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Cursed Immortality

Chapter 471: The Hunter's Necropolis (2)

'The Hunter's Necropolis? Like the city of the dead? These conditions are also quite straightforward, unlike the last time.' Jacob mused while looking at the revealed information about this epic trial plain called the Hunter's Necropolis.

Furthermore, the trial mood was quite straightforward and wasn't hard to understand, and the conditions completely mirrored it quite well.

However, it wasn't as simple since it wasn't told which specific beasts were titled the Beasts of Directions. This is where things get complicated since he needs to find it himself.

'Since this is about killing five beasts, I can manage that while those guys would still be figuring out about the nature of this trial. This is my advantage, and I can't lose it to anyone.' Jacob's eyes shone with deep conviction.

After learning about the truth behind the Unique Star Ocean Medallion, Jacob changed his plans to bid his time, and now he wanted to clear those conditions before anyone else.

At this moment, the cursed book in front of him suddenly vanished. Jacob's vision blurred, and he suddenly found himself standing in the middle of thick snow.

'I'm in!' Jacob looked around and found himself in the middle of a snowy mountain. The sky was gray, but the snow was falling without any clouds, which was quite strange.

'What kind of place is this, and where did I end up in?' Jacob frowned as he clearly hadn't forgotten about what had happened the last time he entered the dark ruin; he ended up in the catacomb.

But he was also lucky enough to end up closer to a trial condition. However, right now, he was in the middle of some unknown snowy mountain range, which was quite bad.

Truthfully, when he saw the name Hunter's Necropolis, he was expecting a city of undead or tomb monuments, but there was no trace of any tomb or anything as a matter of fact.

At this moment, he felt a vibration on his wrist from the star watch,

"Faceless Ancient Welcome in the Hunter's Necropolis of Epic Plains. Please explore the Hunter's Necropolis for glory."

Jacob's eyes shone with a hint of surprise, 'So, SAAI is still active here. Or there's something else...' He wondered for a moment before he decided not to think about it, as these things were still beyond him.

Furthermore, he didn't think Immortika was afraid of a mere A.I. in the trial plains but something that could threaten it or was strong enough to restrain it. That's why he no longer put the trial plains in the same class as the normal plains anymore.

'First, I need to figure out where the hell I am, and then I should start my hunt for these beasts of directions.' Jacob mused before he decided to head toward the top of this snowy mountain to have a good view of his surroundings, and only then would he choose a direction to explore.

The snow layer was quickly thick as half of Jacob's feet easily penetrated into the snow, and he left behind a deep and long trail of footsteps as he moved towards the top. As for the temperature, it wasn't enough to affect his new physique.

After walking for half an hour, Jacob noticed something strange, 'This snow...' Jacob looked up again as the snow was still falling and frowned before he started moving forward again, unsure about something.

A few more minutes passed as Jacob was almost on the mountain peak when suddenly, "Roarrrr..." An enraged roar reverberated like thunder in the silent vicinity of the snow mountain, and it came right from the top of the mountain where Jacob was.

Alerted, Jacob increased his speed as that roar wasn't directed towards him, and as he reached the top, a massive azure shockwave hit him. Jacob's expression hardened as he felt about a kiloton force behind that passing shockwave, but he remained unmoved like a mountain.

Gazing in the direction of the source, he saw a 7 feet tall gray-scaled Kobold in flashy golden armor, and he was retracting a golden halberd from the head of a large hairy creature resembling a human and bear as its own blood tainted its snowy fur.

Although Jacob didn't identify the dead creature, he does know what killed it, 'It's a Wind Kobold, which means he's from the epic plains and might've just entered like me. That was fast. I thought they would waste time investigating the incident with the Epic Star void server. Well, I guess they know what's at stake here.'

At this moment, the Wind Kobold seemed to sense Jacob's presence as well and instantly looked in his direction. He was astounded when he saw the athletic giant in a black windbreaker, his head hidden behind a wood and face covered with a faceless black mask, and only his emotionless amber eyes were revealed as they were affixed on him, which gave him chills or some reason, it was like he was looking at a predator.

'He's very dangerous! I don't think I would encounter someone this powerful so soon, just my damn luck.' He cursed inwardly before he pointed his halberd at the giant and coldly questioned, "Who are you? You are not part of the vanguard unit! Is he your friend?"

He probed while, in truth, he had no idea if this person was really someone from the vanguard unit since he was too arrogant to pay others any attention except for a few worthy people. But he knew that giant was too eye-catching not to arouse other attention, and if he was really part of the vanguard unit, he should have an identity badge.

Because communication wasn't possible in a trial plain, it was almost impossible to confirm someone's identity without the Star network. So, the All Alive Alliance hands its members special identity badges.

Furthermore, he doubted Jacob's identity from the start because this Wind Kobold was one of the leaders of the vanguard unit, one of the top ten S-Class Epic Mercenaries, the Wind Bringer Geko!

He heard that every time a few daring independent experts snuck into the trial plains to fish in troubled waters. The alliance members were allowed to kill such a person on the spot, only if they could though.

Furthermore, the perimeter to prevent such a thing from happening had been disrupted by the sudden attack on the star network, so it wasn't difficult for some opportunists to snuck in there.

Geko wasn't an idiot, so instead of fighting Jacob, he wanted to recruit him as a pawn until he found his people. This way, it would be safer for him to get rid of Jacob.

Jacob, on the other hand, has even more extreme plans than Geko, as he replies, "How about you introduce yourself first?"

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Geko frowned ever so slightly hearing Jacob's impassive tone and coldly replied, "I'm the group leader of the Wind Bringer Mercenary Group and the sixth leader of the sixth vanguard team of All Alive Alliance, Geko."

'A mercenary from the bank, huh? Since he's a vanguard leader, he might be pretty high up on the ladder...' Jacob thought as a flash of coldness flashed past his eyes because of his deep grudge against Lucy.

"I don't have a grand background nor titles; I'm just a Nobody." Jacob nonchalantly replied.

Viciousness shone in Geko's beastly eyes, "Are you messing with me?"

Jacob chuckled coldly, "I don't intend to. Anyway, since you are here and met me, how about we join up? I'm sure you don't want to tread in these unknown lands alone, right? We can help each other out."

'So, he at least knew the significance behind my status...' Geko disdainfully thought and said, "Why should I trust a desperado like you? You've clearly entered this place without alerting the All Alive Alliance. You should know it's my duty to get rid of ruffians like you."

Jacob didn't show any reaction as he coolly said, "Alright, you can be petty, and I'm going to leave. If you have skills, try to uphold your so-called duty."

Geko's eyes widened slightly when he heard Jacob's fearless reply, and anger surfaced. It was the first time that some nobody had talked to him this way, and he felt humiliated when Jacob clearly taunted him with the 'duty'.

It was quiet that Jacob had easily seen through his sham of playing hard to get and thus becoming the leader among them. Geko's instincts were very sharp, and he knew just how dangerous this giant was, so he didn't want to attack Jacob from the start but just declared his superiority.

But it seemed to be not working anymore.

'I'll deal with you once I find more members.' In the end, Geko spoke coldly when he saw Jacob walking away, "Hmph, very well, let's move together."

Jacob's lips curled ever so slightly under his mask before he turned toward Geko again and said, "Everything we found will be distributed 50/50. If a danger appeared that could threaten our lives, then this alliance would be over. That's are my terms."

Geko narrowed his eyes, but he didn't find Jacob's terms unreasonable. In fact, he wanted to say the same, with the exception of that 50/50 distribution part. But he decided to go along with it for now until he fully measured Jacob's strength. It won't be too late to renegotiate the terms again.

"Very well." Geko nodded, but he didn't let his guard down.

Jacob's eyes shone with a peculiar glint as he moved toward the edge of the mountaintop where Geko was standing.

Geko silently stepped aside as Jacob was coming towards the fallen snow monster, and when he saw what Jacob did, his eyes widened with astonishment. Jacob stowed away the entire body before he said, "Food supplies. You can have half of it after we find a place to rest."

With a strange glint in his eyes, Geko shook his head, "Help yourself. I have plenty of rations."

"More for me, I guess." Jacob shrugged his shoulder and finally looked around.

The view from the top of the mountain was breathtaking as they were surrounded by snow mountains. The falling snow was making it hard to see so far.

At this moment, Jacob suddenly noticed a strangeness far west. He said to Geko, who was also observing his surroundings, "What do you make of that?"

Geko looked over, and his eyes narrowed when he saw a silhouette of a humongous mountain enshrouded by snow, "Do you think we should head towards it?"

"It's qualified to be a goal. Tell me how big a trial plain can get?" Jacob asked again.

Geko gave him a strange look as he said, "Don't tell me you just enter without even researching the basics?"

"I like adventures, and where's the fun in an adventure if you already know your destination?" Jacob coolly said, "Now, just answer the question."

Geko was speechless as he replied, "You're an odd one, I give you that. A trial plain can be as big as the entire epic plains or even larger. It all depends on the nature of the trial. From this place's name, I first reckoned that this would be as large as a city or some graveyard. But now, I can't tell anymore. We might be on the very edge of the trial plain."

Jacob nodded as he thought the same before, "What about exit? I heard there can only be a single exit, and it exists somewhere around a trial shackle (condition)."

"Correct. The more shackles there are, the harder it is to find the exit. Some people could be trapped for their entire life in a trial plain. That's why the vanguard unit's duty is to find the traces of the exit and claim it before the dark beings. And to find the exit, we need to find the shackles, and to find them, we need to figure out what type of trial it is." Geko grimly stated.

Jacob could tell Geko was quite apprehensive when he said the last part as if he was anxious, "You don't seem like someone who wants to be here."

"You can say that again." Geko bitterly smiled, and then his eyes went cold, "Enough with this bullshit. Let's head towards that mountain. That seemed like a place where a shackle could be. I'm also quite sure this ice monster won't be the last we saw."

Jacob didn't pry into Geko's personal life anymore as he wasn't interested in it in the least bit. He was making Geko feel easy around him so he could pry into the bank's deep secrets!

'I have plenty of time.' Jacob smiled deviously behind his mask, "Very well. Let's move. I don't think there's a concept of night and day in this place, so it's quite an advantage."

Geko nodded in agreement as they both started their journey towards the highest mountain. Right now, they both didn't know that a pair of emotionless eyes were observing them from another mountaintop!

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Chapter 473: The Hunter's Necropolis (4)

The trial plain didn't have the concept of night and day like the real world, but the weather conditions were a different story. Weather could be different according to the circumstance of the trial scenario and raise difficulty by many folds.

The snow mountain range was icy as the snow kept falling without any hint of stopping.

It's been two days since Jacob and Geko started moving towards the tallest mountain in the vicinity. Although they weren't affected by the cold, the snow was a problem because it affected their vision and smell.

In these past two days, they both had encountered the same snow monsters that Geko killed on the first day in the trial plain. Despite being only around the level of epic tier-1~3, they were extremely difficult to deal with because they took full advantage of the surrounding snow, and because of his special fur, the snow works like camouflage.

Furthermore, those snow monsters were abnormally fast on the snow, which is why both of them had to be on their toes all the time.

"We'll die of exhaustion at this rate!" Geko growled in an enraged tone as he seemed exasperated. He was hoping to spot some other members of his team or the unit, but except for those blasted snow monsters, there was nothing but whiteness around them.

Furthermore, their destination seemed quite far, and Geko found it even more maddening. The most annoying thing was his companion, who was like a statue and didn't talk much. Every time he spoke, his question was always about some deep secret that Geko couldn't tell just to anyone.

This made Geko even more wary of Jacob, but he had to admit Jacob was too strong, and even he wasn't sure if he could take him on without experiencing grave injuries. That's why all he could do was to complain.

"You seemed pretty fine to me." Jacob impassively replied as he didn't show any discomfort despite walking in a layer of 2 feet of snow.

He found that the snow was getting thicker as they moved toward the tallest mountain while the falling snow was turning up, and as far as he could tell, they might experience a blizzard soon.

Furthermore, there were no woods around to light a fire or a place where they could rest. They could've dug down, but they discovered that under the layer of soft snow was an unmeasurable layer of ice, and after examining the surrounding mountains, they discovered a terrifying fact. It was that the mountains were made out of ice, not solid stone!

This was the prime reason that Geko was being restless, and those snow monsters just made it even worse.

Although this entire place was strange, in a sense, terrifying even, Jacob didn't give in to fear and move forward. But now, this big lizard was getting under his skin, and he even wondered if he should eat him.

But he controls himself since he now knows Geko was one of the top ten mercenaries of the bank and was directly under Lucy's command. That guy revealed it himself the other day while bragging.

Jacob could've also used the parasite gem, but he didn't because he was feeling uneasy about doing it right in the open for some strange reason.

"What do you know? I'm not a hermit like you, and this place is not making it easy either. I should've never fallen for that bitch's trick!" Geko retorted while gritting his teeth in hatred as he cursed someone.

"I didn't know you could be tricked into something like this. Are you sure you're not just dumb?" Jacob couldn't help but spread salt on Geko's wounds, which only made Geko even more indignant.

"Are you picking a fight?" He showed his sharp fangs, "Hmph, I guess I can't blame you for being ignorant. If you ever encounter our manager, you'll understand just how vicious she could get. She can trick you to kill yourself and make it look like you're sacrificing your life for the greater good. Only later would you realize that all she's been doing was to use you as a pawn." He sighed helplessly.

Jacob's eyes narrowed as it was Geko's first time he spoke about Lucy, and he clearly wasn't a fan of her. If anything, he seemed to hate her.

He asked curiously, "Why don't you just leave if she's a vicious villain?"

Geko sighed ruefully before coldly replying, "And go where? If only it were so easy to abandon your people for your own sake..."

Right at this moment, Geko suddenly stopped, and Jacob also twisted his head. A black sword appeared in his hand, and he slashed it vertically, creating a small wind wave.

'Smack...'

A metallic sound rang, and something strong clashed with Jacob's sword blade before it reflected to the side. Upon looking, it was a 1.4-meter-long arrow made of white metal.

On the other hand, Geko had a pale expression as a gray wind barrier was in front of him, and the same type of arrow was stopped just an inch away from his forehead.

"Arches!" He cried in alarm, "Don't tell me those furry bastards can even use weapons!"

Jacob's expression was also grave as he took out his other sword as well. Just like Geko, he wasn't expecting this sort of ambush as well.

"There are no archers, but just an archer. You see, they are not just simple arrows but crossbow bolts, and they are at least advanced epic rank. Even my blade wasn't able to chip the bolt, and they were fired from a single weapon. Whoever shot us has a very powerful weapon, and they're not attacking us mindlessly like those fur balls." Jacob quickly gives his assessment with a very bad feeling.

Geko's eyes widened as he knew what Jacob was trying to imply, "You can tell all this just by looking at an arrow? And you're suggesting the attacker is something from Epic Plains?"

"I'm 70% sure, or we are tricked by those fur balls," Jacob stated as his eyes darted around to spot the attack, but to no avail because of the snow, and he was pretty sure that whoever attacked them was hiding in the snow. As a sniper himself, he knew how this kind of attack worked.

"Motherfucker! If you're from Epic Plains, then show yourself. This is no place to fight among ourselves!" Geko furiously growled.

"There is no use if the attacker wanted to team up; I'm pretty sure there are better ways of greeting than shooting two sure kill shots. So, calm down and start crawling under the snow. This way, whoever is watching us won't be able to tell where we are!" Jacob scoffed at Geko's naivety and found his action absurd still. He needed the guy to spit more secrets so he couldn't afford to lose him, and having him around was akin to having a meat shield.

"Crawl..." Geko wanted to retort before his heart palpitated and quickly ducked, and thereafter, another volley of crossbow bolts brushed past his hair.

"I'll fucking kill you for his humiliation!" He roared with anger, but his action was quite the opposite as he quickly dived into the snow like Jacob.

"Now start moving slowly, and be wary of those fur balls. They also crawl under the snow." Jacob's grim voice rang.

Around 1000 feet away from Jacob and Geko's positions, a three-meter crossbow was hidden under the layer of snow, and only a scoop and bolt were revealed.

A sharp voice sounded amused, "Interesting..."

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Chapter 474: Flame Iron Giant

Jacob and Geko crawled on their hands in the snow with grave expressions. Although Jacob's plan worked as they no longer were attacked by arrows, this was still not a definite solution to their problem.

This way, they are in even more danger because of the snow monsters in the vicinity, and now someone is trying to kill them sneakily.

Jacob also had a way of fishing out the attacker and even killing him, but by doing so, he would be revealing his hand too soon, and his weaponry was quite eye-catching, to boot.

That's why he hasn't taken action yet, but it didn't mean he was helpless, and right at this moment, the mask on his face suddenly switched. However, the mask appeared the same with the difference in the eye sockets as they were made with rainbow-colored glass.

Jacob coldly said in a hushed tone, "Alright, calm down. Let me see if the attacker is still chasing us."

"What? You have a way to pinpoint the bastard?" Geko was baffled before killing intent surfaced in his eyes, "I'll keep watch then. Just tell me the location, and that bastard is dead!"

In all his life, he had never stooped to the level of crawling to save his life. This was enough to make Geko hate that person to the core who forced him to take such a humiliating action.

Jacob didn't pay him any more mind and slowly popped his head like a rabbit, and now he could see all sorts of heat signatures. In this kind of environment, this type of equipment could decide life and death.

The only problem was that he couldn't use it against those damnable snow monsters as they didn't emit any hint of heat signature at all like they were made with ice blood.

But it couldn't be said for others. Even Geko, who was a cold-blooded species, couldn't hide from his vision.

At this moment, Jacob suddenly spotted a red spot in infrared, and it was completely visible because there was nothing but ice around them.

'Found you...!' He coldly looked at the faint red smock rising, which was the sign of breathing.

Furthermore, that person wasn't moving at all, clearly not willing to take the risk of revealing his position, and he might still be expecting that Jacob and Geko might appear again.

Jacob then thought about something before he said, "I found him."

"What?! Where?" Geko's astounded voice sounded as if he had never expected Jacob to find their assailant so swiftly.

"He's approximately 1200 feet away from us at 4 o'clock. If we rush toward him, we'll become ducks to be shot down, and the moment he senses danger, this will spook him, and he'll escape. If you want to kill this person, we have to do it sneakily." Jacob stated as he glared at the red point.

"You're not suggesting we crawl on him?" Geko asked with pursed lips as he didn't like this plan.

"Do you have a better plan? And for your information, I'm not going with you if you're not going to be discreet. I'm not interested in killing this guy anyway. It's too risky. Instead, let's escape, and now that we know his position, he won't be able to ambush us." Jacob coldly declared.

Geko's eyes narrowed, "You're kidding, right? That bastard will haunt us if we don't do something. With those furry bastards after us, this is nothing but suicide."

Jacob's eyes flashed a peculiar glint as if he was waiting for those exact words, "Alright, then, how about we crawl toward him for 1000 hundred feet and then charge from two different directions? With our top seeped, it will only take a few seconds to narrow the distance between us. Of course, we have to avoid getting killed first. But this is the only fastest way to take our opponent by surprise."

"Tsk, we just have to crawl, huh? Alright, you win, but that bastard head is mine!" Geko had no choice but to agree since he didn't want to look over his shoulder constantly.

After both of them made their decision, they started to make their way toward the attacker while keeping a fifty-meter distance between them.

Although Geko couldn't see the attacker, he could easily follow Jacob's direction, and when he saw Jacob appearing, it was a signal for him to initiate the attack as well.

Half an hour passed, and Jacob was still surprised because the target hadn't moved a bit, and he had to admit this guy was really patient.

Furthermore, it was about time to initiate their attack, as Geko should be in position as well.

Jacob wanted to surprise the other party, and he had a few tricks up his sleeve to block the onslaught of those crossbow bolts.

Right at this moment, Jacob suddenly lunged toward the attacker while kicking the solid ice, leaving behind cracks on it. Like a bolt of black lightning, his speed was instantly fast, and the surrounding snow wasn't slowing him down a bit.

Geko emerged a second late after Jacob, and his speed wasn't inferior to Jacob in the least.

Jacob was ready to retaliate at a moment's notice when suddenly something strange happened. He saw the attacker didn't use the crossbow at all. Instead, he seemed to be standing up.

Just when both of them were about thirty meters away to assault the attacker, and their weapons were already in their hand, a giant hourglass figure suddenly emerged from the snow.

She was a 4'1-meter-tall giant with metallic skin, gorgeous features, and an hourglass figure tightly wrapped in soft white leather armor, and her fiery red long hair was bound in a ponytail. Her intelligent, alacritous eyes were locked on Jacob, and her pink lips were curved in an amusing grin. There was also a red birthmark like a flame between her eyebrows.

With her slender hand held high in surrender, her lips parted, and her crisp voice sounded, "Alright, you, Sirs, have bested me."

Jacob was startled by this unexpected turn of events while Geko's eyes went wide in horror as if he had seen a ghost when he saw the giant woman, and his charge instantly came to a halt.

Jacob naturally noticed Geko's strange reaction and decided to stop as well. He frowningly looked at pale Geko for an explanation.

Geko looked at the charming giant with a smile and blurted in horror, "Flame Iron Giant?! T-that birthmark, a-are you Gatling Flame Lady Charlotte!?"

Now it was Jacob's turn to be astonished when he heard 'Flame Iron Giant' because this was the name of the same giant tribe that the Alliance Chairman Gunnar hailed from!

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Chapter 475: The Princess of Flame Iron Giants

"Oh, this sir knows me?" Charlotte giggled as she pretended to be surprised.

Geko's face was red with anger, but for some reason, he seemed to be suppressing it and forced an ugly smile, "L-lady Charlotte, why are you here?"

Charlotte appeared startled, "Why can't I be here?"

"I mean, did y-your father know?" Geko rephrased his question with a pale expression.

"Don't worry, he's too busy to pay me any mind." Charlotte innocently replied.

Geko's expression went ashen as he blurted, "You snuck in?!"

"I think this isn't the right question to ask." Jacob coldly chimed in at this moment as he looked at the graceful giant with a frigid glint, "If you know him, why did you try to kill us? And why do you think I'm going to spare you just because you're some bigwig?"

"Are you an idiot?" Geko retorted, "She's the daughter of the Alliance Chairman Gunnar!"

'What?' Jacob was startled by this revelation, and he finally understood why Geko was reacting like a scaredy-cat. Charlotte's smile grew bigger, clearly very pleased with Geko.

However, what Charlotte hadn't expected was Jacob show a faint killing intent right after and said, "I think you forget this isn't the epic plains, and since no one knows she had come here, then this means anyone can kill her, and we won't have to take the blame. Furthermore, I won't look kindly at someone who just tried to kill me."

Geko's eyes widened as it finally dawned on him. He was so scared that he almost forgot where they were, and his pale expression brightened. Charlotte said herself that she snuck here without anyone knowing, so if she was killed, who would blame them or even think they were the ones who killed her?

But Charlotte suddenly burst into a peal of laughter as she looked at Jacob with a hint of amusement, "You, sir, are really impressive. At least you aren't spineless like the famous Wind Bringer Geko. Mind telling me your name and the tribe you hailed from?"

Geko's face turned red with anger after he heard Charlotte's disdainful words, "So you do know me!"

"Why, of course, I might've done my research before coming on this adventure." Charlotte stated playfully, "I know I've attacked you, but that was just a test. You should understand my plight; I can't just team up with anyone, right?"

"A test, you say?" Jacob coldly sneered, "Are you qualified to test us?"

Geko also nodded, and for the first time, he found Jacob quite to his liking, 'Even though he's an eccentric, he has guts.'

Charlotte snickered as she found Jacob's quite humorous, "You are indeed capable of spotting me in this weather. But all you did was use infrared vision. Let me tell you, I could've killed you if I wanted to, but I didn't, so I think we are even. And besides..." She glanced at Geko with naked disdain, "Aren't you the one who wanted to team up in this unknown place? Since you know who I am, you should know what I'm capable of. Do you really want to fight?"

Jacob was astounded when Charlotte caught his trick, and he narrowed his eyes, 'She's quite tricky.'

It was the first time someone had seen through his means, and it also confirmed that he wasn't the only one who could make infrared glass and was in possession of them in the epic plains. The alliance was far more unfathomable than he had guessed.

Furthermore, Charlotte was the daughter of Gunner. So, she had to have various trump cards, and if Geko wasn't present, he might've already used his hex on her.

'What an arrogant bitch. But she has a point.' In the end, Geko sighed as he said to Jacob, "I think we should let bygones be bygones. Since Lady Charlotte admitted her mistake, there's no need to be petty."

Jacob glanced at the cowardly lizard and then the arrogant giant, who was smiling as if everything was going according to her plan.

'I guess two pawns are better than one...' Jacob thought and then nodded, "Since you've agreed, then fine. But if she plays any trick, you better choose your side."

"Hehe, I know you, sirs, will see the bigger picture." Charlotte giggled as she winked at Jacob coquettishly, "I still don't get your name?"

Jacob frowned, "I'm nobody. Now, I think we have wasted enough time on your game, princess. Let's move forward."

Charlotte's smile widened when she saw Jacob turn around and start to move without giving her a second glance and said to Geko, "Your friend is very fascinating, sir Geko."

Geko smiled wryly, "You can say that again."

He also wanted to know just how Jacob was and how he could be so calm in front of the princess of the Flame Iron Giant Tribe. He knew anyone who knew just how terrifying this tribe was would be shaking with fear, but Jacob seemed to be only momentarily surprised, and that's it.

Furthermore, it was quite apparent that Charlotte seemed to be only interested in Jacob, not him, and she might've decided to join them because of this exact reason. Because of what he had heard about the rumors of the Gatling Flame, she was a ruthless killer who could wipe clans without batting an eye, and her prowess was second to only the Alliance Chairman Gunnar!

That's why Geko let it go quickly, as Charlotte was an undeniable asset to have on their team.

Afterward, Charlotte collected her crossbow and quickly caught up with Jacob, and Geko followed suit.

"Can you at least tell me which giant tribe you belong to?" Charlotte's curiously inquired.

Jacob annoyingly replied, "Why does it matter? Just mind your own business."

"How feisty." Charlotte clicked her tongue while acting cute, but Jacob still didn't pay her any attention, which only made her even more curious about him.

As she looked at Jacob's tall, sturdy figure, a peculiar glint flashed past her eyes, 'He is not just a nobody, and that strange feeling he gave is too magical. Not even my dad can make me this prudent of him. He's the only person who made me think of death in a long time...!'

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Chapter 476: Ambush of Snow Monsters

With their new companion, Jacob and the team continued their journey toward the tallest mountain.

As they moved forward, more and more snow monsters started to ambush them. But they were still no match for the group, especially with Charlotte joining the fray as she literally turned them into blood mist with a signal punch.

She was a peak epic-rank combatant who specialized in close hand-to-hand combat, and Jacob mused that he couldn't kill her without using 25X fluid acceleration. This made him want to consume her heart even more as she might give me even more than both Frugal and Aven combined.

Still, he controlled his dark urges because she was more useful alive than dead, and he also noticed her deep interest in him from the first day. So, he decided to play along because, as the princess of the Flame Iron Giant Tribe, she had to have inside information he wanted.

Furthermore, it wasn't like he didn't have hearts to consume. Those snow monsters were pretty tough, and he had already eaten their hearts in secret.

But as they came closer to the tallest mountain, the snowfall turned into a blizzard, and the temperature dropped so much that the group finally started to feel cold.

That's why Charlotte came up with the idea to use those snow monster's hides to create clothes, and they were also quite useful as camouflage. In the end, Jacob used his skills to create them, which was quite easy considering his profession.

After they all wore white fur coats made with the snow monster's hide, the attack on them not only decreased, but for some reason, those snow monsters were avoiding them.

On the 33rd day, the group meets with an epic-tier-7 dark being, which Jacob personally killed without giving another chance to snatch the kill.

"Oh, I have never seen you taking the initial before," Charlotte commented with scrutiny.

Jacob coolly replied as he stowed away the magic core, "I just hate the dark being, don't you?"

"You seemed to have some personal vendetta." Geko also chimed in with great interest. He felt like a third wheel since Charlotte had joined the group because she always talked with Jacob and completely ignored him, which was not a good feeling.

Still, he was content as long as that dangerous princess did not cause trouble for him.

"Something like that." Jacob didn't explain himself any further and looked at the tallest mountain, which was enshrouded in a snowstorm, and it was now only a few miles away from them. Furthermore, only now they saw the sheer size of that thing as it was extremely huge.

Right at this moment, the group suddenly stopped talking and took their stance as they all felt the ground suddenly shake, which was the first time that ever happened.

The next moment, a few meters away, two huge claws suddenly bore out from the snow, and a giant snow monster crawled out. Although it looked like the other snow monster, there was a faint blue fur below its neck, and it was two times larger and fiercer than the normal snow monsters they were used to dealing with.

Moreover, the aura it was giving off was not any less powerful than Geko. But it wasn't over with just one. Five more equally strong snow monsters appeared behind him, and then a small army of normal snow monsters started to crawl and surround the group!

"So that's why there was no ambush for three days. They were preparing for this." Charlotte snickered as fighting spirit shone in her eyes.

Geko frowned gravely, "This isn't the time to admire them. Don't you see that there are even stronger furry bastards among them, and we are terribly outnumbered?"

Jacob took out his short swords and said, "Well, since they only decided to show up now, this could only mean they don't want us to get any closer to that mountain. This means we are on the right track!"

The next moment, Jacob charged towards the closest large snow monster as his blades were covered with a blue tint.

"Hehe, this is what I liked about him," Charlotte mumbled with ecstasy as she also chose a target and her first glow in crimson.

"Those two battle maniacs!" Geko cursed under his breath as he also picked a target and thrust his golden spear with the wind swirling around its blade.

However strong as they might be, those large snow monsters were no pushovers.

They didn't move forward. Instead, they suddenly stepped back and let those small fries take charge. The next moment, they started to mutter something, and ice spikes started to manifest in the air before they all rained down on the group without caring about the collateral damage.

'So, they can now use ice magic, and they're using these pawns to cast spells...' Jacob squinted his eyes as this situation was turning extremely dangerous, and he knew he had to get rid of those big ones as quickly as possible and his companions has the mutual thoughts.

The arm guard on his right hand suddenly shimmered in the gray light, and the next moment, a gray barrier suddenly formed around Jacob, and the ice spike crushed onto it. They all shattered with small blasts. It was an advanced epic-rank light shield and very effective against such attacks.

Thereafter, he started to quickly make his way towards the large snow monster while cutting down anyone that came in his way.

When the large snow monster realized that the ice spikes weren't working and the danger was almost at his throat, he stopped the spell casting and cast a new spell.

His large, sharp claws suddenly coated with ice blades, and he clashed them on Jacob, letting loose an angry growl.

Jacob was already in 10X acceleration, and he could see the incoming in slow motion. He instantly dodged it by sidestep, and the next moment, he kicked the ground, and like a flash, his sword tackled the monster's neck.

'Smash...!' The sound of ice crushing rang in the vicinity.

The monster's neck was covered with a thick layer of ice, but with the monstrous force behind Jacob's attack, it shattered in an instant, and the next moment, blood-spattered before the large head of the monster was sent flying as his eyes were filled with resentment.

Charlotte giggled with excitement as she was also surrounded by a black barrier and quickly reached her target. Her fist suddenly caught flame and punched the giant monster's chest.

'Boomm...!'

A fiery shock wave spread in the vicinity, and the next moment, there was a huge burning hole in the monster's chest as he slowly fell.

Geko was the most pitiful as he didn't have such a rare treasure, and he was having trouble just dealing with the ice spikes. He roared furiously, "Those monsters!"

It was unknown whether he was cursing the snow monsters or his own teammates.

Jacob and Charlotte quickly get rid of the third and fourth one by the time Geko is barely able to kill his first giant monster and seems extremely exhausted.

Charlotte happily approached Jacob, who was stowing away the giant monster, and exclaimed, "So, you're a water element combatant. No bad."

Jacob gave her an annoying glance before he turned toward the place where the ambush came from and said, "I think I found their lair."

There was a deep, dark hole in the ice ground!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 477: Maze Under the Ice

Jacob's words drew Charlotte and Geko's attention as they looked at the 6-meter-in-diameter hole left behind by the snow monster.

Geko frowningly asked, "Why do you think it's their lair and not a trap?"

Jacob coolly said as he approached the dark hole, "This will explain how they were able to come and go as they pleased, and we didn't find any inhabitant in this place. So, now it becomes quite clear that we were looking in the wrong direction all along.

"They won't live on the surface but underground. Think about it: this entire place is covered with solid ice, and we have no idea just how deep it is or if there's any ground under it or a body of water.

"But one thing is clear: those fur balls are capable of traveling anywhere in these blasted ice lands, and they always know where we are. This will also explain this, and they can always cover their tracks with snow around us quite easily.

"Only today we were able to discover it because they sent their top force after us. Still, they underestimated us. But it might not happen again." He gravely declared.

Charlotte's eyes shone with a hint of anticipation as she asked, "So, do you want to enter this hole? What about going to the mountain?"

Jacob nodded and sternly said, "I think we should enter this place. That mountain is surrounded by an ice storm, and it hasn't disappeared since we started our journey. Now that we see this hole, I think the secret of this place lies underground, not here. Even if my speculation turned out to be a hoax, I don't think we should have any trouble climbing back up. Or do you prefer to dig yourself if that mountain turns out to be a dead end?"

Both Charlotte and Geko were speechless by Jacob's argument.

Geko muttered under his breath, "Why this bastard made so much sense?"

"Please mind your manner, sir Geko. You know we can hear you no matter how low your voice is?" Charlotte retorted playfully before she looked at Jacob with shining eyes, "I'll go with you only if you tell me your name!"

Jacob was lost for words as this woman was too obvious with her crush on him, and she refused to give up on finding his name.

Still, he needed those two just in case he needed to use them as meat shields to flee.

So, he impassively replied, "Jack."

"Jack..." Charlotte's eyes brightened as she muttered his name a few times before she smiled beautifully, "Alright, let go."

Geko was utterly flabbergasted when he saw Charlotte agreed to this so quickly, and in the end, he gritted his teeth and yelled, "If I die, it'll be on you!"

Jacob didn't pay Geko any mind, "Alright, this pit is not straight, so we can just slide down. But we have to keep in mind that there might be a massive water body down there. So, we just sent a dead body ahead of us with a torch attached, and then we'll go after it while keeping 10 meters distant from each other. I'll be in the front, and if I tell you to stop, stop by using any means necessary!"

Afterward, Jacob picked up the second dead body of the large monster with a hole in his chest and sneakily stowed its heart away since Charlotte's ridiculous strength didn't damage it.

He took out a torch and skillfully attacked the monster's body and slid it into the dark pit, and then he followed suit with his swords in his hand.

Charlotte then looked at Geko smilingly and said, "Your turn, sir Geko."

Geko was startled, "Shouldn't you be the second?"

"No, I'll have to be last. What would happen if those guys followed us? Don't worry. I'm doing this to protect us." Charlotte replied with an innocent smile.

'This cunning bitch!' Geko cursed Charlotte for being two-faced, and having no choice; he entered after Jacob.

The moment Geko was gone, Charlotte's smile vanished as she took out something from his storage ring. It was a black bead, and if Jacob was here, he could've instantly recognized it, for it was a vermin transponder!

After she activated it, a respectful yet worried voice rang, "My lady, are you alright?"

Charlotte replied impassively, "I'm fine. More importantly, I want to ask you something. Do you know about any giant named Jack who used Water Combat Magic?"

A moment later, the voice replied, "No, my lady. Out of all the famous giants and important figures, there isn't such a giant. Furthermore, a noteworthy giant with a water element hasn't appeared in any giant tribe for a long time, not to mention with rare water combat magic. Is there a problem?"

Charlotte pursed her lips, "Oh well, I think this much. Alright, gotta go."

"Wait, my lady. Just, where are you? The tribe lord was inquiring about your whereabouts the other day, and since the star watches are not working, he was worried." The voice hastily questioned.

Charlotte's eyes went cold as she replied, "I'm just exploring the beast dawn forest. I might've received his call, but tell him not to bother me. I'm busy."

Done saying, she cut the call before the other party could say anything before she jumped in the pit, muttering, "This ought to be good..."

Jacob was sliding behind the dead body as he was sliding down on the ice. He was astonished when he found just how deep this ice layer was because he was already more than 50 meters deep in this pit.

'Is this a gigantic glacier?' He wondered with a grave expression.

After sliding down for 40 meters, he finally spotted another hole and the dead body side right into it. But he didn't hear any splashing sound, and the torchlight was still visible but no longer moving down, so he didn't stop.

At this moment, Jacob slid out from the pit and landed on the dead body, and he was shocked when he saw where he saw. It was an underground cavern masterfully carved with ice, and there were many tunnels dug out just like the one he had come out from, like rabbit holes!

Thereupon, Geko also appeared fully alert, but he was gobsmacked when he saw the interior and exclaimed, "What in the world..."

A few seconds later, Charlotte also appeared, and she was also flabbergasted and approached Jacob while looking at all those holes, "Now what? How do we know which hole leads where? It's like a maze."

Jacob sternly replied, "We'll take the one which leads in the direction of the tallest mountain. I think the secret of this place lies there!"

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 478: End of the Ice Maze

After hearing Jacob's suggestion, the other two didn't have anything to add since it was the most optimal action in this situation. Not only were they now almost a hundred meters deep into an ice layer, but they were also in the den of snow monsters.

So, they had to be extra careful, especially with their explosive abilities, or they might be buried alive under this ice.

The team selected the largest hole in the tallest mountain and started to move forward. But this time, they were relying on their night visions since the torches might spook the monsters.

As they walked into the depths of the tunnel, they didn't see anything but a straight passage.

"It's like they had built these underground passages like we built roads in cities. Furthermore, I have a strong feeling that this might be where we found a shackle." Charlotte faintly stated in a fascinated tone like an adventurer. It was clear she was ecstatic while exploring this unknown danger.

Geko merely frowned in trepidation. He didn't agree with Charlotte even the least bit because he wasn't here on his own accord.

As for Jacob, even though he was the same as Geko in a sense, he could relate to Charlotte's adventurous feelings. Deep down, he liked this sort of exploration and the sense of excitement. These feelings were especially intensified after he awakened the Giant Fighting Spirit Aspect.

Although he was keeping it under control, sometimes he just couldn't, especially when he met with strong opponents. His mind was filled with thoughts of fighting with Charlotte after he experienced her strength, and only he knew just how much willpower he had to expand to calm himself down.

That's why he likes and hates this aspect because it is a double-edged sword.

At this moment, Jacob's ear twitched slightly, and he signaled the two behind to stop, and both of them became alert seeing Jacob's abrupt movement.

"4 pairs of footsteps up ahead, around 60 meters away, coming at us." Jacob gravely stated in a very low voice, "Use your crossbow to get rid of them. We can't afford to cause commotion here."

Charlotte nodded solemnly as she moved in front and took out her long and slender crossbow, which she hadn't used after joining up with Jacob and Geko. She was a fire combatant, and she had learned to use a crossbow to fill the gap for her long-range disadvantage against a sorcerer.

Not just Charlotte. In fact, any combatant used some means to keep themselves safe from long-range sorcerers. Some learn archery or use advanced weapons like guns and crossbows.

The sorcerer also learned many magic spells that could help them keep their distance from the combatant, and some even learned physical skills to train their bodies, but these types of sorcerers were extremely rare.

At this moment, Charlotte peered through the 100X scope on her crossbow and held her breath. After confirming her targets, she pulled the trigger four times in succession while quickly moving her bow at lightning speed.

'She's really expert at handling the crossbow. I wonder why if she's proficient in using a sniper rifle or she's hiding that fact...!' Jacob mused as he watched Charlotte with scrutiny.

From the start, he knew both Geko and Charlotte were hiding their true capabilities because he was doing the same. In truth, no one trusts each other completely, and despite Charlotte's fangirl-like acting and her interest in Jacob, she was always on guard against him.

Everyone was using each other so they could safely pass this trial or return.

"Target exterminated." Charlotte snickered as she put her crossbow back while looking at Jacob.

"Let's move forward then." Jacob glanced at her impassively as he started to walk forward again since his sensing abilities were far more developed than the group despite being weakest in ranks.

"How cold..." Charlotte giggled playfully. She didn't mind cold shoulder at all.

Just as the team walked for almost a mile, which was the approximate distance from the tallest mountain on the surface, they also encountered five more groups of snow monsters, both small and large, but Charlotte masterfully took care of them.

Jacob left the corpse behind as he didn't need any more of them, not on their level or the same species.

At this moment, their progress came to a halt when they met with a wall in front and two passages on the left and right sides.

Geko winced his brows as he looked at the ice floor, "Both passages have marks of being used. Now what?"

Both of them looked at Jacob since it was his idea and he'd been leading them till now, and they had to admit he had terrifying abilities to detect enemies. So, they now rely on him.

Jacob was in a dilemma himself because if he chose the wrong path, they might end up turning back and then lose their target for good while wandering around aimlessly in this ice maze.

He looked at Geko and asked sternly, "You're a wind element combatant, right? Can you sense wind from any of these passages?"

Geko looked at Jacob strangely before replying, "Element sense is the ability of sorcery. I can only feel wind mana density in this place which is shitty as ever if you want to know that."

'Useless!' Jacob pursed his lips since he didn't like that answer and then looked at the ice wall and coldly said, "Since we can't afford to stray off our target, we just have to make our own way."

Charlotte couldn't help but exclaim, "You want to dig toward that mountain? What if there's nothing there?"

"It's fine by me as long as I can confirm it myself. Furthermore, we might find a passage on the other side that is adjacent to one of these two tunnels. We can't take the risk of going away from this passage." Jacob sternly said as he took out his swords and looked at Geko, "Let's do this."

"What about her?" Geko was startled and blurted while looking at smiling Charlotte.

In reply, Charlotte innocently stated, "Do you want to make a delicate flower like me to do labor work? Don't worry. I'll protect you while you dig diligently!"

'Flower my ass!' Geko wanted to curse out loud in exasperation, but he could only vent on the ice wall as he took out his spear and started to thrust while Jacob used water mana to cut the ice.

Within a few minutes, both of them were ten meters deep in the ice wall, and right at this moment, the ice vanished when Geko thrust his spear, and on the other side, a hole appeared as a frosty blaze filled the tunnel!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 479: The City of Snow Monsters

"Stop!" Jacob quickly stopped Geko from thrusting his spear because he could feel strong movements once Geko opened that hole. He quickly moved toward the hole and looked through it, and his eyes dilated in surprise.

"What's here?" Charlotte curiously asked since she could also hear large movements behind that hole; furthermore, the air on the other side was extremely freezing and strange.

Jacob moved back and sternly said, "See for yourself."

"Don't mind if I do." Charlotte quickly approached the hole, and when she looked through it, she was stunned, "Are you kidding me?" She muttered in stupefaction.

On the other side of this ice wall was a massive underground city built with nothing but ice, and thousands of snow monsters, big or small, were wandering in that city.

The structures of those buildings were very mundane, but their sizes were different. But one building in particular was sticking out from the others, a 100-meter-tall ice tower in the center of this city.

Furthermore, the walls around the ice city were filled with passages, and many snow monsters were going in and out. Jacob and the team position were 40 meters above ground, so they could clearly see a large part of the city.

After Charlotte, Geko also saw the other side and was thoroughly shaken.

"We need to get the fuck out here." Geko said with resolve, but a hint of fear was present in his shaky voice, "This isn't a place where we can just fight our way out. Coming here was a mistake, but at least now we know we should get as far away from this place as possible."

Charlotte, for the time, agreed with Geko as she nodded, "Indeed, there is no way forward. This place is built within that mountain. We might be able to go around it on the surface while avoiding provoking those guys."

If it were any other time, Jacob would be the first one to flee the scene, but after seeing the ice city and all those monsters, he has his own theory.

"What if there is a shackle in this place?" He asked calmly.

"And what if there really is?!" Geko rebuked, "Do you really want to go down there and search for the shackle? The moment those bastards saw you, it's over. So, stop being greedy, or if you really want to die, then be my guest. I'm going." Geko coldly stated. He was playing along with Jacob being the leader since his decisions weren't bad and rational.

But now, what Jacob was suggesting was pure madness, and this place can't be conquered without an army. So, it was far better than to retreat now and gather their forces and only then take the risk.

After all, not even a month had passed since the trial started, so there wasn't any need to rush to their own deaths. At least they now know where to look for the shackle.

"I know it's very frustrating to just leave like this, but we can always come back after gathering our forces." Charlotte strongly suggested.

'That's the exact reason I want to get it over with. The conditions to complete this trial are very simple this time, and if someone ended up killing my targets, it would be over for me.

'I've been wondering for a while now that this place is like the North Pole and those monsters coming after us. So, this has to be the place where one of the beasts of directions resides, and now that I've seen this place, there is no doubt!

'Especially that tower. I have to investigate it, and if I can sneak in and find this so-called beast of direction alone, I can easily kill it. So, I can't back down.' Jacob thought with unyielding conviction. He knew if he missed this chance, he might not get another if anyone else figured out the mode of this trial.

"Alright, you two go back and search for your forces. But I'm going in. It was nice meeting you both." Jacob coldly stated as he felt it was a shame to let them go just like that, but he couldn't take the risk to hex one of them and then cause a commotion while fighting the other one.

Furthermore, he would feel far better going around alone and sneaking toward the ice tower in the center, and he wouldn't have to worry about these two blowing up his cover.

"Tsk, I thought too highly of you." Geko sneered with disdain as he turned toward Charlotte and said, "Let's go, lady Charlotte. This greedy bastard will only drag us down."

Charlotte winced her brows as she looked at Jacob deeply and said, "You do know there's a 95% chance you'll die before you could even find the trace of the shackle."

Jacob coolly said, "I know, but that's the thing about adventure, going towards the unknown."

"Going towards the unknown..." Charlotte muttered with a hint of surprise before her eyes suddenly glimmered with realization as she smiled at Jacob, "Since that's the case, I'll be coming with you."

Jacob was surprised by Charlotte's sudden change in attitude, "Why?"

Geko also wanted the answer to that same as he thought Charlotte was too blinded by her own personal interest in Jacob that she was willing to take such a risk with him.

"I'm also an adventurer, and unlike those fakes, I'm not afraid of dying by pursuing something that gives me true joy." Charlotte smilingly declared with a proud expression.

Jacob couldn't help but look at the enthralling giant in a new light for the first time. There wasn't any falsehood in her words or eyes, and she was dead serious despite her expression.

Even though he didn't want her to go there with him, he knew she wouldn't back down, so he nodded, "I hope you can prove those words when the time comes."

"I'm going!" Geko was very displeased and found both Jacob and Charlotte, two lunatics who don't cherish their lives. So, he didn't waste more time in persuading Charlotte and turned around.

"Heh, he's just a coward." Charlotte scoffed, seeing Geko heading back.

Jacob's eyes shimmered with a peculiar light, and suddenly, he said, "Wait here, I have something to discuss with him. I'll come back after escorting him out of this tunnel. If things go south, I think Geko can be very useful."

Charlotte was surprised by Jacob's sudden mood swing and curiously asked, "What are you planning?"

"Just making sure he leaves with proper motivation. Don't worry. I won't push too hard if he doesn't agree. You keep an eye on the other side and, if possible, devise a way toward that ice tower. That's our primary target. I'll be back."

Jacob didn't give Charlotte any chance to speak further and quickly catch up with Geko.

Charlotte couldn't help but muttered with a strange expression, "Why does he sound somewhat excited?"

She didn't know it was the last time anyone would see or hear from Geko again!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 480: The Ice Tower Infiltration (1)

After twenty minutes, Jacob came back, and Charlotte turned around while looking at him in scrutiny. He was completely fine, just like when he left.

She curiously asked, "What did you say to him?"

Truth be told, she thought Jacob was going to do something to Geko, but she didn't sense anything, nor did Jacob seem to be in some fight, so she was now quite curious about why Jacob chased after Geko.

Jacob impassively replied, "I just asked him nicely to send some reinforcement if he found any and some other stuff. Nothing too serious, and I think after our heart-to-heart talk, he didn't hold a grudge against me."

"You're a strange one." Charlotte chuckled and no longer dug into the matter since Geko was now gone.

Jacob shrugged his shoulder and changed the topic, "Anyway, did you find something helpful?"

Charlotte became serious as she said, "You told me to look for a possible way to head to the ice tower, right? I think I should be quite problematic because there are too many monsters around the tower. I think they're guarding it. If anything, the only safest way to go there without alerting the monster is to make our own way towards it."

Jacob squinted his eyes as he knew what she was suggesting, "You want us to tunnel our way toward the tower? But I don't think it's a good idea. Those guys are masters in ice, and I'm pretty sure they will sense our movements if we try to dig a tunnel under their feet."

Charlotte frowned, "You have a point. Since they are affiliated with ice elements, they will be able to sense such changes. Then what do you have in mind? We can't take the risk of exposing ourselves. It would be very hard to escape if the entire colony of those monsters chased us."

"We'll think about it later. First, we need to get out of here. We dug this wall between the pathways created by them, so once someone comes here, they will definitely investigate, and we don't have the skills to seal it way like it was before." Jacob gravely stated.

"Hmm..." Charlotte's eyes shimmered, "This might be easy. We can sneak into one of those houses closest to our position. I notice only the weakest among them are closer to the walls."

Jacob nodded, "Sounds like a plan. Do you want to take the lead?"

"Heh, I'll follow you. I'm very afraid to take the lead." Charlotte shyly answered.

Jacob nodded in agreement and didn't say anything as he expected this much since Charlotte wasn't a fool, no matter how much she tried to appear like one.

He got closer to the hole and observed the closest houses, which were like ice blocks, to their position. There wasn't any snow monster active in this area, or they might be just resting.

"Alright, I'm about to open this wall just enough for us to jump out. We need to move swiftly once I did it before those guys took notice." Jacob sternly stated before he used his sword to slip open a bigger entrance and carefully pushed back the ice block.

Once the opening was made, Jacob glanced around and quickly jumped down, and Charlotte followed suit without delay. Both of them were giants, but they managed to land without making any excessive sounds or breaking the ice floor.

The next moment, Jacob ran toward the small ice box around ten cubic meters in size. All the house was made in such shape, and the deeper it went into the city, the houses became bigger.

There weren't any doors in these ice blocks, and Jacob sneakily glanced inside and found two small monsters lying flat on the floor with their eyes closed.

Without hesitation, he swiftly entered and stabbed their skulls with his swords, and before even a drop of their blood touched the ground, they were stored in his space ring.

Charlotte appeared pleased with Jacob's swiftness, and now they were inside the house without being noticed by another.

"What now?" She asked.

"Now, we do the same and make our way deeper until we reach the ice tower," Jacob said matter-of-factly. His plan was simple and more effective than digging a tunnel towards the tower.

Furthermore, he had something else in mind as he continued, "You select another house and do the same. We'll move separately. Just in case one of us gets noticed, the other can take advantage of this situation. It's far more effective than moving together and risking being seen."

Charlotte was surprised by Jacob's decisive plan, "Aren't you afraid I might use you as bait?"

Jacob gave her a cold, hard look, "Try it. Besides, I think you won't do it because if we move like this, we can easily avoid being discovered even if someone comes searching after the disappearance of these guys. We can hide in each other blocks."

Charlotte giggled, "And here I thought I might give you some scare. I'm starting to wonder if you are really not afraid of death or just simply too bold and confident in yourself."

"Same goes for you," Jacob stated, looking deeply at the charming giant who decided to follow him in this dangerous place.

"Don't worry, I found this journey more interesting with you than without you. How about we have a nice meal after we succeed in clearing this shackle?" Charlotte suggested meaningfully.

"I don't see any problem with that." Jacob nodded impassively.

Charlotte smiled pleasingly, and after confirming no one was outside, she instantly ran toward another ice block a few meters away from Jacob.

Now, Jacob was alone in the ice block, and after making sure Charlotte had succeeded in subduing the monster in the block, he took off his mask, and a fresh, warm heart appeared in his hand, and he started to eat it.

'This bastard was quite formidable. I hope his heart will be just as much...' Jacob thought as he ate the raw heart like it was some snack while a warm current coursed through his body.

But he didn't just stop there as he took out the hearts of giant monsters and continued eating.

If Charlotte were here, she should be able to notice that Jacob's height was suddenly increased by two centimeters!