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Cursed Immortality

Chapter 361: It's Time!

Jacob replied impassively, "It was an invisible pendant which I always believed to be there like a lucky charm, and it is the most important treasure I have!"

Jacob's reply was extremely strange to Masha, "What do you mean invisible good luck charm, like a ritual or something?" She asked coldly as she took the treasure from his hand.

However, she didn't feel any sort of pendant on the pile at all because the pendant instantly vanished from the pile when it left Jacob's hands and reappeared back on Jacob's neck, which was not even expected by Jacob himself.

"Hahahahaha... why so surprised? From day one, I told you this pendant can't leave you even if you want to leave it, not to mention after the Cursed Path Glory Gem was returned, it will never be going to leave your side even for a split second!"

Immortika's words made Jacob astonished as well as elated because this meant he didn't have to worry about anything at all!

"Yes, something like that," Jacob replied Masha with complete ease and no longer worried about her finding anything.

That storage ring was already changed with superficial rare treasures, and all the important stuff was in his pendant. Furthermore, this storage ring was specially prepared for this sort of situation by him.

"I'm inside her!" Autarch's voice rang in his mind at this moment while Masha disdainfully sneered at Jacob's childish mentality and started inspecting those treasures.

"Very good! Take your time. I want you to impersonate this woman even if I wasn't here, and then..." Jacob started to give keen instructions to Autarch while Masha was still skimming through his things.

Now that Autarch was in play, he no longer worried about anything else, and he could already see his freedom. Furthermore, this was a chance that will be going to cost Captain Free Sword dearly, and Jacob would have his revenge if everything went as planned!

Masha knit her brows tightly as she didn't find anything but trash inside Jacob's storage ring, and she looked at butt-naked Jacob standing there expressionlessly. But that uneasiness only intensified.

Nevertheless, Jacob was now completely clear, and his status as an 'ant' gave him massive leeway, so she threw those things back at him and coldly stared at Veilly, who's been looking at her this whole time.

"Get dressed and then remember these conditions. They should be enough for someone like you. They are laws that can't break no matter what, and the moment you break them, you have to alert us with no expectations!

"Now, get out of my way. It seemed little Veilly still had some tricks up his sleeve!" Masha coldly uttered with killing intent in her eyes and stood up from her chair, making her way toward Veilly.

She didn't even spare a second glance at Jacob because she was now fully convinced that Veilly was trying to do something to her so he could escape, and she won't allow it unless she wanted to end up like him herself!

Jacob felt a massive boulder lifted from his shoulders when Masha finally shifted her attention, and he was snickering in his heart maliciously as he picked up his things.

'Never underestimate even an ant, as it can be extremely deadly if it manages to find some tiny cracked in a massive building!' Jacob thought with killing intent.

Then he picked up that list which was filled with all sorts of rules, such as he had to report every week to them about his progress, or he couldn't even think of asking for someone's help or telling anyone that he was a slave.

This was like an air-sealed contract without any loophole, which also showed Masha's experience in doing this sort of thing.

Although Jacob was mentally immune to these so-called laws, his bodies weren't, and he had to be careful what he did, or even he won't know when his body betrayed him.

The most cumbersome condition was the moment he stepped on the Epic Plains, he had to continue to work toward getting his hands on that Unique Star Ocean Medallion, and his every move and action should be related to it.

This was going to be the biggest obstacle in free movements, but it wasn't that hard to overcome either because as long as he believed he was working on getting that Unique Star Ocean Medallion, it would be fine.

"HHHHAA!"

He suddenly heard a blood-curdling scream from behind, and he knew from the sadistic snickering that Masha was having a go on the Dark Elf because she should be feeling quite uneasy after an incident with Autarch.

This was proof of how superior a Unique Rank expert's reflexes were, and if Autarch was a tad bit slower, both of them would've been in that dark elf place.

Jacob pretended to be unbothered by whatever was happening and continued to read those conditions.

Fourteen hours passed, and Jacob was now really marveling at Masha's sadistic nature as she continued to torture that dark elf without any break, and she was even more excited than ever!

The strangest thing was that dark elf's stamina, as he didn't give in and fell unconscious after suffering so much torture. Or should it be one of Masha's tricks to keep him sane so he could feel pain and couldn't die!

At this moment, a knock was heard on the locked door of the lab before Harold's voice rang, "It's time!"

Masha finally snapped out of her mirth as that strange and uneasy feeling had now vanished, and she finally felt at ease again.

But the poor elf was now looking like a vegetable while his organs were filled with cuts, and blood was oozing, yet he was still alive!

Masha then quickly straightened her disheveled appearance and yelled, "Coming!"

"If you remember every word, let's go!" She coolly uttered as she moved toward the closed door, and Jacob's body moved again.

Jacob now only had one thought after spending those dark hours with Misha, 'I can't screw up a single thing until this woman is not out of the picture!'

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Chapter 362: Star Hackers

Captain Free Sword appeared the same as half a day ago when Jacob saw him. The only difference was there was two more Horned Ogre present in the hall, and no matter how he looked at them, they all looked the same, and only by their scars could one tell the difference.

Captain Free Sword smiled, seeing Jacob, and said in greetings, "Mr. King, I hope you have a lovely evening with Masha. But all good things had to end, and we must move on. It's a pity, really."

"Don't worry, Captain, this gentleman won't be gone long." Masha snickered playfully while Jacob remained the same.

"I have no doubt, Masha, I have no doubt!" Captain Free Sword laughed in a pleasing manner before his candid smile vanished as he looked at Jacob, "Mr. King, I have arranged many things for your mission this time, so make sure you keep all of them safe and only use them when the time is ripe. Harold, give Mr. King his goodies!"

Harold nodded in response, and before he handed a white space ring to Jacob with a cold smirk.

"The first thing I need you to understand is you can't contact us through your Star Watch because we are no longer connected with Star Network because this is Epic Plains, and we all have Unique Rank life signals.

"So, I have Harold prepare a special device called the Universal Communication Radio Transmitter, also known as Vermin Transponder. As for why it is called such, it is because it will allow communication in places where it isn't allowed as long as you have a unique frequency code of the Vermin Transponder, like the trial plains, for example. Moreover, it is illegal to use it since it is made by Star Hackers!" Captain Free Sword grinned evilly.

It was Jacob's first time hearing about such a device, and he was also astonished when he heard there was something that was illegal. Furthermore, the name Star Hacker also sounds like trouble, and various thoughts come into his mind about what a Star Hacker would be.

Captain Free Sword wasn't done explaining as he continued, "Mr. King, if you don't know about Star Hackers, then it's about time you know about them since you might encounter them in the Epic Plains.

"Like us Star Pirates, who are a bunch of outlaws and don't like restrictions, the Star Hackers are even more excessive as they believe that the Star Network is the biggest threat to everyone's privacy and a dictator of sorts.

"That's why they directly declared all-out war with the Star Network itself! Can you imagine the guts of those guys? But the most interesting thing is they are making terrifying progress in this seemingly hopeless war and making noises that have started to irk the three hegemonies and the mighty Star Network itself!

"As to how much it irks them, you can imagine that the Star Network has never cared about anything happening in the plains, yet it had exclusively put lavish bounties on any and every Star Hacker's whereabouts, identifies, even their heads as long as someone can prove it, they can bask in unimaginable riches.

"However, to this day, not even a single actual Star Hacker has been found, and only those small fries. Why they are hunted like this because of their groundbreaking inventions and ideas, and they can even hack into the Star Watches of anyone below 1-Star Privilege.

"This is what truly made them earn the irony of the Star Network as well as the respect of people like us. This Vermin Transponder is the evidence of their advanced knowledge, and there are rumors that they are making more such discoveries even as we speak.

"As for the reason I'm telling you all is that you have to be very careful when you take out that Vermin Transponder while you are in the Epic Plains. SAAI can watch everything under the boundary of a plain, and that Vermin Transponder will raise many red flags.

"Even if you're a holder of an Honorary Badge, once you're found out using the black technology of the Star Hackers, you'll be a fugitive, and the entire Star Network will do anything to hunt you down.

"But don't worry, I got your back, Mr. King. You'll just need to envelop it with your Mana within a second after you take it out from your space ring, and you'll be fine as gold. Oh, and inside a trial, you don't need to be careful at all."

Captain Free Sword revealed with an ugly grin on his face.

Jacob was really speechless after he heard about these Star Hackers and their war with the Star Network. As someone who knows about the Zodiac Will, which might be behind the Star Network, he felt those guys were nothing but clowns trying to anger God!

He wanted to have nothing to do with those guys who were nothing but trouble, especially if just using their technology could make the entire Star Network his enemy.

That would be a huge disaster since almost everything was controlled by the Star Network; even the three hegemonies can't operate without the Star Network.

Nevertheless, this information was something he should have sooner than later because he might unknowingly shoot himself in the foot.

Afterward, Captain Free Sword explains his so-called general plan, which Jacob should use to infiltrate the three hegemonies' forces when the trial plain emerges.

Truth be told, after listening to that entire plan, Jacob was feeling quite apprehensive because he knew if he went through with this plan, whether Star Network hunted him or not, the three hegemonies would, and there would be no place for him in their ranks. He will be no different from these outlaws.

But no other choice was given to him, and he was just a puppet that Captain Free Sword could manipulate as he pleased, and he clearly didn't care about what sort of damage it would do to Jacob's own reputation.

At that time, even if he had his freedom, he would have to live as a rat!

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Chapter 363: Another Traitor?

After Captain Free Sword laid down the entire general plan, he looked at Jacob with a sly grin as he said, "So, Mr. King, what do you think of my plan? You are free to make changes, but you have to follow the foundation since it is the only way forward."

'This entire plan is nothing but social suicide, and if I had a choice, I would rather not follow it at all. But I have to admit this guy really planned it well, and the success rate is quite high...' Jacob thought before he spoke emotionlessly in ambiguous words, "I think it's very practical, and no one would see it coming."

Captain Free Sword's lips rose in a content smile, "I'm glad we see eye to eye, Mr. King. You and I could be great like-minded friends. So, what will be your approach? I personally suggest you should choose the Zodiac Warrior Alliance since it would help you remain closer to the action."

Jacob knew Captain Free Sword wanted to know which of the three hegemonies will he chose to backstab, and the Alliance was really the best choice in this scenario, but it was almost impossible for him at the same time.

But he can't tell Captain Free Sword about his small feud with the Alliance Chairman Gunner, now, can he? It would instantly put him in a very sensitive position if Captain Free Sword thought that Jacob had too many enemies in the Epic Plains and it was not worth investing in him.

Jacob couldn't let that happen, as he needed to get away from this damn ship and its crew.

"A wise suggestion, Captain, but for me, I'm afraid it's impossible." Jacob stated impassively, and he instantly spotted a faint wrinkle on Captain Free Sword's shining forehead, so he explained, "I'm actually a 1-Star Epic Alchemist of the Alchemy Guild, and it's too late for me to join in the ranks of the Alliance!"

Masha looked at him with a hint of surprise, and so did everyone else.

"Fascinating, you don't strike me to be someone who had a brain for Alchemy. What is your forte, and which rank are you at?" Masha questioned, and Captain Free Sword remained silent as he approved of it.

"Magic Smiting and Gunsmithing, Senior Grandmaster." Jacob impassively replied, but he only told the rank of the Magic Smiting, not his unmeasured Gunsmith Rank.

Besides, he knew to move in the ranks of the Epic Alchemists of the Alchemy Guild. He needed to be proficient in at least three Elder Grandmaster Rank professions.

The Elder Grandmaster Rank was divided into Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels, and the Basic Elder Grandmaster lasted until 3-Star Epic Alchemist Rank.

A 4-Star Alchemist was an Intermediate Elder Grandmaster, while from 7-Star, an Alchemist would be known as Advanced Elder Grandmaster. This was also the peak rank of the Alchemists and their profession-related knowledge in the Epic Plains.

If Jacob says anything about him having the skills probably at the level of an advanced elder grandmaster in gunsmithing, he'll be considered an Alchemist Genius, which would not be good in his current situation.

"Not bad. Forgive my previous ignorance and look down on you, Mr. King, since I pressured you to be a combatant like your predecessors. But it seemed not only your species different, your evolution path is also different. I've made a fool of myself." Captain Free Sword sighed ruefully, "Nevertheless, you got potential; Mr. King and Alchemy Guild are not bad either since all the medicinal supplies and weapons, as well as strategies and information network always under the control of the Alchemy Guild. You can say the Alliance and the Bank are the swords, while the Alchemy Guild is the brain of those swords. This position is not bad at all. I'll leave it in your capable hand then since what matter is our end goal."

With this meeting coming to an end and Harold was told to escort Jacob toward his new traveling ship, and only Captain Free Sword, Masha, and two Ogres were left in the meeting hall.

Captain Free Sword finally spoke after making sure Jacob was gone, "Masha, what do you think? Is he capable of pulling this off?"

Masha smiled charmingly, but it was extremely evil as she replied, "I have shown him what would happen if messed up even for an instant, so I have no doubt about his motivation. Furthermore, with all those rules restricting his actions, I don't think there is a chance to fail with your ingenious plan."

Captain Free Sword smiled darkly as he nodded, "Your words are quite assuring. But there is something strange about him that I can't put my finger on. I think he accepted the fact of him being a slave of ours too easily, and despite you giving him the freedom to speak, he seemed too calm."

Masha knew what Captain Free Sword was implying and replied matter-of-factly, "You're worried too much, Captain. That hateful Veilly's betrayal had left you with a deep mental scar. After all, he was one of the founding members of our Carefree Sword Star Pirates, and no one has thought he would be the one who betrayed us."

Killing intent flashed past Captain Free Sword's eyes as he nodded, "You are right. That's why I handed him to you. I want you to keep him alive until we go back and torment him every day until I find his entire family and then torture them together. Only then will I be able to quench the burning anger in my heart!"

Masha nodded with a sadistic, cold smile, "Of course, I'm giving him my best treatment Captain."

"Excellent, you are excused and don't forget to check on our little pet every once in a while. Use that expensive Slave Rune to the fullest and report to me post hastily if something unusual comes up. Although I hardly believed it would, we have invested too much in him!" Captain Free Sword commanded sternly.

Masha didn't dare to reject Captain Free Sword's command and quickly agreed before leaving the hall as well.

Captain Free Sword then suddenly spoke to those two Horned Ogres standing there all this time without speaking a word and merely observing everything like statues.

"There is one more traitor among us, which even Veilly isn't aware of, and I want you two to find it. That traitor might try to use some means to contact the Epic Plains as well, and that's when we'll catch that bastard red-handed, and that slave is going to be our trump card while doing this!"

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Chapter 364: In Dire Straits! (1)

Jacob sat in a small gray ship that looked more like a spearhead, and there was only one passenger seat in the cockpit. Furthermore, after connecting it with his star watch, he found that it was an Advanced Epic Rank Ship with stealth features and insane speed.

But Jacob didn't seem happy about it at all because this ship was arranged by Captain Free Sword, and when he was thrown into the ocean with this ship, he found that he couldn't even see the main ship of Captain Free Sword at all.

It was as if it never existed, and if he hadn't been able to sense Autarch's general location, he would think it was a ghost ship.

This made Jacob gloomy about the prowess of Captain Free Sword and his crew, not to mention the technology under their control. He still vividly remembered how easily he was captured by them.

But his biggest headache and the thing he was most depressed about was that his hands were moving on their own as they controlled the ship and headed in the direction of the Epic Plains. This was the very first task he was entrusted with; entering the Epic Plains.

'It took me around four years to reach the Epic Plains, and there should still be around two years left before the Trial Plain is formed. This means I have two years of freedom to do the groundwork before my own body drags me into those plains, even if I don't want to...

'I just hope Autarch can quickly take control of that bitch. It's going to be a long, long wait!' Jacob thought ruefully as he looked at the route on the ship's interface screen, and with his current speed, he would enter the boundary of the Epic Plains in half a day and be able to see the lands again.

Half a day later, Jacob's star watch suddenly vibrated as he received a notification.

"You (Faceless Ancient) have entered the Epic Plains!

"Congratulations on successfully making it to the Epic Plains. The Life Faction welcomes you with open arms and hopes you will be victorious against the forces of the dead!

"Your Star Network has successfully connected to the Epic Plains, and it will be available again in 30 minutes for you to use!"

Jacob cocked an eyebrow as this was his first time receiving this sort of notification, and now he was starting to feel that the Epic Plains should be quite a big deal to the Life Faction since they clearly didn't care about both Common or Rare Plains.

Meanwhile, the moment Jacob received that notification, Ellie's star watch also vibrated when she was going through some guild paperwork.

"Your (Amiable Monk Fish) Bronze Invitation Holder (Faceless Ancient) has entered the Epic Plains from the Rare Plains!

"According to the Bronze Invitation Benefits (BIB), 100,000 ZC will be rewarded to you by the Alchemy Guild for nurturing an excellent Alchemist!

"Keep up the good work, Alchemy Guild!"

Ellie kept staring at that notification for a while before she snapped out of her daze, and a sharp glint flashed past her eyes.

'He reached here far earlier than the Old Man's prediction. But this also means it is time to make our move and let that old bitch bleed till she dies!'

Without hesitation, she quickly contacted her father, Nelsen, as this matter was of utmost importance.

After over thirty minutes were over and his star network was successfully upgraded, Jacob was going to check the star news of the Epic Plains when he abruptly received a call, as if the other party was just waiting for his network to be available again.

"Amiable Monk Fish wanted to send you a Projection Call!"

Jacob frowned as this timing was simply too implacable because this woman hadn't contacted him all this time, yet the moment he appeared in the Epic Plains, she did. No matter how he looked at it, this seemed fishy.

Yet his damn hand moved on its own to accept the call because he had to build a good relationship with the higher-ups of the Three Hegemonies, and Ellie perfectly matched that description.

"Hmph!" Jacob scoffed annoyingly as his windbreaker and mask appeared on his face.

Although his body was now not reliable, his magic and mind were perfectly under his control, and he was going to keep his appearance a secret like he always does, especially now.

Ellie's projection appeared again, but this time she seemed to be standing in the open, and behind her were herb fields with herbs that Jacob had never seen before.

"What do I owe the honor today, Miss Vice President?" Jacob impassively greeted.

"Cut the nonsense! Where are you in the Epic Plains Star Ocean? Give me your coordinates, and I'll send my people to escort you into the Alchemy Region!" Ellie coldly demanded, and her tone clearly indicated that she wouldn't take no for an answer.

But Jacob was not just anyone, and he was alarmed by Ellie's words, 'How did she know I'm in the Epic Plains Star Ocean? Can she track me?'

Jacob was quite grim about this new development, and from Ellie's tone, she seemed to be quite hasty, as if she couldn't wait to get her hands on him.

"How do you know I'm in the Epic Plains?" Jacob coldly asked as this question was more important.

Ellie squinted her eyes and coldly said, "You are not in a position to ask me this question. I'll repeat it again, and more clearly this time; If you don't give me your position, you'll be under siege by the entire mercenary army of the Bank, and they will do anything to make sure you die before you can take a single step on the soil of the Epic Plains!"

Jacob's eyes narrowed as his heart went cold because he didn't think Ellie would reveal this sort of thing, and she clearly didn't have a reason to lie to him either.

He also knew about Lucy and the damage he inflicted on the bank in the Rare Plains, so he was prepared for their retaliation. But he never thought it could come as soon as he just entered the Epic Plains!

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Chapter 365: In Dire Straits! (2)

Jacob suddenly thought that his situation was simply too fishy, and Ellie appeared dubious no matter how he scrutinized this.

First, the moment he appeared closer to the Epic Plains, Ellie somehow knew and contacted him post hastily. Second, she somehow seems to know beforehand that Bank is after his life, yet she only decides to reveal it after he comes to epic plains, not in a four-year time when he was still traveling.

"You say I'm not in a position to ask you this question, but I say I am because it appeared to me that you are afraid of me dying, which is quite a surprise since we don't know each other that well, nor I'm someone worth caring about.

"So, here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to call Miss Bank Manager and see if I can make her give up on killing me. If not, then I'll take my chance since it appears I can't trust anybody in this place!" Jacob coldly replied while he was looking at Ellie like a hawk.

Although he sounds arrogant, and it even appears he is not going to listen to Ellie at all. In fact, he was just fishing for clues about this entire situation.

After meeting with Captain Free Sword and his crew, Ellie and the Epic Plains seems quite insignificant in front of the true terror of Uniques. Furthermore, he now has an Advanced Epic Ship, which was more than enough to preserve his life.

If he had that rare ship, then he might've agreed to Ellie's help and won't dare to offend her, but right now, his only goal was to enter the Epic Plains and then take full advantage of those two years to prepare for worse.

While his body might not react in the same manner as his mind does, but it can only screw him in some special cases, and as long as the mind was not under anyone's control, everything was salvageable!

Ellie's eyes narrowed as they were icy. She uttered, "You'll regret it!"

With that, she cut off the call without even bothering to hear his reply.

Just when she cut the call, she looked ahead of herself, and Nelsen was right there smiling slyly as if he just won some sort of prize after cheating.

"Hmph! How do you know he'll react in this way and won't take my help?" Ellie asked with pursed lips as she looked at her father, who always gave her the creeps with his ability to predict almost everything.

Nelsen's smile widened, "Little girl, I told you, if you want to be like your old man, then you have to be patient and study hard, oh and also spend ample time with your Old man. But you refused, and now you have lost the bet and have to spend five days with me doing father-daughter bonding!"

Ellie's eyes went sharp like blades, "If you dare to do anything silly, I'll leave! But he didn't do one thing you say he would. He's going to contact that old Bitch!"

Nelsen chuckled as he shook his head, "He won't. He was just testing the waters. He wanted to know if you have some way to know his position or anyone else, as a matter of fact.

"He won't take the risk to alert his enemy as long as he wasn't sure if Lucy also had the ability to know his position, and if you hadn't cut the connected call when you did and continued to talk, he would've sensed that you might have something to do with this entire situation he's in.

"Now, he'll just presume whatever he wants to without any hard evidence and might hold some grudge and vigilance toward you, but so what? In the end, all we need him to do is come to the Epic Plains, and we'll be strangers.

"If he dies, then we won't lose anything, and if he succeeded, then we'll get everything. Now that you have alerted him, he'll make sure to keep an eye out for those scouts sent by dear old Lucy.

"All we have to do is make sure she won't find out about his entering the Epic Plains Star Ocean already, or she'll do anything to make sure he won't stop foot on the lands.

"Just give our scouts a signal to interfere the moment they sense something out of the ordinary going on, and if nothing goes wrong, you'll have the Scripture of Blank by the end of this week!" Nelsen confidently declared without any hint of doubt.

Ellie's eyes shimmered with a hint of ecstasy, "Let's hope you're right! But what do you want to do with him when he comes to the Epic Plains? You know, if he found out that we have played him like a fiddle, he'll hold a pretty solid grudge against me!"

Nelsen's smile suddenly turned cold as he uttered, "He's just a lucky commoner who has no idea just how deep the waters of Epic Plains run. Besides, with how careful he has been, I'm sure he'll know his place.

"In Epic Plains, without the spot or three hegemonies, no one can evolve and reach the apex, he's already banned from the Alliance, and once Lucy suffered that terrible loss because of him, she would rather kill him personally than let him join the mercenary agency.

"So now you tell me if you just happened to kick him out from the Guild as well. Do you think he has any way to flourish in the Epic Plains?" Nelsen questioned with a dark smile.

Ellie's eyes went wide slightly as she suddenly laughed, "Hahaha, old man, now I understand why even that old bitch Lucy didn't dare to show her arrogance around you and appeared all vigilance. You are simply too evil!"

"Now, now, this is not a way to call your Daddy. I'm nothing but a humble old dad who's looking after his little girl. One day, you'll understand once you have your own children and my grandchildren!" Nelsen grinned teasingly, which made Ellie instantly fly into a rage!

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Chapter 366: In Dire Straits! (3)

"You'll regret it!"

When Ellie abruptly cut off the call, Jacob's expression warped because this didn't go as he expected it to.

"That bloody tramp!" He cursed furiously before a bitter expression appeared on his face. His luck was getting worse ever since he had come to the Epic Plains, and he started to doubt that it was all the result of that good luck in the Rare Plains.

Nevertheless, he quickly calmed down and started to think about how he should proceed now with the bombshell Ellie just dropped on him.

The first thing he did was stowed away his Star Watch in the pendant since he wasn't sure anymore about not being monitored, especially when he thought about those Star Hackers he learned from Captain Free Sword.

As for calling Lucy to reconcile, he was not going to do it since it might expose his whereabouts. He was just bluffing to get some sort of reaction out of Ellie, and he even thought it was her who was going after his life under the pretext of Lucy.

But it doesn't go as he planned, and now he can only presume and prepare for the worse.

"Come on damn it, what are you so afraid about? Remember, Epics won't stand a chance against your hexes anymore?" Jacob chided himself in a loud voice as he didn't know why he was feeling so afraid of those Epics.

But he knew it was all because of the psychological effects those damn Uniques had left on him, and he was now afraid of everything.

Jacob's biggest trump card against the epics was his Extraordinary Rank Hex Magic Core and the three innate Hex Spells he has acquired from it in the Rare Plains.

Slumber Hex, No Agility Hex, and Powerless Hex!

After traveling for over three years, Jacob was fully familiar with his magic abilities.

With the 25 cubic meter worth of Hex Mana in the Infinity Pedant, he can use any hex on 100 Common Rank Dark Beings, 50 Rare Dark Beings, 10 Extraordinary Rank Dark Beings, and 1 Epic Rank Being (Any Tier). As for the time limit, it was now 3 hours for any rank being.

Right now, what limits Jacob the most is the mana limitation because the book he took from the graveyard also required a tremendous amount of Hex mana to open it.

Jacob has once tried to open the book, but even with every ounce of mana, he had, he couldn't only lift the cover by a few centimeters before all the mane ran out. So, he had no choice but to give up on studying the book for a later date when he had more mana.

The only way to increase his mana was to increase the space of the infinity pendant, which he could only do by making progress. That was what he was planning to when everything starting to derail after he bumped into the star pirates.

Now he was hearing the news that one of the three bosses of the Epic Plains wanted him dead at all costs, so it was only natural that he would act like this.

Jacob then quickly calmed his mind and put those star pirates back in his head since they were no longer his concern, and he was far away from them now. His sole focus became the Epic Plains and how to reach it in one piece.

Furthermore, the moment Jacob's thoughts become clear, and a clear goal appears in his mind, he regains control of his body again.

With a tranquil expression, he looked at the surrounding calm waters. A flash of killing intent surfaced in Jacob's eyes, 'Since everyone here wanted to push me around, I'll make damn sure to let them know I'm not a pushover!'

Jacob activated all the stealth features of the ship and approached the lands of Epic Plains.

Three hours later, Jacob finally saw something else besides the water. A massive fleet was lined up in a formation, blocking off the passage toward the Epic Plains, which were now vaguely visible under Jacob's eyes, but they were still far away.

It was just that their size was simply too massive, so it was quite hard to miss them even from this distance.

But those fleets were clearly not there just for show, and he spotted a golden symbol imprint on those fleets. It was a golden bull head with a white blazing sun shining between the bull's horns. It was the well-known symbol of the Universal Zodiac Taurus Bank!

This also proved that Ellie was speaking the truth about Lucy being bloody for him, and those fleets were all Epic Treasure Ships. He could even tell that the commanding ship of this fleet was in no way inferior to the ship he was controlling right now.

If Captain Free Sword knew that there was such a welcome waiting for Jacob just at the entrance of the Epic Plains, he might've never selected Jacob for this job at all.

Jacob stopped the ship a few miles from that perimeter as he didn't think for a second that those guys won't have powerful scanners to pick up on his ship. If Lucy was investing so much to get rid of him, then he needed to think like she was coming at him with everything she had in her arsenal!

Then Jacob took out something from the Advance Epic Grade Space Ring he was given by Captain Free Sword, which contained all the things prepared for him just for this endeavor, and its space was 250 cubic meters which were larger than the Basic Epic Grade Space Rings he got from A-0.

What he took from it was a black Zenati suit which looked extremely normal and nothing but a plain thin fabric. If Jacob wasn't told that it was an Advance Epic Grade Skin Body Armor, he might've thought that the Captain was duping him.

When Jacob undressed and tried to wear it, he was astonished because the moment the body armor draped over his body, a cold sensation suddenly rose from the cotton-like fabric, and it started to shift over his body, making itself fully attached to his skin.

Before he knew it, the armor was completely wrapped around his body like his skin, and the next moment, it started to change color, and under Jacob's astonished eyes, it turned just like the color of his skin!

Now no one would be able to tell if he was buck naked or wearing advanced epic-grade armor, no one but Jacob himself!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 367: In Dire Straits! (4)

Donning the epic armor, Jacob wore his mask, and the next moment, he stowed away the epic ship and directly splashed into the cold ocean.

Jacob's plan was quite simple. Since those guys were blocking the surface, he should just go past them from underwater!

Furthermore, it would also increase the chances of him being detected by their radars, and he can already hold his breath underwater for hours, so it was his best option to escape their trap safely.

However, Jacob soon found just how wrong he was when he had been. When he was swimming like an agile fish in the six-hundred-meter depth of the star ocean, he was stopped because he found there were small submarines patrolling the underwater.

'Since I can think of this, then why not them?' Jacob bitterly thought as he was forced to enter even more deep water.

The Star Ocean was simply too deep, and during his voyage, Jacob once tried to use the Art of Nature, but he was shocked to discover that he couldn't find the ocean bed even after diving three to four miles into it.

This instantly made him drop that notion, and he returned since the deeper he went, the darker the star ocean became like an abyss, not to mention chilly and a feeling of unknown hidden danger.

However, right now, Jacob's situation is quite special. He didn't want to alert Lucy of his arrival and silently entered the epic plains and kept a low profile.

As Jacob dived deeper, the colder and darker the water became while pressure was also rising, which was not a concern of Jacob right now.

After diving for over 1500 feet, Jacob moved forward again, but after he moved for about fifty meters, he suddenly spotted a faint glow, and he knew the enemy was also patrolling this depth as well.

However, this time, he didn't spot more than five lights which also meant he was getting further away from their patrolling area and decided to go even deeper.

However, when Jacob was over 2200 feet deep into the ocean, he was surprised when he suddenly bumped into a hard surface, and upon focusing, he saw he was at the ocean bed!

'Don't tell me the ocean around the plains has a definite depth while the star ocean out of the star ocean boundary is either depthless or simply too deep for others to explore. No wonder they called these oceans around the plains with the plain name...' The more Jacob thought, the more he thought it made sense.

Still, this didn't mean he was out of the woods. Although he hadn't spotted any patrols around this place, he couldn't be sure. Furthermore, he has to be mindful of getting attacked by some ocean creature, and the chances of it happening on the ocean bed are even greater.

Jacob then swims a few meters above the ocean bed and moves forward again.

On the ocean surface, within the main ship of the bank fleet, the Bronze Barbarian named Wilder, who was the captain of this ship as well as the overseer of the task handed to him by the Bank Manager Lucy, was practicing a special fighting technique in a training room.

At this moment, the metal door of the training facility slid open, and another Bronze Barbarian appeared with a solemn expression.

Wilder stopped his punch and looked toward the entrance, and smiled, seeing the other barbarian, "Mayson, do you have something for me?"

Mayson nodded with a solemn expression on his tattooed face as he spoke respectfully in his raspy voice, "Captain Wilder, our senses scattered in the ocean bed just sent an unusual signal back. There seems to be a movement!"

Wilder's eyes flashed with coldness, "Do you think it's our target or some ocean beast?"

"It's hard to say, but our men have cleared every such creature in our perimeter, and if it comes from the epic plains side, the sensors would also trigger from that side, but the sensor has triggered from the other side, which is the red zone.

"So, we have to take it seriously, even if it's just a stray. We have to kill it to make sure no one goes past us without our knowledge. The Bank Manager's instructions were quite clear about this exact point." Mayson solemnly replied.

Wilder nodded in approval, "I can always count on you, Mayson. You never lost sight of our goal, and that's why I trust your judgment the most. This time we can't mess up even for a moment, or we'll suffer a terrible fate. Send our killer subs to investigate, and whatever is crawling in that place, I want it killed and its body delivered to me by the end of the day!"

Mayson solemnly nodded, "I shall see to it myself!"

He then quickly left toward the command center to follow up on the captain's order post hastily.

Wilder couldn't help but sigh ruefully after Mayson left and the door was closed again. He muttered with a depressed expression, "Just what in the world is the Bank Manager guarding against? She put so many resources into it, and with the trial looming overhead at that. Isn't she afraid that the Bank would question her if they found out all those resources were being used on her personal ventures?"

In the end, he smiled bitterly, "Who I'm kidding? That old fox always has ten countermeasures in place for such occasions. I should feel pity for whoever has offended her..."

Jacob swam for about fifteen minutes without finding any patrols. But instead of getting confidence and relief, he was getting impatience and feeling a strange unease.

Because when he thought about how those guys were patrolling the depth of the oceans, why would they leave the ocean bed alone?

Jacob then thought about something, and the bronze disc appeared right under his feet. He activated its stealth, and his speed also increased quite a lot.

As for why he didn't use it on the surface, it was because, according to his estimate, this disc was only a Basic Epic Grade, and those guys would clearly have measures for such objects as well.

So, going under the ocean gave him a fair chance, and with this darkness, the stealth of this disc was even more flawless.

Just as he took out the bronze disc and activated it for about two minutes, he suddenly spotted many faint lights coming right in his direction!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 368: In Dire Straits! (5)

'I hate it when my intuition is right!' Jacob grimaced as he saw those faint lights drawing nearer.

Although those lights weren't coming exactly his way, they weren't far from his position that much. This at least made one thing clearer to Jacob, those guys on the surface seemed to have the means to monitor even these depths of the star ocean, and that's why they didn't bother to place any patrols!

Since they were not coming in his direction for now, Jacob wanted to keep it that way and moved very slowly so he won't create commotion in the water.

The team sent to the bottom of the ocean contained eight submarines that were shaped like a shark and even designed that way, but their color was black and blue. These submarines were advanced epic-ranked Killer Submarines, and they were the Bank's biggest trump card, and each of them could cost an arm and leg.

Only the top powers within the three hegemonies have limited numbers of them, and they were built specifically to battle and travel within the star ocean.

This time, Lucy has sent these eight Killer Subs to make sure nothing got passed by the boundary she had made Wilder set.

The eight submariners of these killer subs were all at least Epic Tier-7 or Tier-8 rank Universal Mercenaries, which made them at least A Class Epic Rank Universal Mercenaries.

The mercenaries' ranking system was quite straightforward, as they strictly followed the strength and skill of an individual.

There were five total ranks, D Class Epic (Tier-1 and Tier-2), C Class Epic (Tier-3 and Tier-4), B Class Epic (Tier-5 and Tier-6), A Class Epic (Tier-7 and Tier-8), and S Class Epic (Tier-9).

The S Class Epic was the most powerful force of the Bank, and even Lucy can't dispatch them on a whim as they stand at the very top of the Epic Plains food chain.

Only Wilder among this fleet was an S Class, and he was only following Lucy's every command because he was a bronze invitation!

Furthermore, this entire fleet was filled with loyal men under Wilder's command. Any S Class Universal Mercenary would have this sort of force under them, and they were not to be taken lightly as well.

But these guys were all guns for hire, and as long as it paid nice, they were willing to put their lives at risk. This at least gave them the freedom to do whatever they wanted.

Albeit, only after stepping into the waters will one actually understand just how deep they are, and it was the same case for any hegemony.

Just like right now, Wilder and his crew, built solely on Bronze Barbarians, were virtually doing all this work for nothing but Lucy's grace and to keep their tribe safe.

Although it appeared, there was no racial factor included in the epic plains. In truth, no one can change one's love for their own kind, and only those absolutely cold-blooded individuals can let it go, and the Barbarians race rarely had such individuals.

"Tell me, Killer 4, do you find our rat?" A Barbarian with a bald head questioned while he surveyed the pitch-black depth of the ocean.

"Negative, Alpha Killer. But this sure is the place where the sensors picked up the last movement of our rat. Awaiting your further command." A deep voice rang from the killer sub's interface controller.

The bald barbarian frowned before he instantly made a decision, "We are using the Net-4 formation in an eight-kilometer radius. Keep an eye out for changes in water current. If this rat is still alive, I want it found, and if he's dead, I want his corpse."

"Roger!"

Seven voices rang in unison after hearing the Alpha Leader's command, and those eight killer subs started to head in a straight line.

When the eight of them were a mile apart from each other, a virtual map was built in each of the sub's interfaces.

"Alright, let's find this son of a bitch and go back and have drinks! This place is damn suffocating." The Alpha Killer chuckled with a cold expression.

"Heh, it seems Alpha Killer has finally decided to be generous for once." A woman's voice rang in a joking manner.

Everyone laughed while the Alpha killer merely snickered and started to control the sub and move forward, and the seven others moved in sync with him. As they all moved forward, the virtual map kept blinking.

Jacob was now over a mile away from those killer subs and suddenly noticed they were all coming his way, but they were no longer together. So, he didn't think much of it since the closest killer sub to him was over a hundred meters away from his current position, so he thought it would only brush past him.

But he still underestimated the Advanced Epic Technology under the three hegemonies' control.

The moment that killer submarine aligned with Jacob's slowly moving figure, the virtual map within all the subs suddenly showed a red dot.

The Alpha Killer's eye flashed with derision as he sneered, "We have eyes on the prize, everyone!"

"What a sneaky little rat. Let's suffocate him to death!" Another one chortled in disdain.

"Let's not alert the cunning fellow. I have locked the Life Radar on his life signal. Let's cage him following formation four and then end it with kill maneuver two. I don't want any problems, or it will be me and your ass!" The Alpha Killer scoffed with a joking tone.

They were all close as family, so they always joked around with each other, and now that they had found their target, they were completely at ease, as if it was already under their control.

However, they have no idea what or who they're dealing with. Their carefree attitude was also because they all, or everyone, in fact, knew that within the epic star ocean, nothing but epic could enter.

Since this unknown being could enter the epic star ocean, then this means it was epic, and they didn't need to worry about him at all, for they were eight, and they had terrifying firepower under their thumbs!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 369: In Dire Straits! (6)

After a few minutes, Jacob suddenly noticed something. The light of the submarine suddenly went off, and all of a sudden, he felt a faint change in the water current around him.

'What are they up to?' Jacob was fully alert as he knew this was simply too strange, and a strange fear suddenly gripped his heart.

Without hesitation, he quickly summoned Immortika since this was exactly the situation he was saving it for and quickly asked about who was around him. The answer he got was something he clearly didn't want to see.

"Hehehe, isn't this the same situation where you escape from the frying pan only to find yourself in the middle of a fire?"

"There are five Epic Tier-7 and three Epic Tier-8 Bronze Barbarians completely surrounding you, and they are closing in fast, and I must say they mean business! Ahahah...!"

'I've been discovered?!'

With a nasty expression, he used fluid acceleration to intensify his reflexes even more. He was finally able to see a vague light in this darkness and not only just one but three more, and they were all slowly moving in none other than his direction, just as Immortika stated!

Alarmed, Jacob had no idea just how they were able to spot him too swiftly, and he felt even more fearful of those subs.

Nevertheless, he knew it wasn't the time to mull over this, and he had to find a way to escape this situation and quickly.

'Since they can detect me despite the bronze disk stealth and this darkness, then I need more than speed to throw them off my tail. In the end, I was still not prepared enough, or should I say I made a terrible enemy...' Jacob thought bitterly, but he was quickly able to calm down.

He has no regret for what he did in the rare plains, and as long as he can, he will do it all over again if his life is threatened by someone.

Now Jacob thought of his other option.

'Now that I'm running out of options, I should make a move first before those guys.' Jacob coldly thought before he selected the closest submarine to him and moved towards it at full speed.

The Killer Submarine's crew naturally saw Jacob's sudden movement, and the Alpha Killer sneered coldly, "Killer 5, the rat is spooked and now coming to bite you. You have permission to use the rat killer!"

"It seems this rat is not our normal gutter rat but a more cunning house rat! But I also don't care about destroying the entire house to kill it!" Killer 5 coldly snickered, and everyone else also laughed.

They were now thinking that it was already over and soon they would be able to head back.

However, the Alpha Killer's eyes suddenly narrowed, and he quickly commanded, "His speed is still increasing, don't let our guard down!"

"Don't worry, Alpha Killer, even if a small meteorite hit the Killer Sub. It can still handle that impact." Someone confidently declared, and others also agreed.

Jacob was finally able to see the shark-like killer submarine, and he instantly spotted two heavy machine guns and eight small missiles on two of its fins.

Furthermore, they were all locked in Jacob's direction, and without any warning, the machine gun suddenly started to spit fire, catching Jacob completely off guard!

'Water magic bullets?!' Jacob wasn't a fool as he was instantly able to spot the purple sheen on those incoming bullets.

He was very familiar with the magic bullets, and he knew these bullets were extremely deadly in special environments. Like right now, in water, a water element magic bullet can hit a target without losing its velocity because of the water mass. Simply put, they will work inside the water like they worked out in the open!

Furthermore, those bullets were at least intermediate epic grade, and Jacob couldn't dodge all of them, especially when he was in the water. Not to mention, each of those machine guns was firing two hundred bullets per second!

Even with Jacob's reaction speed, it was already too late to use some countermeasure, and those bullets hit him, and he was only able to save his head by blocking them with his hands.

However, something completely unexpected happened. Even though those bullets managed to penetrate his advanced rare-grade windbreaker and clothes easily, they weren't able to pierce through his skin!

'The advanced epic-grade armor!' Jacob instantly rejoiced when he remembered the skin armor he wore before diving.

However, the force behind those bullets was no joke. They instantly pushed him back, not to mention, despite not getting penetrated by those bullets, they still hurt like a dog bite whenever they hit on his skin.

Jacob almost suffered this sort of pain for 2000 rounds, and he felt his internal organs were all completely jumbled up, and even blood started to trickle from his orifice.

However, he was still alive, and that's what mattered to him the most, or if he hadn't worn that armor, there would be thousands of holes in his body.

All he wanted to do was to come close enough to the sub so he could see the pilot because it was necessary to cast a hex.

But he never expected this kind of firepower awaits him the moment he got closer, and now he was barely conscious, and every single part of his body hurt like hell. Furthermore, he was out of breath as well, and with all those injuries, his situation was quite critical!

At this moment, he saw the submarine coming closer toward him, probably coming to check if he was dead or alive.

'No, I can't just die or be captured again!' Jacob gritted his teeth as he endured and tried to keep himself stable as possible and let the submarine come closer!

"I think the rat is exterminated. Just heading there to confirm. Oh, I wanna ask, will the Leader mind if we delivered a corpse filled with holes?" A young barbarian with short hair questioned jokingly as head toward Jacob's floating body.

However, his confident expression suddenly crumbled when he flashed a light over his body, and his eyes dilated in shock!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 370: In Dire Straits! (7)

However, his confident expression suddenly crumbled when he flashed a light over his body, and his eyes dilated in shock!

Because the moment, the 'corpse' was holding a sniper rifle with a long barrel, which looked more like a slender cannon barrel, and it was pointing at the submarine, and he was just done loading the magazine filled with glowing bullets.

Before Killer 5 could react after snapping out of his initial shock, Jacob had already pulled the trigger and shot the first atomic bullet from the Iron Titan Sniper Rifle!

The distance between the sub and the rifle barrel was around three to four meters, and the atomic bullet landed directly at the pointy head of the shark-like Killer Submarine.

"Booomm!"

A massive explosion happens underwater, and it creates powerful water waves which send Jacob flying like a broken kite. He was barely able to stow away the rifle and take as less damage as possible, and it was all because he was still in the depth of the ocean.

Nevertheless, that atomic bullet was something at the level of an Advanced Epic Magic Bullet or even more powerful. After firing it from that distance, Jacob felt all the organs in his body jumbled up even more badly.

After vomiting a huge mouth full of blood, Jacob was now completely out of breath, and he couldn't hold it anymore, so without carrying about anything, he used the bronze disc. He started to pierce toward the surface while barely holding on to his stubborn will to live!

On the other hand, the crew also heard the massive explosion as they could clearly feel the shock waves pushing their subs behind.

The formation also seemed to be broken of this, and they all lost sight of Jacob.

However, they were more concerned about their comrade, Killer-5, because when the explosion happened, they lost the signal of his sub.

"Killer 5, what is your current status? What happened just now? Answer me, damn it!" Alpha Killer had a very ugly expression as he never expected this sort of situation to arise.

Furthermore, by that explosion's aftermath, he could tell it was not just any random explosion but a terrifying one created with technology on par with Killer Submarines.

Now he no longer dared to underestimate the enemy they were hunting, and it was even more clear that it was not just any random sea beast either but an intelligent being like them.

"I-I'm fine. Just slightly dizzy, and my body aches all over..." Killer-5's grunted in a hoarse voice at this moment, and the connection was reestablished again, which made Alpha Killer sigh in relief.

"What just happened?" He coldly questioned with a hint of killing intent.

"I was shot at by a powerful bullet, and it has to be an Advanced Epic Grade, and so was the gun. Because it left a crack in my sub, and if I was shot again in the same spot, I'm afraid I'll be nothing but a roasted lump of meat!" Killer-5 stated with a hint of fear.

"Not only that rat managed to escape alive after taking the full volley of my machine guns, but he even played dead and waited for me to come closer before using that trump card.

"However, I don't think he's in that good shape either, especially after taking that sort of explosion without any cover from that closer, not to mention he should be at least wounded by my previous attack, or he would've stayed to finish me off.

"I think he had taken advantage of the explosion and fled. We need to finish him off. Moreover, I think this is the target we've been searching for all this time!"

Alpha Killer's eyes were deadly cold as he nodded faintly before he stated in a grave voice, "Sent the Red Goal Signal back to the main ship. Let's show this prick it's not easy to run away after wounding a barbarian!"

Jacob had no idea what was coming as right now, what he wanted was a breath of air, and he was still over a mile away from reaching the surface.

Nevertheless, his bloodshot eyes were completely opened as he was moving upward while leaving a faint crimson in the clear water.

Jacob knew he needed to treat himself and to do it, he needed to remain conscious when he reached the surface, or it will all be over for him. He was also sure that those guys would be coming after him with their full force now.

If he had known that Killer-5 escaped alive after he used the atomic bullet, he would've been even more agitated to escape the ocean quickly.

On the surface, Wilder, followed by Mayson, entered the main ship control room after he received the news about the potential target's appearance in the depth of the ocean, and he even managed to escape the killer subs while almost destroying one in the process.

The operators all looked at Wilder with cold eyes like hungry wolves who were ready to go on a hunt. They were all aimlessly wandering in this place for almost two years now.

Now that their potential target has appeared, this means as long as they can put him down, they can return to the comfort of their families and also earn a huge lump sum in the process.

Wilder solemnly looks at his people, who have been following him for years now, and they are all loyal to him. He coldly declared, "I know you all have already heard what happened down there, so I don't need to tell you just what kind of person we're dealing with.

"But I also know no one here is afraid of the danger, but you all are all worried about our wounded comrade's safety and wellbeing and want to make his assailant pay the bloody price.

"No one had ever managed to escape after assaulting a Bronze Barbarian League Member, and I'm planning to keep it that way. Because now it's not just a mission, but it's personal! Let's start this manhunt without ado and blast this son of bitch into a million pieces!"