

Destiny 1031

Chapter 1031 Awakened!

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Shin felt terrible as he continuously blocked the attacks of his opponent. And for every punch and kicks that he blocked, a sensation of something exploding inside his body always came with it. The blazing attacks of his opponent damaged his body externally while the internal explosions hidden behind each of the strikes were making his internal injuries much worse.

He was giving everything he had as he pushed his body to the limit. He knew that he might die if he let his guard down even for a second. He was constantly pouring out his Mental Energy in every exchange using more than two techniques simultaneously.

All four types of Mentalism Methods were constantly in use during the battle. The Sacred White Tiger and Heavenly Black Tortoise Methods were being used in offense and defense as if he were a character in a fighting game that could switch between the two modes freely. The combination techniques of the two methods were also pretty powerful that saved him some breathing space during the exchange.

The Holy Azure Dragon Method, on the other hand, was helping to create more space to have a better positioning to nullify most of the power of the attacks of his opponent. He struggling on this part as his body was starting to give up due to the worsening internal injuries. Fortunately, his Celestial Vermillion Bird Method was suppressing those injuries considerably.

As his breathing started to become haggard due to the heat in the air, Shin started to feel his focus slipping away. Adding the burden of constantly using multiple Mentalism Techniques together with his worsening injuries, his body was starting to give up.

It was at that moment when he committed a mistake that resulted in him getting hit by two consecutive attacks from his opponent.

Flame wanted to follow up with another attack as he wanted to make sure that the target was taken down. But before he could gather his strength for another round of attacks, he felt an intense dizziness on his head, preventing him from making any other move.

The 'poison' that Shin had released earlier spread all throughout his body. He had to focus his mind on him and suppress it before it could cause him any serious damage. It might be a little annoying, but given his current strength, expelling such minor toxins would not be a problem.

In the meantime, Shin, who was buried under the pile of rubble, started to feel his consciousness slipping away. He could not even check the current state of his body but he was sure that it was very much in a mess. A couple of broken bones and ribs shouldn't be strange.

"D*mn it!" he could only curse silently as he tried to use the healing techniques of the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method.

Unfortunately, it could no longer support his heavily injured body. Such injuries were not something that could be cured given how serious they were.

As his consciousness was slipping further and further away, something suddenly occurred deep within his sea of consciousness. A familiar yet unfamiliar power was suddenly awakened and reignited the dying ember within him.

Swoosh!

And as if oil was added to it, the supposedly dying flame was further ignited and showed its rage.

Then the power hidden deep within Shin was suddenly released. It poured out everything and constantly filled his Niwan Palace as they came like tidal waves.

A spiraling wave appeared at the center of Shin's forehead as it devoured all of the energy that was coming from the surroundings.

Not long after, Shin felt as if he was drowning due to the continuous tide of energy that was filling up his Niwan Palace. Cracks were even starting to appear on its surface, showing that it could collapse at any given moment.

Pain could be seen on his face as the expression that he had was constantly changing and twisting. The worse part was he could not move his body as he was currently under the pile of rubble.

Urgh!

When the pain became so unbearable, Shin could only clench his hands hard as forced himself to endure it. He started to panic when he saw his Niwan Palace suddenly exploded in smithereens.

He wanted to prevent it from happening but the flood of energy pouring at it was too strong for him to stop. Despite his monstrous willpower, he could only watch helplessly as his Niwan Palace collapsed alongside the slowly drifting Mental Energy that he painstakingly purified and collected.

With his Niwan Palace collapse, the foundation that he built up with his Mentalism attainment started to collapse too. He could not do anything as it continuously disappeared at an unimaginable rate.

But when all of the hope was gone, something unexpected suddenly happened. The scattering Mental Energy was swept by the flood of energy that was pouring in from the outside, dragging it along and forming an even sturdier Niwan Palace.

The formation of this new Niwan Palace was so fast that it was almost built within an instant. At the same time, a hint of the other power sealed within Shin's body was mixed in that Niwan Palace, making it stand firmer and stronger.

This new Niwan Palace devoured all of the flooding energy and cleansed them before turning them into pure Mental Energy.

It did not show any sign of stopping as a powerful vortex appeared within it. And not long after, it floated at the center of Shin's Sea of Consciousness, building a world that was solely for himself.

Shin was still a little confused about what was happening exactly, but he knew that it was beneficial for him, especially for his Mentalism Practice. He quickly forced himself and focus his mind as started supporting the current phenomenon happening within his body.

Not long after, he sensed that his Mental Energy became much purer and way stronger than what it was supposed to be. He could sense some unfamiliar powers mixed with it, but there were also some familiarly mixed within them.

But this phenomenon did not stop in there as his body seemed to get baptized by the new Mental Energy that he gained. It cleansed all of the impurities within his body before aiding him in healing his injuries.

All of this was happening while he was partially lost consciousness on the outside, so he was not entirely sure what was happening there.

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In the meantime, Flame immediately sensed the sudden change in the surroundings. He could also feel that something was currently happening to Shin, which quickly made him on full alert.

He did not wait to see what was happening exactly. Instead, he quickly sprung into action and tried to attack the spot where Shin was currently buried. He knew that whatever was happening, he could not let it happen at all cost.

Unfortunately, it was already too late.

Boom!

Right before he could even smash his blazing fist on the pile of rubbles, a powerful explosion quickly erupted from the spot and pushed Flame away.

He tried to pour more strength on his legs and feet to firmly planted them on the ground, but the repulsive force was too strong that he slid back further than the number of steps that he took to move forward.

He even tried to punch his body forward with the help of his fire superpowers, but even that was useless in front of the strong force that was pushing him away.

All he could do was cross his arms in front of him and make his body heavier so that he would not be sent flying by the powerful repulsion.

And when he tried to raise his head to look at what was happening ahead, he found Shin floating in the air while being covered by a brilliant light alongside a dense Mental Energy that was pouring out from his body.

There was also a strange happening alongside it. There was clearly a devouring force coming from Shin's body as it continuously sucked all of the energy from the surroundings. There was even a visible flow of energy that could be seen by the naked eye. please visit

But contrary to it, an invisible force was pushing everything else away, preventing them from approaching Shin's body.

Focusing his gaze, Flame could also see that the injuries that Shin had suffered from their fight were healing at a rapid pace. They were healing so fast that he could see the peeling of the dead cell before being replaced by a new one. Such regeneration was so extreme that the mercenary found it unbelievable.

Even people who possessed special physiques that focused on constitution and vitality did not have that kind of crazy regeneration abilities. He only saw such sight from people who possessed evil and demonic powers, but the way they healed their bodies was very horrifying.

Compared to it, the way that Shin healed his body was similar to the normal process of how the body regenerated in a natural way – but at a much faster rate.

This scene continued for almost a minute before everything started to subdue. But despite seeing that the surrounding had calmed down, Flame did not make his move as his senses were telling him that it was not the end yet.

And sure enough, another strange phenomenon suddenly took place!

What Flame saw completely terrified him as it was the first time in his entire life as a mercenary to see such a terrifying being.

He did not know what exactly it was but he was having an urge to kneel in front of Shin as the latter released a strong and holy radiance. Shin looked like a sacred immortal that descended from heaven.

Flame started sweating bullets when he saw what happened next. It was when Shin turned his head toward his direction and slowly opened his eyes.

The pair of eyes that Shin had was nothing but a brilliant light. It illuminated everything in front of him as he looked at the supposedly strong mercenary.

There was also a spinning vortex situated at the center of his forehead. A vertical slit appeared on that spot before slowly opening and revealing a golden eye that resembled the sun.

Runes and strange patterns appeared on each side of that eye, forming a crown-like ornament on Shin's forehead.

And when this third eye revealed itself, a large amount of Mental Energy with high purity started to pour out from it followed by a heavy pressure that pressed on everything.

Urgh!

Flame almost kneeled on the ground when it happened. He used all of his strength to fight back and pushed his superpower to the limit without any hesitation. He completely understood his current situation, whatever was happening to Shin was definitely not good for him.

He had to do something to save himself! It was either to fight with everything he had and bet his life on the line or start running for his life.

Unfortunately, his legs refused to listen to him. At the same time, the heavy pressure that was coming from Shin was getting stronger with every passing second.

Gritting his teeth, he came up with a decisive choice. He would be sacrificing himself for the sake of success. This job that they took became much more difficult than what they originally expected, it was clearly not within the payment that was promised to them.

Killing this monster was impossible for just a few of them. They had to be on the level of their captain or the other guy that was pulling the strings in the dark to guarantee the success of this operation.

Unfortunately, they realized it a little too late. There was no point to regret it now, all they could do was to make sure that they would be able to save themselves and escape or die while doing the job just like any other mercenaries.

Steeling his resolve, Flame clasped his palms together while gathering all of his powers within his body. He would forcefully contain everything within his body before igniting it with his superpowers.

This would cause a massive explosion that would erase everything within a hundred-meter radius at the very least.

A Martial Artist trying to commit suicide and self-destruct his core could cause very serious damage, especially for someone of Flame's level. Even a Domain Realm expert would not dare to face such an explosion head-on.

This was Flame's trump card. He might die in the process but he would make sure that he would drag their target alongside him.

Crazy thoughts were running inside Flame's head as his entire life was flashing in front of his eyes.

He was ready for it and not scared in the slightest since he was already expecting that this was going to happen sooner or later. It was just a pity that he could not bid his farewell to his brothers-in-arms.

Too bad, fate had another plan for him.

What happened next crushed everything that he was thinking.

His thoughts suddenly came to an abrupt halt as he watched Shin slowly raise his right hand in an absentminded matter. It was as if someone was currently controlling Shin's body.

He then pointed his palm at Flame before doing a grabbing motion in the air. The mercenary felt that the surrounding air suddenly contracted as a huge, invisible hand grabbed him and crushed his body very slowly.

Crack! Crack!

Flame could even hear the breaking sounds of his bones as he was being crushed alive by the invisible hand.

The pain that he suffered from that was impossible to imagine.

He continued to stare blankly in the air as the light in his eyes slowly dissipated. The supposedly powerful explosion did not happen despite him losing control over his raging superpower.

It was suppressed within the invisible hand before turning into a small and glowing marble that was sucked by a strange eye at the center of Shin's forehead.

As for his opponent, Flame turned into ashes that scattered in the air and left nothing behind.

When everything was over, Shin went back to his usual state before falling to the ground with a soft thud.

Everything seemed to be an illusion as the surroundings turned quiet.

If not for the devastated place and the tattered clothes that Shin had, then it was hard to believe that a fight took place here due to the silence lingering in the air.

Chapter 1032 Confused

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When Shin woke up, he found himself lying on a portable bed inside a tent. Based on the equipments and tools inside the tent, it seemed to be a temporary shelter that was usually built by the military whenever they were in an operation.

Shin stared blankly in the air for a couple of moments, trying to recall what he was doing before passing out. There was an unbearable headache that assaulted him before he finally remembered everything.

He recalled that he was on his way home after eating outside with Arthur and Leonard. Then they got ambushed by unknown people and a fight broke out. Shin was even dragged by a powerful mercenary inside an isolated space before struggling to fight.

But from what he could remember, he lost that battle due to his worsening injuries. His memories were cut off at that moment before another set of fragmented images flashed through his mind.

"That's right! Something happened in my Niwan Palace when I am buried under the ground," muttered Shin before closing his eyes and entering a meditative state. He was going to see what were the changes inside his Niwan Palace.

And when his thoughts were sent inside his sea of consciousness, he found that his Niwan Palace was way different from before. It was now much larger and sturdier compared to what he remembered. There were even a series of runes engraved on its surfaces which were releasing a brilliant glow from time to time.

Not only that – his sea of consciousness transformed into an 'inner world'. He had already seen this sight before but it now had more distinct features as if he was in an independent world.

The whole place was still simple. The blue sky with drifting clouds in the area above him while the 'ground' where he stood was like a smooth surface of ice, resembling a clear mirror. With how clear the 'ground' was, the tranquil sky above was clearly reflected by it.

After spinning around for a moment, Shin turned his attention back to the Niwan Palace and discovered that aside from its new appearance, there were also two more floors in it.

Mentalists were more reliant on their Niwan Palaces since it was the center of their mind and power. It was where they store and nurture their Mental Energy. The stronger the Niwan Palace was, the more powerful a Mentalist could be.

In Grandmaster Realm, where the Mentalists focused on developing their Niwan Palaces, the higher their palaces could reach, the more power they could get.

It was said that the Niwan Palace could reach three floors in the Grandmaster Realm, which would signify that the Mentalists reached the peak of this stage.

Each realm in Mentalism Practices was usually divided into five stages such as entry, initial, middle, late, and peak stages.

Shin was currently on the middle stage of the Grandmaster Realm previously, so the fact that his Niwan Palace already had three floors, would only mean that Shin skipped the late stage and quickly reached the peak stage already.

That was a stage equivalent to David! And this stage was supposedly as strong as the final phase of Ethereal Opening Stage Expert, which was the current strength of Shiella!

Shin was quite excited at first when he thought about it, but his enthusiasm quickly subdued when he realized that his current state was not at that level yet.

The appearance of his Niwan Palace might be similar to the peak stage of the Grandmaster Realm but its actual strength was still nowhere near that level.

Shin became confused when he realized this fact and started thinking deeply about it. He then suddenly remembered that his Mentalism Method was different from everyone else. He was practicing the Four Symbol Scripture that Grandmaster Benn had invented and its division of stages was on a completely different system.

The usual Niwan Palace of a Mentalist had three levels but his Niwan Palace was supposed to have nine different levels and it should resemble an ancient nine-floored pagoda.

Grandmaster Benn called it the Spiritual Pagoda.

The entry stage was supposed to be for building up the foundation, the first floor was for the initial stage, the middle stage was when the second floor was created, and the late stage was the formation of the third floor, which was the peak stage solidifying everything.

This was how the Grandmaster Realm was supposed to build. But the Mentalism Method that Shin was practicing was a little different.

Each stage corresponded to every two floors of his spiritual pagoda. The first two stage was for the entry stage while the following two stages stood for the initial stage. This continued until the eighth floor while the ninth and final floor was for the peak stage of the Grandmaster Realm for him.

The formation of the final floor was the hardest which corresponded with the solidification of the Niwan Palace of the usual method.

Shin was already solidifying his fifth floor and was about to start creating the sixth floor which made him in the middle stage of the Grandmaster Realm. But seeing that he was back at having three floors of his spiritual pagoda, Shin felt powerless and discouraged.

This meant that he went back to the initial stage of his realm!

"Did my foundation was damaged due to what happened earlier?" thought Shin as he remembered the mysterious phenomenon that occurred during the battle. please visit

His Niwan Palace exploded at that time, so it would not be strange if his foundation was damaged by it. But that thought only lasted for a moment as he quickly shook his head.

After taking a closer look at his new Spiritual Pagoda, he found that each floor was much sturdier than the ones that he previously had. The Mental Energy that they were releasing now was also much purer and denser too.

"No, it is not just purer or denser... It feels like my Mental Energy transformed. It is much more powerful and more mysterious than what I have previously," he muttered seriously.

He fell into deep thought before remembering something all of a sudden. "It is somewhat familiar too. It... it feels similar to Senior Brother's Mental Energy!"

During his previous special training, Shin learned that there were also different types of Mental Energy which varied based on their purity and density. And from what he could remember, the purest and most powerful Mental Energy was in the Divinity Grade!

"Don't tell me that my Mental Energy was in Divinity Grade? But Senior Brother and Old Fatty said that it is impossible to wield such powerful Mental Energy in the lower realms. This is the reason why Mentalist sealed a portion of its powers with the Meridian Locking. This is the case for Senior Brother too."

"How come that my Mental Energy is in that stage?!" Shin was surprised and confused.

He was only in the Grandmaster Realm, so someone like him wielding such powerful Mental Energy was completely unheard of.

"Strange. This is completely strange. I have to inform Senior Brother and the Old Fatty about this as soon as possible," muttered Shin as he continued to explore the changes in his body.

That was when he also realized that even though his realm regressed back to the initial stage, his strength was comparable to his previous stage. No, he was obviously much stronger than what he was before.

"My injuries also healed completely too," he added after checking his body's condition. He completely recovered from the injuries that he previously had.

Even the recent wounds that he was supposed to have from the previous battle were nowhere to be seen. He was in a completely healthy state. He then sighed in relief after making sure that there were no hidden injuries within his body.

After getting familiar with his new powers, Shin got up from the bed and was planning to walk out of the tent. Even though the situation was already under control, he still wanted to take a look and understand what was happening.

He wanted to know who were their assailants and why were they targeting him. From what he heard from the radio and the mumblings of the mercenary that he just faced; it seemed like someone what him dead.

He could not recall what happened after he passed out. He did not know how that mercenary with fire superpowers was defeated. There were a lot of things that made him curious.

When he got up, he realized that his clothes were currently in a tattered state. He was no different from the homeless people roaming in the streets. "Tsk!"

While he was lamenting for his clothes, Arthur and Leonard suddenly entered the tent. The three suddenly froze and looked into each other's eyes before the two burst out laughing.

"Yo! You look like a beggar! It somewhat suits you," said Arthur as he threw the military clothes that he was currently carrying. "Change with these and come with us outside. Uncle Nathan wants to hear what happened to you."

Shin could not help but become confused after hearing those words. He then looked at the two with furrowed brows and asked. "What do you mean by that? I remembered that I'd lost to my opponent before passing out."

"Didn't Uncle Nathan arrive at that time and save me?" he added as he was trying to remember what happened to him at the last moment. But no matter how hard he tried; he could not remember what happened after he got buried by a pile of rubbles.

Arthur and Leonard gave him a strange look before exchanging glances with each other. Then Leonard turned back to Shin and spoke. "You should change for now Shin Bro. Let's continue outside. Sir Nathan is waiting."

After that, the two turned around and walked out of the tent while wearing a confused look on their faces.

From what they heard, Shin fought against the strongest member of the mercenaries and won in the end. But what Shin had told them was completely different from what the investigation had concluded.

Shin was also wearing a similar look on his face. He was not sure what they were saying, but he was confident that he was not the one who defeated his opponent.

At least, that was what he believed.

Chapter 1033 Unexpected Gains

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Right after changing, Shin sent a message to David and Grandmaster Benn, informing them about his current condition. He was still confused at what had happened and sought guidance from the two who were much more experienced than him. Grandmaster Benn might even know the answers to his questions.

After that, he walked out of the tent, planning to head over to the commander's tent. He also wanted to know what had happened when he lost his consciousness.

While walking, he activated a healing technique of the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method out of habit. He was usually using this technique every time since one of its effects was to check on the current state of his body.

During his special training, this was the technique that he used the most. He was using it every time he finished his morning training and other form exercises during that time. Thus, it became his habit to occasionally use this technique.

Halt!

But something unexpected happened this time. He was even forced to pause his steps due to it. "What the...!?"

"What the hell is going on!?" he could not believe what was happening. And to make sure that he was not imagining it, he continued to circulate his Mental Energy according to the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method but only discovered that everything was real.

"Fire Elemental Superpowers!?" shock appeared on Shin's face as he felt mixed emotions about it. He was not sure what happened, but he suddenly got an idea of what it was.

"Don't tell me...!?" to confirm his suspicion, Shin tried to recall what happened in the final moments of the battle. But no matter how hard he tried; he could not remember anything.

He might not be able to remember, but he was sure that something happened during that period. He was sure that he somehow gained the superpowers of that mercenary.

Swoosh!

While wearing a deep frown, Shin summoned a blazing flame in his hands, playing with it. He also tried to spread it on different parts of his body, turning himself into a human torch. To his surprise, he could control the flame with ease as if it was already part of his powers for a long time.

He also could tell it what it could burn and what it could not. Wielding this new power was surprisingly easy. Though, it was closely related to his Mentalism.

He would only be able to use it whenever he was using the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method. He tried it with the other methods of the Four Symbol Scripture, but the superpowers did not respond to them.

After a couple of experiments, Shin found that this superpower did not only give his healing techniques a significant boost, but it also gave the Celestial Vermilion Bird Method a couple of offensive techniques. Even though they were not as powerful as the Sacred White Tiger Method, their offensive capabilities were at least powerful enough to threaten their opponents.

"I may also be able to use the techniques of that mercenary too," thought Shin to himself as he suddenly remembered the techniques of his earlier opponent.

During that time, the sudden rise in temperature really gave him a lot of trouble. His breathing and energy circulation were greatly affected due to it, making him unable to bring out his real potential.

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It took Shin quite some time to arrive at the commander's tent due to his discovery. And when he entered the tent, he was immediately greeted by the heavy pressure coming from Nathan. "Your late."

"Ugh!" Shin almost kneeled on the ground due to the pressure pressing on him. Fortunately, he was quick enough to respond and managed to pick himself up before he totally lost his balance.

"I'm sorry, uncle. I informed Old Fat-... I mean Teacher Benn with my current state. There are a couple of changes with my Mentalism Powers this time," explained Shin almost immediately.

"Change? What changed?" asked Nathan as he suddenly became curious.

Shin cleared his throat for a moment before informing Nathan of everything. He first started with his experiences during the battle against the mercenary with fire elemental superpowers and how he remembered the fight until he lost consciousness.

He then proceeded with the changes in his Mentalism Attainments. He told everything starting from how they 'regressed' but also somehow remained at the same level of power as his previous strength. He also told Nathan about his sudden attainment of superpowers, which was very similar to the mercenary that he fought.

"Superpowers? Show it to me," said Nathan with a slight frown.

Shin nodded his head and quickly summoned his newly gained powers and showed it to Nathan without any intention of hiding them.

"Interesting," muttered Nathan as he looked at the flame dancing around Shin's hand before falling into deep thought.

He was not an expert when it came to Mentalism but he was experienced enough to have a vague idea of what just happened. Since he was not sure about it, he chose not to tell Shin about it and leave the details to Grandmaster Benn.

As an old monster from the council of elders, Grandmaster Benn would surely have an explanation for what happened to Shin, especially about the strange phenomenon that the young man had experienced.

"Alright, I get it. It is better to consult Grandmaster Benn about it since he is an expert in this area. He is also the creator of the Four Symbol Scripture, so he will likely have an answer to your concerns," said Nathan before quickly proceeding to another topic. "Now, let's talk about our main concern about this incident."

Nathan did not bother to beat around the bush and quickly went straight to the topic. "Someone put a bounty on your head and it is a pretty big one at that."

"Eh? What the hell-...!?" Shin was completely caught off-guard when he heard those words and immediately became confused.

"That is what we are investigating right now. We are already interrogating the captured mercenaries, so we will have the answer later," said Nathan, answering the question that Shin had.

He then paused for a brief moment before asking. "But just to make sure, have you ever offended someone recently? It does not matter if it is here in the real world or inside the game."

His tone was so calm even if he was mentioning the 'game'. It was as if it was something natural. Or to be more precise, he seemed like he was already used to these kinds of situations.

And when he saw the confused look on Shin's face, Nathan quickly added. "You don't have to be so surprised. Something like this is pretty common back in the day. Some people are so bitter about their losses inside the game that they bring the issue into the real world."

"Such situations are very rare these days because of the founding of the World Gaming Organization. If any player drags the conflict inside the game to the real world, then whoever that person is, they will be banned for life in any kind of virtual games."

"Since the World Gaming Organization have the collective data of every player, if someone raises the issue to them and they found the other party is guilty after a thorough investigation, then the punishment will surely be a serious one."

"You should know that there are a lot of organizations working inside the game. Whether it is an underworld organization, the world government, or other big and influential groups, all of them agreed to this particular rule. And the World Gaming Organization is the one acting as the mediator."

Nathan paused for a moment before laughing. "You shouldn't underestimate the virtual games. It can have a huge impact in the real world more than what you can imagine. It had a lot of secrets that everyone has to work together just to uncover them."

"It is also one of the reasons why there are no experts stronger than Ethereal Stage and peak Grandmaster Realm playing the game. They are banned from entering the game."

Shin further furrowed his brows before saying. "You sound like someone who played a lot of games before, Uncle. You are too familiar with the 'rules' of the virtual world."

Nathan cleared his throat for a moment before dodging the question. "So, have offended someone? Or have you humiliated them so bad that they built a vengeful attitude to drag it into the real world?"

Shin clicked his tongue as he knew that Nathan was trying to avoid the topic. But at the same time, he now had an idea of what was going on. "I have a person in mind, but I am not sure if he is really the one who did it or whether he has the guts to do it."

"Fill me the details," said Nathan, planning to take this matter into his own hands.

He was very busy right now due to the recent incidents that were happening these past few days, but if it was something that concerned his family, then he had to show those people that the Springfields were not someone that they could afford to provoke.

They would usually not be bothered by this issue since it concerned the younger generation. If it was a conflict with the younger generation, then they will leave it to the young ones to deal with. But if it reached the point where the opposing party was hiring dangerous mercenaries to deal with their people, then the older ones needed to step up a little and remind those guys who were they facing.

After listening to Shin for a few moments, Nathan slightly nodded his head. "Alright, I will take a look on this matter personally and see if it is really that little twerp Justin is the one behind those mercenaries."

"You can head back home for now and take a rest. I will inform you of the results later," after that, he started dialing a couple of people and gave them some instructions before turning back to Shin. "Something comes up, so I will be going for now. If you need anything, tell Ken about it and he will aid you with your everything."

He did not even wait for Shin to reply as he quickly disappeared and went to who knows where.

Shin could only sigh helplessly before turning around and walking out of the tent. He was about to look for Arthur and Leonard when he suddenly remembered something. "Wait! I think the mercenary also mentioned something about the other target or something."

"If my suspicions are right, then-...!" his thoughts suddenly came to a halt when he reached this point as he did not want those thoughts to be right.

He quickly run back toward the tent where he was previously resting looking for the keys to his car. And when he found what he needed, he ran straight to his Black Panther, ignoring everyone on his path.

"Please, please! Tell me that I am wrong!" he muttered repeatedly as the unease inside his heart grew heavier.

He started the car and drove it back home as tried to calm himself down. At the same time, he also started sending messages to different people, especially Arthur, Leonard, and Kevin, who were left in the scene, explaining his actions.

Chapter 1034 Everything Has Been Set

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Back in the neighborhood where Shin and the others were currently living, the people of the Springfield Family and Cilvana Family were tightly guarding the two villas of the girls and boys. These guards were dedicated to their jobs as their bosses put a lot of importance on it, especially with the current time when the young ones were being targeted by different groups.

Inside one of the villas nearby, a pair of people were currently observing the situation without arousing any attention. Both of them were mercenaries hired by the head of the Shaw Family of the Sun-Moon Continent, one of the leading figures of the country and the main rival of the Cilvana Family.

In that place, the competition between the Cilvana and Shaw Families was currently at its most critical stage, making the two sides clash multiple times. But since the Cilvana Family had more resources and the much larger behemoth in the firearms industry, the Shaw Family was currently on a backfoot.

If not for the support from the local tyrants and a couple of government officials, then the Shaw Family would have most likely been swallowed up by the Cilvana Family ages ago.

Pushed into a corner, the Shaw Family could only come up with despicable means. They started targeting the family members of the Cilvanas and planned to take them as hostages. Their primary target would obviously be the young master and young miss of the Cilavana Family. As long as they captured either one of those two, then they would be the guaranteed victor of this business war.

Unfortunately, the head of the Cilvana Family was too insightful and was able to read their intentions before the Shaw Family could even take action. He sent his children overseas for their safety.

He was originally planning to send both of them to their mother since they would be much safer on that side than continuing to stay on the Sun-Moon Continent. Even though the head of the Cilvana Family and the mother of the two children were already divorced, they still maintain their connection with each other for the sake of their children.

If for Cloe's insistence on coming to the Soaring Continent and their close relationship with the Springfield Family, her father would never let her go to that place. Moreover, she got accepted into the special program of the Magical Ace Academy, so her safety was guaranteed as long as the semester had started.

That school had a long history, after all, so it would not be strange for them to have a couple of old monsters staying there.

Left without a choice, the Shaw Family could only hope that the mercenaries that they hired would be able to do their jobs right before the situation got out of hand.

Mad Dog took over the job after the previous groups failed to do their jobs. This was supposedly their final chance since they heard that the military forces of the Soaring Kingdom were increasing their defenses due to the recent events that happened these last few days.

Mad Dog was planning to take advantage of the current chaos that the underworld organizations were causing. This was their only chance since the Dragon King was being distracted by the high-profile criminals.

He turned to the other person inside the room and asked. "How is the situation on the other side, Ghost Chopper? Did they complete their job?"

Ghost Chopper, the leader of the Oni Mercenary Group. He was tasked to work with Mad Dog in their current operation. He naturally did not want to work under someone, but since it was what their contractor wanted, he had no choice but to follow the orders.

Moreover, Mad Dog was currently stronger than him, albeit slightly. He would not be willing to fight for authority given their current circumstances. Especially when they could not afford to be in their weakened state while they were inside enemy territory.

Ghost Chopper frowned deeply when he heard those words since he had just gotten the report from his subordinates.

He turned to Mad Dog and sighed. "They failed. Even Flame died during the operation. It seems like we have underestimated those kids a little too much."

Mad Dog also furrowed his brows deeply as he did not expect this outcome. "This is why I said that we do not accept that extra job! What are those fools of the Shaw Family are thinking? We should have finished our jobs earlier if not for them suddenly giving us an extra order!"

Ghost Chopper did not say anything but he completely agreed with Mad Dog. What's more, he was the one who lost his subordinates, especially someone like Flame who had a rare wield of a superpower.

"I heard it is the young master of the Shaw Family who insisted to kill that kid from the Springfield Family. It seems like there is a serious grudge between those two for that young master to persuade his father to give us the additional job," he said after a brief silence.

"I knew that that stubborn kid will give us problems sooner or later," said Mad Dog while gritting his teeth.

Ghost Chopper was silent for a moment before asking. "So, what is the plan? Should we make our move now?"

Mad Dog did not reply immediately as he looked through the window while sticking to the wall and hiding himself in the darkness of the room. He observed the movements of the soldiers and agents guarding the two villas in the distance.

After analyzing their movements for a couple of minutes, Mad Dog suddenly asked. "How about the Dragon King? Is he still in there or has he left already?"

Ghost Chopper read through the messages that he received first before replying. "My contacts said that the Butcher and Coffin Maker are sighted on the outskirts of the city. The Dragon King must be rushing over there now to confirm the information."

"What about the Junior Dragoness and Wanderer? Are they not rushing back over?" asked Mad Dog again.

Aside from a top expert such as Nathan, these two mercenaries were also concerned about Shiella and David. After all, those two were also on the same level of strength as them, if not stronger, so they also had made sure to avoid clashing against them at all costs.

"The gathering that the Flying Dragon Corporation have prepared is a big event since they are to receive some delegates from other countries. They will not be able to leave easily even if they want to since it will make those delegates lose some face. And you should know how important for those people how they look in front of the others," answered Ghost Chopper calmly.

"Moreover, there are also some surprises prepared for them, so we don't have to worry about them," he added after a slight hesitation.

He paused for a moment before continuing. "Our only concern is those young misses from the Stuart Family and Goldstein Family. One is an influential Mentalist Family while the other is a famed gunsmithing family that also has a lot of connection."

"Having the Springfield and Cilvana on our tail is already a headache, adding those two families to the equations would only guarantee our doom. It will not be worth it if we touch those two, so we better focus on our target," he added, emphasizing the gravity of the situation.

"You don't have to remind me. I know my limits unlike your people," responded Mad Dog in a cold tone.

Those words did not sit well with Ghost Chopper but did not say anything since he could not refute them. He also knew his people and was aware of their 'habits' during the operation. He just turned a blind eye since he could not blame them given their line of work.

"We better get moving now since this is the perfect chance that we can ask for. Based on our intel, those three girls are very talented but not that strong compared to the other genius. At least, their real combat talents have not manifested yet," said Ghost Chopper after reading through the sets of information sent to him by their informant.

"I am very curious about that informant of yours. Think that they have such accurate information and up-to-date updates. I am sure that they are someone who has a pretty high ranking," said Mad Dog, trying to prove something.

Since the time he arrived in this country, he never saw Ghost Chopper have contact with anybody aside from getting in touch with someone through a private channel. Moreover, the information that he was receiving was always been accurate.

For someone to have such access to sensitive information, the position of that person should be very high. That authority level shouldn't be possible for an average individual.

His instinct as a mercenary was telling that he had to get his hands on such information. He wanted to know who this mysterious informant was. But at the same time, he could not bring himself to dig too deeply as he knew that it would only be asking for trouble.

He just asked Ghost Chopper in the passing, disguising his true intention with a joke. He also knew that as a fellow mercenary, having such contact would always give them a better edge than the rest. Ghost Chopper would only be an idiot to share such a piece of information.

And sure enough, Ghost Chopper continued. "Rather than being curious about something that you should not have, you better focus on our current job."

Clicking his tongue, Mad Dog started checking out his equipment and got ready to move. The time was ripe, so they have to move in great haste to make sure that the harvest would be bountiful.

Chapter 1035 Danger!

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Walking toward the two villas, Mad Dog and Ghost Chopper prepared themselves for the battle.

"I've already set the disruption device in the area, so they will not be able to contact the outside for reinforcements," said Mad Dog while cracking his knuckles.

At the same time, Ghost Chopper did a couple of hand seals with his hands before responding. "The barrier protecting the villas are also been weakened. We can charge through it now."

He paused for a moment before sighing in admiration. "This Mentalism Barrier sure is something. It is made by a powerful master. If not for the fact that no one is operating it now, then it will be impossible for us to breach it no matter how much time we have."

While the two of them casually chatted, the guards hiding in the dark quickly noticed them. And when they recognized who they were, the guards quickly sprung into action. Some of them jumped toward the two without any hesitation while the others provided support with their specialized guns.

The team leaders quickly picked up their communication devices and instructed their subordinates to be careful since these two mercenaries were high-profile ones. They also tried to connect with their superiors to report, but they later found out that the lines were cut off. The opposing party came prepared and used jamming devices to disrupt their communication channels.

"Send some people to go out of the perimeter so that they can contact the outside. We will buy time until the reinforcements arrive," said one of the team leaders before heading to the battle.

Another one quickly pointed out. "Protect the young misses. They must be the targets. Or at least, one of them."

Hearing those words, the person who was leading the guards from the Cilvana Family understood what was going on. Their young miss was in danger.

They were naturally aware of the incidents that happened on the outside just earlier. They knew that Shin, Arthur, and Leonard were ambushed by the Oni Mercenary Group when they were returning home.

They received the news just recently which was why they were late to notice that their communication lines were being jammed.

And when they saw Ghost Chopper, the leader of the Oni Mercenary Group, they quickly realized that everything was orchestrated just for this moment. These two planned everything out and were planning to avoid facing the top experts in their group. They were targeting them when they were at their weakest defenses.

In this serious situation, the leader of the soldiers of the Springfield Family quickly informed the others. "Based on our database, Mad Dog is already close to reaching the Void Manifestation Stage last month. And given the confidence that he has right now, we can't rule out the possibility that he is already at that level."

"His superpowers can already give some of the Domain Realm Experts a lot of problems when he is still at the Ethereal Opening Stage, so we can assume that his threat level is pretty high," he added, telling everyone the gravity of their situation.

Hearing that, the leader of the group responsible for protecting Alice, the princess of the Stuart Family, quickly added. "They have no choice but to engage in battle against him."

"He just broke through, so he shouldn't have stabilized his realm just yet. We can still take him down if the four of us work together," said the leader of the Goldstein Family.

The four of them were also Void Manifestation Stage Experts. And for each of them to be the leaders in their respective units, their strengths should be pretty strong. They could not be underestimated given any circumstances.

The problem was their opponent was the infamous mercenary, Mad Dog. This guy had a pretty strong martial art that he personally created after surviving in the war zones. It was said that his martial arts were at least comparable to some of the less prestigious but famous martial art families.

But the one that made him so notorious was his superpowers. No one had a clear knowledge of what kind of power he exactly possessed. But based on the reports of the survivors that fought him, it was a kind of power that could make the 'Domain Skills' of the Domain Realm Expert useless.

It might be an exaggeration, but the information was serious enough to make the higher-ups of any organization to be wary of him.

Moreover, he was just not an ordinary mercenary, but someone who was more skilled at killing and assassination. Even though, he also had some other areas of expertise, these two areas were where his true value was greatly appreciated.

On the other hand, his current partner, Ghost Chopper, was more proficient with other dirty work. Even though he was also skilled at assassinations, his main area of expertise was abduction.

With the two of them working together, Cloe's safety was greatly at risk.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The four leaders of the security units responsible for protecting the villa and their young misses and masters, the Void Manifestation Stage Experts, showed themselves after seeing that their subordinates could not do anything against the two mercenaries.

Mad Dog licked his lips and played with the ATAK knives that he was holding, which were the same name as him. He looked at the four experts in the same realm as him fearlessly and excitedly.

He then turned to Ghost Chopper who was standing beside him before saying. "Leave these four to me. You can take care of our target so that we can leave as soon as possible."

Ghost Chopper gave him a skeptical look before asking. "Are you sure? Even though you become more powerful after your recent breakthrough, you shouldn't be that strong to be able to face four experts on the same level."

"Heh! Don't underestimate me. Even though I can't kill any of them, preventing them from interfering with you should not be a problem," said Mad Dog with a laugh.

He then quickly added after a brief pause. "You better hurry up and capture our target. Don't bother to waste time getting a beating from those three hatchlings."

"I will not hesitate to leave you behind if the situation calls for it," he added in a ruthless tone.

Ghost Chopper wanted to refute but did not know how to do it. It was true that Mad Dog was much more powerful right now and even he could no longer do anything against him. He was only a Grandmaster Mentalist and was currently in the late stage.

In terms of power, he was two levels below Mad Dog. Even though he could bridge the gap between them through special means, the superpowers that the latter had was still troublesome to deal with.

"Then I will be going," said Ghost Chopper as he suddenly dashed to the side, making a detour to get past the four experts blocking their path.

Naturally, those four were not going to let him do as he pleased, so the two of them quickly gave chase without any hesitation. But after they took a couple of steps, a sharp sensation suddenly pointed at their necks, making them halt their steps and retreat.

Shing!

"Tsk! Tsk! You guys have a pretty good reaction speed," said Mad Dog as he suddenly appeared in front of them like a ghost.

Void Manifestation Experts had the ability to control space, so they had special means to bend the space a little or travel through it at extreme speed.

Mad Dog did not want to be careless, so they quickly activated his superpowers before the four could even react. His shadow seemed to be before spreading in every direction and creating a huge dome that trapped the four experts along with him.

He was using his superpowers to imitate a personal field of a Domain Realm Expert. And through this, facing four Void Manifestation Stage Experts shouldn't be a problem.

On the other hand, Ghost Chopper was rushing towards the villa where Cloe and the girls were staying, planning to finish their job as soon as possible. He was about to reach the front door when his danger instincts sensed something.

He quickly jumped to the side and threw himself on the ground before forming a mental energy wall in front of him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

It was at that moment when a series of gunshots could be heard as the front door was suddenly filled with holes by bullets.

Bang!

Quickly after that, someone broke the front door and threw a powerful punch at Ghost Chopper, who was currently kneeling on the ground.

The mercenary was quick to react as he enlarged the mental energy wall in front of him to protect himself. Then the two of them were engaged in an intense melee, trying to gain an advantage over each other.

It was at that moment when Ghost Chopper got a clear look on at his opponent. It was a woman mentalist, who was on a slightly weaker Mentalism Attainment than him.

This woman was one of Alice's personal guards who were tasked to protect her around the clock.

Ghost Chopper was clearly an advantage in terms of the mentalism realm and overall strength. But the problem was his opponent was not alone.

It did not take long for him to get surrounded. Cloe and Alice suddenly appeared on each of his flanks and started attacking him, coordinating with the female mentalist. At the same time, Lorraine was constantly threatening him with her guns and accurate shots.

He did not expect that the other side would decisively choose to fight, risking the safety of the three princesses.

Fortunately, he had come prepared.

Chapter 1036 Targets (Part 1)

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The personal guard that Ghost Chopper was facing was someone who was already close to reaching the Ruler's Realm. It was a realm that was comparable to Void Manifestation Stage Experts of Martial Arts.

Ghost Chopper did not expect that he would be facing such a strong opponent. He was only at the late stage of the Grandmaster Realm, so he was clearly on the weaker side when compared to this opponent.

Moreover, the other party was also being supported by the three girls; Cloe, Alice, and Lorraine – each of them was also strong enough to give him some trouble when they were alone, much less when they were working together.

Fortunately for him, he was not an ordinary Mentalist. He was a Kaleidoscope Mentalist who was proficient in both close-quarter combat and other mentalism methods. He should have a couple of advantages when compared to his current opponent, who seemed to be a Combat Mentalist.

Ghost Chopper knew that he could not afford to waste more time here. Even though Mad Dog was quite strong, he would still be in danger when facing Void Manifestation Stage Experts. It was the same even if he possessed a troublesome superpower.

Having that in mind, Ghost Chopper did not hesitate to reveal his card. He threw some metal rods in different directions before clasping his hands together.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The metal rods stabbed themselves into the ground before releasing a brilliant glow. They responded to the power that Ghost Chopper was releasing. Then there were golden lines that were released from the tip of the metal rods, connecting each other and trapping everyone inside.

Lorraine quickly noticed that there was something strange, so she swiftly raised her guns and fired them without hesitation. She was planning to stop Ghost Chopper from doing whatever he was planning to do.

The others also noticed something and quickly sprung into action, but before they could even move their bodies, they realized that the gravity seemed to multiply by a couple of times. It made it hard for them to move their bodies.

Lorraine also experienced the same thing and almost pulled the trigger of her guns while their weights suddenly increased. Fortunately, she was quick enough to stop herself, or else, she would have accidentally hit the others with their backs facing her.

In the meantime, Ghost Chopper licked his lips when he saw that his sealing formation worked well. He then took out a pair of daggers while looking savagely at the girls.

"If you surrender yourself and let us take you away, then I will promise that nothing is going to happen to your friends," he said as he directed his gaze to Cloe.

In the meantime, in another part of the city and a few minutes before the two incidents occurred, Shiella was heading toward the venue where the gathering that her mother was going to host.

She thought hard enough, considering who would she bring to be her escort. And after careful consideration, she ended up inviting David. Even though she did not want to do it, she did not have a choice since her mother clearly emphasized that she had to bring one.

Naturally, David was very excited about this. Even though he also had another purpose in coming to this particular gathering, he would not mind being invited by Shiella to be her 'date'. As shameless as he could be, this was how he saw this current situation.

To him, the task given by his master was only secondary while accompanying Shiella was his main goal.

There was a deep frown on Shiella's face as she sat across David inside the luxurious car. She was still unsatisfied with the current situation but it was already too late for regret.

She was wearing a deep blue luxurious dress with a simple design. It had an extra layer on its surface which had glitters, creating shining effects which resembled the night sky.

It had a single strap hanging on her right shoulder. That part of the dress had white rose patterns in different sizes, covering her shoulder. On the other hand, the other side was revealing her white shoulder and collarbone. And to make sure that her hair would not cover it, she tied them up into a bun, also revealing the back of her neck.

If not for her frown and the cold expression that she was wearing, then she would be no different from a fairy that could only be found in certain tales and stories. But this did not affect her beauty at all.

On the other hand, David was currently wearing a suit that was quite unnaturally for him. He was the kind of guy who would rather have a casual set of clothes all the time than wear something as uncomfortable as this.

But since he was attending a party with his goddess and acting as her escort, he did not have a choice but to wear them. Even though he was quite 'unwilling' to wear them, he did not hold back and got the most expensive and exquisite ones that he could have.

His suit and pants had a matching light brown color that complimented his tanned skin. The vest that he was wearing underneath was in a slightly darker tone while having a white long-sleeved shirt under it. He partnered them with a striped tie which perfected his attire alongside a pair of black shoes.

None of them talk on the entire journey, creating pure silence within the car. One of them was unwilling to talk while the other did not dare to talk.

It did not take long for them to arrive at the venue, making David finally sigh in relief. He finally did not have to stay in that car, enduring such a suffocating atmosphere.

Naturally, he quickly got out of the car before supporting Shiella as she followed after him. She fixed her dress for a moment before glaring at David.

"I have a lot of guests to greet before proceeding to meet the young masters and misses of different international corporations. Don't wander around and closely follow me. You are not allowed to create any trouble unless someone provokes you first," she said, sharply warning David.

Given that they had been seeing each other for a couple of events and every morning whenever she was having breakfast that was made by Shin, the two of them have a rough understanding of each other.

She knew how much of a troublemaker this guy was. But compared to Arthur, David was much more tolerable since was a little more mature. And he was also much more experienced given that he was roaming around the world as the Wanderer.

David chuckled a little as he could figure out her concerns. He smiled at her and answered. "Don't worry. This is not my first time attending such an important gathering."

He then paused for a moment and arched his left arm before offering it to Shiella. "Shall we?"

Shiella gave him another sharp glare before reluctantly accepting. She placed her hand on his arm before they walked together toward the hall.

The moment when they entered the hall, they quickly attracted the attention of all the guests. Especially for Shiella, who was the heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation. Her beauty alone was more than enough to attract their gazes what more her family background.

Everyone studied her for a couple of moments, especially the older ones since they had to see if this young miss of such a large corporation lived up to her name. And sure enough, they could not help but nod their heads in acknowledgment. She did not only carry herself properly, but she also had the unique air of an experienced businesswoman already despite her young age.

On the other hand, the younger ones were looking at her just to see her looks. The young men could not take off their eyes from her as they started fantasizing about her. Her looks and figure were more than enough to make these young men lose their minds. They even forgot that they already had someone on their side.

Meanwhile, the young women started giving Shiella their dissatisfied looks due to their envy and jealousy. Everyone was attracted to her, making these girls, who were originally proud of themselves, dimmed in the background. They were now being treated as unimportant characters despite their pretty looks and amazing backgrounds.

Though, deep inside their hearts, they were also aware that they were nothing in front of Shiella.

After looking at Shiella for a few moments, everyone was now curious about her escort. Who was this guy who had the luxury of accompanying such a wonderful young woman?

Based on looks alone, the young man beside Shiella was not that impressive. He had a plain appearance that could be easily forgotten by everyone. He was the type of person that could quickly blend in the crowd of people and no one would be able to find him.

The men could not help but furrow their brows while the women started to question Shiella's taste in men. But before they could even start ridiculing her escort, everyone discovered that this young man was not as ordinary as it seemed on the surface.

He might have an average look, but he possessed a unique demeanor that was hard to ignore. The more they looked at him the harder for them to take away their eyes from him. It was as if their gazes were unconsciously being attracted by this particular young man.

At the same time, their thoughts seemed to be solely focused on him every time their eyes land in his direction. It was as if their minds were erasing all of the distracted thoughts that they usually had and only seeing him and no one else.

It was at that moment when the more experienced people realized that this young man was out of the ordinary.

On the other hand, the guests, who were familiar with martial arts and mentalism circles, immediately realized who this young man was.

The famous Wanderer! David Solomon!

When his identity was spread among the guests, the old men started seeing this young man in a new light while the other young men, who were originally planning to give him trouble started looking at him with fear. The young women also did not know what to say as even they knew how famous David was around the world.

David, who was able to read the quick changes in the atmosphere within the room, could not help but smile in satisfaction. The special technique that he learned from his master's husband sure was useful in times like this.

Increasing and erasing his presence whenever he wanted sure has a lot of uses even outside combat.

He was sweeping his gaze at everyone when his eyes were suddenly attracted to a certain person sitting in the corner of the hall.

He squinted his eyes a little and focused his eyes before smiling meaningfully. "Found you!"

Chapter 1037 Targets (Part 2)

...

"Found you!"

David quickly retracted his gaze after seeing the mysterious young man sitting in an isolated corner of the hall. He then swept his eyes in the surroundings, seemingly observing everyone with his special ocular technique.

After looking around for a couple of minutes, he could not help but furrow his brows deeply. "This is very troubling. They have much more people than we have expected, but it is still manageable – I have a pretty reliable 'second man' this time."

He then cast his gaze to the second floor of the hall and saw a man in his thirties drinking a glass of champagne while observing everyone from there.

This man was currently in disguise as he was one of the top experts in the Martial Arts Circle. A man famous for his strength and power, the Hundred Beast Joaquin Geovanni. But before he was known for his current title, he was previously famous for another title, the Shapeshifter.

As someone who mastered the arts of body strengthening and promoted it to another level, he was able to control every single muscle, bone, and innards within his body. And by manipulating them to a certain degree, he was able to change his shape, height, and appearance to have a perfect disguise. He could even copy the appearance of anyone if he wanted to.

Earlier, David asked this expert to help him with another mission that his master had given him. There was an intel that was passed to them about a huge operation of the Hextech Laboratory.

They were planning to abduct a couple of talented individuals from famous families who were visiting the Soaring Continent from overseas. And this particular event was the perfect time to do it.

They were planning to create chaos within the event and put the blame on the host of the gathering while they were conducting their operation in the middle of the chaos.

The list of the primary targets was already been sent to David, which he quickly memorized to make sure that he would not miss anyone.

His original plan was to protect every target later when all of the young masters and misses were gathered in another hall which was much smaller than this one. But after realizing that the forces of the opposing side were much larger than he thought, he decided to ask for some help from powerful seniors instead.

Fortunately, Joaquin was quite free these days as he could not find the traitor in their circle yet. And since the opponents this time were quite interesting, he decided to join the fun.

But when they arrived at the venue and identified the people who were plotting something for this event, they became quite surprised as the number and quality of their opponents were much stronger than they had thought.

There were even a couple of people who could give Joaquin some trouble. Fortunately, there were also other experts inside the hall aside from him.

With that, David and Joaquin decided to divide the work – David would be responsible for the young ones while Joaquin would be taking care of the older people. While they were planning to prevent the abduction attempt of the opposing party, they also have to secure the safety of everyone. After all, these people were from high-profile backgrounds, so there would be serious problems if anything was to happen to them.

Moreover, the blame would fall on the Flying Dragon Corporation if it were to happen. And it would deal a serious blow to them when that time came.

Of course, David could just inform Shiella about it and propose working together. But Joaquin prevented him from doing it since might alert the opposing party if they noticed that the security for the event became too tight.

Joaquin had brought some of his friends around and he believed that it would be enough, so there was no need for them to bring unnecessary concerns for the Flying Dragon Corporation. Additionally, he also preferred doing his job this way – tricking his allies to trick their opponents was one of his methods when dealing with this kind of assignment.

Or rather, he was just too lazy to deal with the large corporations because of their so-called 'protocols' which he found a pain in the *ss.

...

Walking beside David, Shiella noticed the strange actions of her 'escort' and could not help but squeezed his arm tightly before whispering. "Hey! What are you doing? Focus on your job. You can check on other girls later when it is time to gather all of the younger generation."

David did not know how to respond to her words. He could only smile bitterly while trying to defend himself. "I am not checking anyone."

"Why will I have to look for others when I already have a goddess beside me?" and also took that opportunity to flirt with her.

Shiella retracted her hand from his arm before giving him a sharp glare. But aside from that, she did not say anything else. She then proceeded at leading David as she walked toward her mother while greeting a couple of people along the way.

At the same time, her thoughts were also thinking about a couple of things. David might have hidden it very well, but it still did not escape her sharp eyes. She knew that this guy was looking out for something given his current behavior.

She might not be familiar with him when it came to the real world, but if it was her old rival inside the game, the King of Virtual Games 'Khing', then she was confident that she could read his intentions quite well.

She did not voice it out since the latter seemed not to have the intention of telling her, but she at least had to expect something. She also started looking at everyone cautiously while also giving out signals to the guards to be on guard secretly.

David quickly noticed her reaction and could not help but shook his head helplessly as he knew that he had been found out.

It might be for the better, but if the opposing side noticed the movements of the guards, then they might as well pull out their forces and call off the operation entirely.

He could only hope that it would not happen as this was such a rare opportunity to lure out the traitor hiding in their ranks.

If the operation of the Hextech Laboratory failed this time, then that person would surely make some adjustments to their plans which would give Joaquin and the other experts the time to catch their tail.

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In the meantime, while David and Joaquin were observing the movements of the suspicious people attending the gathering, the opposing side also managed to find some things.

"Captain, the Wanderer make an appearance in the gathering alongside the heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation," said a person who was observing the event through a spy camera before adding. "Do you think he is here to get in our way?"

This person hesitated for a moment before continuing. "For the people of the 'surface', he is the Wanderer, the genius mentalist who was constantly traveling around the world to challenge all of the talented individuals of the younger generation."

"But for us, people of the underworld, he is nothing but a bone stuck in our throats, who is constantly giving us a lot of trouble."

"He is always getting in the way of every underworld organization whenever he comes across them. He does not care whether it is a big or small organization – he will also be an obstacle to any big and important projects."

"The biggest project that he has gotten involved in is that huge incident in the Lost Soul Continent. Tsk! He sure is fearless, he even works with the Valentine Family during that time."

"Sigh~! If not for his mysterious and powerful master protection, then he is most likely to have been taken down by the large organizations."

He thought for a moment as he suddenly recalled something before continuing his chatter. "I also heard that he is one of the reasons why the Shadow Alliance lost their footing in the main region of this country. His discovery of the underground laboratory produced a domino effect that leads to the failure of such a large organization."

"What do you think about it, Captain? Is he here to sabotage our plans?" he asked turning his gaze away from the monitor and casting his gaze toward the person who seemed to be sleeping soundly beside him.

That person, who he called captain, lazy waved his head and calmly responded. "It is impossible for him to know our movements. The head scientists make sure that this operation is tightly wrapped."

"And we are only doing it one time. Once we are done with it, we are going to quickly leave this country and head over to our next destination. For people like us, staying here is much more dangerous than being in the Dark Continent since the number of sleeping dragons staying here is much larger than what you can imagine."

He then paused for a moment before his confident tone disappeared. "But if he is really here to mess with us, then we have to reconsider our reappearance in the world. Dr. Frankenstein must have miscalculated something."

"There are a pair of large shadows playing a game of chess on such a large board. And people like us can only be pawns without our knowledge," he added in a mystifying tone.

There was even an intense shiver on his spine when he said those words as such an idea flashed through his mind.

Chapter 1038 Targets (Part 3)

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After greeting everyone that she needed to greet, Shiella led David to another hall where the younger guests were supposed to gather. The real purpose of the gathering was about to start which was why the younger ones were supposed to leave the venue and head to another area.

This gathering was a serious event for the older generation as they had to discuss an important business that the Flying Dragon Corporation was spearheading while it was meant for the younger generation to socialize with the people around their age.

As the host of this event, Shiella was about to start the simple program that she had prepared when she received a sudden message. And based on the specialized ringtone that she set for emergencies, it seemed like the message was a serious one.

She excused herself from the others before finding a corner to read through the message. And when she saw its content, she could not help but have a cold look on her face. There was even a murderous intent that leaked from her, which she quickly retracted after a brief moment.

It might be brief, but for David who was constantly on guard and sharply surveying the surroundings with his eyes, he was able to quickly noticed the sudden murderous intent that came from Shiella.

"What is it?" he asked after quickly arriving beside her.

Shiella was silent for a moment as she inhaled deeply, trying to calm herself down. It took her quite some time before she was able to reply. "Shin and the others got ambushed by a strong mercenary group."

David suddenly raised his brows when he heard that. He knew that the situation in the Eastern Sea Region was not the best because of the appearance of different underworld organizations here.

The one who was the most active right now was the Hextech Laboratory since they were the ones who kept on kidnapping talented people for their immortal researchers. He knew that they were crazy, but he did not expect that they were crazy enough to target the young masters of a powerful Family such as the Springfield Family.

This current operation that they were plotting was already crazy enough, yet they still wanted to provoke the Springfield Family on top of that.

David could not figure out what those mad scientists were thinking. But at the same time, he also suspected that it might be another group who had some grudge against Shin and the others – just like the Shadow Alliance for example. This though would most likely be the chase.

"How is the situation?" asked David, slightly concerned. Even though he was confident about Shin's abilities, he still could not help but be a little worried due to the current state of his junior brother.

"They are fine now and the people under us are already interrogating the assailants. They are from the Oni Mercenary Group and seemed to be commissioned by someone to deal with Shin," replied Shiella in a cold tone.

She then paused for a moment and glared at David before saying. "I need to have a word with you. Following for a second."

After that, she excused herself to the others before heading toward a room adjacent to the hall with David following after her.

David swept his gaze inside the hall for another time, making sure that the people that he was keeping his eyes on would not be ready yet. He also gave a signal to a young man situated on an isolated corner, telling him to take over.

This was one of the people that Joaquin had brought. Fortunately, this guy seemed to be strong enough to fit in for the mission.

Right after entering the adjacent room, David carefully closed the door as he already had an idea of what Shiella wanted to talk about.

Bang!

And right after he turned around, he saw her fist magnified in front of his eyes before landing on the door behind him. Fortunately, she controlled her strength pretty well, or else that poor door would be blasted by her without a doubt.

The corner of his mouth twitched slightly as he looked at the cold look that she was wearing. He then asked carefully. "Is there something wrong?"

"David Solomon, do try to act innocent. I know that something is going on," she said before adding threateningly. "What is it? I will make sure that you will not like the outcome if try to hide anything."

David could only sigh helplessly when he saw her current expression, especially with that dense killing intent that she was releasing. He knew that he would be in trouble if he said the slightest bit of a lie.

Collecting his thoughts, David smiled bitterly before answering. "The Hextech Laboratory is plotting something during this event. They are planning to abduct a few talented people among the younger generation of different corporations and families and dumping all the blame on the Flying Dragon Corporation while escaping."

David continued to explain the situation with a guilty tone. "They are originally not planning to do it and planning to take things slowly."

"They are behind the incidents concerning the mysterious disappearance of talented people without amazing backgrounds. But the moment when the military and police forces joined hands to pursue them, they had no choice but to take extreme measures."

"Especially when the Dragon King took notice of their movements. The military force stationed in the Eastern Sea Region invited him to work with them."

"Now that they had such a powerful expert hot in their tail, they were forced to rush everything and came up with this idea. And when this operation is done, they are planning to flee from the Soaring Continent and take root in another country."

Instead of calming down, Shiella became even more enraged and released a much denser murderous intent. "How come you do inform me of such important information? It even concerns my family."

David dodged her gaze before answering. "Well, it is a confidential operation, so I am not in the position to share it with anyone."

Even though he was the one who informed Joaquin about this information, he would never admit it given Shiella's current mood. Though, it was also true that it was a confidential operation since no one was allowed to know it unless his master permitted him to.

Joaquin was just one of the exceptions since he was one of the most trusted people that his master had acknowledged. He was a straightforward person and the most loyal one at that. Moreover, he hated traitors the most, so he was the perfect candidate to work in this operation where someone was backstabbing the Council of Elders and the Soaring Continent.

Shiella did not say anything and waited for David to finish telling her everything. Though, she still maintained the cold look that she was wearing and the murderous intent that she was releasing.

When David stopped talking, she finally asked. "So, what is the situation? And when are you guys making your move?"

David was silent for a moment before replying. "We are still waiting for the other side to make their moves since they will never be able to back out easily when they start."

"If we recklessly start taking them down and capturing their people, not only the event will be ruined, they will decisively back out and escape without any hesitation."

Shiella further furrowed her eyebrows before asking sharply. "And you think the event will not be ruined when they make their move?"

"At least, we can capture them when that time comes, especially when they could no longer back out when it happens," refuted David while shrugging his shoulders.

It was at that moment when Shiella took a step back before saying. "We have to force them to make their moves now so that we can wrap this up sooner."

"I still have to check on my brothers and the girls staying at home. Especially that dumb guy who carelessly injured himself," she added as she quickly fixed her dress which got slightly wrinkled due to her previous action.

David could not help but become a little jealous of Shin and Arthur. He knew that Shiella cared for those two and he envied them in some way. Though, he was also treating Shin that way when they were living in that small village within the Forbidden Valley.

He then cleared his throat for a moment before replying. "It is going to be much trickier than how it sounds. Those guys are not some idiots who will carelessly take the bait, which is why we are currently in a passive position."

"In fact, they may even have suspected something when they saw me attending this event. Given my 'reputation' in the underworld, it will not be strange for them to think that way."

He paused for a moment and looked at Shiella before continuing. "Actually, they may already be suspecting that I am working with you right now, especially since they see us sneaking out with just the two of us."

"Though, I am also confident that I am working with a powerful expert such as Sir Joaquin," he added, assuring that everything was still under control.

Shiella thought for a moment before saying. "I will take care of the bait while you and Uncle Joaquin will do your jobs."

After that, she slightly pushed David to the side, planning to go back to the hall.

David quickly stopped her and asked. "What are you planning? Isn't it unfair to me that I tell you everything while you keep your plans to yourself?"

Shiella hesitated for a moment before shaking her head. "It is fine. It will not affect the operation. You will know about it later."

She was about to open the door when she saw David stubbornly preventing her from doing so. Without a choice, she turned back to him and briefly said. "I will just present a bait that they will not be able to refuse."

"We don't have much time to discuss the specifics of the plan, so just focus on your job," she added before pushing David's arm away and opening the door.

David did not immediately follow her as he fell into deep thought. After thinking for a moment, he sighed helplessly before contacting Joaquin Geovanni and informing the senior about the slight adjustments to the plan.

After that, he turned around and went back to the hall while muttering to himself. "Let's just hope that you are not going to do something reckless."

Chapter 1039 Presenting Herself As The Bait

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In a building near the Grand Sunshine Hotel.

The person who was leading the operation of the Hextech Laboratory suddenly received critical intel right before they could start their operation.

Raising his brow, he quickly turned to the person right beside him who was currently busy looking at the videos in front of a computer. "Royter, we are canceling the operation. Tell everyone to start leaving now."

"Eh!? So, sudden? We are about to start it now!" said the guy named Royter while turning the captain. "What happened, Captain? Is it from the higher-ups?"

"It is not just from the higher-ups. Our informant said that the Flying Dragon Corporation have already heard about our operation and started taking countermeasures. We have to back out now to cut our losses," said the captain as he started sending messages to the captains of the other units.

"How come it has gotten leaked?" muttered Royter before quickly remembering something. "Captain, is it because of the Wanderer? Is he really here to get in our way?"

The captain paused for a moment before shaking his head. "It is not confirmed yet. But it seems like the Flying Dragon Corporation has been keeping an eye on us since earlier. At least, that is what the intel is saying. They are also planning to trap us when with a solid net right after we start our operation."

He paused for a moment before pointing his chin toward one of the screens in front of them. "Look, they are moving their people already. It is obvious that they have gotten wind of our operation. I don't know how they sniff it, but based on the timing alone, it is clear that they are expecting us to make our move at this point in time."

"Pull out everyone and tell them to gather at the rendezvous point. We are leaving as soon as they have gathered," he added before continuing to contact the other unit captains.

"But how are we going to secure the 'goods' if we go back like this? We are dead if the Head Researchers are not satisfied," muttered Royter as he started giving out orders.

"Idiot! Do you think it is important right now? The main point is we are already been discovered. Sooner or later, those people from the military and police forces may even get involved too," scolded the captain while smacking the head of Royter with his hand.

"It is a pity then. There are a lot of good subjects in this gathering and most of them were people that we can afford to provoke. A bunch of pushovers," said Royter as he continued to contact the others.

It was at that moment when the captain received another news. And when he saw the message, he could not help but frown even deeper and fall into deep thought.

"Captain! We got entangled with the heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation. She discovered us sneaking out of the event. She is pretty persistent." – this was the message that he just received.

And it was immediately followed by another – "She seems to be calling for reinforcements. What are we going to do?"

The captain was silent for a moment before taking the line. "Team 1. What is the situation? Is she alone?"

There was a silence for a moment before the reply came in. "This is Alpha 1. Responding to command. She seems to be alone. Over."

The captain closed his eyes and inhaled deeply as if he was steeling his resolve. "This is Command. All teams listen up."

"Team 1, keep the Junior Dragoness occupied and lure her toward location A. Team 2 and 3, intercept the incoming reinforcements and buy as much time as you can until Team 1 reached their destination. The rest of you, fall back and gather at the rendezvous point. Over."

"Roger that!" everyone responded to his words before executing the orders given to them.

In the meantime, Royter, who remained silent up until now could not help but turn to his captain before asking. "Are planning to capture the Junior Demoness, captain? Are you sure about this?"

"The situation already escalated this much, so there is nothing much we can do. Since we have already been discovered, we may as well not mess with the other corporations and focus on the Flying Dragon Corporation," said the captain before adding decisively. "And since they are already on our tail, why not take advantage of this situation and acquire a perfect subject such as this Junior Dragoness."

"We are already been provoking the Springfield Family and Catherine Family by trying to plot something to the Flying Dragon Corporation anyway, so why not go all the way instead of being content with an average result."

"We may have a massive force chasing after our back if we do that, but aren't we already used to it? We are even challenging the World Government constantly, but we are still here continuing our jobs, so adding a few more pursuers in exchange for a perfect subject will be worth the trade."

"I am sure even Dr. Frankenstein will understand it and overlook the little mishaps along the way," he added with a confident tone.

He paused for a moment and turned around while continuing. "You can take care of the things here. Make sure to erase all of the traces before heading to the rendezvous point. I will attend to the other matters personally so that no accidents are going to happen."

Royer stared at his captain's back before sighing. He then started working on the task given to him, preparing to leave.

In the meantime, David could not help but curse repeatedly when he saw Shiella running on her own and chasing after the members of the Hextech Laboratory. He knew that she would be presenting herself as the bait to lure the opposing side from their hiding place. He wanted to chase after her but he was suddenly intercepted by a few people along the way.

"Tsk! These guys going to be a little troublesome," cursed David as he looked at the two people blocking his path.

"It has been a while, David. I've been looking for you since that incident, who will think that we are going to meet like this?" said one of the guys in an arrogant tone.

This person was a guy in his mid-twenties. His purple hair was long enough to hide his head under his bangs. But despite almost half of his face being covered by his hair, his youthfulness could still be seen, indicating his age.

He was wearing a simple set of military clothes. A short-sleeve white shirt under a tactical vest that was commonly used in the military with an open front. His pants were the usual camouflage ones partnered with a pair of black combat shoes.

He had a lean yet muscular body, signifying that he underwent intense and discipline training. And based on the scars on each of his arms and his neck, it was clear that he already went through a few life-and-death battles.

Anyone could easily tell that this young man had a deep enmity against David given the intense killing intent that he had.

David collected himself before replying smirkingly. "It is indeed been a long time since we last met, Marion Halls. I don't expect that you are going to be a hunting dog of the Hextech Laboratory after that crushing defeat."

Hearing those words, Marion started releasing an even denser killing intent and preparing to attack David. But before he could even make his move, the other person beside him quickly prevented him from doing anything.

"You better calm yourself, Marion. Can't you see it properly? He is purposely provoking you to cloud your judgment. We are here to hold him down until the captain takes care of the other business," said the other person as he looked at David calmly.

This was the person that David had spotted earlier. And among the younger generation, he was the one who gave him the most impression due to the unique aura that he had. It was a kind of aura that he could only find in certain individuals.

"Evil Aura. You are someone who artificially created a 'Seed of Hatred' and purposely get yourself corrupted – the Unforgiven Ones," said David as the expression on his face was suddenly filled with caution.

Hearing those words, the guy in the tuxedo gave David a bitter smile before responding. "Unforgiven One – what a harsh word to describe us. We are just people who are pioneering a new path that suit us. We are no different than the other practitioner of the other disciplines."

David shook his head before refuting. "That is where you are wrong. Even the Demonic Practitioners are much better than you people. At the very least, those guys will not slaughter thousands of innocent children just to create that so-called 'seed'."

"They may not have the best image in the world, but they at least have their bottom line. Most of them are people who surrender themselves to their inner demons while the rarest ones controlled their own demons and turned them into a new form of power."

"In my eyes and everyone else, there are a lot of things that could differentiate your groups," he added as his gaze started to turn cold.

"Heh! I must admit that you really have your way of agitating people. But no matter what you do, that girl, the heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation and the Junior Dragoness of this continent, will not be saved," said the guy before adding in a mocking tone. "So, say whatever you want and struggle as much as you can. No one can stop us from achieving the greatness that we foresee."

Boom!

A powerful pressure suddenly exploded from David's body as the coldness of his eyes deepened.

He then grabbed onto the tie on his neck before pulling and untying it. Alongside those actions, a cold voice reverberated in the air. "I wonder if you have the strength to back those words up."

"I guess I have you show you why those old guys from the underworld warn their young agents to stay away whenever they saw me."

"Let me introduce to you the 'Wanderer' that the underworld knew."

Chapter 1040 Enrage

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Shiella was currently wearing tight combat suit that she always brought with her for this kind of emergency situation. She took a quick change when she went to the restroom earlier. And since taking of her dress was pretty troublesome, she had no choice but to rip it apart even though it broke her heart. Instead, she poured all of her anger and frustrations to the members of the Hextech Laboratory.

She already informed the guards and her mother earlier. And to prevent the event from getting ruined, they purposely made the movements of their security known to the opposing side. The guards stationed inside the hall were also ready take action at any given moment, so the people of the Hextech Laboratory had no choice but to move in secrecy.

The captain of each unit from the lab's hunting dogs originally wanted to create a commotion within the event and used the chaos as a cover for their escape. But when they saw that the guards were already marking each of the people that were making suspicious movements, they did not have a choice but to pull out silently since it would only put themselves in risk if they carelessly create a commotion.

Such an old move would never work on these people, who already went through similar situations. Moreover, the captains also noticed that the guards were not the only ones who were marking their men. There were a couple of people mixed in the guests, who seemed to be targeting them.

Those people were the guys that Joaquin had brought. After hearing the situation from David, he had no choice but to make the presence of his men known to scare the people of the Hextech Laboratory.

Joaquin had informed David that his men had unique pins attached on their suits, so it was easy to identify them. And the latter quickly relied it to Shiella so that she could pass the message to the people of the Flying Dragon Corporation.

They move rather quickly despite only knowing the news. They even moved in coordinated manner, covering all of the escape routes that the opposing side would possibly take. This sight made the people of the Hextech Laboratory to panic and forced them to hurry over.

Joaquin hid himself among the crowd as he marked the strongest-looking men of the opposing side. At the same time, he also told his men to chase after their targets but purposely let them leave the hotel. It was to prevent any unnecessary trouble that would ruin the event.

It was the same for the guards of the Flying Dragon Corporation. They were pursuing their respective targets but maintained a good distance, purposely letting the opposing party to have an easy time escaping.

It was no like they gave up on capturing these people. Instead, they were planning to gather everyone and cast a net around them, catching everyone in a single scoop.

Shiella had purposely presented herself as a bait, so that the other side would focus on her instead of creating a commotion when they were escaping. After all, taking her as a hostage was more effective than doing something that would make themselves known.

This silent war continued to for a few minutes until the 'battlefield' became the streets and parks near the Grand Sunshine Hotel. The two sides exchanged a couple of 'moves' during the entire process.

The people of the Hextech Laboratory scattered around while the guards of the Flying Dragon Corporation and the people brought by Joaquin chased after them.

Naturally, some of these people from the laboratory were bound to be the decoys and escape goats to let the main force escaped.

It was at this movement when the true abilities of the 'Hundred Beast' was shown. He immediately started his hunt in this concrete jungle. He moved like a stealthy predator and started capturing the people from the opposing side one after another. Given his strength as one of the most powerful experts in Domain Realm, no one was able to stop from his tracks.

This was when the captains of the hunting dogs of the lab understood the severity of their situation. They also realized that they had been tricked by the other side.

"Captain Hakuna! Capture the young lady of the Springfield Family as soon as possible, someone terrifying is currently hot on our tail," said one of the unit captains on his earpiece while exchanging glances with the other two people running alongside him.

These two were also captains on their respective units. Their individual strength was only at the peak of the Void Manifestation Stage which was far too weak compared to the powerful opponent chasing after them. But if they combined their strengths and work together, they at least had the chance against it.

Moreover, they could also use their respective 'Evil Seed' if the situation called for it. They refused to believe that Joaquin could defeat them if they Evil Transformation.

"We are going to buy you some time, so capture her as soon as possible," he said as he turned around and got ready for battle.

They waited for a few moments until Joaquin, who was currently in disguise, appeared in their vision. He was walking leisurely in the path walk with both of his hands tucked on his pockets. He walked out from the dark like a beast hunting under the shadows of the night.

"Tsk! Tsk! Have you stopped running already? Continue on – I think we are still far from your gathering point," he said while wearing a smirking smile.

"Who are you?! And why are you getting in our way?!" said one of the captains as they prepared themselves for battle.

"Is that important?" said Joaquin while lazily picking his ear. He waited until the three positioned themselves in a decent formation before continuing. "Hakuna, the sleeping monster. He is the one leading this operation, right?"

"There is no need to deny it. I already heard you mention that alias when talking on the line earlier," he added in absolute certainty.

"Attack!" said the leading captain, not bothering to ask any question anymore. Within their circle, there were only a few people who knew the name Hakuna. And if the person in front of them knew that alias, then it could only mean that they knew the structure of their organization to a certain degree.

Anyone who had that kind of knowledge outside of their organization needed to be eliminated as soon as possible, silencing them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing their actions, Joaquin suddenly grinned widely while muttering to himself. "Too easy!"

In the meantime, back in the neighborhood where Shin and the others were staying.

The situation in that place seemed to have settled down to a certain degree. The sounds of battle and explosions could no longer be heard. At least, that was the case in front of the villa where the girls were staying.

Ghost Chopper suffered a certain degree of injuries from fighting the girls but he still able to take them down in the end.

The personal guard that was supposedly protecting Alice was currently lying on the ground, unconscious. Whether she was alive or dead was still unknown.

Alice was currently leaning on the broken wall behind her while pressing her hand on her waist where a huge wound was currently present. She was doing her best to stop the intense bleeding of that wound with her mentalism techniques. But since their opponent was also a master of mentalism, her mental energy was currently being suppressed by a certain poison that was making it hard for her to control her mental energy properly.

Lorraine was not in a good condition either. She was in a similar state as Alice and could not even raise her other arm to raise her gun. It seemed like her shoulder was shattered by Ghost Chopper since he got annoyed by her accurate shooting. If not for her formidable body constitution that she had honed through her martial-arts alongside her basic understanding of mentalism techniques, she might be in much worse condition now.

In the meantime, Cloe was currently being lifted by Ghost Chopper with one hand. He was holding her neck, slightly choking her as he glared at her. "This should not have happened if you only come with us peacefully. You are to blame for their current state."

"You are lucky. If not for our contractor insisting to bring back without much injuries, I will have broken a bone or two," he said sharply.

He was not expecting that he would have to spend quite a lot of effort at taking down these girls despite using his trump card. Not only he failed to defeat them in a short time, but he also suffered quite a few injuries in the process. One of his arms got heavily injured while also having a couple of broken ribs.

Fortunately, he was a Mentalist with a decent healing capability. He was able to cure his injuries to a certain degree, healing himself to the point where those injuries would not be able to hinder his movements.

He then looked over his shoulders and stared at the dome of shadow boundary in the distance before muttering to himself. "I have to wrap this up as soon as possible. Mad Dog will not be able to hold out that much longer either."

He then turned back to Cloe and was about to put her to sleep when he suddenly heard the girl laughing. He slightly raised his brows and looked at her in suspicion. And when he was about to ask why she was laughing, he suddenly heard her say with extreme difficulty. "You are right. I am quite lucky, indeed!"

She then paused for a moment and cough slightly before continuing. "I mean, very lucky."

Ghost Chopper was about to ask her what she was talking about. But before he could even open his mouth, a powerful pressure suddenly pressed on him alongside a cold voice saying.

"What do you think are you doing?"