After receiving Destructive Wind, he took a brief look at it and said monotonously, "We don't have this Pandora Demon Ability in the Dark Magic Space. You can exchange for a Pandora Demon Ability of equal value here!"

After saying that, the Guardian Wizard waved his hands and countless runes appeared in his hands. Slowly, a door appeared in the Dark Magic Space.

Upon seeing the Guardian Wizard had drawn so many runes effortlessly, Merlin was overwhelmed with shock. Although the Dark Magic Region specialized in Runology, even the Seventh-level Spell Casters who specialized in the study of runes would not be able to set up a Runic Magic Circle as effortlessly as that.

Ignoring other aspects, the Guardian Wizard had to have a deep understanding of Runology.

“Enter. That’s the place where the Pandora Demon Abilities are kept!”

Heusius revealed a smile and stared at the door as he said with mixed feelings.

Merlin nodded, then walked through the door.

As soon as he walked in, Merlin adapted quite well to his surroundings. There were some bright lights that lit the space up like daylight.

In it, there were many small white jade boxes floating in mid-air. The boxes were shining, making them look dreamy.

“The Pandora Demon Abilities in the thirteen jade boxes on your left are of equal value with Destructive Wind. You can choose from them! However, you can only open one box, so choose wisely. Once opened, you must memorize the cultivation method of the Pandora Demon Ability stored in the jade box in two hours. After two hours, you must leave this place!”

Just when Merlin was glancing at the boxes, a chilly voice came from behind him. The Guardian Wizard had entered through the door since who-knows-when.

Merlin was listening closely to his words. This was the rule in the Dark Magic Space. Even the Seventh-level Spell Caster must adhere to the rules here, so Merlin set his gaze to the thirteen jade boxes on his left.

“Swoosh!”

The Guardian Wizard flipped his palm around and a jade box appeared in his hands. Then, he placed Destructive Wind into the box and etched some mysterious runes in mid-air that were roughly stamped onto the box.

After sealing the box, the Guardian Wizard placed it aside. The thirteen jade boxes on their left had now become fourteen in total. This meant that the Dark Magic Region now possessed fourteen Pandora Demon Abilities which were of the same level as Destructive Wind.

This was a large number, but it still could not be compared to Ozmu yet.

Merlin came directly to these jade boxes and carefully scanned them. There were mysterious runes etched on the jade boxes. As soon as he extended his Mind Power toward it, he could read a brief introduction about the Pandora Demon Ability which contained in the jade box.

Merlin now possessed Glacial Finger, Fiery Collapse, and Darkness Heart. However, both Glacial Finger and Fiery Collapse were Offensive Pandora Demon Abilities. Even Darkness Heart could be used as an Offensive Pandora Demon Ability.

Thus, Merlin really wished to have a Defensive Pandora Demon Ability now.

Meanwhile, he should not choose the most powerful Pandora Demon Ability. He should go for the Pandora Demon Ability that could be incorporated into his spells just like Darkness Heart. He should not underestimate the mere two stages of cultivation. Once he had reached Fourth-level and Darkness Heart had been incorporated into his Darkness-type spells, the power of his spells would reach an unimaginable height.

Moreover, during the most glorious age of Spell Casters, the strong Pandora Demon Abilities were always the ones that could be incorporated into the spells. Only those capable of being incorporated into the spells were said to be the most powerful Pandora Demon Ability.

Merlin's Glacial Finger and Fiery Collapse could not be incorporated into his spells, so they were not considered very powerful in this sense.

Hence, Merlin first decided that he would pick an Earth-type Pandora Demon Ability. Three of the jade boxes contained this type. However, Merlin continued to filter them and took out an Offensive Earth-type Pandora Demon Ability.

Finally, he was left with two Pandora Demon Abilities which were suitable for Merlin. Both were Defensive Pandora Demon Abilities and had only two stages.

These two Pandora Demon Abilities were called “Impeccable Shield” and “Fuse Earth”.

“Impeccable Shield” as its name suggested, was a Pandora Demon Ability which could gather endless Earth Elements to form a gigantic shield with terrifying defensive ability. However, the first stage of “Impeccable Shield” was comparable to a Fourth-level Defensive spell, so it was considered somewhat powerful.

Merlin was already tempted to pick “Impeccable Shield” but he was moved when he saw the Pandora Demon Ability in the other box.

“Fuse Earth”, the Pandora Demon Ability with a weird name, was the Pandora Demon Ability which was most suitable for Merlin.

He could begin the cultivation of Fuse Earth as soon as he had constructed his First-level spell, Guardian Monument. Moreover, he could easily incorporate the Pandora Demon Ability into his spells should he succeeded in cultivating it. It appeared to be similar to Darkness Heart, but there was a distinct difference between them.

Darkness Heart was known as the most favorable ability to have in conjunction with Darkness-type spells in ancient times. If one cultivated Darkness Heart, one could express a large strength no matter what sort of Darkness-type spells one possessed.

However, Fuse Earth was different where the Pandora Demon Ability was only specific to Earth-type Defensive spells. It could only be incorporated into Earth-type Defensive spells, thus enhancing the strength of the spells.

Furthermore, Fuse Earth had a unique point; it could be merged with the spells in its first stage unlike Darkness Heart which could only be merged with Fourth-level spells.

With Fuse Earth, Merlin would be able to greatly enhance his defensive ability. At that time, his overall strength could be improved, and he could completely overcome his lack of defensive ability without the use of bowknot-shaped Enhancing casting tool.

Fuse Earth was a match made in heaven for Merlin. Thus, after seeing this Pandora Demon Ability, Merlin chose Fuse Earth without a moment of hesitation.

“Guardian Wizard, I’ll pick Fuse Earth!”

Merlin turned around and said to the Guardian Wizard.

The Guardian Wizard took a nonchalant gaze at the jade box and said in a calm tone, “Are you sure you want to choose Fuse Earth? Once you’ve made the decision, you can no longer change your mind.”

“Yes, I’m sure. Please reveal the jade box, Sir.”

Merlin replied with a determined look.

“Alright! Two hours later, you must place Fuse Earth back into the jade box.”

Thereafter, the Guardian Wizard stretched his palm wide and mysterious runes flew out from his palm and rapidly dived into the box. The runes on the jade box began to shake violently, then slowly disappeared from sight.

Although he only had two hours, it was more than enough for Merlin to read the cultivation method. Since he had the Matrix, he could easily memorize the cultivation method within a few minutes.

“The Matrix, begin recording!”

Merlin initiated the Matrix in his mind. After everything was set up, Merlin then slowly opened Fuse Earth and carefully skimmed through it.

“Fuse Earth had two stages. In the first stage, one must’ve constructed a First-level Earth-type Defensive spell. In the second stage, one must’ve constructed a Fourth-level Earth-type Defensive spell.

“Cultivating Fuse Earth successfully required that it be coupled with the use of Lava Soil!

“Should Fuse Earth be cultivated successfully, the strength of the Earth-type Defensive spell could be increased by three to six-folds!”

Other than the introduction of Fuse Earth, the remaining was the detailed cultivation method of Fuse Earth. After reading through it, he frowned slightly.

It was not difficult to reach the first prerequisite of the cultivation since Merlin had constructed a First-level Earth-type Defensive spell, Guardian Monument. However, he had to have an item called Lava Soil to successfully cultivate Fuse Earth.

This was quite difficult since Merlin had not heard of Lava Soil before. It had to be difficult to find.

The successful cultivation of Fuse Earth only resulted in a three to six-folds increase of the spell's strength. This was far less than the five to ten-folds increase effect of Darkness Heart.

However, Fuse Earth had an overall excellent effect. After all, Darkness Heart was considered a well-known Pandora Demon Ability. Many Pandora Demon Abilities that had three stages could not even be compared to Darkness Heart.

“Alright, it's time. Place Fuse Earth back into the jade box and you may leave now.”

The emotionless Guardian Wizard suddenly spoke in a firm tone.