

## **C Immortality 371**

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 371: In Dire Straits! (8)

At this moment, with a large splash, something shot out from the ocean, but strangely no physical object could be seen.

It was naturally Jacob in stealth, but his condition was extremely terrible as he panted crazily while, with every breath, blood mixed with water gushed out from his mouth.

Without hesitation, he entered 20X acceleration and started to eat anything with high nutrition value in his pendant—mostly healing pills and potions they had prepared for this sort of situation.

Combined with his acceleration, his body heals at a very high speed with high digestion, and he starts to feel rejuvenated.

While healing, he also takes out the nine-star rare magic core of the dark beings he had acclimated in the rare plains and started to replenish his mana.

Jacob was doing all this because he was being surrounded by large ships, and he knew his invisibility was nothing but a joke against those high-level anti-stealth apparatuses. But he didn't stop using it anyway because no one can see how fast he was recovering both physically and magically.

It was common knowledge that no one could recover mana directly from a magic core without processing it into a magic gem first. This ability seemed to be only common within the holders of growth-type magic cores, like Autarch and Jacob.

Or it might have some more depth to it, and Jacob can't be sure until he has more data on it.

Within a few moments, Jacob had consumed over half of his precious medicine reserve, and he was finally able to breathe normally, and his body stopped itching. However, the pain from the inner organs was still there but not as bad as before.

"How many?" Jacob looked at Immortika and coldly asked while he looked at the surrounding ships. There were around 40 in total, and all of their cannons were locked right on him.

"Hehehe, do you really want to know? Well, let's go with 'too many' for you right now!" Immortika wrote.

Jacob didn't ask again as that 'too many' was already enough to tell him just what kind of situation he was dealing with.

Wilder's cold voice suddenly rang from the biggest ship at this moment, "Show yourself. We know you're using some stealth spell or treasure. But I'm afraid it's not enough to hide from our detectors.

"I'll give you a chance to state your name before I kill you with everything I got here. You have five seconds to decide whether you want to die like a nameless dog or like a warrior!"

In truth, Wilder wanted to confirm Jacob's identity and matched it with the target's description because there was still a possibility that this was not the target but some other unlucky fellow who was spooked by their perimeter and wanted to pass through them stealthily.

But he can't be sure unless Jacob stops using the stealth since all they can see is Jacob's red silhouette in their advanced epic-grade anti-stealth scanners, not his true appearance.

Nevertheless, even if Jacob wasn't the target, those bronze barbarians won't spare him because Jacob almost killed one of their own, and their kind was very protective of each other.

"Now, now, aren't you being too unreasonable with an innocent passer-by, Leader Wilder?" A snickering voice as imposing as Wilder rang in the vicinity, and the next moment, multiple submarines started to appear around the bank's ships.

Jacob's eyes narrowed when he spotted the familiar symbol of the Alchemy Guild on those submarines, 'Why is she helping me? What I'm missing!'

Jacob was even more perplexed about this whole situation. First, Lucy was coming for his life too strongly, as if she wanted him dead at all costs despite the fact he didn't offend her that badly.

Unless he had killed her close, kind unknowingly in the rare plains, this whole situation didn't make sense, and he knew the chance of it happening was very low, but it was still there nonetheless.

But what truly made Jacob perplexed was Ellie's involvement in this, as she clearly had ulterior motives of her own, and she seemed to be equally motivated to make sure he won't die at Lucy's hands.

Now those reinforcements from the Guild were evidence of it, and Jacob was sure there was something extremely wrong going on with these two powers clashing with each other like this, and for some unknown reason, he seemed to be the cause of it.

Nevertheless, Jacob's top priority was to escape this damn place, and he didn't trust the guild at all with it. Furthermore, after what happened down the ocean, Jacob had a pretty good idea of how he could pull this off.

Although this plan was extremely dangerous, he was willing to take the risk because this was the only way, and he got confidence from the advanced epic-grade armor he was wearing.

On the other hand, Wilder and crew suddenly wore nasty expressions when they heard the jeering voice, which was simply too familiar to them.

"Ephraim, what is a bibliomaniac like you doing in the middle of the star ocean? Shouldn't you be closed in your lab and crafting magic scrolls for your guild?" Wilder coldly uttered with a hint of killing intent in his voice.

Within the submarine, a graceful elf with pale white skin and blond hair was holding a wine glass in his hand while he sat in the captain's seat in the main control room. He was Ephraim, one of the few Advanced Elder Grandmasters present in the Alchemy Guild!

Hearing Wilder's grim voice, he couldn't but smile disdainfully and responded, "My, my, Wilder, are you still angry about Yours Truly banning your Bronze Barbarian Race from acquiring any magic scroll crafted

by Yours Truly? But you can't blame me since you guys are simply too unreasonable, not to mention unethical and old-fashioned."

A thick vein popped out on Wilder's forehead when he heard Ephraim's disdainful voice, and the other bronze barbarians were also fuming with hatred at this moment.

However, before he could reply, a barbarian suddenly shouted, "Leader, the target has started moving. But before that, he had dropped four small objections in the ocean!"

Just his voice trailed off; the entire ship suddenly rocked forth and back before the calm surface of the ocean suddenly started to climb!

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Chapter 372: In Dire Straits! (9)

When the two groups were busy shouting insults at each other, Jacob took full advantage of this situation. He knew these people no longer considered him a threat and only a caged animal who they could kill or release on a whim.

However, he was more like a ticking time bomb, and unless they had a crew like Captain Free Sword or completely suppressed his movements, they couldn't fully subdue him, and he would not remain sitting and do nothing either.

Jacob throws some more pills into this mouth, and the magic core has already been turned into a pile of sand in his hand after replenishing his mana for 10% capacity.

The next moment, four glowing atomic grenades appeared in his hand, and with deadly intent in his eyes, he activated them all and then threw them down.

Without hesitation, Jacob used full power to fuel the bronze disc and started to fly upward. He knew better than anyone that just one of those atomic grenades was enough to blow up a city around a hundred miles radius into oblivion, and he had used four of them at once. Furthermore, each of those grenades was highly radioactive.

Jacob had created ten of them for just this sort of situation, but he never expected to use four of them all, not even in the epic plains.

Nevertheless, this was his only chance to escape these people because he noticed that when the atomic bullet hit the sub, the explosion had thrown their tracking off, and he was sure it was because of the radioactive waves generated from the plutonium.

Now he wanted to achieve the same thing, but on a massive scale and for as long as possible, and if he had to take the risk of being the center of this madness, he was willing to do it!

On Jacob's body, another full-body black outfit appeared. It was covering his face as well, and not even a strand of his hair was out in the open. This outfit was made with lead (Pb-82) just to protect himself from this sort of situation where he can't handle the radiation.

After just five seconds of Jacob dropping the four atomic grenades into the ocean, a massive brightness suddenly went off in the blue ocean, followed by an instantly strong sonic wave, and then it was like an apocalypse had arrived!

The water level instantly rose, but it was being incinerated at the same time because the temperature instantly rose like a volcano.

All the ships present in the vicinity were completely overturned by this unexpected situation, and it was just a split-second detail of what happened.

Because with a second, the brightness had already started to cover the water at a terrifying speed while the thick smoke was still rising higher and higher.

Even Jacob, who has a head start, was almost instantly enveloped by the insanely high-temperature green smoke cloud, which has nowhere near its peak state yet.

Jacob had naturally never been in the middle of an atomic explosion of four atomic bombs before, and he only presumed everything by his knowledge. But only after when he caught up in the explosion did he understand just how terrible this idea had been!

Because even with all his preparation, he was thrown off his course by the sheer shockwave, and the lead outfit he was wearing started to melt! Now Jacob was just like a hair in the middle of a lava storm!

Meanwhile, the explosion was so massive that it could be heard from even thousands of miles, and the rising mushroom cloud was so enormous that it could be seen by the natives of the epic plains who live closer to the coastal areas.

Even faint tremors started to run through the lands before massive tide waves started to rise, and the situation was just starting to escalate.

Captain Free Sword and his crew also experienced the aftermath more than anyone since they were not that far away from the epic star ocean.

They even thought they were under attack, but when they all saw the glowing mushroom cloud on the horizon and massive tide waves coming in their way while the temperature was rising with every second, they were alarmed!

Captain Free Sword's expression was extremely solemn as he said to Harold, "Someone has just used a Unique Grade Radioactive Explosive. Find out if our spokesperson is still alive or not. He better be wearing that armor, or without it, it would be a huge waste of resources. If he's alive, have him investigate who has this sort of explosive might under their control and why they used it in this place!

"It seemed we have underestimated the Epic Plains, and it won't be easy to achieve our goal." His lips suddenly rose in a ghastly smile as he saw the massive tide wave fully enveloping his ship without any hint of panic, "This place might be worth plundering as well..."

Just as his voice trailed off, the tide wave fully swallowed the ship, but just a moment before that, a dark blue barrier appeared around the ship.

The authorities of the Epic Plains were also alerted by this massive explosion and its repercussion, and they quickly launched an investigation.

But two parties have some idea what this explosion might be and where it has happened.

Lucy wore a grave expression as she was looking at her star watch, and a recording of the coastal areas being ravaged by the tidal waves and a massive mushroom cloud covering the entire sky was being posted on the star news.

"Did that old pervert take action personally?" She muttered with a hint of trepidation.

But Lucy didn't know even Ellie and Nelsen's expressions were not much different than hers right now while they were also watching the videos on the news.

Ellie muttered in bewilderment at this moment while she looked at her equally startled father and asked, "D-did you sell one of your bombs to that bitch behind my back?!"

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Chapter 373: A Strange Mystery (1)

A week after the mysterious explosion has gone off in the boundary of epic star ocean.

Thereby, both the ocean and surrounding areas were filled with poisonous smog, and the climate was also changed, and it was still escalating towards the other areas.

This change also started to affect the people living closer to the star ocean, especially anyone below the rare rank.

A meeting was being called between the three hegemonies' upper echelon to discuss this matter, and everyone wanted to know just what caused this explosion and the reason behind it.

In the end, the statement published by the three hegemonies was that it was the work of the terrorist organization, the Killer Skull Society, which has been quite proactive lately, and they will do everything to uproot them for their heinous crimes against the people.

However, on the same day, the Killer Skull Society condemned this statement and called this a sham of the three hegemonies to mislead the common public and put the blame on them for hiding their own dirty business.

The people could feel the tension suddenly starting to rise in the Alive Plains, especially when the plain trials were going to descend on them soon.

Within a spacious room, Lucy, in a black dress and veil, was sitting on the edge of a triangular table while on the other edge was Nelsen.

Lastly, on the last edge, there was a massive giant sitting in a massive chair with iron-colored skin, and a terrifying aura was emitting from him. He was Gunnar, the Epic Plains' Zodiac Warrior Alliance Chairman!

Gunnar wore a grim expression on his giant square shape face, which had battle scars that gave him an even fiercer look, and his long bronze hair was draped over his armed shoulder.

His dark gray eyes were filled with exasperation and fury as he looked at the other two, who seemed to be in some sort of staring contest.

"Now, I want to know why I helped you cover that incident up!" His heavy voice rang at this moment, and there was powerful oppression behind it.

Nelsen wore his usual jolly smile as he looked at Gunnar and said coolly, "Dear Chairman, it's not like I want to hide it from you. It's just that I don't even know myself."

"Hmph!" Gunnar snorted, creating a small shock wave in the air before he coldly said, "Do you take me for a fool? Do you both think I don't know about all the people you two have been putting in the boundary of epic star ocean lately? And now the explosion seemed to be also originated from there as well."

"Although I don't care about a little skirmish between us or even a small occasional battle. But this time, you two have gone too far by using a radioactive explosive, and this has affected almost all of our operations near the star ocean!"

Lucy finally spoke in her melodious yet impassive voice, "I can assure you, Chairman, that explosive wasn't used by us at all. Instead of doubting me, you should question President Nelsen here, who is proficient and in control of all the radioactive weaponry."

Nelsen didn't even flinch after Lucy's acquisition and smilingly replied, "Don't twist the words, Miss Manager. It's Nuclear Power, not Radioactive Weaponry. And I can prove that I'm not the only one who has been researching nuclear power alone.

"Miss Manger here has a fully operative nuclear research center, and she also seemed to be the one developing this so-called radiative weaponry there. If you want, I can show you, Chairman. It's been quite a while since we had a stroll in the Forsaken Swamp."

Lucy's expressionless eyes suddenly shimmered with shock before killing intent flashed past them as she looked at Nelsen's smiling face, who appeared to be more like a devil now.

Gunnar couldn't help but say in exasperation, "I'm not asking about the development of the weapon, but I'm asking why it was being used and in such a massive quantity on top of that!

"If the news reached the authorities' ears, we all know we'll be under massive heat from our affiliated powers. I'm not interrogating you both but inquiring as an old friend and associate.

"But if you don't make it clear right now, I'll treat it as discretion and a threat to my own power. And I don't need to tell you, for both of you know how I handle threats." He squinted his eyes before a mountain-like aura suddenly emitted from him and bloodlust filled with air as he icily uttered, "Now tell me, are you both threat to me?"

Despite Nelsen and Lucy's arrogance and their wits, they didn't dare to underestimate the giant sitting with them as he was not a pushover, not by a long shot.

Gunnar was in his position as the Alliance Chairman not because of his wits but his brute strength, and his title as the Strongest Living Epic wasn't for show either.

The Alliance only respected strength. Gunnar was respected and revered by his peers in the alliance, and even the Guild and the Bank didn't dare to get on his bad side.

"Hahaha, you haven't changed, old Gunner. But as I said before, I don't know what happened there at all. The only thing I managed to know from my people present there at that time is Miss Manger's

people seemed to be blocking someone's way and pushing that person too far, and he ended up taking drastic measures.

"If you don't believe me, you can interrogate Ephraim yourself. He should be here by the next evening. I guess Miss Manger's people would also be back, and she's the one who can tell us about the entire picture." Nelsen sighed helplessly as he turned the gun barrel toward Lucy again.

Gunner looked deeply at Nelsen and then at Lucy with a stern expression. Since Nelsen has given him the authority to interrogate someone like Ephraim, one of Nelsen's students, then he was most likely telling the truth this time around.

Lucy really wanted to strangle Nelsen to death at this moment as this wily old bastard could always talk his way out of such situations and even appear like a victim.

She finally spoke in an icy tone, "I'm bound by Zodiac Oath Contract and can't reveal much. But I didn't use any radioactive weapon. You can also check with Wilder for more details. I only know as much as President here!"

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Chapter 374: A Strange Mystery (2)

After the meeting between the three peak individuals was done, Gunner left, and Nelsen was about when he was confronted by Lucy.

"Miss Manager, you are blocking my way so sneakily, people might have some misunderstanding if they saw us, and at my age, I don't want any rumors about us going around..." Nelsen righteously stated.

However, Lucy wasn't having the wily old fox's fake yapping and cut him short in a cold manner, "Cut the crap and tell me, was that Faceless Ancient?"

Lucy was really going mad about thinking how Jacob was able to escape her trap so quickly, but she couldn't be so sure since no one had managed to see that person's face because he was using some stealth spell or technology.

But if it was indeed him, and she was about 70% sure that it was him because of the Alchemy Guild's interference, then not only he appeared so close to the epic plains, he even had atomic explosives on him.

If she had known earlier that Jacob was this capable, she wouldn't take that bet even if someone threatened her life.

Nevertheless, the danger now seemed to be over since no one who had taken that kind of blast without any solid protection like the advanced-grade ships and multiple magic barriers would've survived it, even if it was a peak-rank epic.

Of course, even if there were a chance of survival for a peak-rank epic, the beasts within the ocean or mere suffocation would finish them off.

That's why the atomic weapons were treated so carefully by the epic plains, and the Guild was not very keen on giving away this technology to the epic plains right now.

The knowledge they had was all bought by the champion shop in the past, and Nelsen was the biggest winner since he was the only qualified person to use that knowledge. Just for this sole reason, Nelsen was dreaded existence by the likes of Lucy.

Yet, now someone other than Nelsen appeared to be in possession of the same technology, which could literally cause massive destruction and disrupt the entire alive plains' peace.

That was also why Gunner was on edge, and Lucy was no different. But she was even more worried about this mysterious person being the Faceless Ancient since if by any god-forbid change he'd survived, she won't be able to sleep with such an enemy walking around freely.

She was also sure Nelsen wouldn't give away that sort of weapon to Jacob so that he could win that bet because it was in the contract that Nelsen couldn't interfere in this entire bet, nor he can use anyone or anything.

So, this could only mean Jacob's rise from the common plains was not normal, and he might have stumbled upon some sort of legacy that also seemed to have the knowledge of atomic weapons.

Last but not least, if this person was really Jacob, then he was not only her problem but also Nelsen and Ellie's because he would hold as much grudge against them as he does with Nelsen and Ellie.

Although it looks like Nelsen doesn't care about anyone else but himself, Lucy knows it is not true at all, and the only weak spot he has is Ellie, his daughter, and he will do anything to make sure no harm will ever reach her even if there was only a remote chance of it.

Nelsen naturally knew better than anyone that the person was indeed Jacob, and despite not showing it on the surface, he was already fully alert by this Nobody's capability.

Even he had underestimated him, and if he knew Jacob held such knowledge or weapons, he would've made friends with him instead of treating him like a puppet. But alas, it was too late, and the chance was gone, and now it was time to become serious.

But Lucy was not included in the list of the people he cared about, so he won't reveal anything to her.

He smiled before he said meaningfully, "What Faceless Ancient? I'm not familiar with any person named Faceless Ancient. I'm just a retired old man who you people refuse to let go of. Sigh... my life is really full of misery, and I'll die one day for the greater good of all being... sigh..."

He sighed ruefully before he walked away without caring about Lucy's reaction, which was as dark a pit.

But she didn't stop him or say anything as she already got her answer. He was not going to reveal anything to her.

Nevertheless, this didn't mean she had run out of options, and it was still unclear if that guy was even alive or not. Although it looks like she had summoned back her people, it was just a half-truth!

On an unknown location of the Epic Plains.

S-0, behind her mask, was looking at the projection of a masked man who was wearing a dark cloak and hood.

"Why is the result of your investigation?" She asked impassively.

"Truth be told, my Lady, this entire event is too strange. The three hegemonies had never acknowledged us before and didn't bother even to call out our name. But now they have put all the blames for that explosion on us.

"I'm sure something is going on with the explosion, and it might be just the thing we need to have some influence on the Epic Plains. But the problem is even our top spies have no idea what is going on, and this seemed to be between the three leaders of the hegemonies!" The masked man replied respectfully.

S-0 squinted her eyes before she coldly asked, "Then what about the other matter I have assigned you?"

This time the masked man lowered his head and said meekly, "After our last attempt had been disrupted by someone, we haven't been able to find any traces of him. I'm afraid the gap caused by the unknown disruption was too big, and our target might have already left the Rare Plains!"

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Chapter 375: Death will never stop following me...

The Epic Star Ocean was now filled with faint green mist, which was not natural but toxic, and the closer someone went toward the boundary of the Star Ocean, the thicker this mist would become.

Even the marine beasts were avoiding these areas and migrating toward the clear and radiation-free waters of the epic star ocean.

At this moment, something invisible seemed to be flying within the radioactive mist, leaving behind strong after waves. They were heading toward the western coasts of the Alive Plains and only a hundred miles away from it.

This person was naturally Jacob in stealth over the gray disc. However, if someone sees him right now, they would definitely take him as a toxic zombie.

Because his skin was greenish, crumbly, and charred, not even a trace of hair was present on his face, which now has no skin as if it was peeled off by removing something, and he looked extremely spooky without any eyelids, lips, nose, or ears, even worse than a zombie. Even his amber eyes were now filled with green and red veins.

But the strangest thing was his body looked still fine as he still wore his windbreaker and pants.

However, Jacob knew better than anyone that the skin of his hands showing right now was not his actual skin but the armor's layer. His actual skin was just like his bald head right now, but not as bad.

Although he managed to escape alive from that explosion, the price he had to pay for it was something he wasn't expected. Not only every other clothing, included his mask has been melted within a few minutes of that explosion, but it almost took his life as well.

If not for his fluid acceleration to continue to function his body system at high speed and turn those medicines into nutrition, he won't have come out of that explosion alive after only being poisoned and losing his face skin.

Nevertheless, his will to live was as tenacious as ever, and he didn't lose consciousness that day and continued to try to escape because if he did, he'd never wake.

The only thing he lost that day was the bronze disc, but he didn't care and started to chunk down everything and anything he had in his space rings or pendant. He had prepared and always replenished his supplies, and now it has come in extremely handy and become the main factor in keeping himself alive.

But the problem was, with fluid acceleration and his cursed heart, he could only hold back the poison from killing him for some time. The only good news was that he had been able to hold off this long because his cursed heart seemed to be completely fine from the radiation poisoning.

Yet the rest of his body wasn't at that point yet, and his skin and eyes, as well as his internal organs, were at the breaking point, and if he didn't find something to get rid of the poison fully, he'd die sooner than later.

This poison was also the main reason his body wasn't healing properly. If it were under the capacity of his healing capability, he would've been already healed with how much he had consumed already.

Now, he was already on his final stash of food and medicine, even herbs, and he was sure he wouldn't get any help the moment he arrived at the epic plains.

Instead, he didn't dare to contact anyone or use his star watch anymore because he was afraid of getting found out again, and he was in no condition to face or use the same method to run away again.

So, the only method that came to Jacob's mind was another suicidal method which might or might not work at all, but this was the only shot and at least worth trying.

Looking at the lands grow closer and closer, Jacob's greenish eyes were filled with coldness and ruthlessness, 'I've become someone's slave, and then almost committed suicide just to live... all this for what, just to reach those damn lands? Heh, no amount of preparations can beat the unknown, and no amount of happiness can get rid of the mental scar of the past...'

Jacob felt extremely calm despite the pain and suffering he had been experiencing for days now. In fact, he sensed becoming indifferent to that pain, and his mind was getting colder and calmer the more he felt it.

Now that he was dancing on the edge of life and death, he experienced that running away from death would only make it come faster. But that was his goal; that's why he needed a new approach, and a strange feeling started to rise in his heart and mind.

Although he has no idea what sort of feeling this was but at least he could tell his humanity was slipping away, and he didn't want to stop it. Instead, he wanted to embrace it and turn it into an empty vessel that could be filled with anything at his own behest.

'Death will never stop following me, and I will not stop running until I have the power to confront it. But before that, I need death to be somewhere I can see it but at a safe distance so it won't sneak up abruptly...'

Because of Jacob's skinless face, it was hard to tell if he was sad or happy or just lamenting at his own thoughts. But he knew if he managed to survive this, he'll never be the same, and once he returned, he'll be the death of those who made him this way!

When Jacob was over ten miles away from the land, he stopped and looked down at the ocean again, which was still raging with strong waves.

'This much depth should be enough. I hope the water can help me push the poison out or at least provide me with pure oxygen to fight it. I always end up being distracted from completing the Water Meditation for some strange reason.

'But this time, it's my only hope for survival and prolonging my life, just like it once was in the past...'

With a hint of nostalgia, the gray disc under his feet vanished, and he directly dived into the water before vanishing in its depth!

## Cursed Immortality

### Chapter 376: The Kingdom of Doom

Opposite to the Alive Plains were the Dead Plains, and unlike the Alive Plains, which were ruled by three hegemonies together, the Dead Plains were ruled by only one power or one Dark Being, to be exact, the King of Dead!

The distribution of the Alive and Dead Plains solely depended on the strength of both factions. But any intelligent being is comparative by nature, especially if the comparison is with the arch-enemy!

That's why both sides maintained a delicate equilibrium and controlled half of the Epic Plains each and didn't let each other further increase their territories.

However, for Dark Beings, who basically live and grow by feeding on the living, peace was the least of the thing they wanted. That's why they always try to invade the Alive Plains no matter what and slaughter everything that has life.

It was the biggest reason the three hegemonies always needed manpower and strong forces to protect their borders.

The Dark Beings were especially proactive during the time when the Life and Dead Zones were still deactivated, and they could easily invade the other side. It was a sort of period where they accumulated as many resources as they could before the plain trial descended on the plains, and they were no longer able to enter the life zone.

It was especially the case right now when there were only little over two years left before the trial plains were formed, and all the dark beings were restlessly attacking the borders of the Alive Plains and killing anyone who came out of it by either force or their overwhelming numbers.

The three hegemonies were no pushovers, and they were called the 'Hegemonies' for a reason. The Epic Plains were quite important to the Life Faction, and they put ample resources so they could win the trial plains.

Nevertheless, the dead have no fear as they fight them day and night, and that's why they are so terrifying.

The Dead Plains were filled with gloomy and cold atmospheres all year long, and they were more like wastelands and filled with strange but deadly landscapes, and no one dared to venture into this place without being absolutely prepared.

The Dead Plains were also known by another name by the natives; the Kingdom of Doom. In the center of the Kingdom of Doom was the Doom Capital, and in the very center of this capital was a magnificent dark palace enshrouded by faint mist, and here resides the King of Dead, Onyx!

The King of the Dead, Onyx, was dreaded by everyone. Even a person like Gunnar didn't dare to face him head-on, especially in the Doom Capital.

Right at this moment, within the dark palace, there was a space filled with crimson mist, and two giant black flames were flickering brightly, giving off a horrified feeling.

The terrifying flames seemed to be focusing on the dark projection of a dark-cloaked being that had a ghost-like face with empty eye sockets, and there was no nose or mouth, and its skin was ghostly pale.

"... this concludes my report of recent strange events of the Alive Plains, My Liege!" An eerie voice filled with reverence sounded from the ghost's face before it bowed its head in front of the dark flames.

Because those dark flames belonged to none other than the King of Dead, Onyx, and this ghost face was Onyx's close aid, the Prime Minister of Dead, Draven!

After what happened in the epic star ocean on the side of the Alive Plains, even the Dead Plains were being effective, and unlike the Alive Plains, those poisonous substances in the air and water were quite a welcoming thing for the dead, especially for the zombie race.

But this didn't mean they won't investigate what the reason for this sudden change was, and it was quite easy for them to find out as well, as long as they grabbed a living and they also had another source of information.

Draven could be said to be the mind of the Kingdom of Doom, and his reputation was no lower than Nelsen's!

But unlike Nelsen, who was only loyal to himself, Draven was completely loyal to Onyx and also had the King's full support. Furthermore, the King of Dead was not a pushover either but an extremely vile and willy fellow himself.

The giant dark flames continued to flicker for some moment as if Onyx was mulling over something while Draven remained silent like a statue and waited patiently.

Finally, Onyx's corporeal voice, which sounded like a mixture of male and female, sounded "Curious. It seemed those live stocks had been fighting among themselves. But I'm also somewhat concerned about this weapon that has caused this mass destruction and changed nature itself.

"I will remember to inquire about it from the High Beings. In the meantime, send out Dark Legion Number Eight and have them launch a full-scale attack on the western border. Let's give them even more headaches.

"What is the situation in the Rare Plains? Did we find who annihilated the previous overseer?" Onyx questioned.

Draven thought for a bit before shaking his head, "We still don't know about that strange event. It should've been easier after he conquered the living of that place, and then all that was left him to do was to perform our mission. Yet he and his entire upper-level forces ended up dead.

"Even the living has no idea about this, and the Dark City was long gone when the reinforcement arrived at that place. Right now, the three hegemonies have taken more than half of the rare plains, and our armies are suffering. But it's only a matter of time before everything falls into place."

"Then what about the target?" Onyx questioned again as the black flames flickered madly.

Draven trembled slightly before he kneeled down and prostrated in front of Onyx and dreadfully said, "I'm ashamed, my Liege, but we have lost the target, and he might not be on the rare plains at all!"

The crimson mist around the space churned violently before the black flames burned brightly.

Onyx's cold and furious voice sounded, "It's not your fault, but that incompetent thrall who had lost our assets!"

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Chapter 377: A Distant Memory

Closer to the western shorelines of the Epic Alive Plains, because of the radioactive mist, no one dares or wants to wander around the ocean anymore.

But if anyone were present, they would've been shocked because a massive whirlpool within the raging ocean had suddenly emerged a few hours ago, and for some reason, it kept growing!

Right now, it was around five hundred meters wide, and the green mist above it was also turning into a whirlwind.

However, the most shocking thing was at a depth of over 200 meters, a naked person was sitting cross-legged, and he was at the epicenter of the whirlpool. But not only was he not being effective in the least bit, his body and his skin seemed to be covered with ocean blue sheen.

It was Jacob who had been under the water meditation for over 24 hours and under 240-G force!

When Jacob starts the water meditation, he only does it for the sole purpose of either squashing the poison out of his body with water pressure and oxygen continuing to pump into his body or at least lessening the effect to buy him more time.

But to Jacob's surprise, as the hours passed, more pressure started to build, more and more oxygen started to gush into his body, and he felt the poison in his body slowly starting to lose effect.

However, when he hit the 12th hour, a strange phenomenon occurred. All of a sudden, he felt suffocated, and the reason for it was the clothes and armor he was wearing!

Jacob quickly reacted and stowed away all the clothes, even his armor, into the pendant, and only then he felt that suffocating feeling goes away. But what happened next was what truly shocked him.

Because this time, including oxygen, another thing started to seep into his body which was icy, and he knew it was hydrogen. When both element energies entered his body, he visibly felt the poison elimination become even faster.

As time passed, Jacob's pain, exhaustion, and anxiety started to fade away, and his mind was immersed in a strange state where he felt extremely comfortable. Moreover, the more he meditates, the pressure or urge to breathe becomes distant from him.

Now 24 hours had passed, and Jacob was now completely immersed in meditation, fully unaware of the ocean blue sheen or the massive whirlpool around him. Furthermore, right now, two types of energies have changed into only one comfortable energy, which was strongly coursing through his body.

Lastly, almost all his injuries, scars, skin, and hair has been mended, and Jacob was completely unaware of it.

At this moment, when he crossed the 24-hour threshold, a distant memory suddenly surfaced in his mind.

Within an office, a stern old man wearing a black suit was looking at young Jacob in his early twenties wearing a casual outfit, and another handsome blond hair young man wearing a white attire.

The old man looked at the young man in white, who had this peculiar smile on his handsome face, and spoke, "Sir, Leon, are you sure you want your friend to join the Underground Fighting Arena? Since he's your friend, I don't need to tell you the risks involved in this. Even his life will be in danger."

The young man named Leon chuckled as he replied casually, "Don't worry, Mr. V, my friend here knows the risks, and you might not believe it, but he's a very talented fighter. It's just that he's a little bit rough. You could say he's a diamond in the rough despite his age.

"Furthermore, he's a stubborn fellow, and despite me offering my help, he won't take it. So, I have no other choice but to take him here. With your establishment, not only can he raise some cash, but I'm also hoping that you can take him as your Martial Student and teach him proper techniques and see how much he can learn."

Mr. V's old eyes narrowed slightly as a strange glint flashed past his eyes, and he glanced at Jacob, who was silent this whole time and wore a solemn expression, and he looked at Leon again.

"It seems you have finally found a worthy friend Sir Leon. But despite my respect for your family and your grandfather, I can't just take anyone as a student. How about this, if your friend can win ten straight fights in the arena, not only will I teach him martial arts but also my Deceptive Swords Style if he's as talented as you claimed him to be." Mr. V declared.

Leon's smile didn't vanish but instead widened as if he was expecting it and then looked at Jacob, who had this determined look in his eyes, "What do you think, bro Jack? Mr. V here is a hidden master who is one of the top five fighters in our country, and if you can learn from him, you'll be able to become a force to be reckoned with.

"But I'm warning you, this will greatly disturb your studies in the University, and you might not even be alive to repay your debt. So, I'm asking you again to take my help and repay me when you can. You should know money is merely a number for me."

Jacob looked at Leon, and he was really moved, but still, the determined look in his eyes didn't vanish, and he said, "I'm very grateful for your help Leon, but you know me, I won't take it unless I exhaust all my options. You have already done me a huge favor to introduce me to this, Sir, and I won't lose face for you."

Then he looked at Mr. V, who was calmly looking at him with a peculiar glint in his eyes, and Jacob said, "Thank you for giving me this chance. From my childhood, I always wanted to learn the art of martial arts, but my circumstances were not optimal for it.

"Nevertheless, I have learned by watching some documentaries, and I have never failed in doing what I wanted, so please arrange the fights. I want to complete them all in 30 days!"

Leon was smiling on the side while Mr. V couldn't help but look at Jacob deeply before his lips rose a little, and he said, "Then let's see what you got, little punk!"

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 378: The Water Meditations at Completion!

Oblivious to the passage of time, Jacob was fully immersed in water meditation and crossed the 48-hour threshold!

Now the whirlpool around has been expanding up to a one-mile radius, and the ocean blue sheen around his body suddenly starting to expand away from his body like a translucent bubble.

When that translucent ocean blue bubble was around one meter in diameter around Jacob's body, the water within the bubble suddenly started to turn into a sublime blue haze and instantly simmered into Jacob's body!

As the blue haze was entering Jacob's body, the water around the bubble instantly gushed into the bubble and relished the haze at a terrifying speed.

Within Jacob's body, the infinity symbol-shaped, cursed heart was pulsing in a red glow, and within its one socket was resting the Hex Magic Core like a tiny crimson sun.

However, at this moment, the glowing red pulse of his heart suddenly contained a hint of blue, and just like a starry sky, the moment this blue glow appeared, ethereal starry nerve channels suddenly started to light up in Jacob's entire body!

If anyone from the epic plans saw this phenomenon, they would instantly recognize it because these ethereal starry nerve channels were Magic Orbits!

Normally these magic orbits remain invisible, and only by special means can they be revealed or even peered into. Typically, these magic orbits would only appear when a being of Star Rank Core was about to form an Epic Star Core.

Because to further increased the rank of magic, one needed to activate the magic orbits in special sequences and even create special pathways within the magic orbits to reach higher ranks.

Magic Orbits were also known for their complexity, and they were said to be as complex as reality itself. The deeper one understands them; the more one would gain power and tap into unknown latent treasures. That's where the magic scripture comes into the picture.

However, if anyone right now saw Jacob's magic orbits, they would be dumbfounded because his Magic Orbits were crimson, and right where his heart was located, a glowing crimson star seemed to be connected with all the orbits. Not only that, but a tiny black hole was on his solar plexus, and those magic orbits seemed to be avoiding it.

But the shocking thing was, at this moment, those crimson orbits starting to turn into ocean blue, and expect the crimson star, they all turned blue!

Normally, if someone already had a peculiar color of magic orbits, it was almost impossible to change unless they were a blanker or used some extremely precious elixir or scripture.

But one thing was the fact that there could never be more than one type of magic core present in one being. Even if someone wanted to form a new type of magic core, they needed to destroy the old one,

which was akin to suicide if not done properly, yet there was still a chance to become a magic cripple for life.

However, what happened afterward within Jacob's magic orbits was unheard of because a few inches below his solar plexus where the black hole was located, just under the spot of his belly button, an ocean-blue vortex started to form and started to shimmer brightly!

Although it was still tiny, it just seemed like the crimson star on his heart spot, and it was becoming brighter and denser by the second, albeit slowly, but it was happening.

This was actually the process of the formation of a Magic Core!

But it should be impossible because the crimson star was none other than Jacob's Hex Magic Core, yet despite its presence, a new magic core was being formed, and the Hex Magic Core wasn't bothered by it or the new core by it!

As the ocean blue magic core was being formed, the water around Jacob started to swirl even more, and a strange aura started to emit from Jacob.

After the 48-hour mark, with every extra hour, Jacob continues to meditate, the translucent bubble around him grows by an inch, and the blue haze becomes denser.

By the time Jacob was only a few minutes away from reaching the 72-hour mark, the bubble had already been expanding by 23 inches from its initial size, and the whirlpool was now 10 miles in size!

Not only that, but if anyone stepped anyone near the area around the whirlpool, they would feel a massive change in gravity, and the closer they got, the more crushing pressure they would fall under.

At this moment, Jacob's entire body seemed to be covered in sublime blue crystal as he looked like a meticulously carved crystal statue, and only the infinity pendant on his body was completely unaffected.

When the final minute of the 72-hour started, the bright sky above the ocean suddenly experienced massive change as dark thunderclouds appeared, and almost instantly, it seemed stormy night had arrived!

The whirlpool suddenly started to shake, and the land around as if something was going to come out by tearing the ocean.

When the final second was over, the blue bubble suddenly churned, and almost instantly, it burst apart.

But the moment it burst apart, a strange, terrifying phenomenon occurred at the very same time, and like the bubble, the entire ocean around the radius of the whirlpool suddenly blasted into the sky, unveiling the ocean's surface.

Jacob's figure, who now appeared like a pristine crystal statue, has been completely unbothered by any of these changes happening around him was also revealed.

The moment his statue-like figure came in contact with air, a terrifying aura rose, which was calm as water and deep like the ocean, and the membrane of crystal around him crumbled like a thin layer of glass and revealed his figure!

Jacob's look even more sublime than he ever had been, and his demeanor seemed to have also been undergone a strange change. His bright silver hair was now as long as his body, and the same goes for his beard.

His eyelids suddenly trembled before they sprang open, revealing cold amber eyes which now contained a tint of fleeting blue color.

Jacob looked at the massive crater within the ocean and the incoming water wall, which wanted to cover the abrupt void in the ocean body.

Suddenly, his lips curled up in a cruel smile before his tiny figure was crushed by the water wall!

Cursed Immortality

## Chapter 379: The Zodiac Oath Contract

At this moment, standing in front of multiple projection screens, Lucy's cold eyes were filled with uncertainty.

"So, none of you found anything except for some broken bronze pieces?" She coldly questioned while looking at the five people on the screens, and she did not sound satisfied at all.

Those five had a helpless expression on their face, and then one of them with a reptile face and dark gray scales replied with a helpless tone, "Please forgive my insolence Lady Manager, but if you want to search for someone's body after that sort of explosion and in the middle of Star Ocean at that, I think we are wasting our time."

"I think that person who caused this explosion is long dead, and even if he had survived, unless he's a marine beast, he would've suffocated in the ocean, and there are very high chances that some passerby ocean beast has already eaten him." A woman as beautiful as an elf with ebony skin also spoke in agreement with the statement made by the reptile face man.

Not only her, but the remaining three also fully agreed because they all think this entire investigation was a fool's errand and what they should be doing instead is preparation for the upcoming trial.

But Lucy didn't even seem to hear what they just said and questioned coldly, "Tell me, did the alchemy guild still there?"

Wilder, who was also present in one of the projections, replied, "Yes, they are also searching like us."

Wilder wanted the answers more than anyone else because his crew would have almost got annihilated that day if that mysterious person had used two more of those explosives.

But not only did he not get an explanation from Lucy, he even got berated and called incompetent by Lucy. In the end, he had to swallow his anger since Lucy didn't do anything to his tribe or crew. Even she knew it wasn't their fault at all.

Nevertheless, they were all still curious about why in the world both the bank and the guild insisted on finding any clues about this guy. It was like they wanted to fully confirm whether he was dead or alive and won't breathe a sigh of relief until they knew exactly that.

But searching for a dead body that should be blasted apart by that terrifying explosion in the middle of the star ocean, which was so close to the boundary of the boundless star ocean, was like searching a particular needle in the entire universe!

Right at this moment, before Lucy could say anything, the five projections abruptly vanished, and the next moment, a glowing red interface appeared, and golden words were written in that red interface.

SAAI's static voice rang at this moment as she read those golden words for Lucy, who was looking at them like she had just seen a ghost.

"[Zodiac Oath Contract between Lucy Gabriel and Ellie N. Elliot has been concluded!]

"[According to the clauses set by both parties, if the 'Entity (Jacob Steve star ID: Faceless Ancient)' made it to the Epic Plains alone, Party A (Lucy Gabriel) will have to hand over the complete and without any alternation and original copy of the Scripture of Blank to Party B (Ellie N. Elliot) within 24 hours!]

"[Party A or Party B then no longer tell about the Scripture of Blank to anyone or any content of this bet to anyone under any case. The moment any Party showed intent to violate any of these clauses, SAAI has full authority to terminate them on the spot without any prior warning!]

"[As the overseer of Zodiac Oath Contract, I hereby order Part A, Lucy Gabriel to fulfill your part of the contract within 24 hours or it will be taken as an act of violation of the Zodiac Oath Contract!]"

Lucy was rooted in her place. She continued to stare at the red interface and golden words for a long, long time in utter disbelief...

At the same time, Ellie also got the same message, and unlike Lucy, she only fell into a short-term daze before ecstasy ran wild in her entire body.

"I-I... I finally beat that bitch!" She screamed, full of mirth. She never expected that she would be the one who came out on top in this bet and so quickly at that.

Furthermore, she wanted to see Lucy's ugly mug more than anything right now, but first, she quickly found her father, Nelsen, to give him this joyous news of her triumphed victory against her loathsome enemy.

But when Nelsen heard the news, he didn't seem that much thrilled as she expected him to be. Instead, he sighed and said gravely, "Although we won, it also meant that the Faceless Ancient had managed to escape that ghastly blast and even reached the shores of the Epic Plains within two weeks of the blast.

"This could only mean that he is far more terrifying than we all have expected him to be. Truth be told, I wanted him to be dead and get the Zodiac Oath Contract getting null instead.

"This victory is not joyous until he is alive, and there is a chance of him finding out about this whole bet thing of yours." For someone who likes to joke with his daughter very much, his worried tone is evident in how much he takes Jacob seriously.

Ellie also knew where Nelsen was coming from in all this, but she didn't want to ruin her victorious feeling. She retorted, "Why are you so gloomily? Even if he has some means up his sleeve, he's still a nobody of the lower plains. Besides, the one who attacked him and pushed him this far was that bitch, and I was the one who wanted to lend him a helping hand. So, he will go after her, which is by all means nothing but good news for me, and I even approve of it!"

Nelsen sighed again, shaking his head, "That's the thing, my little girl. Your involvement in this is simply too striking, and if he's as intelligent as I think he is, he will not be going to forget about it. I think we need to work with the Bank this time around to contain this contingency, whether you like it or not!"

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 380: Stepping into Epic Plains

On the western shores of the Epic Plains, a tall person suddenly walked out of the water in a leisurely manner while his long bright silver hair was dragging behind him before suddenly stopping a few meters away from the ocean.

He looked at the lands with his cold yet relieved amber eyes and suddenly inhaled deeply with his beard mouth, without caring about the faint radiation mist in the air before exhaling it out in a steady manner before a raspy voice rang, which sounded like a roar of ecstasy.

"I've finally reached the damnable Epic Plains!"

This person with long hair and beard was naturally Jacob, as he was looking robust even more than before, and he was even three inches taller, and his body was even more refined and pristine.

After his initial excitement and letting his pent-up voice out, he feels much better and returns to being tranquil. There was a strange difference about him, his breathing seemed to be extremely faint, almost nonexistent, and his eyes were far calmer and colder than they had ever been.

The next moment, Jacob looked at his ridiculously long silky beard, and his short sword appeared in his hand. The next moment, he moved his hand, and his speed was nothing but terrifying within two seconds, the beard on his face was gone, revealing his peerless icy face, and he also cut off more than half of his hair and only kept about shoulder-length and finally worse his armor and clothes.

This time Jacob clad him in soft blue armor, which fit his body perfectly, and only then did he feel whole.

He suddenly smiled, though, as he looked at his hand, and the next moment, it shone in a faint blue sheen before blue water suddenly gushed out of nowhere and then stopped.

"Just as I suspected, the Art of Nature, Water Meditation really helped me form a water magic core. Not only that, but I managed to form it despite having a core already, and I don't sense any conflict at all while I circulate my mana from either the hex magic core or the water magic core.

"How miraculous. Just what is the art of nature, and could each exercise help me form a related element of the magic core? If it's true, then didn't this mean I would have six magic cores?" Jacob couldn't help but feel his mind blowy just by thinking about this possibility.

Not only he managed to form another magic core, but that magic core also seemed to be a tier-1 epic magic core completely compatible with his physical strength, and the mana was even more potent than his hex mana which was quite a big boost to his overall strength.

Furthermore, the water meditation effect didn't just end with this magic core formation, but now, Jacob seemed to have gained the ability to breathe underwater and can move like he was moving on the lands. It was quite strange and magical at the same time.

This was probably his biggest gain from the water meditation, and he knew better than anyone that this was just the start as there were still four more breathing exercises, and the water meditation didn't just end with forming the water magic core.

Now, Jacob fully believed that the Art of Nature was some extremely rare magic scripture. As for how it ended up in his old world and its full depth, it was him to find out.

Nevertheless, he's going to continue practicing it and didn't plan on stopping until he found out its true depth and even origin. Not to mention this can give him a serious power boost, just like now.

He could use this sort of power boost every once in a while with how difficult and demanding the cursed immortality's path is, and he needed everything he could get to complete the godly scripture, and the Art of Nature was a massive windfall.

'Now, I wonder if my magic core is suitable for combat or sorcery. Like my hex magic core is pure sorcery type, there is no doubt since there is no physical damage to speak of. My knowledge is still quite lacking in this department, but now, not for long, I guess.

'And speaking of which... I have quite a lot of debts to settle...' A dangerous glint flashed past Jacob's eyes when he thought how he was enslaved and almost died just to reach this damn place.

But now that he did, he wasn't planning on wasting all his effort, not to mention making his enemies' life worse than animals.

However, his thought process was disrupted when his back suddenly started to burn, and then a sharp pain attacked his head.

"Shit! This damn slave rune. I was supposed to report when I arrived at the lands of the epic plains....abominable!" Jacob's ecstasy was completely gone with smoke as he was going insane with sharp pain and the burning sensation spreading throughout his body.

Previously, he was able to meditate in peace because he needed to recover, which he was allowed to do as long as he was gravely injured. But now that he was fine and on the epic plains, the slave rune was now showing its true colors again.

Now, if he didn't take out the Vermin Transponder and then contact Captain Free Sword, he would die a tragic death which would be such a shame after everything he had endured to reach here.

Jacob ground his teeth before a small black bead appeared in his hand, and without any delay, he quickly enveloped it with blue mana because he still remembered Capetian Free Sword instruction of using this Vermin Transponder with absolute care when he was in the epic plains.

The moment he did so, the pain and burning sensation suddenly gone like it never appeared in the first place, and this only made him grimace even more.

However, he didn't have time to resent his situation because he suddenly felt his mana getting sucked by this small bead the moment it appeared. There were no displays or buttons or anything, as a matter of fact, attached to this thing. It was like a smooth small bead.

But when he heard the familiar voice, he knew it was working as it was supposed to...

"Mr. King, how fortunate to finally hear from you. You have us worried for a moment here!"