

## Fairy Tail 301

### Chapter 301: Brushing off the Low-Ranking Members of Grimoire Heart

Shortly before the Grimoire Heart airship landed on Tenrou Island, the soldiers of the Magic Council's naval fleet were monitoring the ongoing situation. And luckily for them, they were able to see everything on the island once the barrier surrounding it broke.

"Sir, the sun is about to sink below the horizon." The fleet captain said to Lahar.

"I am aware." Lahar said as he watched the happenings on Tenrou Island through his binoculars.

\*Swish!\*

As Lahar finished his sentence, a man wearing a high-collared orange shirt appeared on the flag ship's deck next to Lahar. As he did, all the soldiers and Rune Knights who saw him drew their weapons to subdue the intruder.

"Stand down!" Lahar ordered after feeling the familiar presence that appeared next to him. "Doranbolt, how did your mission go?"

"Unfortunately, it was a failure." Doranbolt replied. "The guild has done nothing that could warrant immediate disbanding."

"They were only holding their annual S-Class Promotion Exam." Lahar said while quickly glancing at his colleague. "What were you hoping to find?"

"Honestly, I didn't think I'd find anything." Doranbolt replied with a shrug. Though, Lahar did not miss the hint of disappointment in his tone.

"I know he doesn't like Fairy Tail, just like most of the members of the Council." Lahar thought to himself as he glanced at Doranbolt once again. "But if he wasn't expecting to find any damning evidence, why is he disappointed."

The reason for Doranbolt's disappointment was simple. He failed the optional mission of bringing Wendy, the Maiden of the Sky, as she has been called, back with him.

"I do think that my cover had been blown, though." Doranbolt added.

"So, they knew you were from the Magic Council?" Lahar asked.

"I don't think so." Doranbolt replied while shaking his head. "But they were all abnormally suspicious of me. Which means they thought I was someone suspicious. Even after I altered all their memories with my [Memory Control Magic]."

"I guess that means your magic is not as potent on those with a greater amount of magic power than you." Lahar said as he brought his binoculars up to his face again. "And since there are so many strong S-Class wizards in Fairy Tail, though I doubt they saw through it completely, they probably warned the other members just in case."

"As much as I hate to admit it, that makes sense." Doranbolt said while shaking his head.

If only Doranbolt knew that his identity had been seen through by a pair of reincarnators, he would probably question everything he ever knew.

"Anyway, how is the battle going?" Doranbolt asked.

"Currently, Master Makarov is facing off against Hades." Lahar replied. "But it looks like that battle will be ending shortly. It appears Makarov's age is finally catching up to him."

"I guess that means we will be losing another Wizard Saint this evening." Doranbolt replied.

"Wait, it looks like Makarov was just saved." Lahar said, surprise evident in his tone.

"Sir, there are a large number of Grimoire Heart wizards surrounding the Maiden of the Sky and two of those talking cats from Fairy Tail!" A soldier, who was watching another part of the island, shouted at nearly the same time."

Hearing the soldier's report, Doranbolt could only clench his fists in regret.

'I knew I should have just taken her, regardless of the consequences.' Doranbolt thought to himself as he stared at Tenrou Island in the distance. 'Letting someone with the ability to heal die in this conflict is pointless. Her abilities could help so many people'

Earth land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Tenrou Island.

As the soldier on the Magic Council flagship reported, Wendy, Carla, and Panther Lily were surrounded by at least thirty low-ranking members of Grimoire Heart.

"Ha! It's just a brat and a couple of cats." A male wizard said with a sneer on his face. "This will be the easiest assignment ever.

"If you really think it will be that easy, then you've truly underestimated us." Panther Lily replied as he started growing in size.

Eventually, Panther Lily grew to the size he had in Edolas. On top of that, the sword on his back grew to match his current size.

"Now, let's see if you're as strong as you think you are or just over confident due to your numbers."

"What the hell kind of cat is that?" A female wizard asked in surprise.

"It doesn't matter!" Another male wizard shouted. "Just kill them. That's what Master Hades ordered, and that's all we need to do."

"Yeah!" All the low-ranking Grimoire Heart wizards shouted in unison.

"[Wind Magic: Drilling Air Bullets]."

"[Fire Magic: Grand Inferno]."

"Lightning Magic: Chain Lightning]."

With that, spells of all kinds of elements were fired in the Fairy Tail trio's direction.

In response, Panther Lily sprouted a pair of wings and evaded many of the spells while slashing his sword at those he could not. To his surprise, as well as the surprise of the opposing wizards, the spells Panther Lily slashed were dispelled on impact.

"That's new." Panther Lily said after dispelling several spells. "I guess I really owe Alfonzo an apology. This sword really is better than Bustermarm. It can even do this. [Buster Bomb]."

With his chant, the sword in Panther Lily's hand began to glow brightly as he flew toward the nearest group of wizards at high speed. Then, once he was in range, he swung his sword with all his might.

\*Clang!\*

\*Boom~~~!\*

Upon impact with the magic sword of one of Grimoire Heart's wizards, a large explosion was triggered, sending a number of the surrounding wizards flying with injuries of varying degrees.

Meanwhile, Wendy pulled Carla behind her as she evaded some of the incoming spells while she devoured all those of the wind element.

"Is she eating our magic?" one of the female wizards who used a wind spell asked. "Is she a God Slayer like Lord Zankrow?"

"No, I'm not." Wendy said as she and Carla flew forward. "I'm a dragon Slayer. [Sky Dragon's Wing Attack]."

With her chant, Wendy flapped her arms in the dark wizards direction. As she did, a pair of long, slender cyclones were generated around her arms and extended forward as they engulfed the nearby wizards and sent them flying in all directions.

"[Sky Dragon's Roar]." Wendy chanted another spell as Carla turned her towards a second group of enemy wizards.

With that, Wendy breathed out a larger cyclone that flung many wizards away due to the air currents.

At the same time, Levy and Gajeel had been surrounded by a similar number of low-ranking wizards from Grimoire Heart while in the forest.

"And here I was getting bored because I didn't get to fight anyone during the exam." Gajeel said with a feral grin on his face. "It made me wonder why I even teamed up with this Pipsqueak."

"What was that?" Levy asked with a tick mark on her forehead. "Was the chance to fight the only reason you teamed up with me, Gajeel?"

"Of course, it was." Gajeel replied. "Why else would I have teamed up with you?"

"I don't' know... Maybe to help me become S-Class?" Levy said angrily.

Finally noticing Levy's tone, Gajeel glanced at his teammate. And after seeing the angry expression she was wearing, he looked at her apologetically.

"Sorry about that, Pipsqueak." Gajeel said in apology. "But you know how much I like to fight strong people."

"Whatever." Levy replied while looking away.

"If your little lover's quarrel is over, can we start this battle?" One of the two wizards appearing to the lead the group of low-ranking wizards, a humanoid goat with short brown fur and a prominent flat nose wearing red samurai armor with the Grimoire Heart symbol embossed on the chest plate and a katana hanging on his hip, asked disdainfully.

"Why are you even bothering to talk to these weaklings, Cock-a-do." The second of the leading wizards, an anthropomorphic rooster with human arms as well as wings wearing an orange, eastern apron, black pants that showed off his avian legs, and a simple cloth belt, asked. "Just kill them, Cock-a-doodle-do!"

"Agreed." The humanoid goat replied while crossing his arms in front of his chest. "Attack!"

As soon as the order was given, all the low-ranking members of Grimoire Heart rushed forward while shouting their battle cries.

"Yeah, this is gonna be fun." Gajeel said while cracking his knuckles.

"I'll handle this." Levy said, stopping Gajeel from rushing forward. Then, with her light pen, she wrote a few words in the air in front of her. "[Solid Script Magic: Fire, Gale]."

A moment later, a flame appeared in the air in front of Levy. Then, in the next moment, a strong wind blew, feeding the fire as it transformed into a fire storm that rushed towards all the attacking wizards.

"Ahh~~~~~!"

"It burns!"

"Someone, help me!"

As the flames washed over all the attacking wizards, Gajeel glared at Levy with discontent.

"Am I ever gonna get to fight?" Gajeel asked.

"Hmph!" Levy snorted in response while looking away.

In response, Gajeel could only scratch his head while looking at Levy helplessly. He knew what he said was wrong. But he only said it because he was caught up in the moment. On top of that, he was really looking forward to fighting at least one of the S-Class wizards during the exam.

"I have to say." The humanoid goat said, breaking the awkward silence. "It looks like I've truly underestimated you."

"Cock! They're strong. Doodle-do." The anthropomorphic rooster added from the sky.

As the flames died down, the remaining two wizards from Grimoire Heart could be seen completely unscathed. While the rooster had flown above the flames, the goat had created a barrier in front of him to block them.

"Out of respect for the strength you've shown, I'll tell you my name. "The humanoid goat said as his barrier faded. "My name is Yamazu, one of the strongest low-ranking members of Grimoire Heart. I serve Master Caprico of the Seven Kin of Purgatory."

"And I'm Kawazu, Cock-a-doodle." The anthropomorphic rooster, Kawazu, added. "I also serve Lord Caprico, Cock-a-doodle-do!"

"Yeah, that's great." Gajeel replied. "Not that I needed to know your names to beat you up. The only thing necessary to know is that you are enemies."

After Gajeel's reply, he looked at Levy.

"It's alright if I take them on, right?" Gajeel asked, hoping that Levy would not just lay waste to the enemies like she had done with the others.

"Fine." Levy replied. "But I'll back you up. I can tell they're stronger than the others."

"Yeah, but they're not as strong as they think they are." Gajeel said with the feral smile reappearing on his face. "And I'll prove it. [Iron Dragon Incarnation]."

With that, Gajeel was covered in iron, making him take the shape of a humanoid version of Metalicana. Then, as soon as his exoskeleton was formed, he flapped his wings and shot off in Yamazu's direction.

"Quite impressive." Yamazu said, drawing the katana on his hip. "But it's not enough. [Orient Sold Script: Zan]."

As he chanted, Yamazu slashed the kanji "Zan" into the air with his sword. Then, he slashed his sword in Gajeel's direction several times.

\*Ting!\* \*Ting!\* \*Ting!\*

As a result of his slashes, several air blades were sent flying IN Gajeel's direction. Though, the [Iron Dragon Slayer] did not move to defend or evade. And as it turns out, he did not need to, as the air blades simply struck his scales and dissipated.

"[Egg Buster]." Kawazu, who was still airborne, chanted as he spit out several eggs in Gajeel's direction.

Before the eggs could get too close to Gajeel, however, a curtain of flames appeared in the sky, thanks to Levy's [Solid Script Magic], burning all the eggs to cinders as they passed through it.

"You dare destroy my eggs?" Kawazu squawked after seeing his eggs being burned. "I'll destroy you, and everything you hold dear, Cock-a-doodle-do!"

"Your partner really is a bird brain." Gajeel growled as he neared Yamazu.

"Even if he is..." Yamazu said as he sheathed his katana. "You won't live long enough to tell anyone about it. [Dark Sword: Narukami]."

With his chant, Yamazu rushed forward. Then, as he entered the range of his attack, he drew his sword, slashing Gajeel across the chest. At the same time, a dark pulse was created that followed up his attack.

"Gah!" Yamazu groaned in pain as Gajeel slammed his shoulder into his abdomen.

"Not bad." Gajeel said with a manic smile. "You actually cut through a good bit of my scales. But did you really think you could penetrate the scales of an iron dragon with only one slash?"

As Gajeel said, Yamazu's [Sword Magic] spell cut into his scales, leaving behind a rather large gash. Unfortunately for him, it was not enough to penetrate the scales completely. As a result, Gajeel came out completely unharmed and slammed into Yamazu as he tried to rush past him.

And now, with Yamazu on his shoulder, Gajeel flapped his wings and took to the air.

Meanwhile, Kawazu, who was infuriated by the fact that Levy had destroyed his eggs, had focused all his attention on the petite, blue-haired girl, releasing dozens of eggs in the hope to kill her for what she had done.

Unfortunately, due to his fury, Kawazu had lost track of what was going on in Yamazu's battle with Gajeel. As a result, he was caught off guard when the two slammed into him from behind, causing him to squawk in pain.

"Now that I've got a hold of both of you, I think it's time to end this." Gajeel said as he stopped his forward momentum and let go of the two Grimoire Heart wizards. Then, he took a deep breath as he brought his hands to his mouth in the shape of a trumpet. "[Iron Dragon's Roar]."

With that, Yamazu and Kawazu were hit with the blunt force of the swirling mass of [Metal Magic] while being slashed by the sharp iron shards that flowed along the swirling magic power, before they were slammed into the ground.

As a result, both dark wizards lay at the bottom of a crater, unconscious.

A moment later, Gajeel landed next to Levy. Then, he dispelled his [Iron Dragon Incarnation] revealing the satisfied smile on his face before he subconsciously patted Levy on the head.

"Well, the fight didn't last as long as I would have liked, but it was fun, nonetheless." Gajeel said in a happy tone. "Thanks a lot for letting me be your partner, Pipsqueak."

"Sure, no problem." Levy said in a small voice while lowering her head to hide the blush on her face.

Chapter 302: Star Dress

"I wonder what's going on." Lucy questioned as she and Cana ran away from Mavis Vermillion's grave and made their way towards the base camp.

"I'm not sure." Cana replied. "But since the red flare went up, that means the situation is serious."

"Do you think the island is under attack?" Lucy asked.

"Maybe..." Cana replied as she narrowed her eyes.

"But who would want to attack us here?" Lucy asked, becoming more frantic as she spoke. "I mean, how would they even know where---"

"We won't have to wonder about that for long." Cana said, interrupting Lucy's string of questions and quickly slowing to a stop. "Someone's coming this way. And I don't' recognize their magic power signature."

Hearing Cana's words, Lucy followed suit and came to a stop as well. Then, she looked in the same direction Cana was looking with worry.

For the next few minutes, Cana and Lucy waited for the approaching intruder to get closer. Then, when the intruder finally arrived, Cana squinted her eyes because he was fairly strong. And she was assessing whether letting Lucy fight him would be a good idea or not.

Lucy, on the other hand, reacted completely differently. With her eyes opened wide in surprise, she could not believe what she saw.

The intruder who surprised Lucy so much was a towering man with goat-like features covered in brownish-white fur with longer tufts on his lower face that looked like a goatee, thin ears on the top of his head, a pair of curved goat horns on the sides of his head, and a large, flat nose wearing a black business suit, a yellow dress shirt, and a grey necktie, and no shoes as his legs, which were bent backwards slightly like those of a goat, ended in a pair of black hooves.

"Hmm.... I feel the presence of Celestial Keys." The goat-like man said once he was within earshot of Cana and Lucy.

"Who are you? And why are you on Tenrou Island?" Cana asked aggressively.

"Oh, where are my manners?" The goat-like man responded. "You may call me Caprico. And I am one of the Seven Kin of Purgatory of Grimoire Heart."

Hearing Caprico's introduction, both Cana and Lucy opened their eyes in surprise. At the same time, Lucy was even more confused.

"But... you're a Celestial Spirit..." Lucy said, her tone filled with confusion. "How could you join a Dark Guild?"

"What?" Cana exclaimed in surprise. "Seriously? This guy is a Celestial Spirit?"

"Yeah." Lucy nodded in affirmation. "Although he feels different than the others I know, he's definitely a Celestial Spirit."

"Well, aren't you observant?" Caprico replied with a sinister smile. "But that might be a good thing. I think you'll fit in with the rest of the ones I've subordinated with my [Human Subordination Magic]. Especially, you."

As he finished, Caprico glanced at Cana, who was the stronger of the two.

"Are you saying you want to turn me into your slave?" Cana asked with a frown as she flared her magic power to its maximum.

While Lucy stumbled at the sudden pressure, Caprico was almost brought to his knees.

Although this was not the first time Caprico had felt such a large amount of magic power washing over him, as there were several wizards in the Seven Kin of Purgatory with similar amounts of magic power. He had only felt this level of density from the two strongest members of Grimoire Heart.

'Will my [Human Subordination Magic] even work on someone with magic power that dense?' Caprico thought to himself as he picked himself up and stood firmly against the pressure. 'I'm pretty sure it wouldn't work on Master Hades or Bluenote, either.'

At the same time, a golden light appeared next to Lucy. A moment later, after the light faded, the Golden Celestial Spirit, Leo was revealed.

"Leo?" Lucy asked in confusion. "How did you get here?"

"I came down to bring back my lost comrade." Leo said sternly while straightening his tie. "He's been missing for over ten years. And now, it's time to bring him back. Isn't that right, Capricorn?"

"Capricorn?" Lucy asked in surprise. "So, that's why he looked so familiar. He was one of Mom's Spirits. But then, how did he end up as a member of a Dark Guild?"

Hearing Lucy's exclamation, Capricorn's gaze sharpened as he shifted his attention over to the blonde.

"So, you're Layla's daughter." Capricorn asked in a low tone. "Then, that changes things. I think killing you would be the best thing, instead."

"Why, what did my mother do to you?" Lucy asked, her expression hardening after hearing what Capricorn said.

"Oh, it was quite the contrary." Capricorn said with an unstable smile. "I respected her so much. She meant everything to me. So much, in fact, that I killed that bitch who was responsible for her death.'

As he spoke, Capricorn's smile became more and more unhinged.

"What are you talking about?" Lucy asked with a frown. "Mom died from Magic Deficiency Syndrome." Lucy said with a frown. "No one killed her."

"Ha! Hahaha! Hahahahahahahaha!" Capricorn, having heard Lucy's explanation, started laughing uproariously. Then, after a few moments where the only sound that could be heard in the surroundings was Capricorn's laughter, he finally calmed down enough to continue. "And do you think she would have contracted that disease if that bitch, Grammi, had stopped her from completing that ritual?"

"What are you talking about?" Lucy asked with a frown.

"Hmph! Of course, you wouldn't know." Capricorn replied disdainfully. "You were only a brat back then. But honestly, it doesn't matter. I'm going to kill you today. That way you won't have to suffer in this world like Lady Layla did."

"Lucy, you need to get out of here." Leo said, stepping forward to protect Lucy. "If he uses his [Human Subordination Magic] on you, it would be all over."

"No, I'm not leaving." Lucy said stubbornly. "I want to know what he was talking about. Besides, he could just as easily use it on you, too."

"But it wouldn't work on me, though." Leo replied. "I'm not human, after all."

Lucy could not help but fall silent after hearing Leo's explanation. Still, she was quite unwilling to leave.

"If you're so worried about her being taken over by the [Human Subordination Magic], why don't you just use the new spell?" Cana asked after seeing how torn Lucy was. "I mean, from what I've heard, it allows you or one of the spirits she has a contract with to allow their power to dwell inside her, right? Basically, making her a pseudo-Celestial Spirit."

While Lucy perked up at Cana's suggestion, Leo looked a bit worried. Meanwhile, Capricorn was completely unsure of what she was talking about. Still, he was quite curious to see what kind of spell would allow a Celestial Spirit to let its power to dwell within a human.

"I'm not sure this is a good idea." Leo replied after a few moments of contemplation. "Although it's true that we decided to teach you the spell, you haven't had much time to train with it. On top of that, even though your magic power is quite dense, you would only be able to maintain it for ten minutes, at most."

"Still, I have to try." Lucy said. "He knows something about why my mom died." Lucy replied in resolute tone. "Plus, he's the one who killed Grammi. And although I don't remember her too well, I do remember that she was my mom's best friend."

"Just let her do it." Cana said casually. "She'll do it with or without your permission, after all. And that means, she'll do it while you're summoned. Meaning, it could be even more dangerous."

"\*Sigh\* I guess you're right." Leo replied. "But I want you to use my key to do it. It's still my responsibility to bring Capricorn back to the Celestial Spirit World as the leader of the Zodiac Spirits."

"Okay." Lucy said solemnly.

With that, Leo took another long look at Lucy before he unsummoned himself and returned to the Celestial Spirit World.

"Is all the mellow drama finally over?" Capricorn asked. "If so, can we get to it already? But don't worry, at least you'll be reunited with your mother soon."

"I don't think so." Lucy said as she reached into her waist pouch and pulled out Leo's key. "You will tell me what happened to my mother. And I'll make sure of that. [Star Dress: Leo]."

With that, the Golden Celestial Spirit Key in Lucy's hand began to glow. Then, she thrust it into the center of her chest. A moment later, she was covered in golden light. Then, when the light faded, Lucy was revealed once again. Though, instead of the t-shirt and skirt she was wearing while participating in the Promotion Exam, she was now wearing an elegant, black, backless and strapless evening gown with a slit that exposed her left leg, black, disconnected sleeves that started at her upper arm and flared out when they reached her hands, a pair of black high heels, a black choker with a ribbon tied in a bow, and a golden sash wrapped loosely around her hips. On top of that, due to the power she was borrowing from Leo, the Leo's Zodiac symbol appeared on her right breast.

"Damn, girl." Cana said while examining Lucy's new wardrobe. "I need to get Lici to make me address like that one. Even if I'll probably never wear it."

"Yeah, it looks pretty good." Lucy said while also examining her new wardrobe. Then, as she continued, her voice lowered in volume while her cheeks reddened slightly. "I wonder if Alfonzo will like it."

Hearing that, Cana smiled cheekily. Meanwhile, Capricorn, who had been waiting to see what they were making such a big deal about began to tremble. Though, if anyone saw his expression, they could tell that he was trembling in anger.

"Are you telling me I could have gained Capricorn's power like that?" Capricorn shouted angrily.  
"Instead, because he wouldn't tell me about it, I used my [Human Subordination Magic] to take over his body and got stuck like this?"

Immediately, the girls' attention was shifted back to Capricorn. And judging from what they heard, they were not actually facing Capricorn. Instead, they were facing whoever had a contract with him.

"How could you do such a thing?" Lucy asked angrily. "Do you only see Celestial Spirits as tools?"

"And so, what if I do?" Capricorn asked in a psychotic tone. "Isn't that what they are? They're use is to make the wizards they sign contracts with stronger."

"You're wrong." Lucy said, her magic power flaring unconsciously because of her emotions. "Celestial Spirits are supposed to be our comrades, our friends. That's what my mom taught me before she passed away."

"Ah... I remember hearing Lady Layla say something like that, back when I was still her disciple." Capricorn said. "I even had similar thoughts when she gave Capricorn's key to me all those years ago. But look where that got her, she's dead. And I'm still alive. It's clear that her philosophy was wrong."

"You don't deserve to have a contract with a Celestial Spirit!" Lucy shouted angrily. "Especially if you were really one of Mom's disciples, and she trusted you enough to pass one of her Spirits on to you. I'm gonna free Capricorn from you and let him choose his own contractor after I've taken you to prison!"

With that, Lucy's right hand was covered in light. Then, she raised it while placing her left hand on her bicep.

"[O Regulus... Grant me your strength!]" Lucy chanted as the light on her right fist covered her entire body. "[Lion Brilliance]."

With the second chant, the light covering Lucy's body expanded outward to cover a large part of the surroundings. At the same time, Capricorn was forced to cover his eyes, despite the fact that he was wearing sunglasses. Cana, on the other hand, just looked on curiously to see what Lucy would do to take advantage of Capricorn's defenseless state.

"Damn it, this is so annoying." Capricorn said while covering his eyes.

And Lucy did not disappoint her companion. As soon as she saw that Capricorn was affected by Lion Brilliance], she dashed forward at full speed, using [Regulus] to boost her physical parameters. Then, once she was in front of Capricorn, she reeled back her right fist before throwing a punch with all her might.

"[Regulus Gatling Impact]!" Lucy shouted as she unleashed a barrage of punches on the unsuspecting Capricorn.

Instead of throwing just one powerful blow, however, Lucy launched a barrage of punches that exploded with light on impact.

"Ahh~~~~~!" Capricorn shouted in a tone filled with pain.

'Although Leo said that I should be able to last for ten minutes, I can feel that my magic power is draining much faster than that.' Lucy thought to herself as she continued throwing punches. 'I'm letting my emotions get out of control and using up much more magic power than I should. But still, I can't help it. He's dragging my mom's legacy through the mud. And I won't allow that.'

With that thought, Lucy concentrated [Regulus'] power into her right fist as she threw a devastating uppercut into Capricorn's abdomen, launching him into the sky as a result.

Accompanying Capricorn's ascent was a golden lion head that appeared to be biting the taken over Celestial Spirit where Lucy hit him. Then, when Capricorn reached the highest point of his ascent, the lion head exploded into a brilliant explosion of light.

A moment later, when the light faded, Capricorn could be seen in a bad state with his sunglasses destroyed, his suit in tatters, and his fur burned in several places. On top of that, Lucy was positioned above him with her left leg raised and her foot covered in [Regulus'] light.

"[Regulus Lucy Kick]!" Lucy shouted as she brought her foot down on Capricorn.

Due to the strong force behind Lucy's kick, Capricorn was shot downward at a much higher speed than when he rose into the air.

\*Boom!\*

Upon impact, a small crater was created while dust and debris were kicked up into the air.

A moment later, Lucy landed just outside of the dust cloud while breathing heavily.

"I gotta say, that was pretty bad ass." Cana said as she walked over to Lucy, who was waiting for the dust cloud to disperse.

Instead of responding, Lucy just shot Cana a tired smile. At this point, she did not want to waste the energy it would take to speak in case Capricorn was still capable of fighting back.

A few moments later, the dust finally settled. Lying at the bottom of the crater was Capricorn, who seemed to be unconscious. But what surprised the two young women was the translucent figure of a man with a somewhat ghastly appearance with large, bulging eyes, puffy black hair pulled back by a hair band, and scars on his cheeks wearing a long, white robe with large sleeves standing next to the unconscious Celestial Spirit.

"Who is that?" Cana asked with a frown as she reached into her card pouch.

"Huh?" The translucent man exclaimed in confusion when he saw Capricorn lying next to him. "Am I finally free? Yes! Finally! I, Zoldeo, am human again!"

"Zoldeo? \*Pant\* He really was \*Pant\* my mom's \*Pant\* disciple." Lucy said in an exhausted tone.

At the same time, Capricorn started to stir. Eventually, he looked at his former contractor, who was clearly just a soul at this point. Then he shook his head sympathetically when he saw Zoldeo's soul start to crumble from his feet.

"What's happening?" Zoldeo asked. "Why am I just a soul? Where is my body."

"If I had to guess..." Capricorn said as he slowly stood to his feet. "It died long ago while we were fused. After all, everything you ingested went to my body, and not yours."

"Impossible!" Zoldeo shrieked in terror. "I'm finally free, and this is what happens?"

"I told you that spell, [Human Raise] was taboo to use on a Celestial Spirit, but you didn't heed my advice." Capricorn replied while using his magic power to repair his clothing and sun glasses. "And now, you're paying the price for your actions."

"No, Capricorn, please help me." Zoldeo pleaded. "Please, let me fuse with you again."

As Zoldeo begged and pleaded, his soul continued to crumble. And by now, he was nothing more than a floating head.

"I'm afraid I can't do that." Capricorn replied while adjusting his tie. "I fulfilled my obligations as your Celestial Spirit when I allowed you to fuse with me the first time. And now, we are no longer contracted. So, all I can say is good bye, Zoldeo."

With that, Zoldeo could only look on with a resigned gaze as his soul crumbled completely. Then, as Zoldeo vanished from this world, Lucy's [Star Dress] was dispelled and she returned to her normal attire.

"It's... over..." Lucy said as she collapsed from magic power exhaustion.

"Geez... If you had only kept your cool, you would have been fine after that little display." Cana said as she caught Lucy before she hit the ground. "I guess that's another thing we'll have to work on in your training. You're not like Natsu who somehow gets stronger when his emotions run out of control."

While Cana was taking care of Lucy, Capricorn slowly made his way over to the two young women. Then, he pulled a Golden Key out of his suit's inner pocket.

"Please, give this to Miss Lucy when she wakes up.' Capricorn said while handing the key to Cana. "Zoldeo was supposed to be the one who did this. Lady Layla had instructed him to do so should Miss Lucy decide to learn [Celestial Spirit Magic]. Unfortunately, he was seduced by the darker side of magic before that could happen."

"I see." Cana replied while accepting the key from Capricorn. "I'll make sure she gets it when she wakes up."

With that, Capricorn bowed politely before unsummoning himself and returning to the Celestial Spirit World.

"Well, I'd better get you back to the camp." Cana said as she lifted Lucy in her arms. "It wouldn't be good if we ran into any of the other members of Grimoire Heart while you're in this state."

Like that, Cana started walking in the direction of the camp while avoiding the ongoing battles in the forest.

### Chapter 303: Arc of Embodiment

A great distance from Tenrou Island, a large number of wyvern's corpses lay scattered around a mountain path. Sitting in the middle of all this with his back resting against a mountain wall and his eyes closed was a rather tall, muscular man with long, dark blue hair, dark skin, and a sharp gaze.

On the man's body, there are what appear to be light blue tribal markings while he wore a black, high-collared cloak bearing the same tribal markings, red dragon claws around his neck, a black sash around his waist, baggy white pants that also bore the same tribal markings, and a golden armlet around his right upper arm.

"I can feel it." The dark-skinned man said as he slowly opened his eyes. Then, while leaking an incredible amount of killing intent, he turned his head in the direction of Tenrou Island. "I can feel the abominable power of dragons."

Thanks to the power Gajeel displayed in his fight against Yamazu and Kawazu, Wendy's output from her attacks against the members of Grimoire Heart, and Natsu's fight with Zancrow, this dark-skinned man's instincts flared. Though, this would not be a good thing for the members of Fairy Tail.

"Dragons no longer have a place in this world." The man said as he stood to his feet. "Now, they only have one fate."

As he spoke, the man's body began to glow. Then, his silhouette began to expand. And as his silhouette expanded, it took on a much beastlier shape, now having four legs instead of two, a long tail, and what appeared to be wings on its back.

Eventually, when the growth concluded, the glow also faded. Now, standing where the dark-skinned man once stood was what could only be described as a dragon with round, pitch-black scales with blue spiral patterns, a grey underbelly, a roundhead with four, long, scaled plates extending backwards. On its chin, there was an arrowhead-shaped protrusion, while the wings on its back were white and feathery, much like those of birds. Also, its tail ended with a stinger-like shape after the scales came to an end.

"And that fate is to die at my hands." The dark-skinned man turned dragon said, revealing a mouthful of razor sharp teeth as he spoke.

A moment later, the large, black dragon flapped its wings and slowly ascended into the air, before flying in Tenrou Island's direction.

"Can you believe someone found the grave just before the emergency flare went up?" Bickslow asked. "I mean, seriously, what kind of luck is that?"

"Good luck! Good luck!" Bickslow's dolls cheered.

"Indeed." Fried replied with a nod. "Just a minute or so longer, and it would have been all for naught."

Currently, Bickslow and Fried, who were participants in the S-Class Promotion Exam, were on their way back to the base camp after seeing the flare signifying that there was an emergency on the island.

Unfortunately, like most of the people on the island, they had no idea what kind of emergency had befallen them.

"Someone's approaching." Fried said as he came to a stop and placed his hand on his sword's hilt. "And I don't recognize the magic power signature."

Hearing that, Bickslow leapt into the air, only for one of his dolls to swoop below him and catch him. As a result, Bickslow was now levitating next to his longtime friend.

"Oh my, to think you detected me so quickly." Said a male voice from the direction where Fried and Bickslow focused their gazes. "To think the reputation of Fiore's strongest legal guild would ring so true. Though, being a strong legal guild means nothing to us."

As the voice spoke, a silhouette could be seen approaching the spot where Bickslow and Fried waited for the intruder. Then, a few moments later, they could see that the speaker was a young man with silver hair styled into a pompadour that pointed upwards. On his body, he wore silver framed glasses, a dark purple jacket, a grey shirt, a black belt, black pants, blue shoes, and a pair of white gloves on his hands.

And although the young man's appearance seemed a bit androgynous, the thing that caught the two Fairy Tail wizard's attention the most was the band on the young man's left forearm. More specifically, the symbol on the band.

"So, you're from GrimoireHeart, huh?" Fried asked while narrowing his eyes as his right eye changed color, with its sclera turning black and pupil turning purple. "Who are you? And why have you come here?"

"Because, there is someone on this island necessary for our plans." The young man replied while spreading his arms in a grand gesture. "And once we have him on our side, we will be able to create the magical utopia we have always dreamed of."

A moment later, the young man flourished his arms before taking a bow.

"And to answer your other question, you can call me Rustyrose." The young man, Rustyrose, said with a smile that quickly turned dark. "Your executioner."

"It sounds like you intend to take one of our guild mates." Bickslow said, not knowing that Zeref was currently sleeping on Tenrou Island. "Yeah, that's not gonna happen."

As Bickslow spoke, the doll he stood on ascended into the air as the other four positioned themselves below it in a line.

"Oh, heavens no." Rustyrose said as he raised his head. "Getting rid of you is just a bonus. And before you ask, it doesn't matter who we came here for. Especially since you won't be alive long enough to see our plans come to fruition."

"We'll see about that." Bickslow replied with his eyes narrowed. "[Line Formation]."

Immediately upon giving his command, Bickslow's dolls fired an energy blast, that took the shape of a straight energy blade, at Rustyrose. To Bickslow and Fried's surprise, however, the silver-haired young man did nothing to avoid the incoming attack. Instead, Rustyrose held up his left hand in the path of the incoming attack.

"\*Sigh\* By attacking me so abruptly, you've only sped up the inevitable." Rustyrose said as magic power gathered on his left palm. "Now, the death of the Fairies in the Garden of Eden shall commence at the hands of the demons. [Arc of Embodiment: Golden Shield]."

With Rustyrose's chant, the magic power on his palm materialized into a large golden shield that protected him from Bickslow's attack. On top of that, it seemed that the shield took no damage, despite the power behind the attack.

In the next instant, Rustyrose dispelled the shield. Then, he swiped his right hand in front of him. Along the path of his hand, several black swords appeared. Then, with a thought, they were fired towards Bickslow and Fried.

"[Dark Écriture: Reflection]." Fried chanted.

Like Rustyrose, Fried also had no intention to evade. Instead, he erected a transparent barrier that returned Rustyrose attack back in his direction.

"Oh, a reflection barrier." Rustyrose replied with an emotionless expression. "How quaint. [Arc of Embodiment: Pegasus Wings]."

A moment later, a pair of white feathered wings appeared on Rustyrose's back, before he flapped them and flew out of harm's way.

"Where is all this stuff coming from?" Bickslow asked in an irritated tone as he formed his dolls into an X-shape. "[X-Formation]. Just what kind of magic does he use?"

"I have no idea." Fried replied as he used a finger to write an enchantment on his own body. "But we can figure that out later. For now, we have to defeat him. [Dark Écriture: Wings]."

A moment later, a pair of wings formed from runes appeared on Fried's back as he flew into the sky to try and engage Rustyrose in close combat.

"Curious about my magic, are you?" Rustyrose asked as he materialized a black longsword in his right hand. "Well, as a parting gift, I suppose I can tell you."

As he finished speaking, Rustyrose raised his sword to block a slash from Fried.

"I use the [Lost Magic] known as [The Arc of Embodiment]." Rustyrose replied while returning a slash of his own. "With this magic, I can bring anything that I can imagine into existence. It's quite the magic for someone like me, I must say."

As he spoke, Rustyrose continued exchanging sword strikes with Fried. And despite the fact that he seemed so relaxed, he was slowly being pushed back due to the difference in sword skills.

On top of that, he had to constantly dodge the energy blasts from Bickslow's dolls, who had been separated to surround Fried and Rustyrose.

"These things are annoying." Rustyrose muttered as he blocked another slash from Fried. [Arc of Embodiment: Sacred Guardian Beast: Belfast the Hurricane]."

"Not so fast." Bickslow said from atop one of his dolls. "Gather, my babies. [Baryon Formation]."

As he chanted his attack command, Bickslow's five dolls gathered in a pentagram formation before they started rotating. As a result, an orb of energy was created in the center of their rotations. At the same time, a large, black, wyvern-shaped monster was manifested from Rustyrose's magic, before roaring loudly and flying towards Bickslow.

Before the beast, Belfast, could reach its target, however, the orb created by Bickslow's dolls discharged all the accumulated energy in a destructive beam towards it. As a result, after the beam passed, Belfast was no more.

\*Clang!\*

At the same time, Fried, with his superior swordsmanship, managed to disarm Rustyrose.

"After all that build up, that thing went down surprisingly easy." Bickslow said with a smile.

"Indeed." Fried replied with a nod. Then, with his sword pointed at Rustyrose, he continued. "And now, it's your turn."

"Oh my, it would seem I'm at a disadvantage." Rustyrose said sarcastically without changing his expression. "[Arc of Embodiment: Jet Black Sword]."

"Have you not learned your lesson?" Fried asked as he lunged forward after hearing the name of Rustyrose's spell. "The difference in our level of swordsmanship is quite apparent, is it not?"

"Oh, I assure you, this sword is nothing like anything you've ever seen before." Rustyrose replied as his right arm glowed for a moment before transforming into a long, claw-shaped, black sword.

\*Shing!\*

Rustyrose then swung his new arm at Fried, who positioned his sword to parry. However, with little resistance, Fried's blade was cleaved in two.

"What?" Fried exclaimed as he quickly backed away to avoid receiving the same fate as his sword.

"This sword..." Rustyrose said while stroking his right arm with his left hand. "Is capable of cutting through anything. Or, at the very least, I have yet to see anything it can't cut through. And now that you've lost your weapon, how long will it take to cut through you, I wonder."

With that, Rustyrose charged forward to finish off Fried. Before he could get too far, however, he was forced to stop when Bickslow's dolls fired on him once again.

"Like I said, annoying." Rustyrose said with a slight frown. "I suppose I'll have to make a playmate for you, then. [Arc of Embodiment: Belcusas the Thunderclap]."

A moment later, another creature was imagined into existence with the use of Rustyrose's magic. This time, however, instead of a flying creature, it was an enormous, heavily armored, physically powerful, bipedal creature. Meanwhile, Rustyrose stopped paying attention to Bickslow and continued forward to finish off Fried.

While Fried did all he could to avoid Rustyrose assault, Bickslow snorted disdainfully at the fact that Rustyrose tried to distract him with the same trick, yet again.

"Get rid of it, my babies." Bickslow ordered. [Baryon Formation]."

Once again, with Bickslow's order, the five dolls began to rotate and create an energy orb. Then, after a few moments, they fired it at Belcusas. Upon impact, Bickslow turned his attention back to Rustyrose, who he needed to stop from attacking his unarmed comrade.

\*Roar!\*

Before he could give his new attack orders, however, a thunderous roar echoed over the battlefield, causing Bickslow to snap his head in the direction the roar originated. And to his surprise, the creature he just attacked was still standing and radiating hostility as it glared in his direction.

"This could be bad." Bickslow muttered as he summersaulted onto one of his dolls.

From that point on, Bickslow and Fried were at a definite disadvantage. While Fried was constantly avoiding Rustyrose's attacks due to the loss of his weapon, and even his enchantments were having little effect in slowing down his opponent. Bickslow was forced to use hit and run tactics, as nothing he did damaged Belcusas in the slightest.

"Fried, I think we're in trouble!" Bickslow shouted as he avoided a swipe from Belcusas' massive arm.  
"Got any ideas?"

Unfortunately, Fried was unable to answer right away. Although he was able to avoid taking fatal damage from Rustyrose's latest attack, he was still slashed across the chest, spouting blood from the wound, as a result. And due to the pain of the slash, he flinched, giving Rustyrose the opportunity to kick him towards the ground.

\*Bang!\*

"Gah!" Fried grunted upon impacting the ground.

"Fried, are you okay?" Bickslow asked while avoiding another swing of Belcusas arm and flying over to his downed comrade.

"I'll live." Fried replied while wiping a trickle of blood from his lips. "But if you can give me a moment to activate [Darkness], I think we should be able to turn things around."

"I think I can manage that." Bickslow replied as he glared at Rustyrose and Belcusas, who had stopped pursuing them, for some reason.

"Well, I've grown weary of this game of cat and mouse." Rustyrose said. Then, he reverted his right arm back to normal and spread both his arms in a grandiose fashion. "So, I think it's time to end this fairy hunt. [Arc of Embodiment: Tower of Dingir]."

With his chant, a massive tower grew from the ground beneath Fried and Bickslow, immobilizing them as it brought them up into the air.

"What is this?" Fried asked as he struggled to move.

"I don't know." Bickslow replied. "But I can't move at all. I can't even control my babies."

"The Tower of Dingir]." Rustyrose said with a smile. "This tower was made to immobilize my targets. Then, after a short while, it will explode, devastating everything in its surroundings. And unfortunately, that includes the two of you, as well. Oh, but not to worry, I'll be fine. Besides having Belcusas to protect me, I'm quite immune to its explosion. So, you don't have to worry about me getting hurt. Hahaha!"

Hearing that, the two Fairy Tail wizards paled as they struggled even harder to free themselves.

"You're only wasting the little time you have remaining." Rustyrose said as he watched Bickslow and Fried struggle with amusement. "wouldn't it be better to simply accept your fate and contemplate what comes after death?"

With that, Rustyrose began laughing once again as the time for the [Tower of Dingir's] explosion drew near.

Chapter 304: A Present for Elfman

"Is this really how things end for us?" Bickslow asked while struggling at the top of the Tower of Dingir.

"Though he did not say anything in reply, Fried was currently thinking the same thing. Meanwhile, Rustyrose was watching the struggles of the two Fairy Tail wizards with an amused smile on his face.

"It should happen any time now." Rustyrose said. "Personally, I'm looking forward to the fireworks. In fact, I'm almost jealous that you get to see them from so close. Hahahahaha!"

Hearing that, Bickslow and Fried could only grit their teeth as they intensified their struggles.

"[Evil Shower]."

\*Bang!\* \*Bang!\* \*Bang!\*

At that moment, the base of the [Tower of Dingir], was bombarded by a volley of pink orbs of [Darkness Magic]. As a result, the tower began to tip due to a large chunk being blown away.

"What? Who's there?" Rustyrose asked as he watched his creation start to fall. "Show yourself."

A moment later, Bickslow and Fried were plucked out of the air by a silhouette moving at high speed. Then, they were gently placed on the ground a short while later.

"It looks like the two of you were in a little trouble, huh?" Mirajane, in her [Satan Soul: Sitri] form asked with a smile. Though, this smile was much more devilish in comparison to her usual smile.

"Mira... I'm glad you were nearby." Bickslow said as he instructed his dolls to reassemble.

"Indeed." Fried added. "Though, I must admit that needing to be saved is rather embarrassing."

"There's nothing to be embarrassed about." Mirajane replied. "We're part of the same guild. Helping each other is only natural, right?"

After speaking, Mirajane turned her attention towards Rustyrose.

"As for you, you'll pay for what you almost did to them." Mirajane said in a menacing tone. Then, without turning away from Rustyrose, she gave instructions to Bickslow and Fried. "I want the two of you to return to the camp. You can leave this guy to me."

"But we can still fight." Bickslow replied, sounding a bit indignant.

"I don't doubt that." Mirajane replied. "But Fried should have that injury taken care of."

In response to Mirajane's words, Bickslow turned to see the gash running across Fried's chest.

"\*Sigh\* I guess you're right." Bickslow replied in a resigned tone.

"It seems I have become a burden." Fried said while clenching his fists. "I can only pray that Laxus is not disappointed by my failure to attain victory."

"You can think about that later." Bickslow said as he instructed one of his dolls to hover next to Fried. "For now, let's get you back to the camp. And you should ride on one of my babies so that your injuries don't get any worse along the way."

With that, Bickslow began carefully helping Fried climb onto one of his dolls. Even so, he could not help but think back to the conversation he had with Levy and Gajeel in the hot spring.

"I would have never even thought about it before Gajeel said something.' Bickslow thought to himself as he shot a stealthy, skeptical gaze at Fried. 'But maybe those two really are gay. At the very least, Fried is. Not that there's anything wrong with that. But now I can't stop considering the possibility...'

"And do you think I'll allow you to leave, just like that?" Rustyrose asked, feeling irritated that he had been disregarded. "Belcusas, show them why leaving won't be so easy."

\*Roar!\*

Hearing Rustyrose's command, Belcusas roared loudly before charging forward at Bickslow and Fried, who were ready to flee the battlefield. Then, he lifted one of his massive arms to swat the two wizards out of the sky, along with all of Bickslow's dolls.

"You seem to be under a misconception." Mirajane said calmly as she appeared between Belcusas and her guild mates. "What about what I said made you think I was seeking your opinion?"

\*Bang!\*

After saying her piece, Mirajane calmly raised her right hand and stopped Belcusas swipe with little effort. Though, the ground beneath her did crater due to the immense strength.

"Oh, that was rather impressive." Mirajane said with a raised eyebrow. "I think you'll make a perfect [Beast Soul] for my little brother."

"Be careful, Mira." Bickslow said as he and Fried floated away from the confrontation. "That thing's defense is pretty strong. No matter what I did, I couldn't even scratch it."

"Also, his magic, [Arc of Embodiment], allows him to materialize anything he can imagine." Fried added while pointing at Rustyrose. "So, you need to be careful."

"Thanks for the info." Mirajane replied with a smile.

\*Roar!\*

Belcunas roared once again and swung his other arm down at Mirajane, who he was unable to pull away from. However, just like the first time, Mirajane caught his swipe with little effort. Though, the ground cratered a bit more from the force.

"That was rude." Mirajane said with a slight frown. "Can't you see we were having a conversation? Someone needs to teach you some..."

As she got to that point in her speech, Mirajane threw a high kick at Belcunas. However, due to the Guardian Beast's immense size, she was only able to kick it in its lower abdomen. Even so, her kick, that detonated the flames on her legs upon impact, sent the hulking behemoth flying.

"...Manners." Mirajane said, finishing her sentence.

"What? How is that possible?" Rustyrose exclaimed in shock.

Wasting no time, Mirajane shot up into the air, using the flames on her legs as a type of jet propulsion to increase her speed. Then, with [Darkness Magic] coating her fists, she launched a barrage of punches into Belcunas' abdomen.

And to everyone's surprise, with every hit landed, Belcusas' armor dented before eventually starting to crack.

\*Roar!\*

On top of that, Belcusas' constant roars of pain were more than enough to let everyone know just how powerful the punches Mirajane landed over and over were.

"This is impossible." Rustyrose said as he swept his arms towards Mirajane.

With the swipe of Rustyrose's arms, dozens of black swords were created and fired in Mirajane's direction.

"Now I see where your creature got it's abysmal manners." Mirajane said as she felt Rustyrose's magic power flare. "Is it too much to ask for you to wait until I'm done?"

With that, Mirajane flew around to Belcusas' back. Then, while grabbing the back of its armor, she repositioned it so that at least a few of the swords would end up piercing the cracks in his armor.

\*Roar!\*

Once again, Belcusas' pain-filled roars echoed over the area as blood sprayed from the new stab wounds on its torso.

"How dare you!" Rustyrose exclaimed furiously.

"Oh, now that you mention it, I have to make sure that this thing doesn't die, right?" Mirajane muttered in response. "Thanks for reminding me. It won't be any good to Elfman if it's dead."

"You damn wench!" Rustyrose bellowed furiously. [Arc of Embodiment: Pegasus Wings, Jet Black Sword]."

With that, Rustyrose once again sprouted a pair of feathered wings on his back while his right arm transformed into a claw shaped sword again. Then, he flapped his wings and charged at Mirajane.

"You're so stingy." Mirajane said playfully. "If you wanted your little pet back, all you had to do was ask."

With that, Mirajane let go of Belcusas' armor. Then, she put her hands against its back.

"[Evil Shower]. Mirajane chanted.

As she chanted, a pink orb of [Darkness Magic] formed between Mirajane's hands and the back of Belcusas' armor. Then, the [Darkness Magic] orb began releasing smaller orbs that propelled Belcusas back to the ground.

And as it just so happened, between the ground and Belcusas was Rustyrose. While avoiding the falling behemoth of a beast would be simple, he would also have to avoid all the [Darkness Magic] orbs that spread to either side of Belcusas.

"I fell into her trap." Rustyrose muttered with a frown. "Still, I can protect myself from those magic bullets with little effort. [Golden Shield]."

Raising his left arm, a golden shield materialized in front of Rustyrose's outstretched palm. Then, using the shield to defend himself from Mirajane's spell, he successfully avoided being crushed by Belcusas as it fell.

\*Boom!\*

A moment later, Belcusas crashed into the ground, face first, kicking up a dust cloud on impact. Meanwhile, Rustyrose continued to charge through the hail of [Darkness Magic] bullets with his [golden Shield] leading the way for him.

"Oh, not bad." Mirajane said as she saw Rustyrose approaching completely unharmed. "But what will you do about that?"

Hearing Mirajane's question, Rustyrose cautiously slowed down to take a look at his condition. And when he saw his surroundings, he was thoroughly shocked.

"How?" When?" Rustyrose asked.

Currently, Rustyrose was surrounded by a large number of stationary [Darkness Magic] orbs. In fact, these were all the orbs from the [Hell Shower] that did not hit either Belcusas or Rustyrose's shield. Instead of letting them slam into the ground, however, Mirajane decided that repurposing them for another attack would put them to better use.

'Alfonzo and Lici were right.' Mirajane thought to herself. 'With enough control, you can do all kinds of crazy things with your magic."

"I'll admit that shield was a good defense against my spell when you only had to defend from the front." Mirajane said as she spread her arms. "But I wonder what you'll do when the attacks are coming from all directions."

\*Clap!\*

"Hell Storm Convergence]." Mirajane chanted while clapping her hands forcefully.

Then, with the sound of her clap echoing through the area, Mirajane controlled all the floating [Darkness Magic] orbs to converge with Rustyrose as the convergence point.

Although Rustyrose manifested as many swords and shields as he could to defend himself. In the end, the number of [Darkness Magic] orbs were simply too numerous. Eventually, one of the orbs made it through his defenses, which led to a second doing the same.

By the time Mirajane's spell ended, Rustyrose was being rag dolled in the air, before falling to the ground in a smoking, unconscious heap.

"Maybe... I went a little overboard?" Mirajane asked herself as she landed next to Rustyrose's unconscious body and nudged him with one of her feet.

"Ugh..." Rustyrose groaned, mostly from the pain of being nudged by a flaming foot.

"Oopsie!" Mirajane exclaimed when she saw the smoke rising from the spot where her foot touched Rustyrose's jacket. Then, she took a step back and pretended like nothing happened. "Anyway, I should take these two back to the camp. Man, I really hope Elfman is there already, I don't want this thing to wake up before he can do the [Take Over]."

A few moments later, Mirajane, with Rustyrose slung over one of her shoulders and dragging Belcusas by one of its legs, made her way back to the base camp on foot.

Meanwhile, on another part of the island, Happy placed Natsu on the ground gently.

"Natsu, are you okay?" Happy asked in a concerned tone.

"Yeah, just wasn't expecting to be burned by that guy's fire." Natsu replied while rubbing his throat.

"Of course, you were burned by my flames. Hahahahahahaha!" The blond man, Zancrow, said while laughing, and sounding absolutely psychotic as he made his way over to Natsu from the direction of the Grimoire Heart airship. "Why would you think a dragon would be able to digest the flames of a god."

At first, Natsu looked at Zancrow with confusion all over his face. However, a moment later, something seemed to click for the pink-haired Dragon Slayer.

"So, what you're saying is that you can eat my fire, but I can't eat yours, right?" Natsu asked while narrowing his eyes.

"Even though you are indeed as dumb as you look, I guess that was a simple enough concept for even someone like you to grasp." Zancrow said with a wide smile that showed off his teeth. "Now, you should just give up and let me tor--- Huh?"

Before Zancrow could finish, Natsu appeared in front of him with his right fist reeled back.

"Then, all that means is I'll have to beat you up the old fashioned way, right?" Natsu asked as he threw his punch.

And just as his fist started moving, Natsu fired his flames from the back of his elbow, acting as a booster to add more force to his punch.

\*Bang!\*

Zancrow's head immediately snapped to the side when Natsu's knuckles landed on the side of his face.

"Damn you!" Zancrow bellowed angrily.

Unfortunately for Zancrow, his angry shouts did not slow Natsu down in the slightest. Instead, he received a barrage of punches, kicks, elbow strikes, and knee strikes that made his anger rise even more.

\*Bang!\*

Eventually, Natsu landed a punch strong enough to send Zancrow flying into the trunk of a tree.

"Get up." Natsu said, his magic power encompassing his entire body in the form of a flaming cloak. "If you think that's enough to punish you for attacking my guild, you've got another thing coming. No one attacks Fairy Tail and gets away with it without paying a price."

At the same time, Zancrow was slowly picking himself up. But when he heard Natsu's words, his anger spiked to a whole new level. Then, with black flames covering his fist, he punched the tree he slammed into. As a result, the entire tree was burned to ashes in a matter of seconds.

"I'm gonna enjoy torturing and killing you." Zancrow said, sounding absolutely livid, before he charged forward to re-engage Natsu.

Chapter 305: Dragon God's Brilliant Flame

Due to his training with Alfonzo, Elicia, and the others, Natsu's fight with Zancrow was a much more one-sided affair than even Natsu expected. With his heightened physical strength and battle instincts, everything Zancrow threw at him was easily countered or evaded.

"Damn you!" Zancrow shouted as he threw a punch from a distance that extended into a stream of black flames.

Avoiding the flames with minimal movement, Natsu felt the scorching feeling on his skin, though it did not succeed in slowing him down as he ran alongside the black flames, while using his own flames as a booster.

"[Fire Dragon's Sword Horn]." Natsu chanted as his entire body was lit ablaze.

Seeing the flames covering Natsu's body as his speed increased even further, Zancrow smiled maliciously as he prepared to devour Natsu's flames to empower himself.

Unfortunately, Natsu never forgot the fact that Zancrow could eat his flames. So, when he was close enough, Natsu dispelled his [Sword Horn]. Though, he did not lose the increased speed the spell provided.

"What?" Zancrow exclaimed in confusion.

\*Bang!\*

A moment later, Natsu, while running at high speed, slammed his head into Zancrow's abdomen. As a result, Natsu found himself a bit disoriented, as the magic power that would have been covering his body and softening the impact was gone. Meanwhile, Zancrow, who felt as if he had been hit by a runaway train, was sent flying once again.

"Go, Natsu!" Happy cheered excitedly while dancing happily. "Show that guy who's boss. Kick his butt!"

"Yeah..." Natsu replied, sounding slightly woozy.

By now, Natsu's battle with Zancrow had been going on for nearly half an hour. While Natsu had taken little damage, he was feeling his limit approaching.

And the issue was simple. Natsu, who had cast many spells and cancelled them to keep Zancrow from devouring his flames, had spent quite a large amount of his magic power. And the reason was simple, he was not regulating his magic power usage. So, he was starting to run low.

Zancrow, on the other hand, was covered in cuts and bruises, with several broken bones. But his magic power reserves were in good shape.

"How is this guy still standing?" Natsu asked himself as he watched Zancrow stand up once again. "It's like he doesn't even feel the pain. But this can't go on much longer, I'm almost out of magic power. And because I can't devour his flames, I can't recharge it. I guess I'll have to put everything into this last attack."

With that, Natsu once again charged towards Zancrow. Who was expecting him to do so.

"[Fire God's Scythe]." Zancrow chanted as he conjured a scythe made of black flames.

Then, as soon as Natsu was in range, Zancrow swept his scythe, intending to bisect Natsu as the waist. However, Natsu, with his quick reflexes, was able to duck under the slash. Then, before Zancrow could recover his weapon, Natsu was once again covered in flames.

"[Dragon Slayer Secret Art: Crimson Lotus: Fire Dragon's Fist]." Natsu chanted as he began another punch barrage.

Like he had done throughout this fight, Natsu cancelled the flames covering his fists just as they landed on Zancrow's body. Although this lowered the potential damage the attacks could cause, it was the only thing Natsu could do against a foe like this one.

\*Bang!\* \*Bang!\* \*Bang!\*

As the punches landed on Zancrow's head, shoulders, and torso, Natsu could feel his magic power dwindling to dangerously low levels. Still, he had no intention of stopping. Then when he felt as though he only had one punch left in him, Natsu threw the strongest uppercut he could muster, landing it on Zancrow's chin, and sending him up into the sky.

"\*Pant\* \*Pant\* Let's see you get back up \*Pant\* from that." Natsu said as he supported himself with his hands on his knees.

\*Bang!\*

A moment later, Zancrow fell to the ground in front of Natsu. While his body was even more battered, he showed no signs of movement.

"Yeah, Natsu!" Happy cheered happily as he flew over to his best friend. "You did it."

"\*Pant\* Yeah, I guess I did." Natsu replied weakly with a smile.

"Yes, you did." Zancrow muttered from the ground in front of Natsu. "You certainly did. You managed to piss me off!"

With that, Zancrow finally began to stir. And with Natsu's lack of magic power, there was, unfortunately, nothing he could do about it.

Eventually, Zancrow managed to climb to his feet under the disbelieving gazes of Natsu and Happy. Then, very slowly, and with great pain, Zancrow spread his arms and legs while wearing a psychotic smile.

"[Fire God's Kagutsuchi]." Zancrow chanted in a manic tone.

Reacting quickly, Natsu pushed Happy away with all his might. As a result, Happy was sent flying quite a distance.

"Natsu! No~~~~~!" happy shouted, despair evident in his tone.

In the next instant, with Zancrow as the center, a dome of black flames extended outwards, engulfing not only Natsu, who was not far away from him, but a number of trees and rocks, as well.

"Argh~~~~~!" Natsu screamed in pain as he did not have the strength to evade at the moment.

"Hahahahahah! That's right, burn to ashes!" Zancrow shouted manically. "Hahahahahahahahaha!"

A moment later, however, Zancrow's laughter came to an abrupt stop.

"No, how is this possible?" Zancrow muttered. "He shouldn't be able to do that."

The thing that had Zancrow so confused was the fact that He could feel his flames being devoured. Naturally, Natsu was the one devouring them. And just as Zancrow said, under normal circumstances, Natsu should not be able to devour his flames. And that's because a dragon's flames were inferior to those of a god.

But that did not mean that the feat was impossible.

"I think I get it now." Natsu muttered as he continued devouring Zancrow's flames. "The magic power in your flames was in conflict with my own flames. But now that I'm out of magic power, there's no conflict, and I can eat your flames with no problem."

"No, this can't be happening!" Zancrow shouted as he started distancing himself from the pink-haired Dragon Slayer.

"And now, let me show you what I can do with two types of flames inside of me." Natsu said as he spread his arms once all the black flames had been devoured.

Then, Natsu's left hand was engulfed in black flames while his right hand was engulfed in his normal flames. A moment later, he leapt into the air.

"Dragon and divine flames become one!" Natsu shouted as he brought his hands together. "[Dragon God's Brilliant Flame]!"

In the next instant, the two flames combined and exploded towards Zancrow, who for his part, could only laugh hysterically at the absurdness of the situation before he was completely engulfed in the explosion. And thanks to the fact that his own flames were part of this explosion, his fire immunity was rendered useless.

A few moments later, the dust from the explosion was cleared by a breeze. Meanwhile, Natsu approached the area where Zancrow stood before he launched that last attack. At the same time, Happy flew back to Natsu, as well.

"Natsu, are you okay?" Happy asked in a concerned tone.

"Yeah, I'm great." Natsu replied energetically. "Who knew there was a little trick like that to eating certain kinds of fire."

'You just ate fire that you shouldn't have been able to eat.' Happy thought to himself while he and Natsu continued to approach the spot where Zancrow was. 'And you call it a little trick. Natsu, you dummy, you could have died.'

A moment later, Natsu and Happy reached the spot where Zancrow should have been. However, when they arrived, the area was completely empty.

"Huh? Where is he?" Natsu asked in a confused tone while looking left and right. "He should have been right here, right?"

"Maybe he got blown away by the explosion." Happy suggested.

"I don't think so, Little Buddy." Natsu replied while sniffing the air. "I don't smell him... anywhere."

"Does that mean he's... dead?" Happy asked in trepidation.

"Maybe?" Natsu replied while scratching his head. "I think adding those black flames to my spell might have been too much for him to handle."

In fact, Natsu was correct. Thanks to the fact that he was much stronger than his canon counterpart, plus the addition of the [Fire God Slayer Magic], Zancrow was incinerated by Natsu's last spell.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Open Seas.

Meanwhile, Lahar and Doranbolt continued watching the ongoing battle on Tenrou Island through their binoculars from the Magic Council Fleet's flag ship.

"I doubt this was the outcome anyone expected." Lahar said after seeing the explosion from Natsu's attack die down. "To think that Fairy Tail has grown so much that they can, so one-sidedly, defeat Grimoire Heart."

"Yeah, I don't think the members of the Council will be happy to hear this outcome." Doranbolt replied. "Especially since we were supposed to swoop in and clean up Grimoire Heart after Fairy Tail was destroyed."

"Those orders still don't seem right to me." Lahar muttered quietly. "Wouldn't it be more efficient for us to join forces with Fairy Tail to get rid of Grimoire Heart. After all, it's our duty to eliminate such dangerous Dark Guilds."

In response, Doranbolt remained silent while watching Wendy, Carla, and panther Lily deal with the low-ranking members of Grimoire Heart who attacked them.

"We don't need to think about our orders." Doranbolt said, though Lahar could tell that he felt a bit uncomfortable while he spoke. "We only need to follow them. That's what being a soldier of the Magic Council means."

"I am aware." Lahar replied. "I've been doing this job long enough to understand that."

Even though Lahar replied in an even tone, he still glanced at Doranbolt, who's tone, as well as his expression, showed that he was uncomfortable with what was going on.

'Why does this bother me so much?' Doranbolt thought to himself. 'Is it because of the kindness those girls from Fairy Tail showed me during the exam? No, impossible. I know what kind of ruffians they are. And the destruction Fairy Tail has brought to the continent cannot be forgiven or written off so easily. But... Then why do I feel like this?'

Before he could ponder his feelings any further, however, Doranbolt's eyes widened in surprise when he saw a huge, massively overweight man wearing a dark blue cloak approaching the little girl and the two cats.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Tenrou Island.

"Well, it looks like we've taken care of all of them." Panther Lily said as he shrunk down to his normal form. "For such a terrifying Dark Guild, they weren't very strong, were they?"

"Not every member of the guild should be super strong though, right?" Wendy asked as Carla set her down on the sand.

"You're right, Wendy." Carla replied with a nod. "Still, we don't know if there are any more of these guys. So, we should be careful while we go back to the camp."

"Yeah." Wendy replied with a nod.

A moment later, Wendy turned her head in a certain direction while her expression turned serious.

"What's wrong, Wendy?" Carla asked while looking in the same direction as Wendy.

Panther Lily also followed suit. And when they saw what caught Wendy's attention, both Exceed were flabbergasted.

At the end of the three's line of sight was a huge, morbidly obese man with chalk-white skin, and shaggy black hair. This man also had arms and legs that seemed too short for his extremely tall height. Though, that may have just been an optical illusion caused by how fat he was. On top of that, he wore a dark blue cloak with light yellow dots near the top, two belts that formed an x over his bare chest, a pair of, what appeared to be, professional wrestling trunks on his lower body, and a pair of short boots on his feet.

And although the image of such a man was quite off-putting. The fact that he was looking at Carla and Panther Lily as if he wanted them to be his next meal was more than the trio could handle.

"Who are you?" Wendy asked while taking her fighting stance once again.

With that, Carla once again clung to Wendy's back while extending her wigs with her [Aera Magic], while Panther Lily grew to his Battle Form, as well. Though, Panther Lily could tell that he would not be able to maintain this form for much longer after the fight from before.

"I'm... I'm... I'm... Woo-Wee! I'm Kain Hikaru of the Seven Kin of Purgatory. And I'm here to kill all the members of Fary Tail. But those two cats look really yummy." Kain said, speaking so quickly that after he started with a stutter, no one could understand what he said.

"Huh?" Wendy exclaimed in confusion. "I'm sorry... But do you think you could speak a little slower?"

"Oh... Um... Sorry." Kain replied, sounding quite nervous. "I said... My name is... Kain Hikaru... of the Seven---"

"Boom!"

"Ahh~~~~~!" Panther Lily screamed in fear.

Before Kain could finish reintroducing himself, a bolt of yellow lighting fell from the sky and landed on the overweight man. At the same time, Panther Lily's terror filled scream was drowned out by the thunderclap.

A moment later, the yellow bolt of lightning turned into Laxus, who was now standing on top of the unconscious body of Kain.

"Well, that was disappointing. For such a big guy, he sure went down easy." Laxus said while looking down at Kain disdainfully. Then, he turned his attention towards Wendy, Carla, and Panther Lily. "You okay, Squirt? And why does that cat look so scared?"

"I-I'm not scared." Panther Lily replied indignantly.

"Yeah, we're okay." Wendy replied. "Thanks for helping us."

"Don't mention it." Laxus replied with a shrug. "That's what guild mates do. Anyway, I'll escort you three to the camp. But you two..."

When Laxus got to that point, he pointed at Carla and Panther Lily.

"You're not supposed to be here." Laxus continued. "So, don't be surprised if Ur decides to punish you a little when we get there."

\*Gulp!\* x 2

Hearing that, Carla and Panther Lily gulped their saliva audibly. Then, they both extended their wings. Before they could fly away and start heading back to the mainland, Laxus transformed into a bolt of yellow lightning, appeared behind them, and grabbed them by the scruffs of their necks.

"Trust me, accepting your punishments now is much better than waiting until we get back to the guild." Laxus said while walking in front of Wendy. "Anyway, Squirt, you should grab on. I'll get us to the camp in a flash."

Following Laxus instructions, Wendy grabbed onto Laxus. Then, using his [Lightning Magic] to increase his speed without taking on his [Lightning Form], Laxus rushed towards the camp with the trio.

#### Chapter 306: The End of the Invasion

While battles were waged on different parts of Tenrou Island, Erza, with her [Soul Weapon] stabbed into the ground in front of her, and her hands resting on its pommel, waited in front of the giant tree at the center of Tenrou Island.

Though it seemed as if she was simply standing in place, if one were to look closely, they would be able to see her eyes darting from one tree to another.

"I think this waiting game has gone on for long enough." Erza said in her uniquely authoritative tone. "But if you would rather hide and see if my patience will give out, I have no problem cutting down all the trees in this stretch of the forest to take away all your hiding spots."

After Erza's speech, silence ensued for a few seconds. Then just as Erza pulled her sword from the ground, the tree closest to her began to distort as a tall, heavily muscled, tan-skinned man with messy, thick, dark brown hair that jutted out in all directions emerged from its trunk.

With his form now completely visible, it could be seen that he had brown eyes and long sideburns that connected his hair and goatee, which looked like three triangles hanging from his chin as well as an upward pointing triangle that grew upwards. On top of that, he had a long, straight scar that ran over his left eye reaching from the top of his forehead to the bottom of his cheek bone. He also wore an earring on each ear in the shape of a crescent moon.

As for attire, He wore what appeared to be an orange bodysuit with a tribal motif. On top of that, covering his upper body, he wore a light green leather armor that highlighted his muscular abs and pecs. There were also a pair of dark gray shoulder pads that extended down to his elbows with lighter accents.

"It would seem you truly could detect me, woman." The man said in a stoic tone. "It would seem I've underestimated you. Though, I would rather not fight a woman. The lack of strength inherent to the gender does not interest me..."

\*Swish!\*

Before the man could speak any further, however, he was forced to take a step back, merging into the tree he had just emerged from, when Erza appeared in front of him with her sword slashing at his neck.

"Underestimating me simply because I am a woman is a mistake you may not survive long enough to regret." Erza said as she looked towards another tree.

"I see." The man said as he emerged from the tree at the end of Erza's line of sight. "It seems I've found exactly what I'm looking for. A battle that I will remember for the rest of my life."

As the man finished speaking, the tree that he had just merged into to escape Erza's slash began sliding apart diagonally, as Erza had cleaved it in two with one slash.

"I am Azuma of Grimoire Heart's Seven Kin of Purgatory." The man, Azuma, said, introducing himself with a battle thirsty grin. "May I ask your name, Warrior?"

"You may refer to me as Erza Scarlet." Erza replied while pointing her sword at Azuma with a stern expression on her face. "Now tell me, why have you come here?"

"That's quite simple." Azuma replied. "Our master made it clear that the wizards of Fairy Tail would be weakened significantly if I were to topple the tree at the center of this island. But now, none of that matters. As I have found something much more interesting. Now, fight me, Erza Scarlet. Let me feel the exhilaration of a good fight."

With that, Azuma raised his right hand in Erza's direction. At the same time, he reached his left hand back and placed it on the tree behind him.

"[Bleve]." Azuma chanted.

\*Boom!\*

In the next instant, the area surrounding Erza exploded, engulfing her in flames. However, before too much time could pass, Erza burst out of the explosion clad in her [Flame Empress Armor] with her [Soul Weapon] engulfed in [Fire Magic].

"Excellent!" Azuma exclaimed in excitement. "Now, don't disappoint me. [Burst Claw]."

Before Erza could get too close, she was forced to a stop when a tree root swiped at her from underground.

\*Shing!\*

"So, you have control over trees." Erza said as she cut through the root, and it caught fire due to the [Fire magic] on her sword. "I suspected as much--"

\*Boom!\*

While she spoke, the root she cut through exploded, cutting off what she had to say. Still, just like before, Erza simply charged through the explosion and shortened the distance between herself and Azuma.

And Erza's deductions were correct, despite being interrupted. Azuma used a type of Lost Magic] known as [The Great Tree Arc]. This magic allowed Azuma to grow and manipulate trees not to mention creating explosions from the fruit that grew on those trees. But the most powerful ability of this magic was the ability to control the energy in the earth. Which was what he used to create the first Explosion he used in the fight.

"Even if you can somehow make the trees you control explode, you won't break through my [Flame Empress Armor]." Erza declared as she slashed her sword at Azuma once again.

This time, however, instead of merging into the tree behind him, Azuma evaded the slash with minimal movement. Then, with his magic power concentrated on his right fist, he threw a punch at Erza's abdomen.

Reacting quickly, Erza raised her left leg. Using her grieve, she knocked Azuma's fist to her left. Then, she slashed her sword upward along the previous trajectory.

In response, Azuma, following the momentum of his deflected punch, swung his body and threw his right foot at the tree behind him. Then, as soon as his foot made contact with the tree's trunk, a root burst from the ground and pushed Erza's sword off course.

\*Boom!\*

In the next instant, the root exploded. And although Erza took little damage from the explosion, due to her unstable posture, she was blown backwards from the explosion's force. At the same time, Azuma escaped the explosion by merging into the tree, once again, just before it was destroyed in the explosion.

Then, before Erza could regain her balance, Azuma's upper body extended from the bottom of a tree branch with his right hand extended towards Erza.

"[Linear Explosion]." Azuma chanted as he used the earth's energy to create a linear shockwave from his outstretched hand to the ground directly below Erza.

\*Boom!\*

Yet another explosion was triggered when the shockwave impacted the ground. And when the dust settled, Erza was revealed laying in the bottom of a crater. Surprisingly, her [Flame Empress Armor] had been shattered by the force of the shockwave. Though, it would appear that she had not suffered much damage from the explosion, despite the fact that her hair was disheveled, and she was covered in soot.

"[Chain Burst]." Azuma chanted before Erza can regain her bearings.

Immediately, roots, one for each of Erza's limbs, burst through the ground and wrap themselves around the scarlet-haired wizard's arms and legs. Then, from their bases, they begin exploding.

"Enough." Erza muttered. "[Requip: Heaven's Wheel Armor]."

In the next instant, Erza was covered in the light of her magic. Then, she reappeared in the [Heaven's Wheel Armor] with two dozen swords floating around her.

Controlling four of the swords telekinetically, Erza cut the roots wrapped around her limbs and quickly flew upward, avoiding the ensuing explosion. At the same time, she sent another four swords in Azuma's direction.

Reacting quickly, Azuma merged back into the tree just before the branch he had emerged from was severed.

Like that, Erza and Azuma engage in a game of cat and mouse for the next fifteen, or so, minutes, with Azuma trying to emerge from a tree and send an attack Erza's way, only for a group of at least four swords to swarm his location. Then, before he can launch his attack, he retreats into the tree he was using to hide.

As a result of this game, many of the trees in the area were heavily damaged with most of them being cut down. Still, neither combatant was able to land a powerful attack on the other.

There were only a few exceptions to the destruction Erza's swords have brought to this part of the forest. And that would be the three trees closest to Erza. As Azuma felt that they were too close to the sword wielding wizard to chance emerging from them. Until now, that is.

Understanding that Erza had a way to track him while he moved through the trees. Though not knowing to what extent. Azuma sent a pulse of his magic power into several trees in the distance. Meanwhile, he slowly emerged from the tree behind Erza.

Then, once he had fully emerged, Azuma spread his arms in grandiose fashion.

"[Tower Burst]." Azuma chanted.

"Finally." Erza said at the same time. Then, she spun on her heels and summoned another dozen swords around her. "[Blumenblatt]."

As the two chanted simultaneously, a number of things happened in short order. First, Erza, along with her swords sped towards Azuma at speeds neither she nor her swords had reached since the battle started. Second, the area in Azuma's immediate surroundings erupted into a pillar of flames that reached above the crown of the tallest tree in the forest, not including the Great Tenrou Tree. Third, Erza sped out of the flames before she was engulfed for too long. And lastly, Erza continued speeding forward as the pillar of flames turned into a huge explosion.

A few moments later, the explosion died down, and Erza returned to the spot where the last confrontation took place. And when she arrived, she saw that there were no longer any trees standing in that section of the forest. On top of that, she found Azuma lying in the middle of the crater created by that giant explosion.

Saying that Azuma had seen better days would be a vast understatement. Though he was unaffected by the explosion caused by his magic, he was still covered in burns. Or rather, burned wounds that were cauterized after Erza's swords sailed past him. Plus, there was a large X-shaped wound that covered his entire torso. And lastly, the light in his eyes had diminished, though his corpse was wearing a satisfied grin.

"\*Sigh\* It would seem that the only thing you desired was a good battle." Erza said, regret in her tone. "I wonder how things would have turned out if there was a platform for you to test your skills and strength against others at a similar level"

With that said, Erza could not help but shake her head. Still, she had no pity for the man as he had attacked her guild. And those who attack Fairy Tail would rarely receive mercy.

Meanwhile, back on the island's shore, Makarov was watching Alfonzo battle Hades with relative ease. Despite Hades vast array of magic spells, Alfonzo seemed to have a counter for them all.

If Hades used his [Chain Magic], Alfonzo would deflect the chains with his tonfa while occasionally sending electric shocks through the chains to keep Hades on his toes. If he used his [Amaterasu Formulas], Alfonzo would simply create a blob of Techno Organic Metal, and have it throw off the formulas. And if Hades used his [Bullet Magic], Alfonzo would simply create small chunks of metal and hurl them to intercept.

Alfonzo even managed to negate [Grimoire Law] by creating an adamantine dome whose inside was lined with anti-magic sigils. around Hades. While he did the same for a spell Hades called [Katsu]. Except the adamantine dome was placed around himself and the anti-magic sigils were on the outside of the dome.

All the while, seeming just to get under Hades skin, Alfonzo did not forget to call out the outcome of a fight every time the wizards from Fairy Tail defeated their opponents.

"Has that boy really grown so much?" Makarov asked as he remembered everything he had seen Alfonzo do over the last hour, or so. Then, he shook his head as he continued. "I really am getting old. I think it's time that I stepped down as the guild master. The only question is who is suitable to take my place."

Meanwhile, as Alfonzo casually avoided Hades' attacks, he was starting to get bored of the repetition.

'Seriously, Lici finished like forty minutes ago.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'Why's she taking so long to get here?'

"Hey, Fonzie, did you miss me?" Alfonzo heard Elicia's voice as a thin thread wrapped around his waist. "Sorry I took so long. I've already checked the inside of the ship and found the [Demon's Heart]. Now that you're connected to me with my [Hiding in Plain Sight] spell, you should be able to feel my threads that were wrapped around the pedestal it was sitting on, right?"

Checking the scan from [Magic Power Detection] once again, Alfonzo could, indeed, feel Elicia's threads wrapped around a metal pedestal aboard the Grimoire Heart airship.

"Good work, Lici." Alfonzo whispered with a smile. "And did you manage to get any other goodies from the ship?"

"Yeah." Elicia replied with a smile of her own. Then, Alfonzo heard the sound of Elicia patting something vigorously. "I took every magic book I could find. I didn't have the time to see what they were, though. So, we have no idea if they'll be useful or not. I don't know if I missed anything, either. I mean, I was running on a time crunch, after all."

"Well, since I plan on taking the airship for myself, I think we can take our time to look for any hidden compartments later." Alfonzo whispered as his smile widened. "And what about Bluenote?"

"Choked him out, wrapped him up with my threads, and slapped a pair of anti-magic cuffs on him for good measure." Elicia replied.

"Nice." Alfonzo whispered, his smile growing as wide as it could.

At that moment, Alfonzo felt Erza's opponent's, Azuma's, magic power signature disappear completely.

"Oh, and that's seven, Old Man." Alfonzo said in a mocking tone. "I guess those Seven Kin of Purgatory of yours weren't all that great, huh?"

"I grow tired of your mockery, Boy!" Hades shouted angrily.

"Really?" Alfonzo asked disdainfully. "Then, why don't you stop holding back and use that shitty little eye you've got hidden under that fucking patch? Since, it seems like you're the one mocking me if you won't even use everything you have in our little fight."

"You should be careful what you ask for, Boy." Hades said angrily as he reached for the patch covering his right eye. "But since you've, indeed, asked for it, I will let you see your demise."

With that, Hades ripped the patch off of his right eye. At the same time, Alfonzo used his [Metal Magic] to control the pedestal where the [Demon's Heart] sat. Then, he controlled the same metal to pierce the [Demon's Heart] before ripping it to pieces.

"Now, behold the beginning of your end... Urgh." Hade said in an imposing manner before he grabbed at his heart. Then, when he noticed that his heart was no longer connected to the [Demon's Heart] on the airship, he looked at Alfonzo with fury. "What have you done?"

"You shouldn't worry about what I've done and focus on what I'm about to do." Alfonzo said with a grin as he lowered his stance. "And that's..."

Before he finished, however, Alfonzo vanished from where he stood in a burst of speed. Then, he reappeared in front of Hades and used his tonfa to knock him into the sky.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Flash Point]." Alfonz chanted as a pair of electrically charged rails appeared on either side of him.

Alfonzo was then shot into the sky, smashing his tonfa into Hades' head and torso as he passed by. Then, before his momentum could die out, another pair of rails appeared around him and shot him back towards Hades as he once again struck the elderly mage with his tonfa.

The process repeated itself nearly twenty times before Alfonzo ceased his attack and allowed the heavily injured Hades to fall to the ground again.

"... kick your ass." Alfonzo said, finishing his earlier sentence as he landed next to the unconscious Hades.

#### Chapter 307: After the Battle

While most of those present on Tenrou Island had already returned to the camp, everyone on the island could see the green flare that went up near the area where the Grimoire Heart airship landed.

"It looks like they did it." Ur said from atop the walls of the [Frozen Fortress] she created when the island was first attacked.

"Well, Alfonzo went that way when this all started, right?" Ultear asked from next to her mother. "So, this was kind of expected."

"Oh, so you have so much faith in your boyfriend, huh?" Ur asked with a smile. Then, her expression changed to one filled with frustration. "But no, he actually went to get Gildarts first. And... Well... I think we all know how that turned out."

"I'd be frustrated too if the guy I liked slept through the whole thing because he got too hammered." Ultear muttered.

"What did you say?" Ur asked, narrowing her eyes as she did so.

"What are you talking about, Mom?" Ultear replied with a sweet smile. Then, she pointed in the direction of the Grimoire Heart airship. "Oh, look, there's Master, Alfonzo, and Lici."

Instead of responding immediately to Ultear's change of topic, Ur glared at her with her eyes narrowed for a few more seconds. And while Ultear managed to maintain her sweet smile, she could feel the cold sweat forming on her back under her mother's icy glare.

'Did Mom learn some kind of [Eye Magic]?' Ultear thought to herself as she felt herself getting colder under her mother's glare. 'Seriously, I wish you'd stop looking at me like that... It's kinda... no... really scary.'

"My children, we have returned." Makarov said as he, Alfonzo, and Elicia returned to the base camp with Hades, Bluenote, and Himiko toga in tow. "And just as we have always done, Fairy Tail returns victoriously!"

Hearing Makarov's shout, all those who had returned to the camp cheered loudly.

"Welcome back, Alfonzo!" Ultear, taking the opportunity to get away from her mother's glare, shouted as she jumped off the wall and threw herself at Alfonzo and wrapped him in a tight hug. "You didn't get hurt, did you? I mean, I felt you fighting the one with the strongest magic power from the other side."

"I'm fine, Tear." Alfonzo replied with a smile as he returned Ultear's hug while looking around the area. Then, when he noticed Ur, who was still glaring at Ultear, he could not help but smile wryly. "So, Tear, what did you do to make your mom so mad?"

"I didn't do anything..." Ultear replied while pouting cutely.

"Uh-huh..." Alfonzo replied, clearly not believing Ultear.

"I really didn't do anything. I only told the truth." Ultear replied. "It's not my fault she likes the guy who slept through everything."

Even though Ultear was not particularly loud, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Makarov could feel Ur's anger growing by the word.

Before Alfonzo could reply, however, a few more girls came running out of Ur's [Frozen Fortress].

"Fonzie! You're back!" Cana shouted as she actually used her [Enhancement Cards] to beat everyone else to Alfonzo. "I'm glad you're okay!"

Shifting Ultear slightly to the side, Alfonzo stretched out one of his arms and caught Cana, who also hugged him tightly.

"Yeah, I'm fine." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Oh, and let me congratulate you on becoming the newest S-Class wizard of the guild."

Hearing Alfonzo's congratulations, Cana smiled brightly before she raised herself on her toes and stole a kiss.

Meanwhile, the other girls, namely, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun, rushed out of the camp and piled onto Alfonzo with smiles on their faces. All the while, Cana held her kiss while aggressively invading Alfonzo's mouth with her tongue.

'Although I'm not gonna complain about the kiss, Cana.' Alfonzo thought to himself while enjoying the passionate kiss with Cana. 'Don't think this will save you from your punishment for thinking something so stupid before the exam.'

"I get the feeling they forgot I was here." Elicia muttered while watching the other girls group hug around Alfonzo. "I think I might actually be jealous."

"If that's the case, you should just join them." Erza, who arrived from the forest, said as she dragged Natsu and Happy towards the camp.

"Come on, Erza, let me go!" Natsu shouted in irritation. "Gramps is definitely gonna make me go through 'THAT' again if he catches me."

Ignoring Natsu's complaints, Erza dropped him and Happy off next to Makarov while she kept walking forward. At the same time, she grabbed Elicia by the arm and pulled her over to the hug-pile. Then, she put Elicia between herself and the rest of the group as she joined the group hug.

"I'm glad you're safe, Alfonzo." Erza said sincerely. "You were fighting Grimoire Heart's guild master, were you not?"

Meanwhile, Elicia could only smile wryly at Erza's actions. At the same time, she was trying to shift her position.

'It's nice how she just dragged me along to do what I should have done from the beginning.' Elicia thought to herself. 'But she's crushing me between Mira and her armor.'

Meanwhile, back on the ice walls, Lucy, who had arrived next to Ur was watching Alfonzo and his seven girlfriends/fiancées with envy in her gaze.

"If you want to hug him so much, you should just go do it." Ur said with a smile. "I'm sure neither Alfonzo nor any of the girls would mind."

Although Lucy's eyes lit up at the idea, she still shook her head to Ur's suggestion.

"I'm sure you're right." Lucy replied. "But I can wait a little longer. We're supposed to go on a date, after all. We just haven't been able to with everything that's been going on. I mean, as soon as we got back from Edolas, everyone started preparing for the S-Class exam."

"If that's what you want." Ur replied. "But you could still go celebrate with them."

With that, Ur nudged Lucy forward. Unfortunately for Lucy, Ur's nudge was more like a full powered shove for a wizard with her level of physical strength, and she went flying from the top of the ice wall.

"Oops." Ur muttered as she watched on dumbfoundedly.

"Kya~~~~~!" Lucy screamed in surprise.

A moment later, however, she remembered what Alfonzo said to her in Edolas about staying calm. Then, she reached into her key pouch and pulled out one of her Golden Celestial Keys.

"[Open! Gate of the Ram!]" Lucy chanted as she channeled her magic power into the key.

Before she could finish her chant, however, she felt that she was no longer falling. On top of that, she felt a sense of security for some reason. Then, she looked up and saw that Alfonzo was floating about sixteen feet (approx. 5 m) in the air while carrying her in his arms in a princess carry.

"You alright, Lucy?" Alfonzo asked.

"Um... Mhmm..." Lucy hummed a reply while lowering her head with a blush. Then, in an almost inaudible voice, she continued. "Thanks for catching me, Alfonzo."

In response, Alfonzo only smiled while lowering himself to the ground gently.

With that little episode over and done with, the group returned to the camp and Makarov discussed what they should do with the surviving wizards from Grimoire Heart with the S-Class wizards of his guild. Though, Gildarts and Cana were not present for this discussion.

While Gildarts was still plastered and sleeping off his stupor on the ship, Cana would not officially become an S-Class wizard until the group returned to Magnolia and Makarov announced it in front of the rest of the guild.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Open Seas.

At the same time the green flare that signified the end of the emergency situation went up, Lahar and Doranbolt finally put down their binoculars.

"\*Sigh\* Things certainly did not go as the Council expected on this one." Lahar muttered as he rubbed his eyes.

"Yeah, it seems that Fairy Tail is significantly more dangerous than we expected." Doranbolt replied.

"They just took down one of the continents three most dangerous Dark Guilds by themselves." Lahar said, sounding rather exasperated by his colleague's words and tone. "And instead of thanking them for it, you raise their danger level? And although you're not wrong, technically, doesn't this seem a little wrong?"

"If you truly believe they've changed for the better, then I can understand where you're coming from, Lahar." Doranbolt said as he turned away from the ship's bow. "But like I said before, I don't think a leopard can change its spots so easily. Anyway, I'm going to send a report to the Council about the outcome of the battle."

Watching Doranbolt walk towards the ship's comms room, Lahar could only shake his head.

"What's happened to the Council?" Lahar muttered to himself. "I can understand the bias they hold against Fairy Tail, as they were truly a double-edged sword in the past. Still, being a member of the Magic Council requires more neutrality. And if Fairy Tail were to ever find out that we simply watched while their holy lands were attacked by Grimoire Heart, this could be catastrophic for the Council. And their recently recovered reputation could be damaged to a point where it may never recover again."

Unfortunately, Lahar was not aware that nearly every Fairy Tail wizard on Tenrou Island was aware of the Magic Council Fleet's proximity to the island. On top of that, they were aware of where Mest/Doranbolt went after he escaped from Wendy, Carla, and Panther Lily.

Earth land, Ishgar, Era.

\*Bang!\*

'How is this possible?' Org growled internally as he slammed his fist into his desk. 'Those ruffians managed to defeat Grimoire Heart on their own while having no casualties? Not even that boy, Alfonzo Marcus was killed. Now, we can't even claim his patents for the Magic Council! Damn it, they ruined my plans, completely!'

"Sir, what are the orders for the fleet?" The communications officer who came to report asked.

Hearing the communications officer's question, Org forcefully calmed himself down. Then, after taking a few deep breaths, he returned his attention to the officer standing in front of his desk.

"Tell them to maintain their position until Fairy Tail leaves the island." Org ordered. "After that, they may return to port. Also, let them know I will be the one to receive their reports. Understood?"

"Sir!" The communications officer saluted before turning around and leaving Org's office.

With that bit of business taken care of, Org returned to his regular duties. Then, after working for the next few hours without interruption, he finally put down his pen and breathed out a relaxed sigh.

"Even if my plans fell through, no one should know about this." Org muttered to himself. "As the second seat of the Magic Council, no one questions me, despite certain things not adding up. And even if they somehow left their offices and noticed the fleet was gone, they'll never know the Chairman wasn't the one who ordered them to sortie. And since he's currently in Fiore meeting with the king, Toma E. Fiore and won't be back until the day after tomorrow, he'll never know the fleet ever left."

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Firoe, Crocus.

"I wish you safe travels, Chairman." The king of Fiore, Toma E. Fiore, said as he and Gran Doma stood in front of the Magic Council airship.

Toma was a short man, standing at roughly the same height as Makarov, with white hair, parted down the middle, and black eyes wearing a set of striped overalls, a belt around his waist, and a cape bearing the crest of the Fiore Royal Family.

"I appreciate your well wishes." Gram Doma replied while extending a hand to Toma for a handshake. "And even more than that, I appreciate the intel you shared not too long ago. Unfortunately, it's because of that same intel that our meeting for this competition you've dubbed the Grand Magic Games must come to an early end. Although, I do look forward to picking up this topic once again, as it could lead to an economic rise in your country. And if everything goes well, perhaps it may spread to the other countries of Ishgar, as well."

With a smile, Toma accepted Gran Doma's hand and shook it firmly.

"For now, I will be on my way." Gran Doma said as he released the king's hand. "I must return to organize our forces to aid Fairy Tail. I only hope that they are able to hold out long enough for us to arrive."

"Indeed." Toma replied while stepping back. "Though, I would rather your preparations were not necessary. But considering our look outs saw the Grimoire Heart airship headed in the general direction of Tenrou Island, I am of the opinion that it's better to be safe than sorry."

"Indeed." Gran Doma replied with a nod. "Now, if you'll excuse me, I bid you farewell."

With that, Gran Doma wasted no more time and entered the airship. Hoping to arrive before sun rise, he would call for a meeting of all the Councilors and give the order for the fleet to set sail at once for Tenrou Island and offer Fairy Tail any aid they could in fending off Grimoire Heart.

### Chapter 308: A Danger Like no Other Approaches

Despite the battle with Grimoire Heart not offering much in the way of a challenge for the members of Fairy Tail, all the wizards on Tenrou Island decided to call it a night early after the episode. Even Alfonzo and his girls went straight to sleep instead of engaging in bedroom activities to celebrate Cana's promotion.

However, things were not as calm as one would think while the wizards of Fiore's strongest guild were asleep. Instead, just after the clock struck midnight, a silhouette could be seen moving between the tents in the Fairy Tail base camp.

If anyone were awake to see him, they would know that he was not a member of Fairy Tail. Instead, he was the young man, Zeref, who had been resting on Tenrou Island.

"Those fools have no idea what they have brought to this island." Zeref said in a cold tone. "Because of their actions and forcing Fairy Tail's Dragon Slayers to show their might, they have summoned almost certain demise upon everyone on this island."

As he muttered to himself, Zeref continued walking through the camp. Then, when he reached a certain tent that was a little further away from the rest of the camp, he paused for a moment before entering.

Upon entering the tent, despite the darkness, Zeref saw the captured higher-ups of Grimoire Heart, Hades, Bluenote Stinger, who was captured without the chance to put up a fight, Himiko Toga, Rustyrose, and Kain Hikaru. As for the low-ranking members of the guild, they were all imprisoned in Grimoire Heart's airship's cargo hold.

"Who's there?" Hades, who was awakened from his slumber by the noise of Zeref's entry, asked in a weak tone.

In the last few hours, though Hades already appeared to be an old man in his mid-seventies, because of the loss of his Demon's Heart, he began aging rapidly to match his actual age of over a hundred twenty years. As such, his body was beginning to give out rapidly as well.

"The one you've been seeking." Zeref replied coldly.

Hearing that, Hades visible eye opened wide as he tried to rise to a knee. Unfortunately, thanks to the injuries he received during his fight with Alfonzo, and the deterioration of his physique, the most he could do was writhe on the floor of the tent.

"Lord Zeref... have you come to save us?" Hades asked with expectation in his eyes. "And will you allow us to join you as you transform this world into a magical utopia?"

Instead of responding, Zeref only glared at Hades coldly. Then, after a few moments of tense silence, Zeref shook his head.

"It seems you are unaware of the danger you have brought to this island with your foolish ideals." Zeref said, finally breaking the silence. "Not that you will live long enough to witness it."

"What are you talking about?" Hades asked in a tone mixed with both confusion and anger. Confusion because he was truly unaware of any danger he may have caused for this island. And anger at the fact that his ideal world, a magical utopia, was called foolish.

"Because of you, in less than a days' time, a threat that no one, not even I can face will befall this island." Zeref explained. "And it will up to the luck and fate of those on this island whether or not they will survive. Well, everyone except for you, that is."

As he spoke the last part, Zeref approached Hades, who lay prone on the tent floor. Then, he knelt in front of the elderly man and placed his right index finger on Hades' forehead.

"For you will not see the coming dawn." Zeref continued.

Knowing that he would die before his goal was achieved, Hades was mortified. But his curiosity over the approaching danger was even stronger. On top of that, knowing that some of those who defeated his guild would be joining him on his trip to the afterlife excited him just as much.

"What is this danger you speak of?" Hades asked weakly, yet his eye sparkled brightly.

"Acnologia..." Zeref replied.

Hearing the name of the Dragon King of the Apocalypse, Hades' visible eye widened in shock. Before he could respond to Zeref's claim, however the light vanished from his eye and his head fell lifelessly to the tent's floor.

A moment later, Zeref exited the tent. Surprisingly, no one else in the camp, not even the other four sharing a tent with Hades, woke up while he was there. Then he looked in the direction of a certain tent.

"Live through this, Natsu." Zeref muttered quietly. "I'm counting on you to grant my deepest wish, after all."

With that, Zeref vanished from the Fairy Tail base camp and returned to the place where he belonged, upon the throne of the Alvarez Empire on the Alakitasia continent.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Era.

Several hours after Zeref made his appearance at the Fairy Tail base camp, just after the sun began peaking over the eastern horizon, an airship bearing the mark of the Magic Council landed in Era. Naturally, this was Gran Doma's airship.

"Have my orders to convene a meeting of all the members of the council been delivered?" Gran Doma asked as he disembarked from the airship.

"Sir, yes, Sir!" A Rune Knight saluted as he replied. "All the Councilors are waiting for your arrival in the meeting hall."

"Very good." Gran Doma replied with a nod as he began walking towards the Magic Council's meeting room with steady, firm steps.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Councilors were seated in their usual seats while they awaited Gran Doma's arrival.

"So, do any of you know why the Chairman ordered us to gather on such short notice?" Belno asked curiously while letting her gaze wander around the room.

While all the Councilors she looked at wore uncertain expressions, she noticed that Org's expression looked quite bad. But after attributing it to having been woken up at such an early hour, she stopped paying attention to it.

Org, on the other hand, was having a full-blown mental panic attack at the moment.

'Why is he here?' Org question in his head. 'Gran Doma isn't supposed to return until tomorrow. With this, he will definitely be present when Lahar and Doranbolt return to give their reports. And although everything I did was for the prosperity of the Magic Council and the continent of Ishgar, I know he won't see it that way. Instead, he will only look at the laws I've broken for the greater good. That self-righteous fool.'

As that thought passed, Org shook his head forcefully to drive away the panic he was feeling. Then, he started concentrating on how he could get out of this while taking the least damage. As he was fully aware that he would be punished in some fashion for what he did.

Before Org could think about it for too long, however, the sound of the meeting room's door being pushed open echoed across the hall.

"Chairman." All the Councilors, even Org, greeted in unison.

"Be at ease." Gran Doma replied while making his way over to his seat. "Though I am sorry to call all of you at such an early hour, I have grave news to report."

With that as a starting point, Gran Doma explained what he had heard from the king of Fiore about Grimoire Heart moving towards Tenrou Island. As well as the reason why he took so long to report this information, which he received around sunset. And the reason was simple, both Toma E. Fiore and Gran Doma were waiting for the information to be confirmed.

Also, Gran Doma dared not report this information back to Era using their normal means of communication as he was fairly certain there were several spies lurking within the Magic Council. Though, he did not know who they were. But if they intercepted the information, things might end up even worse.

"But what I really would like to know is, why did we not know about this sooner?" Gran Doma asked while sweeping his gaze over the rest of the members of the Council. "Have the spies we managed to plant in Grimoire Heart been discovered? If so, when did we receive the last reports from them?"

In response to Gran Doma's questions the Councilors could only look at each other in confusion, hoping that one of their colleagues had the answer Gran Doma was looking for. Meanwhile, Org's panic attack was growing in scale.

'It's okay, Org. Just calm down.' Org said to himself in an attempt to quell his anxiety. "Although I did not have the reports about Grimoire Heart's attack on Fairy Tail destroyed, I did hide them very well. And once this whole mess blows over, I'll return them to where they should have been all along. And no one will know it was me that did it.'

Seeing the confusion in his colleagues eyes, Gran Doma could do little more than let out a frustrated sigh. But instead of dwelling on the loss of the crucial information, he decided to move on. He could investigate this later on.

"It would seem that no one knows anything." Gran Doma said while casting a skeptical gaze at all of his colleagues. "No matter, for now. We can get to the bottom of this later. Currently we have to send aid to Fairy Tail."

Immediately, almost ninety percent of those in the meeting hall had their expressions turned contemptuous. Still, as this was the Chairman's order, they did not argue.

With that, Gran Doma called a communications officer into the meeting hall to relay his orders. But when Org saw who the officer was, his face paled immediately.

As it turned out, the communications officer who responded to Gran Doma's call was the same one who had been keeping Org up to date with the fleet's reports.

"Reporting, Sir." The communications officer said with a salute upon entering the meeting hall.

"Relay my orders." Gran Doma said in an authoritative tone. "Order the naval fleet to prepare as quickly as possible and set sail for Tenrou Island. Upon arrival, if a battle is ongoing, they are to aid Fairy Tail to the best of their abilities."

After Gran Doma gave his orders, the meeting hall fell into an awkward silence. And what made the silence so awkward was the fact that the communications officer did not respond to his orders immediately. Instead, he wore a confused expression while looking at Gran Doma blankly.

"Is there a problem with my orders, Officer?" Gran Doma asked in a much harsher tone while narrowing his eyes dangerously.

Still, even with Gran Doma asking the officer what was wrong, he did not reply immediately. Instead, he slowly turned his head towards Org with confusion and a certain question written all over his face.

'Why is the Chairman asking me to relay an order that is similar to, yet contradictory to, an order he already gave?'

While Org felt the world closing in on him thanks to the situation he found himself in, all the Councilors, including Gran Doma followed the officer's line of sight to see the pale faced Org sweating profusely.

At this point, the Councilors started putting two and two together. The reason why none of them had received an advance report about Grimoire Heart's attack on Fairy Tail was becoming quite clear. While most of them could not wait to question Org about what he had done, Gran Doma's gaze shifted back to the communications officer.

"Officer!" Gran Doma shouted, shocking everyone in the meeting hall while simultaneously drawing all their attention back to himself. "I gave you an order, which you did not immediately respond to. Then, I asked you a question that you have yet to answer. So, I will ask you once more..."

When he reached that point, an immense magic power washed over the meeting hall, surprising all those present, while simultaneously putting immense pressure on them. Despite having few accolades for his ability as a wizard, one does not gain such a reputation for upholding justice without having the power to do so.

"... Was there an issue with my orders, Officer?" Gran Doma asked while focusing his magic power pressure on the communications officer.

\*Thud!\*

Not even a second later, the communications officer fell to his knees with cold sweat dripping down his forehead and a shortness of breath. Yet, he found the strength to answer Gran Doma's question.

"Sir... Those orders... are similar to... while also contradicting... orders I have previously... received." The communications officer wheezed out.

Having finally received an answer to his question, Gran Doma finally let up with his pressure. Though, he did not dismiss it entirely. Instead, he focused the pressure he had retracted on Org, who he had noticed wanted to say something after the communications officer finished speaking.

"And what exactly were these orders, Officer?" Gran Doma asked as the rest of the meeting hall remained silent.

"\*Pant\* \*Pant\* The orders were to deploy the naval fleet and the Fourth Custody Enforcement Unit to the seas near Tenrou Island." The communications officer replied after getting his breathing under control. "And once they arrived, they were to observe the battle between Fairy Tail and Grimoire Heart.

Then, once the battle ended, they were to do all in their power to detain the surviving members of Grimoire Heart."

Hearing that order was enough for the Councilors to know that Org had been tampering with the information flow. And that immediately led to the suspicion that he was a spy for Grimoire Heart. And there were two reasons for that assumption.

First of all, the fact that he hid the Dark Guild's movements after their location was finally confirmed was treacherous enough. But sending an entire fleet of some of their best men was even worse.

Because despite the fact that Grimoire Heart would more than likely be weakened after the battle, they had no one strong enough to contend with them, even in a weakened state.

Once again, while the other Councilors were ready to send Org to the gallows, Gran Doma, who, somehow, managed to remain calm, asked another question.

"Have there been any reports on the outcome of the battle?" Gran Doma asked solemnly, expecting the worst.

"Yes, Sir." The communications officer replied. "The battle has ended. And Fairy Tail came out victorious."

Hearing that, the Councilors, other than Org, were both surprised and relieved. Though, they all expected that Fairy Tail had obtained a pyrrhic victory, at best.

"\*Sigh\* And what of the casualties?" Gran Doma asked.

"None, Sir." The communications officer replied.

That response caused all the members of the Council to fall into stunned silence.

"Wait, are you telling me that Fairy Tail, with only the members participating in the S-Class Promotion Exam, their S-Class wizards, and their guild master, were able to defeat Grimoire Heart with zero casualties? Impossible." Belno retorted after letting the information sink in for a moment."

"I'm only relaying the report from Doranbolt, Ma'am." The communications officer replied after flinching at Belno's glare.

"And this was why I advocated to disband Fairy Tail so fervently! " Org shouted, noticing that his colleagues were uncomfortable because of Fairy Tail's supposed strength. "They are much more dangerous than we expected. They should be disband immediately and made to serve the magic council or face imprisonment!"

"Silence!" Gran Doma shouted before Org's obsession could take hold in the other members of the Council.

At the same time, he pressed the entirety of his magical pressure on Org, forcing his upper body to slump down on his desk. Then, Gran Doma turned his attention back to the communications officer to ask his final question.

"Officer, you mentioned that you had received similar, yet conflicting, orders a moment ago. As I am the only one who may deploy the naval fleet, who was it that gave you your orders?" Gran Doma asked solemnly.

This time flinching due to Gran Doma's presence, the communications officer swallowed a mouthful of saliva before he replied.

"It was Lord Org who handed us a document with your seal on it, Sir." The communications officer said before immediately bowing his head.

At that moment, Gran Doma's magic power was released in full, causing the entire Magic Council building to quake violently. At the same time, he glared at Org with the desire to execute such an unjust man with his bare hands. Yet, after only a moment, Gran Doma reigned in his magic power, releasing all those present from his pressure.

"His magic power..." One of the Councilors muttered in shock.

"It's on the same level as a Wizard Saint..." Belno muttered, as well, finishing the first Councilor's sentence.

"Guards!" Gran Doma shouted, his magic power enhancing the volume of his voice.

Less than ten seconds later, four, heavily armored Rune Knights entered the meeting hall in response to Gran Doma's call.

"Sir!" The four Rune Knights greeted in unison.

"Take that man away on charges of treason." Gran Doma said while pointing at Org.

At first, the Rune Knights were thoroughly confused by the order. However, after seeing the glint in Gran Doma's eyes, they immediately swarmed around Org before putting him in anti-magic cuffs. Meanwhile, Org simply hung his head in regret as the Rune Knights escorted him out of the meeting hall.

Naturally, Org did not regret his actions. Instead, he regretted the fact that he did not plan to get rid of the ruffians from Fairy Tail much sooner, when they were much weaker.

"Org..." Gran Doma said in a low tone just before Org was brought out of the meeting hall, which caused Org and the Rune Knights to stop at the entrance.

"Your actions may have doomed the Magic Council." Gran Doma said solemnly after the group of five came to a stop. "So, I pray that the wizards from Fairy Tail did not manage to spot the fleet, for the Council's sake. Because either way, you will more than likely lose your head at the gallows for the stunt you pulled."

After speaking his piece, Gran Doma gestured for the Rune Knights to continue.

With that, the meeting hall fell silent again. Then, after a few minutes, the silence was finally broken by an unlikely source.

"Sir, do you have new orders for the fleet?" The communications officer asked.

Before Gran Doma could respond, however, the door to the meeting hall was opened once again. This time, however, it was by a second communications officer with panic in his eyes.

"You better have a good reason for barging in like that!" Belno shouted.

Ignoring Belno's shouts, the second communications officer looked Gran Doma in the eyes and gave his reports.

"Reporting!" The new communications officer shouted. "We've reports of a giant, black dragon with white, feathered wings flying over the Kingdom of Fiore."

Hearing that, the entire room began to panic, even Gran Doma.

"And the projected destination is... Tenrou Island." The second communications officer reported, concluding his report.

"Relay my orders!" Gran Doma shouted while looking towards the first communications officer. "Order the fleet to move away from Tenrou Island. As far as they can, while still able to monitor the situation on

the island. As much as I want to offer aid to the wizards of Fairy Tail, if only to make up for Org's foolish mistake, no one on this planet is equipped to deal with that monster."

### Chapter 309: The Next Morning on Tenrou Island

Around the same time Org was escorted out of the meeting hall in Era, Alfonzo, who was sleeping in a tent with his girlfriends and fiancées in the base camp, slowly opened his eyes. And when he did, he was surprised to see that he was not the first one to wake up, as he usually was.

Upon opening his eyes, Alfonzo immediately met eyes with a pair of brown eyes with a purple tint.

"Mmm... Good morning, Cana." Alfonzo muttered groggily. "I think this might be the first time you ever woke up before me."

At the same time, Cana smiled brightly. Then, from her position on Alfonzo's chest, she leaned forward and gave her fiancé a kiss.

"Good morning, Fonzie. And yeah, I slept great last night." Cana replied after breaking the kiss. "And because of that, I didn't have any trouble waking up. So, for the first time, I got to see your face while you were sleeping. And I gotta say, you're really cute when you're asleep."

Smiling wryly in response to being called cute, Alfonzo shook his head. Still, he did not refute Cana's opinion, mainly because there was no point. But a moment later, his expression turned quite solemn.

"What's wrong, Fonzie?" Cana asked in a concerned tone after seeing Alfonzo's change in expression.

"Hades is gone..." Alfonzo muttered as his eyebrow furrowed After checking the state of the island with [Magic Power Detection].

Hearing that, Cana, who was lying on top of Alfonzo, immediately sat up, now straddling his lower abdomen.

"We need to tell Gramps." Cana replied.

"I know." Alfonzo replied, freeing his arms from Erza and Mirajane's grasps. "You go tell Gramps while I go over to the prisoner's tent to see if I can figure out how he got a way."

"Got it!" Cana exclaimed as she shot up to her feet and took a step towards the tent's entrance.

"One thing before you go, Cana." Alfonzo said in an exasperated tone.

"Huh?" Cana replied in confusion while coming to a stop before she could pull open the tent flap.

"At least put on some pants before you go." Alfonzo replied while massaging his temples.

In response, Cana looked down and noticed that all she was wearing was a purple bikini top, as she usually wore those instead bras, and a matching Y-back thong.

"That's probably a good idea." Cana replied with a slightly embarrassed smile. "I don't know what that old pervert would do if he saw all this."

As she finished, Cana punctuated her sentence by slapping her own ass, grabbing it, and shaking it around for a moment. Then, she moved to the piled up luggage in the corner of the tent and pulled a pair of pants out of her own luggage.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo after seeing Cana's actions, shook his head with a wry smile on his face before he got up and put on a pair of shorts and a tank top, as well.

Then, after both Alfonzo and Cana were dressed, they ran out of the tent and headed for their own destinations. After about a minute, Alfonzo was standing outside of the tent where the higher ups of Grimoire Heart that had been captured were being held. But instead of going inside immediately, Alfonzo examined the area outside the tent's entrance carefully.

"It looks like someone came to the camp last night while everyone was sleep." Alfonzo said with a frown. "Usually, I'd say whoever came to the tent rescued Hades, but..."

Looking more closely, Alfonzo saw that the footprints he assumed were from the one who got Hades out of captivity exited the tent once again. However, after exiting the tent, the footprints never led away from the tent. ON top of that, there were no footprints that should have belonged to Hades leaving the tent.

"Maybe they teleported him away?" Alfonzo asked himself after examining the footprints for a little longer. "But why would they step out of the tent if they could just teleport away?"

"Alfonzo, have you found anything?" Makarov asked, pulling Alfonzo out of his contemplation. "As soon as Cana informed me, I scanned the island, but I couldn't find Precht anywhere, either."

Looking up, Alfonzo saw Makarov, Cana, Ur, and most surprisingly, Gildarts approaching.

"Looks like someone finally sobered up." Alfonzo muttered before shaking his head to get rid of the image of Gildarts sleeping through an enemy attack out of his head. "I haven't gone inside yet, but it's weird that even if he somehow managed to escape, he didn't take his subordinates with him. I guess who ever helped him decided they weren't worth the trouble."

As he spoke Alfonzo pointed at the footsteps that approached the tent, entered, and exited, before just stopping.

"Well, I guess the only thing we can do is go inside and question the other four." Ur suggested.

"Ugh... Yeah, let's hurry." Gildarts muttered while rubbing his head. "The sooner we figure this out, the sooner the Kid can make me a hangover remedy."

"Oh my god..." Cana groaned while covering her face with her hands. "You're such an embarrassment, Dad."

Hearing Cana, Gildarts looked like he had been punched in the stomach by a world-class boxer. And because of the expression on his face, Makarov, Cana, and Ur quickly stepped away from him, thinking he might vomit.

Ignoring Gildarts, Alfonzo nodded at Ur's suggestion. Then, he reached for the tent flap and pulled it open. But when he looked inside, Alfonzo came to a complete stop.

"Fonzie, what's wrong?" Cana asked in a concerned tone after seeing Alfonzo freeze.

A moment later, after approaching the opening to the tent, Cana also came to a complete stop, completely surprised by what she saw, as well.

Naturally, what they saw was the five prisoners unmoving in the tent while still restrained with anti-magic cuffs and shackles. The issue was that their [Magic Power Detection] was only picking up four magic power signatures.

"So, he didn't escape..." Alfonzo muttered. "He died."

'Did Zeref come to the camp last night?' Alfonzo wondered to himself. 'That means he would have had to get past Ur's ice walls and the sensors I set up just in case the fleet off shore did something they would end up regretting, without alerting either of us. Then, again, he is over 400 years old. So, I'm sure that's not as hard for him as I think it should be.'

In all actuality, Alfonzo did not even think of setting up something more powerful to stop intruders from entering the camp. Even though he knew Zeref was on the island at the time of the Promotion Exam, since he killed Hades on the Grimoire Heart airship in the canon, Alfonzo thought the Black Wizard would just let things be since Hades had been captured.

At the same time, after hearing Alfonzo's muttering, Makarov rushed over to the tent flap to see the death of his old mentor for himself.

"\*Sigh\* I guess... You can finally rest, Second Master." Makarov said in a melancholic tone after a few moments of silence.

"But how did this happen?" Ur asked with a frown. "Or rather... Why? It's obvious that whoever broke into our camp killed him. But why just him? I mean, the rest of these guys have done some seriously evil things too, right?"

"No idea..." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "But you should probably put the guy on ice. We need to hand his body over to the guys from the Magic Council. There's no way I'm not getting my bounty for beating this guy, after all."

"Is money really the only thing you think about, Alfonzo?" Makarov asked in a disapproving tone. "Can't you show some sympathy for a former guild master?"

"I know you're upset that someone you've known for a long time died, Gramps." Alfonzo said in a solemn tone while turning towards Makarov. "But you forgot a couple things. Most important of which is the fact that..."

Reaching his point, Alfonzo pointed at Hades corpse.

"... this old mother fucker attacked us with the intention of killing all of us." Alfonzo continued. "And two, he was the master of one of Ishgar's most infamous Dark Guilds. So, even if he was the second master of Fairy Tail, after he started doing all that fucked up shit, he lost the right to gain any sympathy. And then, there's the fact that I deserve to be rewarded for defeating an S-Class dark wizard with a bounty on his head."

Surprisingly, Makarov's discontent expression melted away completely. Instead of trying to defend Hades, he simply hung his head with a sad expression on his face.

"I know you're right." Makarov muttered. "But... it's just hard to see someone I respected so much fall to what he did."

With that, Makarov shook his head before turning around.

"I'll leave the rest to you, Ur." Makarov said as he walked away. Then, in a volume barely audible to those present, Makarov continued. "I guess I really am getting too old. First, I was unable to protect my children without their help, then I showed sympathy for someone who betrayed Fairy Tail..."

In response, the rest of the group watch Makarov walk away in silence.

"I think you might have gone a little too far, Fonzie." Cana said as she grabbed Alfonzo's hand with both concern and slight reproach in her gaze.

Before Alfonzo could defend himself, someone else spoke up for him. And to Cana's surprise, it was not Ur.

"No, the Kid was right." Gildarts, who was still clearly suffering from the effects of his hangover, replied to Cana. "I won't say the Old Man was wrong for feeling sympathy for the second master of the guild, but what Alfonzo said is absolutely true. That guy led a Dark Guild to kill us. Not really sure why, though. Either way, as members of Fairy Tail, we don't forgive that."

"I agree with Alfonzo, too." Ur replied. "Hell, until the Old Man called him Second Master, I didn't even know he was related to our guild. And since no one in the guild right now has a connection to anyone that far back, it only makes sense that we don't have any sympathy for someone who betrayed the guild like he did."

"I know, but Gramps..." Cana muttered while looking in the direction Makarov left.

"Don't worry, Sweetheart." Gildarts replied in a reassuring tone. "Although he's sad now, the Old Man will bounce back soon enough. Just wait."

With that, the four fell into a short silence that was eventually broken by a groaning Gildarts.

"Anyway, Kid, make me something for this hangover, will ya?" Gildarts groaned painfully.

"Nah, I'm good." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "You can deal with that on your own."

"Seriously?" Gildarts asked in a tone of disbelief. "How can you be so heartless?"

"He probably would have done something for you if you hadn't gotten so hammered that you slept through the attack." Cana said in an annoyed tone.

"But I only got drunk because you made Daddy so proud, Princess." Gildarts said with puppy dog eyes.

"Oh my god!" Cana said, rolling her eyes and turning away. "Please stop, that's so gross."

Once again, Gildarts looked as if he had just been punched.

"Seriously..." Alfonzo said while creating a metal coffin with his [Metal Magic]. "Now, I definitely ain't cooking shit for you until that image has been purged from my memories."

On top of feeling as if he had been punched for a third time, Gildarts felt like his world was spinning after hearing that Alfonzo would not cook for him for an indefinite amount of time.

Meanwhile, as Ur lined the inside of the coffin Alfonzo created with ice, she looked at Gildarts with pity. Although she wanted to defend him and ask Alfonzo to help him with his hangover, thanks to her crush. She could not bring herself to do so. On top of him sleeping through the battle, she agreed that men making puppy dog eyes was a nauseating sight to behold.

A few moments later, Alfonzo had placed Hades' corpse into the coffin. Then, once the lid was closed, he levitated it behind him as he spoke to the other three.

"Anyway, I'm gonna go put this in the ship's cargo hold." Alfonzo said while gesturing at the floating coffin. "I'm sure no one wants a coffin around while they relax before we head back home."

"That's probably a good idea." Ur replied with a nod.

"Yeah, I'm sure no one wants to be close to a dead body." Gildarts added. "Even if it is in a coffin."

"Ooh, I'll come with you." Cana said with a smile as she wrapped her arms and breasts around Alfonzo's right arm.

"Sure." Alfonzo replied with a shrug.

'Besides, you'll give me the perfect opportunity to punish you for that stupid plan while we're on the ship.' Alfonzo thought to himself with a smile that Cana completely misunderstood.

With that, Alfonzo and Cana made their way towards Sixth Sense to store hades' corpse. While Cana was looking forward to having Alfonzo all to herself for the next hour, or so, Alfonzo was thinking whether he should use a paddle or not when he spanked Cana for her stupid idea.

#### Chapter 310: Cana's Punishment

"I can't believe Alfonzo didn't wake us up when he left this morning." Ultear said as she, Elicia, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun made their way to Sixth Sense to take a shower instead of getting washed up at one of the lakes on Tenrou Island.

"I know, right?" Marin chimed in. "I mean, and he only brought Cana with him. I bet they're having all sorts of celebration sex in the shower."

"I don't think Alfonzo would do that, though." Sun said while tilting her head cutely. "Besides, even if he did, isn't it fine?"

"Sun is right." Erza replied. "This is Cana's celebration, after all."

After Erza said her piece, all the girls looked back at her. When they saw her expression, they could not help but shake their heads. Currently, Erza's face was slightly flushed. Undoubtedly, she was excited thanks to her denial fetish, more than likely getting off by the fact that she was being left out.

"Anyway~..." Ultear said while rolling her eyes. "Did you guys hear what Alfonzo, and the others found this morning?"

"You're talking about finding Hades dead, right?" Mirajane asked.

"Yeah." Ultear replied. "Mom told me they think someone snuck into the camp and killed him."

"Seriously?" Marin asked in a shocked tone. "But didn't Ur and Alfonzo have ways to detect if someone entered the camp?"

"Yeah, but whoever did it didn't set off anything." Ultear replied.

"That's concerning." Erza said, snapping out of her little stupor. "That means none of us would have been safe if we had been the target."

In response to Erza's evaluation, everyone couldn't help but nod with concerned and nervous expressions.

"Lici, you've been pretty quiet." Sun said, noticing that Elicia had not spoken since they started walking towards the ship. "Is everything okay?"

After being addressed directly, Elicia, who had been deep in thought about the topic they were just talking about, snapped back to her senses.

"Don't worry, Sun." Elicia replied with a forced smile. "I was just afraid to think about what I would have done if Fonzie had been the target instead of Hades. In fact, Fonzie and Ur weren't the only ones who had some kind of detection spell active overnight. I had my [Detection Threads] laid out all over the camp, too. But I didn't get any feedback all night long."

Although most of what Elicia said was the truth. She was not actually worrying about Alfonzo's safety. Instead, she was thinking the same thing that Alfonzo was thinking when he found Hades dead.

'It was definitely Zeref' Elicia thought to herself. 'But how did he leave footprints and not step on any of my threads?'

While they all shivered at the thought of Alfonzo, or rather any of their guild mates being the target of last night's murder, Ultear managed to change the subject before anyone began to get wrapped up in their own imaginations.

"There was something else Mom told me about Hades, too." Ultear said, once again drawing everyone's attention. "She said that he was actually the second master of Fairy Tail, Precht Gaebolg."

With that, the girls continued chatting and gossiping excitedly until they finally caught sight of the ship. Eventually they boarded and entered the cabins while moving towards the large shower room below deck.

"See, it's just like I said, they're definitely having fun in the shower." Marin said as the group of girls approached the shower.

\*Smack!\*

"Ahh~~~~~! Fonzie, I already said I'm sorry and I won't do it again!" Cana screamed in a pain-filled tone.

Hearing the loud smack and subsequent scream, the group came to a complete stop and began exchanging glances with one another.

"Or... Maybe not?" Marin said in a confused tone after hearing something contrary to her expectation.

Then, before anyone could say anything else, Elicia sprinted forward into the shower room to get a first-hand look at what was going on. Naturally, Elicia's dash snapped the other five girls out of their stupors, and they followed after her, as well.

When all six girls eventually arrived in the shower room, they opened their eyes wide in surprise when they saw what was going on. Currently, Cana was completely naked, which is not so out of the ordinary when you consider the location. However, instead of standing in front of one of the shower heads lining the room, she was lying face down on Alfonzo's lap.

Alfonzo, on the other hand, was still wearing his tank top, shorts, and flip flops while seated in a metal chair he created in the middle of the shower room. On top of that, his left hand was placed on the small of Cana's back, keeping her from raising herself off his lap.

"Uh... what's going on here?" Mirajane asked in confusion.

Hearing the girls enter, Alfonzo looked up from Cana's backside, which he had just landed his first spanking on. Then, when he saw it was the rest of his girlfriends and fiancées, he smiled brightly.

"Hey girls, good morning." Alfonzo said. "How did you all sleep last night?"

"Pretty good." Sun replied energetically. "But... Um... What are you doing to Cana?"

As Sun asked her question, Alfonzo raised his right hand slowly. Then, once he was ready, he brought it down forcefully.

\*Smack!\*

"Ahh~~~~!" Cana screamed once again as Alfonzo's hand landed on her left butt cheek, leaving a red mark that matched the one on the left right side.

"Oh, I'm punishing her for thinking about doing something stupid." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "She's lucky she didn't actually get the chance to put her plan into motion. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to walk after I'm done."

"I don't know what she was going to do but beating her up until she can't walk sounds..." Ultear replied with a slight frown.

In response, Alfonzo looked at Ultear with a genuinely confused expression on his face. And Ultear, after seeing Alfonzo's expression, wore a similar expression.

"Was I wrong?" Ultear asked in a confused tone.

"Yeah, Fonzie would never hit a woman." Elicia replied. "Well, outside of sparring, an actually fight on a quest, or... a spanking for a naughty girl."

"I'm sure you didn't mean for it to sound that way, but that sounded a lot more erotic than necessary, Lici." Mirajane said with a smile.

"Oh, I definitely meant for it to sound like that." Elicia replied while licking her lips.

"Indeed, Elicia is always serious about topics of a sexual nature." Erza chimed in.

\*Smack!\*

"Ahh~~~~! Fonzie, please stop!" Cana bellowed with tears pooling in her eyes. "At least don't do it while everyone is watching."

"When they find out what you were thinking, they'll probably wanna join in." Alfonzo said while caressing the red marks on Cana's butt that brightening with every slap.

"Oh, yeah!" Marin exclaimed. "Now that you mention it, what was this nefarious plan she had concocted, anyway?"

"If she failed the S-Class Promotion Exam again, she was going to break up with Fonzie and leave the guild." Elicia said nonchalantly with a shrug. "Something about not deserving to be with Fonzie if she couldn't make S-Class, despite having been part of the guild longer than almost all the female S-Class wizards in the guild."

Hearing that, Cana could only hang her head in shame. In hindsight, she knew how much doing something like that would have hurt not only Alfonzo, but all the people that cared about her in the guild. On top of that, her father, Gildarts, would have been completely heart broken.

"Yeah, she definitely deserves a spanking." Mirajane said in an exasperated tone.

"Indeed, being struck as recompense seems a fitting punishment." Erza added.

"I wouldn't mind getting a few spanks in, myself." Ultear added with a glint of sadism flashing in her eyes.

"Absolutely not!" Cana shouted.

\*Smack!\*

"Ahh~~~~~!" Cana screamed once again after Alfonzo spanked her. Then, with the first few tears spilling from her eyes, she looked back at Alfonzo with a pitiful expression, and asked a question. "How many times are you gonna do that?"

"Well, that was the fourth one, right?" Alfonzo asked with a smile. "So, you only have six more to go."

"Are you serious?" Cana asked in a forlorn tone.

Although she didn't mind a little light spanking during sex, the spankings were definitely not light. Each one was strong enough to make her entire body jolt. On top of that, her butt was reddening quite quickly, as well. Unfortunately, no matter how Cana pleaded, Alfonzo would not stop her punishment. So, for the last nine of her ten spanking punishment, the rest of her harem sisters watched and approved.

Then, once the punishment was over, everyone took a shower. And since they knew that, at the very least, Ur would come to the ship to shower as well, they decided to shower under different shower heads to avoid starting an orgy.

"By the way, Fonzie..." Marin said while rinsing the conditioner out of her hair.

"What's up?" Alfonzo asked as he turned off the faucet to his shower head.

"What did you mean that Cana wouldn't have been able to walk if she actually tried to break up with you after failing the exam?" Marin asked in a curious tone.

Marin's question drew all the other girls' attention to Alfonzo as well. And like Marin, they waited for his answer with curiosity written all over their faces.

"Oh, that..." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "I would have fucked the shit out of her until she couldn't feel her legs every time she said something about leaving. Eventually, she would have realized that being S-Class wasn't all that fucking important."

In response, most of the girls' eyes lit up, anticipating sex like that when they returned to Magnolia. Cana, on the other hand, lowered her head with a contemplative expression on her face."

"Cana, are you okay?" Sun asked in a concerned tone after seeing Cana's expression.

"Yeah, I'm fine." Cana replied. "I was just thinking that it might have been better if I failed the exam this year. I mean, I'd much rather have my brains fucked out then get a spanking in front of an audience."

"Well, it's too late for regrets now." Elicia replied. "But look on the bright side, if you wanted that so much, all you have to do is ask. Right, Fonzie?"

At the end of her speech, Elicia turned towards Alfonzo and licked her lips suggestively.

"Still, don't think Fonzie's the only one who's gonna spank you for what you were thinking, 'kay?" Elicia said as she turned her attention back to Cana with narrowed eyes.

"How did you guys even know about that?" Cana asked in a disgruntled tone. "I didn't tell anyone except for... Damn that Lucy, she snitched on me."

"Yeah, because she didn't wanna see Fonzie get hurt if you did something so stupid and selfish." Elicia said, her tone becoming much more serious. "Just because you were envious of the other girls..."

Like that, and for the rest of their time in the showers, Elicia lectured Cana sternly about what was wrong with her thought process. She also warned Cana that if she tried to get back at Lucy, she wouldn't like the consequences.

"Lici can be really intense." Sun said as the group of eight made their way back to the basecamp.

"Well, you know how protective she is of Alfonzo." Ultear replied with a shrug.

"Yeah, that's true." Sun replied with a nod.

"By the way, does anyone know why the Magic Council fleet backed away from the island?" Mirajane asked. "It's like they're trying to stay outside of the range of something."

While Alfonzo and Elicia were pretty sure they knew the reason why, the rest only frowned when the Magic Council was brought up.

"Who cares?" Marin said in a dismissive tone. "I mean, they just watched us fight off a Dark Guild without lifting a finger."

"On top of that, that Mest guy is on one of their ships, right now." Ultear added with a borderline murderous glint in her eyes. "They even had the nerve to send a spy into our guild. And that spy was trying to do something with Wendy."

"Calm down, Ladies." Alfonzo said calmly as the group continued to walk. "Because I felt like there was something wrong with Mest from the beginning, I set up surveillance all over the island's coast line. I definitely have footage of the Council fleet waiting off shore while we were attacked by GrimoireHeart. So, when I finally get that hearing against them, this will be some great ammunition."

"Are you sure that hearing will ever actually happen?" Mirajane asked in a concerned tone. "I mean, you know how the Magic Council can be."

"Yeah, I know." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "But if they get to bullshitting too hard, I'll just take my evidence to Sorcerer---"

Before Alfonzo could finish, however, his head snapped in a particular direction after feeling a huge magic power signature enter the range of his [Magic Power Detection]. And for the first time since waking up in this world, Alfonzo's expression was filled with terror.

"Alfonzo, what's the matter?" Mirajane asked with much more concern than before.

Mirajane's question drew everyone's attention to Alfonzo. And when they saw his expression, they also put on concerned expressions of their own.

Instead of responding immediately, Alfonzo took a deep breath to calm himself down. Then once he felt a little calmer, he shouted into the sky, amplifying his voice with his magic power.

"Wizards of Fairy Tail!" Alfonzo shouted at the top of his lungs, causing the seven girls walking with him to cover their ears. At the same time, everyone on the island could hear him. "Massive magic power signature inbound. Bigger than anything I've ever felt. And it doesn't feel friendly."