

BloodLine 1411

Chapter 1411: Special Training Area

Thunderflame Faction

In my room, I saw the online news regarding the statement released by the foreign creature side. My brows furrowed.

Though my identity was not directly exposed, the clues were enough to point at me.

The foreign creature side had disclosed that the masked warrior was from Star University and that he is a lightning warrior.

Everyone would immediately think of the Thunderflame Faction and the Dark Variant Faction.

Apart from the disciples of the Faction Leaders and the Main Elders, no one else possessed such prowess.

It would be easy for people to figure out who had gone to Warrior Camp 8 and who had not.

"I'm going to face new trouble again," I said to myself.

Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders would have received the same news by now. Master Austin and Ann would definitely question me.

They knew exactly who had been to Warrior Camp 8; if no other disciples went, it would single me out.

I touched my forehead, a headache forming. I had been thinking about meeting the others today, but the statement from the foreign creature side threw me off guard. I had no choice but to stay inside my room.

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Thunderflame Faction (Meeting Hall)

Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders had gathered. Clifford's expression was grim; the news from the foreign creature side had ruined his mood.

"What do you guys think about it? Should we trust their words?" Clifford asked.

Main Elder Austin and the others were present, their expressions equally troubled.

Austin's mind immediately went to his disciple, Zack Lockwood. Only Zack's recent activities were unknown to him, as the boy was directly under the watch of Dean Jerome.

Since his other disciples were away on missions, he suspected the masked man could be Zack. Master Ann was thinking the same; apart from Zack, she couldn't imagine anyone else possessing such power.

Main Elders Leola, Cathy, and Rosie remained silent, but in their minds, they had already decided the masked man was likely Zack Lockwood.

They knew Zack had recently become a Silver Mark Warrior and that his purple lightning element was known for its destruction.

Faction Leader Clifford noted the silence.

He said, "I think everything will be clear once Zack Lockwood comes back. Until then, do not discuss this matter with anyone else."

The Main Elders were taken aback. In fact, Faction Leader Clifford suspected Zack as well because Zack's movements were unaccounted for.

Furthermore, no one else at the Silver Mark stage was stronger than him. Zack was the only person whose details matched the masked man.

The other Main Elders said nothing, silently agreeing.

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Dean's Office

Jerome wasn't surprised by the statement. He had been waiting for their response so he could calculate his next move.

Though the foreign creatures had exposed information about the masked warrior, they hadn't revealed the other news, the part about breaking the barrier.

If either side broke the barrier, it was a major breach of contract, but the foreign creature side chose to hide it.

This worked out well for Jerome. Otherwise, other forces would use the opportunity to weaken the influence of Star University.

Now, he had to plan. He couldn't let Zack Lockwood stay where he was. He knew the Thunderflame Faction Leader and the Main Elders were likely suspecting the kid already.

He summoned the Purple Mark Guard.

"Dean," the guard greeted upon arrival.

"Send Zack Lockwood to the Mountain Cliff Forbidden Area. He should train quietly there for three months. In the meantime, I will think of a solution," Jerome said.

The Purple Mark Guard nodded and left. Shortly afterward, he appeared in front of Zack Lockwood's residence and contacted him.

Creak!

I opened the door and greeted the Purple Mark Guard.

"Pack your stuff quickly. I'm taking you to a special place," he said.

I was stunned, but then I considered the situation. It was better to stay somewhere else than to be watched by everyone.

I quickly grabbed my essentials, including sets of clothes and other gear, then stepped outside.

The Purple Mark Guard said nothing before grabbing my shoulder. The next second, we both disappeared.

No one in the Thunderflame Faction had a clue; they couldn't sense the presence of a Purple Mark Guard.

Swoosh!

The view was a blur. I didn't know where he was taking me, but it didn't seem to be outside the campus.

A few minutes later, I felt my feet back on solid ground. I stabilized my balance and looked around. The place was barren with little vegetation. I was standing on a high rock.

"This is the Mountain Cliff. There is a valley nearby where world energy is special. You can make fast progress here. This will be your place of training for three months."

"Don't worry about the noise outside. Use this opportunity to grow your strength. I'll come back in three months," the guard said before vanishing.

It took me a couple of seconds to process what had happened. My brain quickly pieced together the reason.

Since the foreign creature side had exposed my details, it was inevitable that I would be questioned by Faction Leader Clifford and my two masters. It would have been hard to conceal the truth.

The other factions would also be looking for any opportunity to find the truth, so staying there would have been a problem. I never thought the day would come where I would choose to hide from the Thunderflame Faction.

However, I'm glad the foreign creature side didn't reveal the death of the horned humanoid creature. That creature was a Purple Mark Warrior, and I had killed him. I didn't know why they failed to mention that.

Shaking my head, I pushed these thoughts down and started observing my new surroundings. I closed my eyes and tried to sense a world energy.

It didn't take long for me to feel the rich world energy coming from the valley. The Purple Mark Guard was right. The valley down there was special.

Chapter 1412: Beautiful Valley!

From MC Perspective

The mountain cliff.

I noticed the mountain cliff; it stood like a jagged wall of stone. Its sharp edge pointed toward the valley below.

Then, I left the area and slowly walked toward the valley down below. The valley was quiet and covered in haze.

I could smell the scent of wildflowers and grass. Fortunately, I found a path toward the valley. As I walked down, I could feel the pure, rich world energy.

Elder was right. My heart wanted to find a place to sit down first, then breathe in.

Shortly afterwards,

I reached further downward. My vision pierced through the hazy mists.

Splash!

The sound came from a small stream running through the rocks and grass. Seeing that, my eyes sparkled. I immediately rushed toward the spot.

Once I got down near the stream, I crouched down and collected water in my hands to drink. As I gulped down the water, a cold and refreshing feeling washed over me.

The next second, I found my body cells absorbing the world energy present in it. I wasn't surprised by the finding.

Since the valley itself was filled with world energy, it was normal for the water to have similar energy as well.

Then, I used my perception to scan the place. I found there was no danger; apart from me, there was no one here. Then why was this place a restricted area?

Was it because of the special world energy here? Anyway, if there were any danger here, the elder would have reminded me already.

Then I looked around and found a neat, flat rock behind me. It was a good place to sit down and practice.

After drinking a mouthful of water again, I moved toward the rock. I sat down and closed my eyes.

First, I started practicing the method from the incomplete ancient healing technique.

As I started running the technique, the rune in my mind flickered. The healing forces in the valley environment were moved towards me. The healing force was abundantly rich and pure.

When the healing force flowed through my body, I felt energized. I continued to circulate it as per the route mentioned in the method.

The hidden injuries, which were not completely healed before, were now being mended. I realized the effect, then continued to guide the healing force through my body.

After a full circulation, the healing force settled down inside the dantian on the right side of the Purple Lightning Seed. As time went by, my state recovered to its peak.

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Dean office

Dean Jerome was in his office. When the Purple Mark Guard returned, Jerome told him to keep an eye on their talented warriors.

"The foreign creature side might have already ordered their spies. The spies will definitely look for Zack Lockwood. If they don't get Zack Lockwood, they could use the opportunity to attack other genius warriors," Jerome said to him.

"I will monitor the key places at the border. I don't think they will cross the border that easily," the Purple Mark Guard replied.

"Good. I'll order the Faction Leaders and the main elders to be on guard as well," Jerome said.

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Star University Territory

The Star University Territory was largely safe because Dean Jerome had wiped out the criminals in previous operations.

So, Star University didn't have a threat from internal spies.

They had to secure the border. A spy could be anyone; he could be someone well-known. Thus, the Purple Mark Guard prepared to monitor the key borders.

Meanwhile,

The Giant Tower, Dark Shadow University, Eclipse University, and Silver University ordered their elite spies to cross the border into Star University Territory.

Eclipse and Silver University didn't want to miss the opportunity, so they aided the Giant Tower and Dark Shadow University.

The Red Moon Tower did not get involved. They didn't support the methods of the four universities, but at the same time, they were not on the side of Star University.

The other four universities, though dissatisfied, were not going to target Red Moon University at this point. As long as Red Moon University stayed away from helping Star University, they wouldn't mind.

As time went by, these spies crossed the border. The Purple Mark Guard frowned. He expected the number of people crossing the border to increase, but the numbers were over thousands in the last few hours.

He tried to identify spies, but unfortunately, the travelers were crossing the border with legal identities. They had no criminal background.

Among the spies were adventurers and warriors with known professions. Some were even traveling using their university identities.

The Purple Mark Guard couldn't catch these people beforehand for interrogation, especially those from the universities.

If the higher-ups of those universities found out, they would use the opportunity to cause problems. He could only watch them helplessly enter the territory.

He then ordered the spies of Star University to go after them and follow their movements. He believed they would definitely go to Star City.

If their target was Zack Lockwood, they would certainly try to find him there.

The foreign creature side was not quiet either. They had spies implanted in all major forces; some were at the level of Purple Mark Warriors.

These Purple Mark Warriors traveled to Star University without alerting their respective universities.

Time went by,

A large number of people entered Star City. Their movements were under the watch of the spies. Star City was now even more guarded. None of these people's activities would go unnoticed.

The killers from the four universities arrived in the city as well. They had someone inside the Star University campus to rely on.

Unfortunately, the insider didn't know the details of Zack Lockwood's location. The insiders were none other than a few people from the Dark Variant Faction.

They had been trying to get information from the members of the Thunderflame Faction, but none of the members had seen Zack Lockwood so far. He was not even seen among the warriors who returned from Warrior Camp 8.

Chapter 1413: Huge improvement in skills!

From MC Perspective

Mountain Cliff

Time went by near the running stream. I continued to practice the inheritance methods.

After ending my practice with the healing inheritance, I switched to the Purple Lightning Inheritance Method and others.

Several hours later, my dantian was filled with inheritance forces.

The Purple Lightning Force, the blood force, and healing forces were gathered on one side, while the sealing force, the shock force, and the bloodline force gathered on the other.

When I opened my eyes, I found that it was early morning. I didn't expect to spend the whole night practicing.

Dean Jerome and the Elder had sent me here not expecting me to become a Gold Mark Warrior or achieve any other immediate success; they simply wanted to keep me out of the limelight.

But this hidden valley was truly a blessed place, a good place to make progress. If I continued to practice for a few more days, I could make significant gains.

Since I had three months, I decided to use this time to improve my combat skills.

Next, I brought the huge broadsword out. I looked around but didn't find a good target, so I walked back toward the mountain cliff.

My gaze fell on the empty plains first, where human-sized boulders were scattered here and there.

I brought the broadsword forward and used the Sword Divide technique. It was a simple matter of charging and releasing power.

Boom!

After powering up the blade with lightning power, the blade shot a lightning beam at the boulders. The rocks pulverized into many pieces.

It wasn't a proper sword technique yet; the broadsword was merely a tool to discharge power. I hadn't had the time to learn proper sword forms, but I could use this Sword Divide in my favor.

As long as my control over the Purple Lightning Force improved, the discharge time would be reduced as well.

I began to focus on one simple thing: controlling the lightning force.

The Purple Lightning Force brings immense destruction; any single mishap would cause injuries to my body. It was necessary to be careful.

Time went by. I controlled and circulated the Purple Lightning Force faster.

Whenever the surging lightning flowed through my body, I felt a tearing pain in my veins, but I endured it.

In the end, the broadsword blade charged with lightning a little faster than the previous time.

Boom!

I released the force right on time. The lightning beam struck the boulders and destroyed them within a minute.

Seeing that, my eyes flashed with excitement.

My effort was worth it; I was able to release the Sword Divide attack faster. Now, I need to master it.

One Month Later

I continued to practice the Sword Divide move over time. A day later, continuous effort yielded better results.

Sword Divide: Great Wheel (Proficient)

My skill division reached the proficient level, so my attention shifted to the Lightning Wheel. Like the Sword Divide move, I decided to put several days into practicing it.

Days went by. After a month of arduous training and continuous effort, all of my attack and defensive techniques had improved greatly:

Lightning Wheel: Great Wheel (Proficient)

Lightning Phantom: Great Wheel (Proficient)

Blood Field Technique: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Soul Tower Method: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Soul Needle Art: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Lightning Finger Technique: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Blood Fist Technique: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Healing Hand: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Lightning Drop: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Lightning Cage: Great Wheel (Intermediate)

Staff Technique: Perfect Wheel (Intermediate)

Condensed Finger: Perfect Wheel (Intermediate)

After reviewing each of my skills, I continued my target practice.

The simple-looking plain was now overturned; the terrain looked uneven and completely destroyed. Fortunately, the beautiful valley below remained untouched.

Once I am done with my practice here, I go down there to recover my strength. I still have two more months to go.

I can't imagine what my condition will be like in two months. I'm sure I'll be able to kill Purple Mark Foreign Creatures effortlessly.

I don't know the situation outside. The foreign creatures might be trying everything to find me.

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Star University

The campus was filled with peace and tranquility. The warriors were doing their studies and training as usual, but there were undercurrents surging here.

All the Factions were trying their best to find out the identity of the masked man. Except, the Thunderflame Faction. The rest of the Factions paid more attention to the matter.

Since the foreign creature side had exposed the identity of the masked man. The factions believed it to be true.

Because there was no rejection from Dean Jerome whatsoever. Which meant the statement was true.

The masked warrior was one of their warriors. Normally, this news was something they should be celebrating.

Yet most of them didn't want the masked warrior to survive. It is related to their interest.

The Thunderflame Faction was the most monitored faction in the last month. Outside forces paid warriors just to watch over their activities.

It was happening on such a scale that it actually helped many warriors achieve breakthroughs; many veteran warriors benefited from the trend.

Even Dean Jerome knew these things were unstoppable. He didn't stop anyone because he was being watched as well.

The Deans of other universities had contacted him multiple times in the last month, but they failed to get any information related to the "masked man."

These forces couldn't even openly ask or discuss the matter, as it would be considered treason.

Their Tier-4 region was not the final wall of the world; there were other greater powers. That was why Dean Jerome was confident in dealing with this problem.

Currently, Star City is facing some turmoil. Those unable to find anything related to the masked man were stirring up trouble in the city.

However, everyone involved was eventually caught.

The spies of the foreign creatures had yet to make a move. Most of these spies came from other universities, universities that didn't even know they were compromised.

The foreign creatures will not expose their assets until they find something concrete. They are waiting patiently inside Star City.

Chapter 1414: Changes across two months!

Thunderflame Faction

The members of the faction were facing a tough time. Everyone felt as though they were under a scanner. Some faction members were targeted by unknown people when they were outside the campus.

The members knew the reason behind it: the foreign creature was looking for the lightning warrior from Star University.

Their Thunderflame Faction was known for having all types of lightning warriors, but they themselves were clueless about the masked man.

The attacks faced by the members were reported to the main elders. The main elders felt helpless about the current situation.

They knew that Faction Leader Clifford had tried to get news from Dean Jerome, but Dean Jerome told them to wait and be patient.

Dean Jerome had expected such attacks on them. The main elders were feeling angry inside; they wanted Dean Jerome to reject the claims of the foreign creature side.

But Dean Jerome didn't do that. This confirmed the doubts of Elders Austin and Ann.

Both of them believed that the masked man wanted by the foreign creature side was none other than Zack Lockwood.

Because of this, the other main elders had no choice but to be patient.

On the other hand, Faction Leader Clifford knew everything.

He too believed that the masked man wanted by the foreign creature side was none other than Zack Lockwood. So, he could endure for the time being.

Days passed.

The silent attacks on the Thunderflame Faction increased day by day. Faction Leader Clifford and the main elders became impatient.

Clifford went to meet Dean Jerome at his office, and Dean Jerome allowed the Faction Leader to enter.

Creak!

Faction Leader Clifford went inside the room. He saw Dean Jerome seated behind the desk and greeted him immediately. Dean Jerome told him to sit down. Clifford took a seat.

"I knew you would come soon," Jerome said.

"Dean, our members are suffering too much. I'm afraid they will quit the faction if the attacks continue," Clifford said in a grave tone. He thought that Dean Jerome wasn't taking them seriously.

Jerome saw through his thoughts.

He said, "Don't worry, the attacks will stop soon. The foreign creatures, by then, won't have time to cause problems."

Clifford was happy. He knew Dean Jerome didn't normally lie; he usually conveyed everything straightforwardly.

Now that his doubts were cleared, he should have been going back, but he thought of one more person. That person was an important member of their faction.

"What is it?" Jerome asked.

Clifford asked, "Dean, is there any update on Zack Lockwood?"

Hearing that, Jerome was quiet. He was now thinking that he should have accepted Zack Lockwood as his disciple instead of sending him to the Thunderflame Faction.

"He is doing fine. Don't worry about him," Jerome said. His tone appeared calm and collected.

Clifford sighed in relief. Then another question popped up in his mind. He didn't know whether to ask about it or not.

"Dean, who is the masked warrior?" he asked.

Jerome's eyes flashed with a glint. He said, "You can guess. But knowing it doesn't help you or your faction at all. Just wait for two months, then everything will be alright."

Hearing that, Clifford took a deep breath. If Dean Jerome insisted on not revealing anything, there must be a reason behind it.

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From MC Perspective

Mountain Cliff

Weeks passed by.

I'm switching between practicing the inheritance method and attack and defense techniques repeatedly.

Due to my repeated actions, my control over the element has increased. Now I can control the elemental power more easily and freely.

Not only that, but both the purple lightning force and the blood force have become smoother.

From time to time, I look at one particular rock where I marked the number of days passed. It's been over one and a half months.

There is still one and a half months left. I need to further improve myself. I should accumulate more so that I can reach the Gold Mark Level faster.

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The Tier-4 Region

The four universities tried their best to send spies to Star University, but none of the spies were able to get any news.

Instead, a few of the spies were caught by the people of Star University, which exposed their intentions.

From then on, these universities didn't send further people into Star University. But they didn't give up.

They wanted to uncover the truth of the masked man, so they began bribing warriors of Star University.

Some of Star University's veteran warriors broke through because of them. There were a few who attacked the Thunderflame Faction warriors after receiving money. But they, too, failed to get any solid information.

Half a Month Later

The foreign creature side suffered a setback at a few of their warrior camps. Specifically, the Gold Mark and Purple Mark Level warrior camps of the human side gained a convincing victory on the battlefield.

A large number of foreign creatures died. The situation was similar to warrior camp 8, but this time no masked warrior was involved.

Instead, Dean Jerome made a powerful combination of warriors. Most of them were disciples of the main elders from various factions.

Earlier, they were used to fighting in different warrior camps, but this time Dean Jerome had decided to teach a lesson to the foreign creatures.

Many disciples of the main elders joined forces to clean the battlefield. It didn't take long for the foreign side to realize the problem.

They didn't expect Star University to come up with this idea. They had no choice other than to use the same method against them.

Because of it, a few of the warrior camps turned out to be deadly for average warriors and average foreign creatures.

The battlefield and warrior camps were dominated by the elites. No one had expected such a thing to happen.

All the warrior camps were jointly handled by two or three universities together. If there are casualties, there are casualties on the side of other universities as well.

They knew that Dean Jerome was retaliating against them. They couldn't back away from the warrior camp, as it would be considered treason.

So, the Giant Tower, Shadow University, Eclipse University, and Silver University finally stopped their actions of targeting Star University.

Chapter 1415: End of 3 months!

From MC Perspective

Mountain Cliff

As the days passed, I put my efforts into comprehending the inheritance runes in my mind.

Compared to other average or even stronger warriors, I had to pay extra attention and effort to grow stronger due to my multiple inheritances.

Once again, I began with the top three inheritance methods. The first was the Shock Force Integration Method.

This method includes the Purple Lightning Method, the Blood Element Method, and the Healing Method.

I started comprehending the Silver Mark Chapter of the Shock Force Integration Method. The Mountain Cliff area was quiet to begin with, so I easily entered a state of deep concentration.

As time went by, my understanding of the Shock Force became deeper. The golden and silver runes in my mind grew stronger.

As the days passed, I switched between the Purple Lightning Method, Blood Force, and the ancient incomplete technique. The respective runes in my mind became denser and stronger.

They were all becoming stronger and closing in on their limits. If I stay here for another few months, I will definitely reach the limit of the Silver Mark level.

But I have only limited time. In the remaining time, I have to focus on the Sealing Force Inheritance Method and the Bloodline Method.

Next, I began to pay attention to the Sealing Force Method. This was an inheritance passed down to me by the Guardian God's blood drop. However, I had used it very little in my battles.

The battlefield was monitored by both sides, and I had been targeted because of my potential as a Purple Lightning Element Warrior.

If they learned about my other inheritance methods, I'm sure I would be chased by human enemies as well. I had been carrying this huge secret for a long time.

Only Dean Jerome and Faction Leader Francesca know about my two different inheritance methods. Even they didn't know about the Sealing Force. It is going to be my trump card against the foreign creatures.

After ending the training with the Sealing Force, I switched to the visualization method of the Bloodline Force.

There is a water drop rune in my mind. I began to visualize it. I don't know how much time passed before I felt something mysterious behind the bloodline power.

As my understanding deepened, the bright blue water force inside my dantian stirred. Changes took place in my body.

The bloodline power in my body is increasing, which in turn is reflected by the bright blue water forces in the dantian. I guess the power of the variant water force has become stronger.

I decided to test its power. I circulated the variant water force through my body. A water drop appeared on my forefinger.

I looked at the bright blue force; my control over the element had become stronger over the past two months. I controlled the water drop and shot it toward the mountain bedrock.

Swoosh!

The water drop released from my forefinger and swept across in a straight line.

Boom!

In a flash, the water drop hit the huge rock. A second later, the water drop pierced through the rock before coming out on the other side.

Boom!

The beam didn't stop there. It continued to travel before striking another mountain rock. This all happened within seconds.

Seeing that, I was stunned. The attack speed was faster than before. Not only that, but I noticed the power of the variant water drop was significantly stronger.

A bright smile appeared on my face. I didn't stop there; I continued to comprehend and visualize the variant water drop rune in my mind.

Time goes by,

After spending time visualizing the variant water drop, I spent some time relaxing near the stream. When the last day came, I sat on the mountain cliff rock, waiting for the Purple Mark Guard to arrive.

I didn't know what the situation was like outside. I hope the foreign creatures have forgotten about me. I also wonder what the two masters and the main elders have been up to.

Last time, I didn't have the opportunity to meet them. This time, if I go to see them, they will definitely be surprised.

Master Ann, especially, would be proud. She wanted me to gain special healing powers by practicing the incomplete ancient healing technique.

Due to arduous practice over the past three months, the veins in my body have changed. They seem to be experiencing a transformation. If I'm not wrong, it won't be long before my veins gain healing powers.

Then, my attention shifted to my dantian. The different inheritance forces had become stronger due to the strengthening of the runes in my mind.

Dean Jerome and the Purple Mark Guard did well by bringing me here. If not for this quiet cliff and the beautiful valley below, I wouldn't have gained this much progress in three months.

It wasn't just my dantian; my appearance had changed as well. My muscles had become toned. My bones and skeletal structure had become sturdier.

My dark red skeleton was strong to begin with, but during these three months, my physique underwent a complete transformation. I could kill a Gold Mark Warrior with my bare hands.

Buzz!

Suddenly, my senses alerted me to danger. Even without using my perception, I sensed someone coming toward me.

Swoosh!

In the blink of an eye, the person's appearance became clear. It was none other than the Purple Mark Guard.

"Hmmm!"

The Purple Mark Guard was taken aback. He could hardly recognize Zack Lockwood. The kid's hair was longer and disheveled.

His skin tone had tanned, and his clothes were ripped in several areas. His muscles and bones looked sturdier and stronger.

"Kid, what have you experienced?" he asked.

He didn't know what had happened in these three months, but he could tell the kid had grown much stronger. The kid was radiating an air of confidence.

The Purple Mark Guard was genuinely shocked in his heart. He thinks Zack Lockwood can face any challenges now.

Chapter 1416: Good news!

From MC Perspective

Mountain Cliff

The Purple Mark Guard appeared before me.

"Elder," I greeted him.

"I don't know what you have experienced, but you have become stronger compared to three months ago," the Purple Mark Guard said.

Hearing that, I smiled and said, "This place was a blessed place. The valley down there has rich world energy."

"Yes, it appears you have figured out the benefits as well. If you want, you can continue to practice here in the future."

"But right now, you have to meet Dean Jerome," the Purple Mark Guard said.

"Okay," I replied.

If I'm not wrong, it must be related to the foreign creatures. I wonder whether their activities have stopped or not.

Then he appeared closer to me.

Swoosh!

In a flash, he grabbed my shoulder and we disappeared from the spot. The prohibitions were already lifted, so he brought me out of the special land.

I could only see a blur in front of my eyes, but compared to before, I could see glimpses of the terrain.

It was due to the increase in my strength. Otherwise, I wouldn't have spotted the terrain here. It shows that Star University wasn't as simple as it seems.

There are a number of secret lands under them; the special place could be inside a secret land.

Swoosh!

It didn't take long for us to reach the Dean's office. We arrived in front of the office; the place was the same. We opened the door and walked into the room.

Dean Jerome was, as usual, seated behind the desk. His gaze fell on me. His eyes flashed with a surprised glint.

"This kid..." he uttered in his heart.

As a Red Mark Warrior, he saw more things than the Purple Mark Guard. The Silver Mark Aura surrounding Zack had a small tint of gold.

It showed that the kid was close to reaching the limit. He understood that the special land was useful for Zack. If he had stayed there, he would have become a Gold Mark Warrior.

He quickly thought of these things within minutes. He then collected his thoughts and told the two of them to sit down.

I sat down, while the Purple Mark Guard stood.

"I can see that you have made progress. I'm going to assign you a mission. This time, you are going to enter the warrior camp with your real identity."

"You don't have to wear the mask," Jerome said.

Hearing that, I was taken aback. If I don't wear the mask, then my identity will be exposed. Then everyone would bother me.

Jerome saw through the kid's thoughts.

He said, "You don't have to hide anymore. The foreign creature side has suffered damage this time. They are not going to target you anytime soon."

"On top of it, I can tell that you can fight a Gold Mark Warrior with ease. There is a reason behind it. I'm going to open one of our secret lands soon," he added.

"Secret land?" I uttered in surprise.

"Hmm, it's a dangerous secret land. Only Gold Mark Warriors and above can enter. So if you do well on the battlefield, then everyone will recognize your strength.

Then no one will stop you from entering the secret land," Jerome said in a calm tone.

The Purple Mark Guard understood. He was wondering why Dean Jerome decided to bring this kid out. He too knew about the secret land; he had entered it long ago.

He knows that without Gold Mark level strength or above, no one can survive that place.

On the other hand, I put my restless heart at ease. If this is about the secret land, I really want to enter. I need resources to increase my accumulation.

"I agree," I said in the end.

Jerome smiled and said, "Do you want to enter the warrior camp? Or do you want to meet the faction elders?"

Hearing that, I fell into contemplation. To be honest, I wanted to meet the faction leaders and my two masters.

"I want to see them first. Then I'll enter the warrior camp," I said in the end.

"Good, you can go now. Tomorrow evening you will be sent to the warrior camp," Jerome said.

Then I thanked Dean Jerome. The Purple Mark Guard Elder then took me and dropped me in front of my residence a minute later.

I thanked the elder before going inside.

The first thing I wanted was to take a good bath. I entered the bathroom and started taking a shower. I spent twenty minutes there, then walked out and changed into comfortable clothes.

I stood in front of the mirror and looked at myself. My long black hair reached up to my shoulders.

My skin tone looked tanned, and my muscles were well-built. I decided to take some rest before going to meet the others. I went to my bed and lay down.

A few hours later,

I got out of bed and went to freshen up. Then I changed into my official uniform. After getting ready, I left the residence.

I started heading towards the Golden Lightning Palace. This time, I didn't hide my identity or wear a mask to cover my face. I strode forward and came across members going about their business.

At first, they didn't recognize me because my appearance had changed; my hair had grown longer and my skin tone had changed.

I easily avoided them and reached my destination. The main gate was open. I walked through and headed towards Master Austin's residence.

When I arrived, I called to inform him of my arrival. Master Austin answered the call; he was surprised and shocked to know that I had returned.

He waited to meet me and then asked me to come inside.

I put away the device before heading to the door. It was already open.

Creak!

I opened the door and walked into the room. I saw Master Austin in the living room; he was making tea for me. I smiled, walked up to him, and greeted him.

"Master, it's been a long time. How are you doing?" I asked.

Austin turned around and looked toward his disciple with a smile.

"I'm doing well. Sit down," Austin said before taking a seat himself.

Hearing that, I sat down.

Chapter 1417: Meeting Masters!

From MC Perspective

"Where have you been?" Austin asked.

This was the question he had long wanted to ask. He had asked Faction Leader Clifford earlier, but the Faction Leader himself wasn't aware of the news. Dean Jerome hadn't told him.

"I was practicing inside a secret land. I didn't know which secret land it was," I said to him.

Hearing that, Austin completely believed it. He felt the aura behind Zack Lockwood was stronger to begin with. Then he thought of the masked man. He looked into Zack Lockwood's eyes.

He didn't know whether it was okay to ask the question or not. Though Zack Lockwood was his disciple, he still hesitated. In the end, he decided not to talk about it.

Time went by.

He changed the topic. They started talking about his other disciples. Zack Lockwood was yet to meet his other disciples.

Unfortunately, when Zack Lockwood was not here, they were assigned to the warrior camps.

Now, they were part of the elite battlefield.

Not only were his disciples assigned, but the disciples of other main elders and faction elders had joined forces as well.

However, the elite battlefield was only for warriors of Gold Mark Level and above.

On the other hand, my heart was stirred. I didn't expect so many changes to happen here during my absence. No wonder Dean Jerome wanted me to go to the battlefield tomorrow.

I immediately thought of the secret land. I thought Dean Jerome was opening the dangerous secret land as a reward for these warriors.

I didn't tell him about the secret land, but I revealed the news to him.

"Master, I'm going to the warrior camp tomorrow," I said to him.

"What?" Austin was taken aback.

He didn't expect to hear such shocking news. He took a few seconds to calm his heart. Then he connected the dots. Since every disciple was fighting in the warrior camp, Zack was no exception.

"You have to be careful. I don't know whether you are the masked man or not, but the people who don't like you would use this opportunity to attack you," Austin said. After saying that, he looked into Zack Lockwood's eyes to see any reaction.

But Zack Lockwood was calm and collected. How many times had he seen this reaction? He had still not figured out whether his disciple was the masked man or not.

"I will be fine, Master," I replied.

Austin shook his head before asking, "Show me your lightning force."

Hearing that, I smiled and circulated the purple lightning force around my body. Purple lightning bolts appeared above my palm with a crackling thunder noise.

Austin's gaze turned solemn. He had given his disciple a Purple Lightning Seed. He thought that the lightning force was powerful even without the lightning seed.

Now he was confident that Zack could deal with his enemies. That tiny lightning bolt could injure a Gold Mark Warrior.

A few minutes later,

I left the residence, walked out of the Golden Lightning Palace, and headed to the Healing Palace. On the road, I came across some familiar members.

They were seniors and juniors from the other palaces. I had interacted with them before breaking through to the Black Mark Level. I glanced at them before continuing my walk.

A middle-aged Black Mark Warrior felt he had seen this person before. He paused his footsteps and tried to recall.

Suddenly, his mind jolted awake. He recalled a figure in his mind who fought warriors from other factions and maintained an undefeated streak.

He knew the rumors of that person becoming a Silver Mark Warrior recently, but no one had seen him after that. It was as if he had disappeared from the campus.

"Was it him?" the middle-aged man thought.

The next second, he turned around and looked toward the person. The person's back exactly matched Zack Lockwood's, except for the shoulder-long hair and tanned skin.

A look of understanding dawned on the middle-aged man. His heart was stirred. Now he was convinced that person was none other than Zack Lockwood. He was back.

The middle-aged man couldn't stand still. He wanted to inform others about Zack Lockwood's return. Recently, their Thunder Flame Faction had been facing attacks from all sides.

It was all because of the masked man. Now that Zack Lockwood was here, these people would think twice before attacking the members. Zack Lockwood would definitely intervene.

The next second, the middle-aged man left the place.

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Healing Palace

I entered the premises unannounced. Then I headed directly toward Master Ann's residence. As I got closer, I heard the voices of female warriors.

Then I heard the voice of Master Ann. Their voices were coming from the back garden. I headed straight toward the back garden.

When I got there, I saw Master Ann sitting together with the female warriors. They were members of the Healing Palace.

My gaze fell on Master Ann. She stopped talking and looked ahead. Her eyes immediately recognized Zack Lockwood.

Swoosh!

She disappeared from her seat. The next second, she stood in front of Zack Lockwood. She looked into Zack Lockwood's eyes and face. She realized he was indeed her disciple.

She asked, "What happened to you?" and "When did you return?"

The female warriors were in shock. They had never seen their Master lose her composure before. Then they saw the young warrior with long hair. They didn't recognize him at first glance.

"Master, I have returned from the special training. I'm going to the warrior camp tomorrow," I replied to her.

Hearing that, Ann was shocked to the core. She was meeting her disciple after a long time; she didn't expect him to go to the warrior camp tomorrow.

She then understood something. Since all the elite warriors were at the warrior camps, it was the right time for Zack to appear. Otherwise, everyone would think Dean Jerome was favoring Zack Lockwood.

On the other hand, the female warriors were dumbfounded. They heard the person addressing the main elder as Master, yet they didn't know of such a person. But the old members guessed something.

Their expressions changed drastically. Not many male members were in their healing hall, but one person was different. He was part of both the Golden Lightning Palace and the Healing Palace.

Chapter 1418: News travels fast!

From MC Perspective

Healing Palace

Main Elder Ann noticed the presence of female warriors and asked them to leave. Understanding her intent, they promptly departed.

The seniors finally recognized Zack Lockwood. Their hearts shook to the core; they knew his record.

He had defeated warriors from other factions before without ever being beaten. Now that he had returned, they didn't know what would happen next.

"Let's sit down first," Ann said, leading Zack Lockwood to the seating area.

We reached the area and Master Ann sat down first. Zack then sat opposite her. The conversation began as she asked about his experiences.

He began to tell her the same story he had told Master Austin.

Ann was happy to see that Zack Lockwood was doing fine. She noticed his aura was stronger than before, leading her to believe he must have been practicing hard.

She then said, "I don't know if you have heard from Elder Austin, but the warrior camps have changed. They have been divided into elite and non-elite."

I nodded and said, "I know. But I'm prepared to face the challenges."

"Good. If you have strong healing power, you will face no difficulties. I don't know how far you have progressed in the ancient healing technique," Ann asked.

Hearing that, I smiled and made my move, circulating my healing force. A dark green healing force appeared in my right hand—pure and dense.

Elder Ann's eyes gleamed with a twinkle, her gaze sharpening. She could tell Zack Lockwood's healing force was different than before; it had become stronger and deeper.

He has progressed greatly, she thought. She believed Zack could handle any injury; there would be no problems for him on the battlefield.

She sighed in relief. They talked about other things, though she wasn't sure if Zack would leave after the battle.

Taking the opportunity, she turned the meeting into a healing class and began imparting her knowledge.

I was dumbfounded. I didn't expect a lesson right now, but I was happy to learn. She was explaining what to do when the body sustains gruesome injuries.

One hour later,

"If you master a few more healing techniques and understand their principles, you can even heal injuries to the mind and soul," Ann said.

"Mind and soul injuries?" I was taken aback. Physical injuries were serious enough, but I knew nothing of injuries to the soul.

Ann saw through my thoughts and said, "Some inheritance methods include such offensive techniques. There are some Purple Mark Foreign Creatures who are well-versed in them as well."

My expression turned serious. I had almost forgotten, I had soul attack and defense techniques myself, but I had nothing related to mind attacks. I simply used my perception to observe my surroundings.

"I'll pay more attention to the healing techniques," I told her.

We continued talking for a few more minutes before I told her I was leaving. Main Elder Ann gave me several high-grade healing pills. I accepted them before departing the Healing Palace.

On the way back, I came across more members. None of them recognized me as I walked past, but I overheard their conversation.

"Hey, did you hear the news?"

"Zack Lockwood has returned!"

"Everyone is talking about it."

"I heard he's a Silver Mark Warrior."

The warriors discussed the matter, oblivious to the fact that the person they were talking about was walking right past them.

My eyes gleamed. I never expected the news of my return to spread so fast. I thought of the middle-aged man from earlier; we had interacted before, so perhaps he had recognized me.

I continued toward my residence. Soon, I arrived to find a few warriors watching the building. My arrival drew immediate attention.

Gasp!

"He's here!"

"He looks totally different."

"His hair is longer."

"His skin tone has changed."

The warriors whispered among themselves. I opened the gate, locked it behind me, and headed for the main door.

Once inside, I shut the door and went to the sitting area, lying down on the sofa. I was sure it wouldn't be long before the whole campus knew of my return.

Outside

The news of Zack Lockwood's return spread like wildfire. Initially, it was just one person who saw him and told others, but this time, several warriors had spotted him entering his residence.

They took photos and posted them online.

It quickly gained views. Zack Lockwood looked different; his hair was long and his skin was tanned. Everyone wondered where he had been.

Some speculated he had returned from a secret mission; his change in appearance seemed to confirm it.

Those who previously thought the masked man might be Zack began to change their opinions.

Main Elders Leola, Cathie, and Rosie heard the news as well. Faction Leader Clifford was shocked.

He kept track of everyone entering and leaving the Thunderflame Faction, yet Zack Lockwood had appeared out of nowhere. He was hearing the news later than everyone else.

When he thought of the Purple Mark Guard, his doubts cleared. Apart from that elder, no one had permission to come and go so freely.

The Purple Mark Guard worked directly under Dean Jerome, so Clifford couldn't complain. However, he was curious.

He immediately called Austin for an update. Austin didn't hide anything; he confirmed that Zack Lockwood was being sent to the warrior camp tomorrow, per the agreement with Dean Jerome.

Faction Leader Clifford was speechless. He didn't know what to say. But when he recalled Dean Jerome's recent actions.

He understood why Zack Lockwood returned this time. While every other disciple was fighting at the front line. If Zack Lockwood didn't appear, it would definitely raise questions.

The other faction leaders won't let this matter aside. But before such problems could arise. Dean Jerome and decided to bring this kid out.

From Austin, he learned that Zack Lockwood has grown stronger. It won't be long before he reaches the limit. Then he could hear some good news.

He sucked a cold breath of air. There was never a record of someone breaking the ranks faster.

Chapter 1419: Old friends!

Star University

The Faction Leaders and the main elders of other factions have learned about Zack Lockwood. There is a mixed reaction. There are some who are happy about the news, but others are hostile.

Inside the Bloodline Human Ancestor faction, Faction Leader Francesca's face was full of smiles. She was related to Zack Lockwood; he is a descendant of her clan.

She wanted to meet him, but she was worried as well. She knows that Zack Lockwood is under the guidance of Dean Jerome, so she decided to wait and watch.

Then she thought about her faction warriors. Some will definitely try to challenge Zack Lockwood. Her eyes flashed with worry. She knows that the foreign creatures' side has started targeting Star University.

Their main target was none other than the Thunderflame faction, but other factions have suffered casualties as well.

She is going to warn others not to challenge Zack Lockwood. She knows this will draw attention, but she doesn't care anymore; she wants Zack Lockwood's safety.

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Time passed by.

Inside the Dark Variant faction, Faction Leader Vince heard of the return of Zack Lockwood. His expression showed disbelief and surprise.

"This kid is back," he uttered in surprise.

He had been looking for the kid, but he failed to find his whereabouts. The spies on his side had failed, and the spies from other universities had failed as well.

In the end, everyone assumed that Dean Jerome might have overlooked the safety of the kid, so they gave up. They knew that the foreign creatures were targeting the Thunderflame faction.

They were waiting to hear good news from the foreign creatures' side, but Dean Jerome did something which caught everyone off guard.

Now even the foreign creatures' side was busy looking after their own backs. Since the kid has come out now, the foreign creatures will definitely use this opportunity to attack.

Faction Leader Vince decided to inform other hostile forces. He was sure that Dark Shadow University and the Giant Tower University would take action.

He wasn't sure about Eclipse Academy and Silver University, but those two universities hate Star University.

...

On the other hand, when the news was heard by the other Elemental Factions, they were all dumbfounded.

They had almost forgotten about the kid. Right now, hearing the same name again, old memories were rekindled.

They knew how their Black Mark Warriors were defeated at the hands of Zack Lockwood.

None of them had been able to defeat him. They had thought their Silver Mark Warriors would get revenge, so they waited for Zack Lockwood to become a Silver Mark Warrior.

Not long ago, they heard the news that Zack Lockwood had reached that rank, but before they could take action, he disappeared.

He was not on campus at all. Some believed that the Thunderflame Faction took action and sent him outside for a mission.

But if that were true, their spies would have spotted him inside their territory.

If Zack Lockwood had gone to other territories for a mission, his whereabouts would still be exposed. Yet, they had heard no news so far.

But today, the news came out of nowhere. Zack Lockwood had returned to the Thunderflame Faction.

The Elemental Faction leaders believed that it might be the work of Dean Jerome. Only Dean Jerome could do something like that.

Zack Lockwood's potential was great; he could become a target for the foreign creatures. They believed Jerome might have sent Zack Lockwood away for training.

Now that the warriors' camps are divided into elites and non-elites, it's time for Zack Lockwood to make an appearance.

The Elemental Faction leaders don't like Zack Lockwood or the Thunderflame Faction; there have always been internal politics and fights.

But this time, they were facing trouble from the foreign creatures' side. The attacks on their side have been increasing greatly.

Recently, the foreign creatures claimed that a Masked Warrior from Star University had caused huge damage to them.

When they revealed the masked man was a lightning warrior, they turned their attention toward the Thunderflame Faction and the Dark Variant Faction.

Both factions could be hiding a monstrous talent they weren't aware of.

Some of them thought the masked man was Zack Lockwood, yet the rest didn't believe it. Now that Zack Lockwood is here, the truth will come to light soon.

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Virtual Training Lab

When old man Daniel heard the news, he was on cloud nine. Both the old man and the staff of the Virtual Training Lab were fans of Zack Lockwood.

It was because of Zack Lockwood's actions during his Black Mark Rank time and below that the lab became famous.

To this day, they are still receiving the next batch of warriors. From time to time, Ronnie Seth paid a visit to the lab.

Since there is no other strong warrior using the lab in the same rank, he is not getting many benefits from it; he can only fight against the avatar of a Silver Mark Warrior.

Old man Daniel calmed his heart. He still couldn't believe the news. It could be someone spreading a rumor, which had happened before. So, he phoned Ronnie Seth right away.

Ronnie Seth answered the call; he was surprised by the news as well. When the old man asked him the question, Ronnie Seth confirmed it.

A new photo was trending online, clicked right at the residence of Zack Lockwood, so it couldn't be fake.

Old man Daniel sighed in relief.

"Is it possible to meet him?" he asked.

Ronnie Seth raised his eyebrows in doubt.

"I do have his contact. I'll send him a text message," Ronnie Seth said.

He didn't want to disturb Zack Lockwood. For some time now, a small gap had appeared in their relationship.

He didn't know whether Zack Lockwood was even willing to talk to them. Old man Daniel understood this as well. He didn't want to make it awkward for Ronnie Seth, so he ended the call.

Ronnie Seth then texted Zack Lockwood, hoping to meet for a quick chat at the Virtual Training Lab. After doing that, he went back to his own business.

Not many have close contact with Zack Lockwood, so he figured if Zack Lockwood wanted to meet, he would definitely answer the text.

Chapter 1420: Going to the Virtual Training Lab

From MC Perspective

Inside the residence, I was going through the online news. Suddenly, my digital device buzzed.

I picked up the device and saw a message notification. I opened the message and read it.

A quick gleam appeared in my eyes. My arrival was known to Ronnie Seth as well. He and the people in the virtual training lab wanted to see me. I sighed inwardly.

To be honest, I had wanted to use the lab earlier, but my strength would be exposed.

I doubt they can keep a secret. If even one member of the staff were to leak the news, I could face attacks from all sides.

That's why I hadn't gone there and had avoided them, including Ronnie Seth. Now that I have received the message, it would be rude not to go.

I stood up from the sofa. I typed a response and sent it to Ronnie Seth.

20 minutes later,

After getting ready, I left the place. When I reached the exit, my gaze fell on the crowd. They knew I was back. Now, they all wanted to see me.

I opened the gate and stepped outside. My eyes were bright and clear, capturing every detail. Most of them weren't here just to see me.

I collected my thoughts and prepared to leave. I took a step forward.

"Zack Lockwood, are you going to challenge Silver Mark Warriors from other factions?" a middle-aged man asked.

Gasp!

A huge exclamation followed. The crowd was shocked to hear that.

An icy coldness flashed in my eyes. If I respond, they will only ask more questions. If I reject the idea, they will damage my reputation. It's best not to say anything right now.

I walked away. The crowd parted slightly to let me through, but the chatter behind me didn't stop. Some of them started following me. It annoyed me, so I increased my pace.

In a flash, I reached the entrance and walked out. I made my way toward the virtual training lab. On the way, I encountered other warriors, but I moved out of sight before they could spot me.

It didn't take long to reach the lab. Once there, I used my perception to sweep the area.

Seeing that no one had followed me, I sighed in relief. If I had walked out boldly, those people would have followed me all the way here.

I took a deep breath before stepping inside. I remembered the room, so I walked straight to it and opened the door.

As I stepped inside, my gaze fell on the people within. They were all familiar faces: Old Man Daniel and the staff. Ronnie Seth was there as well.

Gasp!

A small exclamation occurred. The staff were seeing Zack Lockwood for the first time in a long while. They were almost unable to recognize him.

Old Man Daniel looked at Zack. The dense Silver Mark Aura, with a tinge of faint gold power, could be seen behind Zack. The old man was shocked to the core.

He knew the rumors of Zack Lockwood becoming a Silver Mark Warrior, but those tiny gold points said otherwise. It showed that Zack was close to becoming a Gold Mark Warrior.

Ronnie Seth was there, too. Facing him, he felt an unknown pressure. Unlike Old Man Daniel, he couldn't see the specific differences in the auras; he could only tell that Zack was much stronger than him.

"How is it possible?" Ronnie uttered.

He had broken through not long after I became a Silver Mark Warrior. Yet, he felt a sense of crisis, as if the person walking toward him was a Gold Mark Warrior rather than a Silver Mark.

The staff collected their thoughts. They looked at Zack Lockwood's new appearance, trying to commit it to memory.

"Old Man Daniel!"

"Ronnie Seth!"

"How are you guys doing?" After speaking, my eyes drifted to the staff behind them.

Old Man Daniel and Ronnie Seth recovered their wits.

"You kid, what happened to you?"

"You are a lot stronger than before," Old Man Daniel said straightforwardly.

"Brother Zack, you are totally unrecognizable, including your power," Ronnie Seth said with a sigh.

He had received an Ancient Inheritance as well. Yet, facing me, he felt I was overwhelmingly strong.

"It's just crazy practice. You will achieve the same," I said to them.

Hearing that, Ronnie Seth was stunned. Then he realized Zack might be telling the truth because he, too, noticed the change in Zack's physical appearance.

Old Man Daniel listened from the side, feeling incredible. A second later, excitement surged in his heart. He wanted to test Zack's new strength.

He was sure Zack could set a new record for Silver Mark strength as well.

"I knew you would say this," I said to the old man. I shook my head and added, "But I'm not interested."

Hearing that, Old Man Daniel felt disappointed. He could tell Zack had come here after a long time; if he got Zack into trouble, it wouldn't be good.

"Brother Zack, I want to fight you," Ronnie Seth said.

My gaze narrowed. I saw that Ronnie Seth was serious. I recalled that his Black Lightning inheritance was formidable. It was just that I had found multiple incredible opportunities.

"There is no need for an avatar fight. You can use your moves against me right here," I said to him.

"What?" Ronnie was taken aback.

Old Man Daniel and the staff were also surprised. They knew Zack was stronger, he had proven it before but Ronnie Seth was not weak.

They believed Zack could defeat him, but they didn't think the difference was that vast.

Ronnie Seth grew serious. He took Zack's words to heart, knowing he wouldn't joke about this.

He realized Zack's strength must be abnormally high if he thought he could withstand his Black Lightning in person.

"Are you sure?" Ronnie Seth asked again.

"You can try. I'm confident," I said to him.

Old man Daniel signals the staff. They began to remove the desk.