

Bloodline 191

Chapter 191 - Illusionary World?

Outside the pod, the supervisors started to get worried when they saw that the bar remained red even after filling up.

"What's going on? Why hasn't it sent him there like the rest?" The supervisor with worm-like hairs asked the people on lab coats.

"It would seem this candidate has a very high mental resistance," One of them replied.

"What?! There's no way in hell he is supposed to be able to resist a brain inducer of this level!" The supervisor with the Rhino horns voiced out.

"We don't know, but the machine seems to be having trouble sending his consciousness there. That's the only reason we can come up with," Another one of them answered again.

"It must be dysfunctional then,"

While they were arguing, Gradier Xanatus stared at the pod with a confounded look, 'Him being able to resist this... Not even special class candidates can do this... What is he?'

While everyone was in their thoughts of confusion, the bar suddenly turned green.

"Um?"

Everyone stared at the pod and sighed in relief a second after.

'Looks like he wasn't able to resist it in the end,' Gradier Xanatus said internally.

"Check if his brain waves are okay... Any sign of irregularity?" Gradier Xanatus asked.

Trooinn!

A holographic scan of Gustav's brain appeared in mid-air.

"He's... Perfectly fine," One of the people on lab coats voiced out.

Gustav found himself inside the same world he saw on the holographic projection within the small room where the supervisors stayed.

As far as his eyes could see, everywhere was set ablaze. The ground, the mountain, the trees, the skies, the birds, they all blazed with yellow and green fire.

In front of him was a path also laced with fire. Gustav was standing on fire, but surprisingly, he didn't feel hot or uncomfortable in any way. Still, to walk ahead, one would also have to walk on a path of fire.

'Parts of this projection is an illusion, and parts of it are also real... Walking on the wrong side of the ground will get a person burnt,' Gustav said internally. He immediately figured out that he was probably stepping on the illusionary part of the fire. However, once he started walking, he would need to watch out for the real parts so he wouldn't get burnt.

'This will be fun,' Gustav smirked.

Just as he was about to take a step forward, the system messaged him.

("I shall now return your stats back to normal,")

Before Gustav could react to that, he noticed his vision changing.

Things became clearer, and in a manner of seconds, most of the fire around him had turned transparent.

He looked down and noticed that he was standing on transparent yellow and green fire.

Some parts of the path ahead of him still had a normal-looking green and yellow fire burning on the ground, while others were transparent.

No one needed to tell Gustav before he figured out that the transparent fires were illusionary while the normal ones were real.

Sigh!

'So much for having fun...' Gustav said Internally as he began to walk forward.

He thought this was going to be a little challenging, but with his stats returning to normal, he saw through everything.

'I guess I should just go find the exit now,' Gustav muttered while dashing forward.

[Dash has been activated]

Swoosh!

He moved across the blazing grounds with speed.

Sometimes he was on the left, and other times he would move to the right.

"He got in thirty minutes after the rest of the participants. Shouldn't we give him a little more time?"
The supervisor with grey hair questioned while staring at the timer on the top right corner of the room.

"He won't be needing that," Gradier Xanatus replied and pointed at a particular part of the split screens where Gustav could be seen dashing across a blazing field.

-"What in the world?"

-"He's accurately dodging all the real fires and running through the illusionary fires?"

The supervisors were gobsmacked when they saw him.

The large holographic projection had thousands of split screens based on the number of the participants, so they hadn't seen Gustav earlier. Nevertheless, Gradier Xanatus could spot Gustav the instant his consciousness got tossed into that world.

Other participants showcased on the screens were moving quite slowly because it wasn't easy to differentiate between reality and illusion. If they were hasty, their virtual body made from their consciousness would be burnt to ashes.

It was just like a game. If their bodies were burnt to ashes, they would respawn several thousand feet behind from where their bodies burnt, and this would waste more of their time.

In thirty minutes, more than a hundred participants had been burnt to ashes once or twice and had to do it over.

Since the use of bloodline abilities was allowed, some had gotten ahead of others since their ability made it easy for them to scale through the region of blazing grounds. However, the ground wasn't the only thing within this world to worry about.

The participants would find out the hard way that other things would give them difficulty. Even their ability wouldn't give them an easy pass when they encounter such situations.

Gustav kept running across the field, dodging the fires. When he got to a particular point, he could see different participants moving ahead slowly.

They heard the sound of the wind behind and turned around with a look of surprise.

- "What is he doing?"

- "Doesn't he know that he shouldn't be moving so quickly around here?"

There were about six of them within the vicinity. The participants looked like they formed some kind of group as they slowly moved forward after studying a particular area properly.

"Hey, you're gonna get roasted if you keep moving forward like that," One of them voiced out as Gustav closed in on them.

They happened to be passing the only part that was blazing with illusionary fire at the moment so, Gustav had to slow down and move according to their speed.

Chapter 192 - Lone Wolf

They happened to be passing the only part that was blazing with illusionary fire at the moment so, Gustav had to slow down and move according to their speed.

Gustav would have to wait till they got to a part of the land with more illusionary fires so he would be able to take another path and not be disturbed by their speed.

"Mind your business," Gustav replied the person in front of him that had just spoken.

"What? Then why are you following us?" The person who happened to be a guy with red hair voiced out.

"This is the only safe path at the moment. When we go further, you won't see me behind you anymore," Gustav replied as he continued walking forward.

"You..." Before the participant could retort, something happened.

Shuuuooooooooo! Shhhuuuuoooooooo! Shhhuuuuooo!

The blazing clouds suddenly started falling from the sky.

"What the..?"

They were all shocked by the blazing clouds falling from the sky.

They were blazing with such intense yellow and green fire, increasing the temperature surrounding the environment.

The clouds falling were enormous. So, there was no way they'd be able to move fast or far enough to escape from the area of concentration.

It was also too fast for them to observe and determine which parts were illusionary, so the participants began to panic.

They were only about a few hundred feet more from reaching the point where Gustav would be able to move on his own.

"Move forward, you idiots," Gustav voiced out.

His voice brought them out of their reverie. The group subconsciously started running forward even though they knew that they wouldn't escape the range of fire.

After getting to the end of the path, Gustav could see transparent yellow and green fires on the far-right side and the left side. By contrast, the middle had real fires blazing from the ground.

Gustav immediately dashed towards the left and started running forward.

The others couldn't catch up to his speed, but they still tried following in his steps due to him being at the front suddenly.

While the clouds fell, Gustav moved from place to place.

Swerve! Swerve! Swerve!

Some large chunks of cloud fell on him, but he was unscathed. However, he totally avoided some while still running forward, but they were still dropping.

Some participants behind him had been smoked to death by the falling clouds of blazing yellow and blue fire.

Gustav looked up and noticed a large cloud coated in fire, dropping. Its size would occupy a radius of over a hundred feet, and it happened to be real and not illusionary.

Gustav turned towards the right and leaped forward.

Swooshhh!

His body traveled across the air, and he landed on the other path of fire that was illusionary.

Only one person among the group he met earlier could react in time and activate their bloodline.

Black tentacles protruded out of his legs. The tentacles made contact with the ground pushing his entire body into the air flying towards the same lane Gustav landed on after jumping.

Boom!

The cloud landed on the left side after he jumped away.

The participants he formed a team with were all burnt to ashes.

That was the last of the falling clouds. Everything had gone back to normal after the large cloud landed. Even though nothing was normal about the place.

"Huff! Huff! Huff!"

The male participant turned around stared at the side while breathing profusely.

Even though this was a virtual world and the participants had a virtual body, everything was the same as reality when it came to their anatomy.

They could use their bloodline ability, exert their strength, stamina, and everything else related to their body which was the same in the real world.

The male participant noticed that everyone had been turned to ash except himself and Gustav.

'That was a close one... Does it mean that this guy knows how to easily differentiate the originals from fake?' He remembered the way Gustav was dodging some of the clouds earlier and the fact that he could escape because he followed Gustav's movement.

"Hey, why don't we work together..." He turned back around to voice out but couldn't find Gustav in the surroundings.

"Where did he go?" The male participant voiced out while looking around.

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Gustav had already crossed another two thousand feet while the other guy behind him was busy checking out his surroundings.

What was ahead of him now was a blazing forest of very tall trees.

He noticed something and activated God's eyes to zoom in his sight on the forest that was still more than two thousand feet away.

'Whoa, that's a lot of V-red wasps,' Gustav could see a swarm of glowing red wasps covering the outer area of the forest.

These wasps were mixed breeds also. They had mutated and become different from normal wasps. They were known as the V-red wasps.

Each one was the size of an adult index finger, and Gustav could see well over ten thousand of them.

One sting from them was said to cause temporary paralysis. Two would petrify the mind and the body, while the third one would cause the body to explode into blood and gore.

It would seem the participants that needed to enter the forest would have to go through the sea of wasps first.

The first thing Gustav noticed was, some of the wasps were illusionary.

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Inside the room where the supervisors were watching the participants, Gradier Xanatus would occasionally say one or two things about the performance of promising participants. Most of the time, Gustav would always pop up.

"The only problem with candidate 00126 would be the fact that he doesn't seem to play nice with others," Gradier Xanatus said while staring at one of the screens where Gustav could be seen headed for the forest border where swarms of wasps stood guard.

"Hmm, he totally would have ignored that group of people if the surroundings weren't blazing with real fire," The female supervisor with blue facial hairs muttered.

"Exactly... He doesn't seem to like working with others just like his brother," Gradier Xanatus replied.

The faces of the rest of the supervisors showed confusion after hearing that.

"His brother?" They voiced out together.

Chapter 193 - Getting In Trouble Because Of A Group

"Exactly... He doesn't seem to like working with others just like his brother," Gradier Xanatus replied.

The faces of the rest of the supervisors showed confusion after hearing that.

"His brother?" They voiced out together.

"Hmm, yes, his brother," Gradier Xanatus replied.

The supervisors' faces still showed confusion but in the next second, it turned to shock.

"Candidate 00126 is the elder brother of Endric Oslov," Gradier Xanatus revealed.

"What?"

Their eyes bulged out in surprise, and they turned to stare at the holographic screen in mid-air.

After staring at Gustav repeatedly, they finally saw the resemblance between him and Endric.

"How is this..? Wasn't his brother supposed to be a lot weaker than this?" One of the supervisors asked.

"Hmm, when he was discovered, the higher-ups investigated the Oslovs to find out if there was anyone with potential like that of Endric's. He was said to be a mixedblood below the rank of F so, they immediately lost interest and only focused on Endric," Gradier Xanatus explained.

"Then how..?" The supervisor with rhino horns asked with a disbelieving expression.

"There lies the mystery... I'm sure they must have noticed it too," Gradier Xanatus said with a smile.

--

Within the furry world, the participants still moved about looking for the exit.

It had been almost an hour since the third phase started. As expected, no one had found the exit yet.

Swoooshhh!

Angy dashed across a burning mountain region. Surprisingly she didn't have to dodge any of the blazing grounds because, at her current speed, she was able to dash through real fire without getting burnt.

The fire would only be able to come in contact with her afterimage and not her physical form.

Of course, since everywhere was blazing, she would still need to stop somewhere sooner or later to rest. Resting meant that she would have to look around for a place blazing with illusionary fire before pausing. However, at the moment, she still had a lot of energy, so she hasn't stopped for a break since the beginning of this test phase.

Chrrreeuu! Chrrreeuu! Chrrreeuu!

Currently, she was being chased by small-furry-like beings coated in fire.

There were more than a thousand furry-like beings following her as she descended from the blazing mountain.

These beings looked like a combination of rabbits, bunnies, and squirrels. These creatures were small, but their eyes were glowing red as they chased after Angy with intensity.

Angy had managed to pass through three regions since she started racing through the blazing world, and she met with different situations.

One of them was where two silver glowing gateways suddenly appeared when she was running up the mountain. Each gateway was more than seven hundred feet in height.

She suspected one to be a real gateway leading to the exit of the furry world. At the same time, she believed the other was illusionary.

She wanted to study both gateways before making her decision to travel through one of them. Still, for every second that passed, both gateways were getting dimmer and dimmer.

She had to make her choice before observing properly and ended up going through the wrong gateway.

Immediately she went through it, she came out on the other side. However, she wasn't alone.

These creatures started coming out in multitudes chasing after her like they had a personal vendetta with her.

She was able to outrun them in speed, but they were slowly catching up to her surprise.

The more they ran, the more the fire on the bodies of these creatures kept increasing.

Angy turned her head to the side to

check on the creatures chasing her from behind and noticed that whenever they passed on a particular part of the ground, the fire on their bodies would brighten up a little bit more.

It didn't happen all the time, neither was it a substantial increase, but she had been checking from time to time, so this time she was sure it happened again.

'Does it have something to do with them making contacts with the parts of the ground that has a real fire,' Angy contemplated internally.

She believed this was the only plausible explanation for their increase in stamina and speed.

Angy knew that they would only get faster as time passed while she would get weaker because she didn't have infinite energy. So, she started formulating a plan in her mind.

'Gustav always says to use misfortune to my advantage... What would he do in this situation?'

Brrr! Brrr! Brrr! Brrr! Brrr! Vrrhh! Vrrhh! Vrrhh!

'This is why I need to keep avoiding more groups,' Gustav said internally as he dashed through the forest whilst being chased by a swarm of red wasps.

Swooshhh! Swooshhh!

He dashed across the place, dodging lots of long trees blazing with fire along the way.

He would have liked to climb a tree and use one of its branches to catapult himself forward from tree to tree since this would make him faster. However, every tree here was blazing with flames. Both illusionary and real trees had blazing green and yellow flames on them.

Earlier on, when Gustav was about to enter the forest, he had to go around it. This is because the direction he was coming from had real V-red wasps positioned in front of it.

While Gustav was circling towards the right, he met a group of participants moving head-on towards the real wasps.

Gustav managed to pass them the moment one of them used his bloodline ability to attack the swarm up ahead.

"Idiot," This was the first word Gustav shouted out as the swarm of wasps came flying angrily towards him and the group.

Gustav and the rest of them went their separate ways causing the swarm to split. Still, even with that, more than a thousand wasps chased after Gustav. This is because Gustav happened to be closer to the person who attacked the swarm, and he was also running at that moment.

The swarm chased after him towards the position he planned on entering the forest from.

Chapter 194 - The Unforgiving V-red Wasps

A sea of illusionary wasps was stationed in front, which was why the wasps chasing felt even more confident. However, when Gustav entered into this sea of wasps, to their disappointment, nothing happened to Gustav.

Nevertheless, they kept chasing him even after he went in.

They were relentless in chasing after him. Their numbers hadn't dropped since the start, and they were somehow able to keep up with Gustav's speed since he currently wasn't making use of the Dash.

Gustav didn't want to attack them because of their numbers which were well over a thousand. Their bodies cast a shadow over him from behind.

If he was to attack so many at a time without getting scathed, he would need to use some other bloodline ability and not just brute strength alone.

"Hmm?" Gustav turned his head to the side to stare at the back when he sensed something.

Vrrhh! Brrhh! Vrrhh! Brrhh!

The wasps suddenly started merging with one another.

'They can do this too?' Gustav was surprised at the sudden merging that was happening behind him.

With each merge, the wasp group would become larger.

'looks like I have to increase my speed,' Gustav said internally and activated Dash.

[Dash has been activated]

Swooshhh!

Gustav's speed instantly increased by thirty points as he moved speedily across the place, increasing the gap between him and the wasps by a lot.

In a few seconds, he had left the swarm in the dust.

He had given them so much distance that they couldn't be seen behind him anymore.

Swooshhh!

Gustav moved zig zag across the forest, dodging a number of densely packed blazing trees up ahead.

[Dash has been deactivated]

Trrooiinn! Trooinn!

Just after Dash was deactivated, a flash of bright light suddenly appeared on Gustav's west.

It was several hundred meters away from his current position.

Just as Gustav turned to the side to start moving in that direction, he sensed something headed for him with super speed.

Thoom!

He instantly jumped backward as a red silhouette streak past his front.

Sweei! Bang!

A gigantic-looking red wasp slammed into the trees in front of Gustav, bringing them down in the process.

Skrryhhh!

It screeched loudly and came to a slight pause after slamming into those trees.

It was as large as a small pick-up truck, and its wings were wider than a tree full of branches and leaves.

In the next second, it started beating its wings furiously again, stirring up an immense amount of wind.

Zwoooooonm!

It dashed towards Gustav on the side while opening its mouth wide in a bid to swallow him whole.

"What the..?" Gustav had already activated Dash, but the wasp's sudden acceleration came as a surprise, and he couldn't get away in time.

Gustav crossed his arms while swinging the right one up and the left one down.

Bam!

The creature slammed into him, and both of them went flying several hundred feet backward, smashing into numerous trees on the path.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

A trail of destruction was left due to the collisions.

The large wasp looked like it was struggling with something as it kept wriggling and beating its wings.

On a closer look, the wasps' upper and lower mouth had been grabbed by Gustav, and he happened to be pushing them upwards and downwards, causing a separation.

The mouth of the creature was left open due to Gustav's intense grip.

There was a trail of his legs on the ground, which proved that he had been sliding backward since the collision between him and the wasp. However, now his legs were firmly pinned to the ground. There was a small heap of sand behind both feet.

The wasps tried pulling itself from Gustav's grip by beating its wings, but its efforts were futile.

His muscles bulged intensely, causing his sleeves to tear.

Grrhh!

Gustav groaned as he forcefully lifted the massive creature and threw it behind him.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The wasps screeched in pain as they kept slamming into the trees. Its body traveled backward with intensity due to Gustav's throw.

Gustav didn't wait for a second more before dashing in the direction of the bright lights that appeared earlier.

He couldn't help but think that it was more important than dealing with the meddlesome and large wasp.

'Why did it seem so weak... Shouldn't the combination of thousands of them be stronger than that,' Gustav wondered.

The moment he crossed a thousand feet, he understood why.

He could already see two silver glowing gateways in the distance. Gustav instantly figured out that one of them must be a gateway. However, he felt two fast objects approaching from behind.

Zwwooooonn! Zwwooooonn!

In the next second, they caught up to him, and Gustav saw that they looked exactly like the large wasp that he faced a few moments back.

'Of course, there was more than one,' Gustav said internally while jumping towards the right to dodge the first one that lunged at him.

The second one also came after him from behind.

Swooshhh! Thoom!

Gustav did a flip in mid-air and landed on the back of the second one after it lunged forward.

He reached out both his hands to grab onto both wings and pulled them with intensity.

Schhrrrrhhh! Splurt!

"Skrryhh!"

The wasps screeched in pain as both wings were uprooted from its back, and black blood came spurting out like a fountain.

Due to the loss of its wings, the wasp descended towards some trees in front.

Gustav leaped off the wasp as its head slammed into the trees.

While his body was still in mid-air, the other wasp lunged towards his descending body.

[Gravitational displacement has been activated]

Gustav's body suddenly descended with speed, causing the humongous wasp to miss him.

Gustav landed on his feet, and the wasp came to a stop after moving several hundred feet forward.

Just as Gustav wanted to engage it again, he noticed that the gateways that appeared on his west were dimming.

They had been dimming for a while now, but since he was engaging the wasps, he didn't realize it until now.

Chapter 195 - Finishing First Once Again

Zwooon! Swooshhh!

Both Gustav and the wasp dashed out at the same time towards each other.

Just as they were about to collide again, Gustav suddenly turned towards the left.

[Sprint has been activated]

Swooshhh!

The wasp passed behind him as he turned to the side, and he dashed forward with intense speed.

Zwii! Zwii! Zwii! Zwii!

He dodged trees as he moved towards the gateways up ahead.

The wasp noticing that it missed its target turned around and started chasing after Gustav. After moving forward for a bit, Gustav started using his Sprint, so the gap between him and the wasp increased significantly.

Thoom!

Gustav leapt from the ground and landed on a blazing branch of a tree several hundred feet away.

Thwii!

Immediately his feet made contact with the branch; it bent to its limit before swinging his entire body upwards with force.

Due to Gustav's speed, the fire could not hurt him since his body only made contact for less than a second.

Swwwoooooossh!

Gustav body travelled in mid-air towards the gateway on the left.

Both gateways were almost faded completely, but he could still see the difference between both gateways.

Both were already getting transparent as their light faded, but the right one was more transparent than the left.

Thwwwoosshh!

Gustav's body was about seventy feet away when the first wasp he dealt with suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

This was the same wasp he threw away the other time.

'It was waiting for me here?' Gustav said Internally as he stared at the wasp approaching from underneath.

The wasps were able to accelerate at immense speed, and this one had been waiting for him to get here so it could attack, so contact was practically impossible.

'A moment pause will make me miss the gateway,' Gustav reckoned.

[Gravitational displacement has been activated]

Gustav's body suddenly became a lot lighter, causing him to stop descending as he travelled in mid-air.

Sweeei!

He spun his body, missing the mouth of the wasp and appearing above its head.

[Gravitational displacement has been deactivated]

[Combination has been activated]

[Sprint + Dash]

[-800 EP]

Gustav landed on its head and squatted a bit before pushing himself forward.

Thwoooooommm!

His body blurred and appeared in front of the gateway instantly before disappearing into it.

The large wasp body descended from the air with speed due to the Intense push from Gustav's legs.

Bang!

It slammed into the ground creating a small pit as blood burst out of its body.

Skkryyyhhh!

It screeched out in pain as both gateways disappeared.

Gustav opened his eyes and found himself back in the pod.

Tsshhh!

The pod slid open, causing a small amount of gas to escape through it.

Gustav could see the shocked faces of the supervisors, especially the rhino horned one that he sensed hostility from earlier on.

"Welcome back," Gradier Xanatus smiled while speaking.

Back in the furry world, lots of participants had seen gateways appear in different regions. Still, due to both gateways looking exactly the same, not a single one of them had managed to pick the right one.

These gateways would just appear randomly, and whenever they went through the wrong gateway, small sinister-looking creatures with furs would appear to chase after the person that went through it.

These creatures looked like a mixture of rabbits, bunnies and squirrels. However, they looked a lot more menacing with red glowing eyes.

They would never stop chasing their prey until they had got them and devoured their entire body till there was nothing left.

After this, the participant would respawn thousands of feet behind where they had fallen and start travelling forward once again.

At least two hundred participants had fallen to this, and not a single one of them had been able to outrun these creatures. Because the farther they pursued, the faster they became.

At the moment, only one person had managed to outrun the creatures for so long, and that was Angy.

Angy had run down from the mountain she was being chased on earlier. She was now running on a path that was in the middle of two large mountains.

The path was also blazing with green and yellow fire.

Numerous numbers of furry-like creatures chased after her from behind.

Thwoosshh!

Angy was currently moving at a speed that couldn't be followed with the naked eyes, yet the creatures were able to keep up with her.

'Looks like it's time for me to use it,' Angy said internally as her eyes color suddenly changed to silver.

A third horn suddenly sprouted from her forehead.

--

"Kid, how did you do it?" The rhino horned supervisor asked with a look of confusion.

Gustav shrugged his shoulders and climbed out of the pod.

"You went in there later than everyone but still came out earlier," He added with a suspicious gaze.

"What's wrong with that?" Gustav asked with an undisturbed expression.

"You are..." He was about to continue when the people on lab coats and helmets interrupted.

"Now now, Sir Nolan, we have to run tests for any abnormalities within his brain, so please refrain from disturbing him,"

The supervisor with the Rhino horn backed down after hearing that. Still, he stared at Gustav with a suspicious look.

The other supervisors were just as astonished. They watched as the people in lab coat placed two circular objects on the side of Gustav's head.

A diagram appeared in front of them, and they checked it out for a few minutes before taking the button off his head.

"He's perfectly fine... There's not a single sign of brain strain," One of them voiced out before proceeding to leave the room with the others.

"What the..?"

"Not even the special class candidates can make use of this pod without suffering one temporary brain strain or the other," The male supervisor with worm-like hairs said with a look of astonishment.

The supervisors couldn't count how many times they had been wowed by Gustav's feats in the last thirty minutes.

Chapter 196 - Angy's Special Ability

The supervisors couldn't count how many times they had been astonished by Gustav's feats in the last thirty minutes.

When they watched his battle with the wasps, they realised that he couldn't even be compared to his brother.

"Looks like the big brother is better than the little brother, but how?" The female supervisor with blue facial hairs said with a surprised expression.

'Looks like they already figured it out,' Gustav said Internally upon hearing that as he stared at the supervisors with a calm look.

"I don't have a brother," He replied.

"What do you mean by the..." The male supervisor that leapt through the glass earlier didn't get to finish his statement before Gradier Xanatus interrupted.

"Now, let's not bother the young lad. He passed the test so, he will be sent back to the waiting room on floor 602," He added.

The other supervisors nodded in response.

"You will meet others that passed the special test there, so please be nice," Gradier Xanatus said to Gustav.

"I'll try," Gustav replied while putting his hands in his pocket.

Gradier Xanatus smiled and snapped his finger.

Zing!

A flash of bright light covered Gustav, and he disappeared in the next minute.

"Have you all forgotten your tasks as supervisors of this branch test location," Gradier Xanatus said with a solemn expression on his face.

The supervisors showed a remorseful expression after hearing Gradier Xanatus reprimand them.

Gradier Xanatus turned to stare at the holographic split screens after saying that.

His eyes went from screen to screen checking out different participants that were still undergoing the third phase.

His eyes slightly widened as he noticed something.

"That girl..."

The other supervisors followed his line of sight and noticed the same.

--

Gustav reappeared in a large hall where young adults in white clothing could be seen seated.

They were all staring at the huge holographic projection in front before he arrived.

When Gustav arrived, everyone turned to the side to stare at him.

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

-"Is that him?"

-"Oh my, he looks so out of this world,"

- "He is crazily good looking but also intimidating in person,"

- "I can't believe he passed the third phase in less than an hour,"

Amid the discussions about himself, Gustav walked forward gracefully, attracting everyone's attention even more.

Some of the girls were blushing while staring at Gustav's extremely charming and confident looks. Most of the boys were feeling jealous, especially those that also graduated from Echelon Academy.

They couldn't wrap their heads around the fact that he was able to perform feats they couldn't, especially after remembering how he used to be the trash of Echelon Academy.

The question all of them had on their minds at the moment was, 'What caused such a change?'

Gustav could see his former classmates seated at a particular spot together behind.

"Losers will always stick together," He muttered with a look of disinterest.

Yuhiko stared at him from her seating position, hoping he would throw her a glance or two. However, to her disappointment, Gustav didn't even bother looking in their direction.

He moved towards the front and picked a seat there.

The participants on that line only stared at him. Some wanted to initiate a conversation but didn't know how to.

"Oh, she seems to be using it," Gustav muttered while staring at the holographic projection displaying the participants within the furry world.

On the top left corner of the projection, a whitish wave could be seen surrounding Ancy's figure as she dashed across the place.

The others within the room also noticed this part of the projection and wondered who she was. This is because they couldn't see her looks properly due to the whitish wave surrounding her.

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Ancy had already passed the mountain regions in the furry world, and now she was running across a plain field.

Fwwooooommsshh!

Her body sliced through the air, generating massive gusts of wind due to her intense speed.

The whitish wave surrounding her continued to increase in size as she ran.

Her current speed was so fast that the creatures chasing behind her couldn't follow her speed a few seconds after she activated this form.

She already left them in the dust. After running forward for one more minute, Angy performed a surprising action.

She turned around and started running back in the direction she came from.

This action surprised everyone that was watching. They wondered why she would be heading back in the direction of those creatures after escaping them.

The whitish wave surrounding her had now covered a radius of more than a hundred feet as she closed in on the thousands of furry like creatures ahead.

Gradier Xanatus and the other supervisors already had an idea of what she would do. Still, no one knew what her end goal was.

Even Gustav had no idea of what her end goal was, even if he knew what she was planning at the moment.

Angy closed in on the creatures, with the whitish wave surrounding her expanding more and more.

The creatures already noticed her approach and crazily lunged towards her.

Immediately Angy arrived in front of them, they leapt upwards towards her.

Angy kept running till she arrived in the midst of the thousands of creatures.

They bared fangs and swung out their claws as they descended from the air upon her.

"Release!" Angy voiced out.

The creatures in mid-air suddenly felt a sense of crisis as their furs stood in fear, but it was too late.

Shrroouhhummm!

The whitish wave that had been accumulating around her suddenly burst forth from her body, spreading across the surroundings.

It slammed forcefully into the creatures within the vicinity, sending them flying into the distance with broken bones and disfigured looks.

The whitish wave kept on spreading, disintegrating a lot of things in the surroundings until it covered a radius of more than a thousand feet.

By the time it finished blasting outwards from her body, only the bodies of the dead furry creatures could be seen in the vicinity.

Piles upon piles of corpses stacked up on one another could be seen in different parts of the surroundings.

Chapter 197 - Appearance Of The Gateways

By the time it finished blasting outwards from her body, only the bodies of dead furry creatures could be seen in the vicinity.

Piles upon piles of corpses stacked upon one another could be seen in different parts of the surroundings.

--

Within the hall, everyone had their mouths wide open after witnessing what had just occurred.

The environs were full of destruction. Angy could be seen standing in place while holding onto something underneath her left armpit.

They couldn't understand how someone they gave so little attention thinking she was ordinary, happened to be one of the most powerful participants.

Even the supervisors were just as surprised.

Gradier Xanatus had taken notice of Angy from the previous test and calculated that she had to be the fastest participant. However, speed was something that every mixedblood would have as long as they kept increasing in strength. So, he was hoping she would have something else up her sleeves.

Now that he saw this, he had no doubt that Angy had potential.

"Looks like she is able to accumulate that whitish force when the kinetic energy generated from her speed reaches a particular level," Gradier Xanatus muttered with a look of delight.

"Also, from the looks of things, she can only discharge it while running... She seems to be in control of the ability too. Even though the kinetic energy can be accumulated to a particular amount, it's still a very good ability," The other female supervisor with black flowing hair stated lengthily.

"She is a prodigy," The other male supervisor with worm-like hairs added.

"But what is her reason for grabbing hold of one of them?" The supervisor with Rhino horn on his forehead asked with an inquisitive look.

The supervisors stared at the screen where Angy could be seen holding onto one of the furry creatures. This particular one was still alive, unlike the rest in the vicinity.

"I guess we shall see," Gradier Xanatus muttered.

--

Within the furry world, Angy held onto one of the creatures that were chasing her earlier.

This one was injured, and the fire that was initially on its body had gone out.

Angy had grabbed onto this particular one when she was in their midst before she released the whitish wave of energy surrounding her.

It stared at her with a timid look as she held onto it tightly.

The red glowing eyes that looked intimidating earlier were now nowhere to be found.

Angy turned around and started moving forward.

Her third horn reduced in size and went back into her forehead after a few seconds.

Towards her northeast was a plateau landscape.

Swooshhh!

She moved speedily in that direction while holding onto the scared creature.

This time she was making use of her normal speed.

She was headed towards a particularly high ground area that was rectangular-shaped from her location.

Of course, this high ground was also blazing with green and yellow fire, including the path that led to it.

Angy ran for about ten miles before reaching that particular high ground.

Her reason for heading there was because she noticed a swarm of flies surrounding that particular high ground.

On a closer look, they were wasps similar to the ones Gustav dealt with before finishing the test.

Angy had also come into contact with these wasps when she was climbing up that mountain region earlier on. So, she had a feeling that these wasps were always in regions where a gateway would appear.

She didn't plan on going back to that mountain region to wait for another gateway because she had already left that far behind.

She made the right decision by not going back there because a gateway will never appear in that particular region again after a person went through the illusionary one.

The regions that had V-red wasps guarding them were where the illusionary and real gateways often appeared.

Angy once again made the right decision by deciding to travel there.

Angy ran from the bottom of the highland plateau across the diagonal surface that led to the top.

It was only about two hundred meters in height.

Swooshhh!

She closed in on the top in a few seconds and could already see the wasps positioned at the top area.

Zwwoooonn!

Her speed increased explosively, and she dashed through the sea of wasps, arriving at the top of the highland plateau.

The wasps knew that a silhouette just streaked past them. Still, after looking around, they couldn't find anyone around the vicinity because Angy's speed was just too godlike for them to follow.

She had already given them a gap of more than three thousand feet after passing through their midst.

Atop this highland, trees, and plants of different kinds could be seen in the surroundings.

Everything was still blazing with fire, so Angy didn't pause for a moment.

The top of this highland was as large as a small island, and the temperature was really high.

After a few seconds of running, Angy could see some participants in the distance.

These participants were a group of four that didn't move from their position. They surrounded a small tree and stood in place.

They looked like they were waiting for something.

Angy decided not to approach them for now. Instead, she kept moving around the vicinity, checking for any abnormalities.

She moved from place to place across the top of the highland for about ten minutes.

When she didn't notice anything, she started thinking that the gates weren't going to appear. Nevertheless, she kept circling around the top.

After another twenty minutes went by, Angy was already thinking of leaving the region when a flash of bright silver light appeared towards the far East of her current position.

Swooshhh!

Angy quickly dashed in that direction. In a few seconds, she arrived back at where she found those group of participants earlier.

"Jack, have you figured out which one is the illusion?" One of the participants asked a boy in a full blue bodysuit.

Chapter 198 - Clever Decision

"No, we'll have to go through one of them also. After this, I'll have studied enough to figure out the difference," The boy in full blue bodysuit replied as they moved forward.

"Do you still have enough juice to take us all on a jump?" One of them asked again, and the boy replied by nodding.

Ahead of them were two glowing silver gateways.

It would seem these participants could pinpoint the location where the gateways appeared.

From their conversation, Angy already deduced that they planned on entering one of the gateways blindly.

Swoooshh!

She quickly dashed forward and arrived in front of the group.

The group paused their movement and stared at her with suspicious gazes.

She finally placed the furry creature that had been in her arms all this time on the ground several feet in front of the two gateways.

"Hey! Who the hell are you? Get out of our way!" A girl in a pink outfit shouted out.

Angy turned around and stared at them.

"If you want to finish the test now, you can follow me," Angy said and proceeded to look forward again.

"Hey, you, why would we follow you?" The girl behind shouted out again, but Angy ignored her and focused on the furry creature she placed on the ground.

The creature's body erupted in flames once again as it started moving forward towards the gateway on the right.

The participants behind were about to attack Angy so she could get out of the way.

Immediately Angy determined that the furry creature was moving towards the gateway on the right; she dashed towards the gateway on the left.

They were surprised at her sudden action and were unable to react until she arrived in front of the gateway on the left.

-"Stop her!"

-"She's going to ruin everything!"

Despite their shouting, no one was fast enough to stop her.

The boy in full blue bodysuit disappeared and reappeared in front of the gateway, but it was too late.

Angy had gone right through it.

The furry creature she put on the ground was still moving forward towards the gateway on the right.

Both gateways were already starting to dim.

"Come on, we have to get out of here," The boy in full blue bodysuit shouted out.

The rest of the group ran forward to meet him, but that was when they noticed something.

-"Guys, those creatures haven't come out..."

-"Also, that girl didn't appear on the other side after going through the gateway,"

-"She immediately disappeared after going through this gateway,"

They all turned to stare at the furry creature that was still moving towards the gateway on the right.

They recognized it as one of the creatures that constantly flooded out of the illusionary gateways.

"That means this particular gateway is real," They realized this in the next moment.

With no further ado, the group quickly went through the gateway.

--

Within the hall where lots of pods were situated, a few pods opened up in different parts of the large room.

Tsshhh! Tsshhh! Tsshhh!

At the same time Angy finished, some other participants also finished alongside her.

The group she left behind also awoke several seconds after she did.

They climbed out of their pods and stared at the glass wall above, on the east side of the hall.

"Congratulations on passing the third phase! You shall now be transported to the waiting room," Gradier Xanatus's voice reverberated across the room before the participants all disappeared with a flash of bright light.

'That was a really smart move, candidate 00121,' Gradier Xanatus said as he stared at the hall through the glass wall for a few seconds before turning to face the holographic projection once again.

'Let's see what the others have in store,'

--

Within the hall on floor 602, about seven participants appeared.

Angy was among the seven as well as Glade, the green-skinned girl.

They didn't see each other when they were in the hall earlier. Still, they noticed one another the instant they appeared within the hall.

"I see you're also among the ones who finished first again," Glade said with a smile.

"The same could be said about you," Angy replied with a smile as they walked towards the sitting area.

The group that followed after Angy when she went into the gateway approached her.

"We're sorry for earlier," They apologized for almost attacking her and also thanked her for her help.

Angy, of course, held no grudge towards them and smiled dismissively when they apologized.

"What of Gustav? He didn't get finish yet?" Glade asked as they approached the sitting area.

"He's over there," Angy pointed at the front where Gustav was in the sitting area, crossing his legs with his face turned towards the side.

"He didn't arrive with us... That means he was first again?" Glade voiced out with a bewildered expression.

"Naturally, hihi," Angy giggled sweetly after replying as they walked towards Gustav's seating position.

The participants that had just arrived were feeling intimidated at the sight of the people on white. They recognized some of them and instantly realised that this must be the batch from different schools within the city that passed the special test.

Some of them didn't even have the guts to sit on the same row with them and proceeded to find an unoccupied row. However, Gustav, Angy, and Glade didn't even bother about that.

They were currently seated together at the front, where these students packed themselves. They didn't look disturbed or intimidated in any way. In fact, those sitting beside them were the ones who looked intimidated.

"You did well, Angy," Gustav praised her with a smile.

"Ah no, it was nothing... Compared to you, I'm still lacking," Angy replied with a bashful expression.

"Don't sell yourself short," Gustav said once again while turning to stare at her.

Angy ears turned red as she noticed his glance.

'Are they like a couple or what?' Glade was starting to feel like the third wheel around them.

"How did you think of using that creature as a means of differentiating between the real and fake gateway?" Gustav asked with a look of amazement.

Chapter 199 - The Cloning Revelation

"How did you think of using that creature as a means of differentiating between the real and fake gateway?" Gustav asked with a look of amazement.

"Erm," Angy stared at Gustav's face

and her ears turned red as she moved her face towards the front to avoid eye contact.

"I only thought of what you would do in that situation, and the idea came to me," She muttered with a bashful look as her face turned even redder than before.

Glade heard that and sneakily took glances at Angy from the side.

'She's tripping hard,' Glade said internally before staring at Gustav from the side.

``With the reaction, I'm seeing, he doesn't seem interested in things like that... poor girl,' Glade said internally with a look of pity.

She was already fond of Angy because of her kindness, so she sympathized with her.

"That looked like something I could think of doing, but you deserve all the praise for coming up with something like that on your own, well-done Angy," Gustav praised her once again.

'Wow, the idiot has no idea, huh? Just how much of a dummy is he not to notice?' Glade secretly cursed at Gustav for his cluelessness.

Even if he did know, I don't think he'll act on it... He seems like he's very focused... His reason for joining the MBO is probably keeping all other things from causing a distraction for him. I think she also noticed this... Maybe that's why she never revealed it to him,' Glade Analysed while watching the both of them discuss.

Angy had made use of the furry creature because she noticed that they could sense their kind.

The furry world was virtual, but it had certain real aspects, including the illusionary gateway leading to where the furry creatures were located.

Her reason for placing the furry creature she took hostage after using her special ability was to use it in figuring out which gateway it was real.

The creature was terrified of her, so the moment she placed it in front of the gateways, it immediately started scrambling towards the gateway that led to its kin.

Angy instantly figured out that the other gateway was the real one.

Gustav didn't come into contact with these creatures, so he had no idea that this was the case. He praised Angy again.

He was genuinely proud of her because her new ability was unlocked when they were training weeks back. Not only did she use her ability properly, but she also made use of her brain to find a way out.

Glade looked around the hall, and she could see the people around them stealing glances at Gustav and Angy occasionally.

She could understand them staring at Gustav like that since he was pretty much the strongest participant in the hall. She also had no doubt that his strength rivaled even that of the students that passed the special test. Still, she couldn't understand why they were also staring at Angy in that manner.

She had no idea the feats Angy had performed before passing the test.

At the moment, it had been two hours since the test began.

Only four hours were remaining before the ending of the current test. So, the participants that had passed had to keep waiting.

The students that passed the special test could leave the waiting room at any time to walk around the floor, but the participants that had just arrived were not authorized to.

As they waited, the population in the hall was slowly starting to increase.

Every thirty minutes, about ten to fifteen participants would appear within the hall with a weary look.

The more a person remained in the pod connected to the furry world, the more mentally strained they become. This was the reason why the participants looked fatigued.

Gustav's mind wandered back to several weeks back as they waited.

After Gustav saw Anu, the dark-skinned new guy who was supposed to be in charge of the cooking equipment that exploded, he decided to do research about him in the lab.

That same day when he saw Anu with Mr. Lon, he overheard their conversation within one of the offices.

"I must say, you really did a fantastic job handling the kitchen incident, Mr. Ebun," Mr. Lon's first statement confirmed Gustav's suspicions.

"Haha, it was a piece of cake for me. All that was needed was the connections and right scenarios to fool that old man into hiring me," Gustav could hear Anu reply. However, at this moment, he already understood that Anu wasn't his real name; instead, it was Ebunoluwa.

"Your cloning bloodline really came in handy. It was really perfect to the extent that no one could tell that it was an artificial corpse," Mr. Lon added.

"Haha, thanks, Mr. Lon, but perfecting my clone for that mission cost me quite a sum since I had to use materials from the lab," Ebun said once again.

"Of course I have your payment here... That old man was really sickening for trying to side with a trash mixedblood. You did a good job getting him out of the way in the most degrading manner possible. hahaha, a chef that will never be given the opportunity to set foot in the kitchen for the rest of his life,"

Hearing Mr. Lon's laughter, Gustav felt an intense urge to kick the door open and murder him in the most gruesome way possible, but he held himself back.

'It's not time yet... When the time is right, I'll make them all pay,' Gustav swore within himself and proceeded to keep listening till their meeting was over.

After Mr. Lon left, Gustav stuck around the laboratory for a bit and asked about Ebun.

He confirmed that Ebun truly had a bloodline that let him split himself into two and create a clone from one-half of his body.

This was exactly how they were fooled by the corpse that was found in the kitchen.

Ebun sabotaged the kitchen equipment and used his clone to fool them so there won't be anything tying him to the case.

Chapter 200 - The Five Supervisors

Ebun sabotaged the kitchen equipment and used his clone to fool them so there won't be anything tying him to the case.

Gustav kept investigating Ebun for two days while training and visiting the border.

He started seeing more strange things within the border the more he visited. However, he was more focused on dealing with the kitchen incident, so he only noted those weird things for the time being but didn't act on them.

During his investigation on Ebun, he also found out that he was just a serial ranked mixedblood. Gustav's strength had been increasing like crazy, so he believed he could handle a first step serial rank at the very least.

'Time to go have a chat with Ebun,' Gustav said internally after another day at school and proceeded to head towards the laboratory.

Gustav had formulated a plan already, so it was time for him to visit Ebun.

-MBO Tower (Floor 602)

Within the hall, almost two hundred participants could be seen sitting in various parts of the hall.

Only a few youngsters in white outfits could be seen at this time.

Most of them left the waiting room when it started to get crowded from participants arriving after finishing the third phase.

It was almost time for the third phase to come to an end.

Only a few minutes were remaining so participants still in the furry world could be seen moving around frantically, trying to look for a gateway.

Most of them could tell the difference between the real and illusionary gates after entering the wrong one numerous times. However, the main problem they had at the moment was finding a region that gateways still appeared in.

It was already well known that once a participant went through an illusionary gateway, the gateways wouldn't appear in that region anymore.

They would have to find another region with an unentered gateway, and this was proving hard for them at the moment. This was because most regions already had participants that had gone through one of the gateways that appeared.

Gustav was no longer focusing on the screen up ahead. Instead, he was currently engaging in a conversation with someone who appeared some minutes after Angy and Glade did.

A white-haired girl with beautiful and slender looks sat on his left side while Angy and Glade were seated on his right.

"Maltida, remember what I said... It all depends on your performance during the test. I will not bother helping you out or anything... Show me that you're worthy of being an ally," Gustav said with a solemn look while staring at her.

This girl was none other than Matilda, who wanted Gustav's companionship.

"I thought I had done that already," Maltida replied with a crestfallen look.

"Not enough... I need to see more. If that is all you got, then your plans are pointless," Gustav replied.

Maltida stared at Gustav with a saddened expression and was about to reply when flashes of bright light appeared in the middle of the hall.

Zing! Zing! Zing! Zing! Zing!

The five supervisors could be seen in the middle of the room after the lights vanished.

Gradier Xanatus was in their midst.

He walked forward immediately after they appeared.

"The third phase has ended!" He voiced out.

The projection in front disappeared after he said that.

"All the participants gathered here at the moment has successfully completed the third phase and are entitled to enter the fourth,"

Cheer! Cheer! Cheer!

The participants started cheering after hearing that. Smiles could be seen on everyone's faces because the next phase would be broadcasted all over the city.

This was where they got to show off before the ultimate fifth phase, which would be taking place in another location.

"Before I explain how the next phase is going to proceed, we, the five supervisors of this test site, shall introduce ourselves," Gradier Xanatus voiced out.

The five supervisors were known to the various batches they supervised, but to the others, they were unknown.

Now that they would all be supervising the rest of the participants together, Gradier Xanatus felt an introduction was necessary.

"I am Gradier Xanatus, the chief supervisor for this test site," Gradier Xanatus voiced out with an authoritative look.

"I am Tinant Valgus, a subordinate of sir Xanatus," The female supervisor with blue facial hair all over her face stepped forward and spoke. She seemed to give off a dangerous vibe.

Afterward, the male supervisor with worm-like hairs stepped forward and spoke, "I am Tinant Chuks, a subordinate of sir Xanatus,"

He gave off a slightly easy-going vibe.

The next supervisor was the female with black flowing hair, "I am Tinant Errie, also a subordinate of sir Xanatus," She said with a cold gaze.

The last to introduce himself was the supervisor with a Rhino horn on his forehead, "I am Tinant Gondraga, a subordinate of sir Xanatus," He voiced out with a deep and menacing tone.

His name was just as intimidating as his huge figure.

At first, everyone wondered if the first and the second supervisor were related. However, as the rest also introduced themselves, they felt something was wrong somewhere.

Gradier Xanatus decided to disperse their confusion.

"Tinant is A rank in the MBO as is Gradier. You will learn more about that if you're able to make the cut," Gradier Xanatus explained.

Things made more sense after he mentioned that. The participants in Gustav's batch now understood that Gradier wasn't even a name but actually a rank.

Gradier Xanatus revealed a few more things to them, including the MBO tower.

This was when they learned that the MBO Tower here was one of the six in the entire world. There were other MBO bases but only six of these types of the tower were built.

Their main purpose was intergalactic travels. The MBO tower had a total of one thousand nine hundred and fifty-three floors.

The last fifty floors, which were also the biggest, were constructed especially for intergalactic purposes.

There were spacecraft of different kinds there, and it also happened to be that the last fifty floors also reached outer space.

After Gradier Xanatus revealed some of these things to them, he finally decided to speak about the next phase.

"I will now give explanations on the next phase; listen attentively,"