

Fairy Tail 331

Chapter 331: Gildarts' Past Failure

"Yo." Alfonzo said as he and Elicia landed in front of Cana, Gildarts and Yoruichi.

Instead of receiving a greeting in return, however, the reactions of the three were quite varied. While Gildarts looked at Alfonzo with a mix of pity and jealousy, Yoruichi lowered her head apologetically. Meanwhile, Cana glared at Elicia angrily.

'I guess Cana found out from Yoruichi what those two did last night.' Alfonzo thought to himself while taking in the reactions of the three.

"Hey..." Elicia said awkwardly while weakly waving her hand.

"What were you thinking, Lici?" Cana questioned angrily.

"I..." Elicia muttered while lowering her head guiltily.

"Let's talk about that later, Cana." Alfonzo said calmly as he removed his arm from around Elicia's waist. "I'm not really in the mood to broadcast our dirty laundry to the rest of the guild, ya know."

Hearing that, Cana glared at Elicia for a while longer. Then, she took a deep breath to calm down. After that, she stepped forward and pulled Alfonzo into a tight hug.

"We're back, Fonzie." Cana said with a forced smile.

"Welcome back." Alfonzo replied with a similarly forced smile. "And how was that exclusive tequila?"

In response, Cana's expression brightened significantly.

"It was the smoothest tequila I've ever tasted." Cana replied excitedly. "And even after drinking so much of it, I didn't wake up with a hangover."

"Oh, then that means it's pretty high quality shit." Alfonzo replied, his smile also becoming more genuine as Cana continued to gush over the new tequila.

"Yeah, I even managed to bring back a few bottles." Cana said happily. "We should have a few drinks..."

Before she could finish, Cana looked at Alfonzo with worry, realizing that after what happened last night, talking about having a drink might not be the best idea.

"Haha." Alfonzo chuckled after seeing Cana's expression. Then, he leaned forward and pecked her on the forehead before continuing. "You don't have to worry about that, Cana. I don't blame the alcohol for what happened last night."

'If Jamie Foxx heard that, he'd probably laugh at me.' Alfonzo thought to himself while suppressing another chuckle.

Hearing that, Cana breathed a sigh of relief.

"Anyway, Kid." Gildarts said, cutting into the conversation. "Since this girl is here, I guess the guests from Mermaid Heel are still around, right."

"Yeah, they should be inside." Alfonzo replied while pointing his right thumb at the guild hall over his shoulder.

"Got it." Gildarts said with a nod. "By the way, who did they send for the negotiations."

"They sent their guild master, former guild master, two S-Class wizards, and a promising A-Class wizard." Elicia replied now that the mood had lightened significantly.

Though, she did receive a glare from Cana while she spoke.

'I guess I messed up more than I thought.' Elicia said after receiving the second glare from Cana. '*Sigh* I never realized how easy it is to break someone's trust until now.'

"Hmm... Now that you mention it, I don't think I've ever met their guild master." Gildarts said while stroking his stubble. "Anyway, let's just head inside. I just hope they didn't bring that blonde chick with huge tits... She should be at S-Class by now. But what was her name again...?"

As Gildarts spoke, he, along with the others, started walking towards the guild hall's entrance again.

"It's Tsunade... Tsunade Senju." Yoruichi replied while smiling wryly as the doors slid open. "And she's the current guild master."

Hearing that, Gildarts came to an abrupt stop.

"Hey, kids, you should go in first." Gildarts said very quickly. "I just remembered that I need to take care of something back at home. I mean, I think I left the oven on."

Just as Gildarts turned around to escape, he felt an arm land on his shoulders. Looking to the side, he saw Alfonzo smiling at him fiendishly.

"Come on, Gildarts, you don't have to worry about the oven." Alfonzo said with a smile. "I was the one who personally installed it, remember. And I know that it has the safety feature to turn its self off after being idle for a while. So, I'm sure your house is fine."

"Damn it, Kid." Gildarts groaned while struggling to free himself. "Haven't you ever heard the saying, 'better safe than sorry?' Now let me go. I need to make sure everything is fine at home."

However, Alfonzo ignored Gildarts protests and dragged him into the guild hall.

'When the hell did this kid get so strong?' Gildarts thought to himself with a resigned sigh as he was dragged along. 'Even though I still have more magic power than he does, his magic power is almost as dense as my own. And don't get me started on his physical strength.'

Just as Gildarts was thinking, ever since Alfonzo's [Soul Weapons] evolved, both the density and amount of his magic power increased. Though, the density increased much more than the amount. However, when he finally released his [Soul Weapons], that would change.

Meanwhile, as the group of five walked into the guild hall, their arrival drew a few gazes.

"Hey, is that Gildarts?" Droy asked in a somewhat confused tone. "But there was no announcement for the Gildarts shift. So, how did he get here without bringing a crowd of angry citizens behind him?"

Immediately, Droy's exclamation drew more attention to the group of new arrivals. And some of the sharper members of the guild noticed the awkward atmosphere between Elicia, Cana, and Yoruichi. However, they were more surprised by the fact that Gildarts was being dragged along by Alfonzo while struggling to free himself.

"Lady Yoruichi!" Sui-Feng shouted as she [Flash Stepped] in front of the group.

"Oh... That little girl is pretty quick." Gildarts said, temporarily ceasing his struggle after seeing Sui-Feng's speed.

Ignoring Gildarts comment, Sui-Feng focused intently on Yoruichi's expression. Then, after noticing that she seemed a little sad, she turned towards Alfonzo and Elicia with a scowl.

"Stop it, Bumble Bee." Yoruichi said while placing her hands on Sui-Feng's shoulders. "Just leave them alone."

"If you say so, Lady Yoruichi." Sui-Feng replied while continuing to scowl at Alfonzo and Elicia. "That's right, Master Tsunade and Fourth Master Unohana wanted to speak with you when you returned."

"Got it." Yoruichi replied with a smile. Then, she wrapped an arm around Sui-Feng's shoulders as she started walking deeper into the guild hall. "By the way, where are they?"

"They're currently in Master Ur's office discussing the deal." Sui-Feng replied. "But personally, I don't know why we even need the help of those training rooms. Although I must admit they would be useful. We still managed to grow strong without them."

"*Sigh* You really need to..." Yoruichi said, her voice fading as she got further away from the group.

"*Sigh* Well at least she's not down here." Gildarts said with a relieved sigh. "Anyway, I'm gonna go have a drink with Gozaburo and Maes. I'll see you---"

"Not so fast, Dad." Cana said, wrapping her arm around Gildarts' shoulders from the other side. "Before you go, tell me why you seem so afraid of Mermaid Heel's guild master."

"That's a good one, Sweetie." Gildarts replied with a nervous chuckle. "Me? Afraid? When have you ever seen me, Gildarts Clive, Ace of the strongest guild in Fiore, Fairy Tail, be afraid of anything?"

"Well, whenever Lici glares at your crotch is the most recent example." Cana replied while tapping a finger on her chin in contemplation. "From what I've heard, it's even gotten to a point that you can feel her glare through a wall."

In response, Gildarts opened his mouth to say something. But before he could speak, he looked at Elicia, who was smiling at him sweetly, and snapped it shut. Then, after seeing Alfonzo and Cana's teasing smiles, he slumped his shoulders in defeat.

"Fine, you guys win." Gildarts muttered. "But at least let me get a drink before telling the story."

Eventually, Cana and Gildarts ordered drinks. Then, they took a seat at a random table, mostly for Gildarts to avoid Gozaburo and Maes. However, the other two doting daddies noticed this as well. So, they got up from their seats at the bar and came to the table where the group of four sat, with Masa in tow, and flopped down in empty seats.

"Hey, Gildarts, long time no see." Gozaburo said with a smile.

"It's only been four days." Gildarts muttered in discontent.

"Anyway, it seems like you guys were about to talk about something interesting." Maes said with a wide smile. "Mind if we join in."

"Actually, I do mind." Gildarts muttered once again.

"Great, then let's hear it." Maes said, pretending that Gildarts response was the opposite of what he said.

"Just get on with it, Dad." Cana urged excitedly.

"*Sigh* Fine." Gildarts said before picking up his mug of ale and chugging it all in one go.

Bang!

Then, he slammed the mug down on the table and raised his head with resolution in his eyes.

"Well, it all happened about twenty-four or twenty-five years ago." Gildarts said, beginning his story. "I took an S-Class quest alone near the Hidden Leaf Ravine."

During that quest, which was a magical beast subjugation quest, Gildarts came across a beautiful young woman with blonde hair, a slender figure, and massive breasts while out in the field. And just as his instincts dictated, he went to strike up a conversation with her. And the conversation was going quite well.

Naturally, the young woman in question was Tsunade. And after getting the conversation to the point where he would usually make his move, Gildarts did what he always did in those situations, tried to get into her pants. And since he was running solo on this quest, Bianca, Alfonzo's mother, was not around to get in the way.

By that point, Gildarts was already aware that Tsunade was a wizard. Though, she used a style of magic that he had never seen before. But since the only thing he had seen her do over the few days he was near the ravine was heal, he did not feel any danger. So, he invited her out for a drink after Tsunade was done with her job of healing for the day.

Then, when they were both feeling the buzz from the alcohol, Gildarts finally made his move and placed his hand on Tsunade's lower back. Unfortunately for Gildarts, that's when everything changed.

"As soon as my hand touched her back, I felt the atmosphere in the room change." Gildarts said with sweat dripping down his forehead. "It felt like the whole room got... colder. At first, I thought it was because she practiced some kind of ice magic. But when she gripped my wrist and I could feel my bones starting to creek, I knew I had fucked up."

Listening to the story up to this point, Gozaburo and Maes were doing their best to hold back their laughter, having a good idea of what was next. Meanwhile, Cana had no such reservations, and was laughing uproariously. Alfonzo and Elicia, on the other hand, were simply listening with a smile.

"Then, with my wrist still in her hand, she asked me, 'What the hell do you think you're doing?'" Gildarts continued. "Then, before I could answer, she raised her hand and punched me in the chest with all her strength."

Hearing that, both Gozaburo and Maes joined Cana in laughing uproariously. At the same time, Alfonzo and Elicia could not help but start chuckling in amusement, as well.

"Upon impact, I immediately felt at least four ribs break." Gildarts said with the sweat flowing down his forehead increasing. "Then, I went flying backwards so fast that I couldn't even tell what I flew past. On top of that, because of the passive amount of magic I released, I flew through more than a few walls with little resistance. Eventually, I hit the ground... at least I think it was the ground and started rolling uncontrollably. And by the time I stopped, I was no longer in the camp that was set up for the quest."

By now, Cana, Gozaburo, and Maes had stopped laughing. Instead, they were staring at Gildarts with their mouths and eyes wide open in shock. Even if he was not as strong as he is now, Gildarts was still an S-Class wizard. On top of that, his magic had the effect of breaking down magic, too. Yet, he was hurt so badly by a single punch.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Elicia, who were expecting the story to end like that, were only smiling wryly while shaking their heads.

Then, just at that moment, the elevator doors opened. And through the open doors, Tsunade, along with the rest of the members of Mermaid Heel walked into the main hall on the first floor.

At the sight of Tsunade, Gildarts started to shudder involuntarily. Luckily, Tsunade had no interest in him. Instead, she looked around the guild hall. But when she did not see the person she was looking for, she simply shouted.

"Hey, Kid!" Tsunade shouted, overshadowing all the hustle and bustle in the guild hall. "I heard you were back! Come here! We need to talk!"

Knowing that Tsunade was talking about him, Alfonzo shrugged his shoulders before he stood up and made his way over to the members of Mermaid Heel.

"Alright, guys. I'll see you later." Alfonzo said while casually waving at the group he shared a table with. "I've got some business to take care of."

Chapter 332: An Opportunity for Wendy

While Gildarts was telling the story about when he met Tsunade in the past, Yoruichi and Sui-Feng were exiting the elevator on the top floor of the Fairy Tail guild hall. And as soon as Ur, Kagura, Tsunade, and Ritsu noticed the new arrivals, they all focused their gazes on them. Or more specifically, on Yoruichi.

"Yoruichi, what kind of problems did you cause?" Tsunade asked as she began massaging her temples.

To Kagura, Tsunade, Ritsu, and Sui-Feng's surprise, Yoruichi lowered her head guiltily in response. Meanwhile, Ur's eyes narrowed, thinking that Yoruichi had done something to hurt the most talented member of the younger generation in her guild.

Eventually, after a few moments of tense silence, Yoruichi breathed a resigned sigh. Then, she told the other five women what she and Elicia had done.

While Kagura, Tsunade, and Ritsu looked at Yoruichi with disappointment, Sui-Feng looked at her with a mortified expression. But by far, the biggest reaction came from Ur.

"Are you telling me that you convinced Elicia, Alfonzo's fiancée, to join you in raping him while he was drunk?" Ur asked as her magic power flared and flooded the room, resulting in the temperature in her office dropping significantly.

"How dare you talk to Lady Yoruichi like that!?" Sui-Feng shouted.

"Sui-Feng, be silent." Ritsu ordered sternly. As a result, Sui-Feng fell silent immediately.

"I have no excuse for my behavior." Yoruichi said with her head lowered.

Though Ur often argued with Alfonzo, she actually cared for him deeply. His mother, Bianca, was one of her best friends, after all. In fact, the same could be said about Elicia's father, Orlando, as well. So, even though she was seething with rage when looking at Yoruichi, she was feeling just as much disappointment in Elicia.

"You have no idea how much I want to turn you into an ice sculpture right now." Ur said coldly. "But after your talk with Alfonzo, I'm sure you're feeling worse than anything I could do to you could make you feel."

"Still, she needs to be punished." Tsunade said sternly.

"Well, she's a member of your guild, so I'll leave that to you." Ur said as she stood up from behind her desk. Then, she walked over to her liquor collection and picked up a bottle of the strongest whiskey she had. "But don't blame me if I'm not so welcoming to her from now on."

"Understandable." Ritsu replied with a nod. Then, she turned her attention to Yoruichi as she continued. "Your punishment will be decided once we return to the guild. You should just count yourself lucky that this stunt you pulled did not sour relations between our guilds."

"Oh, if Alfonzo had not forgiven her, it sure as hell would have." Ur grumbled while pouring herself a glass of whiskey.

"*Cough* Anyway, Master Ur, is there a room where we can talk in private for a while?" Tsunade asked with a fake cough.

"Sure." Ur replied after gulping down half the contents of her glass. "Go down one floor and you'll find a meeting room. Actually, it's just a larger training room for spars between S-Class wizards where they don't have to hold back."

"In that case, we'll use that room so that we can have a little chat about what Yoruichi has done." Tsunade replied as she stood from the couch she was sitting on.

Following Tsunade, the rest of the members of Mermaid Heel also stood up and made their way to the elevator. Meanwhile, Ur simply waved them away.

"I'll make sure it's unlocked, since you don't actually have access to any of the training facilities without the guild's mark." Ur said just as the elevator doors slid closed.

Bang!

Then, as soon as Ur was alone in her office, she chugged down the rest of her drink before slamming the glass onto her desk.

Meanwhile, on the next floor down, the members of Mermaid Heel exited the elevator and made their way towards a door that had been lit up.

"I guess this is the one." Tsunade murmured as she and the others approached the glowing door.

Then, when she placed her hand on the door, it opened automatically. A moment later, the five wizards of Mermaid Heel were gathered in the room and the door had closed behind them.

"So, you wanna tell us what the hell you were thinking?" Tsunade asked, crossing her arms under her breasts.

"*Sigh* As stupid as it sounds, I wanted to sample the goods before deciding to join his harem." Yoruichi replied in a depressed tone.

"But why would you give yourself to a man like him?" Sui-Feng asked in a panic. "If anything, he should have left all those---"

"I've told you to stop insulting them, Sui-Feng." Yoruichi said firmly. "And who are you to question my decisions?"

"But... Lady Yoruichi..." Sui-Feng muttered sadly.

"Okay, that's enough." Ritsu said in a gentle tone. "At this point, nothing we can do can change what has already happened. Still, you will be punished heavily for your actions, Yoruichi."

"I understand." Yoruichi said with a nod. "And after realizing just how big of a mistake I made, I deserve it."

"I'm glad you're being so cooperative." Tsunade said. "Because, if Alfonzo had decided he wanted to press charges for what you've done, Mermaid Heel would have supported him."

"Hmph!" Sui-Feng snorted. "What's the big deal? I'm sure he's actually overjoyed at the opportunity to sleep with Lady Yoruichi."

"You're only treating this lightly because Alfonzo is a man, Sui-Feng." Kagura said sternly. "But what if someone had taken advantage of a woman like that? You would more than likely be out for their blood. The fact of the matter is he was raped. And whether the victim is a man or a woman, that's a crime. And as a woman, I'm disappointed that you aren't being more empathetic."

"Kagura is right." Ritsu added. "And it would seem that our guild will have to compensate both Alfonzo as well as Fairy Tail as a whole."

"*Sigh* And we just got out of debt." Tsunade grumbled.

"And whose fault do you think that was?" Ritsu asked with a gentle smile.

Although she was smiling gently, Ritsu's smile put a lot of pressure on Tsunade.

"*Cough* Anyway, what do you think we should do to compensate them?" Tsunade asked, deliberately changing the subject.

"What do we even have that would satisfy both the richest man on the continent and the strongest guild in the kingdom?" Kagura asked with a contemplative expression on her face.

In response, the training room fell into silence.

"We'll just have to ask them." Ritsu said after a few moments.

"I guess you're right." Tsunade replied with a nod. Then, she turned towards the training room's entrance. "Well, there's no time like the present."

"We should probably ask Alfonzo first." Kagura said as she followed Tsunade. "I don't think Master Ur is in the mood to talk to us right now."

"I agree." Ritsu said as the group left the training room.

A few moments later, the five women were exiting the elevator onto the guild's first floor. Then, they looked in the direction of Alfonzo and his friends usual table. Unfortunately, Alfonzo was not sitting there.

Eventually, Tsunade lost her patience, which only took a few seconds of scanning the guild hall.

"Hey, Kid!" Tsunade shouted loudly. "I heard you were back! Come here! We need to talk!"

"So un-lady-like." Ritsu muttered in disappointment. "I can only imagine what your grandmother would think if she could see you now."

In response, Tsunade glared at Ritsu. Yet, she did not say anything to defend herself. Instead, she looked at a table in the corner of the guild hall where Alfonzo had just stood from.

A moment later, Alfonzo was standing in front of the members of Mermaid Heel, smiling awkwardly after making eye contact with Yoruichi for a moment.

"What can I do for you, Master Tsunade?" Alfonzo asked politely. "Have you made your decision about the training room installations?"

"We can talk about that later." Tsunade replied while waving her right hand dismissively. "But I do need to talk about something important with you."

As she spoke, Tsunade glanced at Yoruichi.

Understanding the situation, Alfonzo could only smile wryly.

"So much for not letting our dirty laundry out in the open." Alfonzo muttered.

"We understand that you probably feel as though your privacy had been violated, Alfonzo." Ritsu said gently. "But this is a very big matter for all parties involved, including our two guilds."

"*Sigh* I get it." Alfonzo replied while scratching the back of his head. "Well, let's head up and talk in our makeshift meeting room."

"You mean that big training room, right?" Tsunade asked with a grin. "Yeah, we just left from there."

With that, the group of six returned to the tenth floor of the guild hall and entered the same training room as before. This time, however, Ur did not have to open it for them since Alfonzo was present.

"Alright, I'll just cut to the chase." Tsunade said, once again crossing her arms under her breasts. "Our guild wishes to compensate both you and your guild. But honestly, we have no idea what kind of

compensation would be suitable for the richest man on the continent and the strongest guild in the kingdom."

After hearing what Tsunade had to say, Alfonzo only stared at her with a thoroughly flabbergasted expression on his face. In fact, during the short trip to the training room, he had imagined several things Tsunade would want to say. But he never imagined something like this.

In fact, what he expected the most was Tsunade telling him that Yoruichi would have to take responsibility for her actions and marry him as a concubine or something.

"I think you broke him." Yoruichi said with a small smile, despite herself. But she could not help herself, she thought Alfonzo's thoroughly confused expression was really cute.

Yoruichi's comment was enough to bring Alfonzo back to his senses. But instead of responding immediately, he stopped to think about the question. He was not the type to turn down compensation, after all.

Unfortunately, Alfonzo could not think of anything Mermaid Heel could provide him that would serve as adequate compensation for this case. So, he started thinking in a different direction. Something that would help him indirectly.

A few moments later, Alfonzo raised his head with a serious expression on his face.

"Master Tsunade, I heard from Gildarts that you were quite the accomplished magic doctor." Alfonzo said.

"Gildarts, huh?" Tsunade said as she raised a hand to stroke her chin. "I never thought that man would ever mention my name again. Especially after I broke most of his ribs, healed him up, and did it again to make the point stick after he touched me without my permission."

'Oh, he left that part out.' Alfonzo mused. 'I'm definitely gonna have to ask him about that later.'

"But yeah, I guess you could say that I'm the best magic doctor on the continent if you want to be ostentatious about it." Tsunade continued. "Why? I hope you're not going to ask me to be your personal healer as compensation for this mess. Because I can tell you right now, that's not gonna happen."

"No, no, no." Alfonzo said waving off Tsunade's assumption. "I'm not that delusional."

"Then why did you ask?" Tsunade asked curiously.

"It's because there is a girl in our guild, Wendy." Alfonzo said. "Thanks to her brand of magic, she has the ability to heal. Unfortunately, she has no knowledge about medicine and treatment."

"So, you want me to train this girl to be a capable medic?" Tsunade asked.

"That's right." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "And if possible, I'd like you to teach her your method of healing. If she's able to combine the two, I think she would become quite the prolific healer."

This time, it was the women from Mermaid Heel who were surprised. They never expected Alfonzo to use the compensation they promised him to help someone else improve. Then again, there really was not much they could give Alfonzo that he could not get for himself.

"Honestly, I'm surprised." Tsunade said. "I was expecting you to ask to have Yoruichi as a servant or something. And we would have probably agreed."

"Don't joke around like that, Master!" Sui-Feng shouted while glaring at Tsunade.

"Oh, I wasn't joking." Tsunade said while briefly glancing at Sui-Feng. "Anyway, teaching the girl in question how to use my [Healing Magic] isn't an issue. The issue is the amount of magic power control it takes to even use it at an elementary level. Not to mention the control necessary to master it."

"Oh, I don't think you need to worry about that." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "She's one of Ur's students. And Ur has very high standards for her students."

"I see." Tsunade replied with a nod. "Well, if that is your request, then I see no issue with it. But I can only give her the opportunity. Ultimately, it's up to her how much she can learn."

"An opportunity is all I can ask for." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

"If I may." Ritsu said in a gentle tone as she cut into the conversation. "Though your request is quite noble, it sounds more like compensation for the guild rather than a personal compensation."

Hearing that, Alfonzo's smile widened.

"Yeah, I can see why you would think that." Alfonzo said. "But the members of Fairy Tail are more than just my guild mates. They're my friends... my family. And something that can make the dangerous work of being a wizard a little safer for them is more than enough compensation for me."

In response to Alfonzo's declaration, Yoruichi, Tsunade, and Ritsu smiled at him gently. Even Kagura, who usually wore a stoic expression, smiled slightly. Meanwhile, Sui-Feng slightly raised her opinion of Alfonzo. Though, she was still far from accepting him as a match for her Lady Yoruichi.

Chapter 333: Run Wild and Usher in Pandemonium

A few days have passed since Alfonzo gained the opportunity for Wendy to get training as a healer. And in those days, the rest of his girlfriends/fiancées returned from their quests or whatever else they were working on. And needless to say, they were not happy when they heard what happened to Alfonzo.

But what surprised everyone even more than hearing about what Elicia had done was the fact that Ur had not called her into her office to talk about what happened. And that actually scared Elicia quite a bit. On several occasions, she wanted to go talk to Ur about it. But her fear often won out in those situations. It's not a secret to anyone in the guild just how scary Ur could get when she's angry, after all.

And although none of them were thrilled with Yoruichi, they were actually more disappointed in Elicia for agreeing to a plan like that. And now that they were all back, they would be meeting to discuss Elicia's punishment.

Also, Alfonzo and Ur had finally decided what Mermaid Heel could do to compensate the guild for this debacle. It was quite simple, as well. Tsunade and Ritsu, as the current and former guild masters of Mermaid Heel, would support Fairy Tail during their trial against the Magic Council next month.

Another thing to take note of was the fact that Wendy's training with Tsunade would take place after the trial. She would go with Alfonzo on his trip to Mermaid Heel's headquarters. And while Alfonzo was working, she would undergo training with Tsunade.

And considering that Alfonzo will primarily be working alone, he estimated around a month to build the training rooms, draw the sigils, connect them to each other, and run lines so that the guild master could control them from her office.

But before any of that could happen, Today, Alfonzo would finally be releasing his [Soul Weapons] first seal completely. And it's actually just a coincidence that all his girls were home to see it. Because in fact, he was only waiting for Erza to come back, since only she and Elicia currently had [Soul Weapons].

"So, have you started talking to your [Weapon Spirit] yet, Erza?" Alfonzo asked as he and the girls made their way to the large training room on the tenth floor of the guild hall.

"Yes." Erza replied. "I was able to hear her voice only a few days ago. Though, I have yet to be able to hear her name."

"I'm in the same boat." Elicia said.

"Indeed." Erza replied while glancing at Elicia with slight coldness.

Though it would be inaccurate to say that she had gotten used to this kind of treatment over the last few days, Elicia understood where the girls were coming from. On top of that, she was more than a little scared to know what kind of punishment would be decided for her tonight.

"Hey, Fonzie!" Marin exclaimed, her eyes shining excitedly as she leapt up and wrapped her arms around Alfonzo's neck from behind. "When are the rest of us going to get our own [Soul Weapons]?"

"Well, now that I've finally recovered all the magic power used in the creation of the first three, I can make three more any time." Alfonzo replied while reaching back and patting Marin on the head.

Hearing that, Cana, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun had their eyes light up in anticipation. Then, they all exchanged glances and had a silent conversation about who the next three would be. Then, as if they came to an understanding, all five young women nodded before they focused on Alfonzo's upcoming display.

Eventually, the group made it to the training room. And when they did, the girls took up positions around Alfonzo while he stood in the center of the room.

"This is kind of exciting." Sun said while clenching her fists in front of her chest.

"Indeed, I am looking forward to what will come of this as well." Erza added.

"Shh! He's about to start." Cana said, shushing the other girls in the process.

And just as Cana said, Alfonzo, with Riot and Bedlam in hand, had just taken a deep breath to ready himself. Then, he flared his magic power to its limit, putting quite a bit of pressure on everyone in the room.

"[Run Wild with Destruction on your Fingertips. Usher in Pandemonium with Creation in Your Hands. Riot, Bedlam]." Alfonzo chanted as his magic power spiked even higher.

At the same time, the tonfa in Alfonzo's hands melted into a liquid metal that resembled Techno Organic Metal. Then, the blobs of liquid metal climbed up Alfonzo's arms, forming gauntlets that covered his hands and arms up to his elbows.

Once the transformation was completed, Alfonzo noticed that all the girls were struggling to stand. And he could tell why immediately. Though, he had to do some guess work on the specifics.

'Five times increase in magic power.' Alfonzo thought to himself as he examined his magic power output. 'Around the same as the Shikai in Bleach. But I think I unlocked my [Second Origin], too. But I'm not a hundred percent sure. I mean, there wasn't really much tangible information about it in the series.'

While those thoughts ran through Alfonzo's head, he reeled in his rampaging magic power, alleviating the pressure on the girls in the process. Then, he finally looked down at the gauntlets... No, that is not right. Instead of gauntlets, it seemed as if his arms, from the elbows down, transformed into a pair of monster-like arms.

While both of his arms were black in color at their base, his right arm had the pattern of a red sun flare that ran from the tips of the claws on his middle and ring fingers to the elbow. Meanwhile, his left arm was covered in violet lightning patterns that covered his forearm and the back of his hand while his fingers were all black.

"That's not what I was expecting." Ultear said as she approached to get a better look at Alfonzo's released [Soul Weapons]. "I mean, who would have thought a pair of tonfa would transform into a pair of monster-like arms."

"Yeah, I didn't see this coming either." Alfonzo replied with a wry smile. "But it's not bad. I mean, it looks pretty bad ass, right?"

'I feel like I should have expected it after learning my [Spirits'] names, though.' Alfonzo mused.

Instead of responding, Ultear walked up and wrapped her arms around Alfonzo's waist.

"Congratulations, Alfonzo." Ultear said with a smile. A moment later, her smile turned somewhat sadistic as her hands lowered to Alfonzo's butt. "As a reward, I shall allow you to pleasure me tonight."

"*Sigh* Tear is at it again." Cana said with an exasperated sigh. "Why can't you be honest and just tell him that you want him to fuck you silly? Is provoking him into doing so really necessary at this point."

"Sh-Shup up, Cana." Ultear squeaked as she buried her face in Alfonzo's chest. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"She's so cute when she gets like this." Elicia muttered absent-mindedly.

In response, the rest of the girls nodded in agreement with smiles on their faces.

By now, all the other girls had gathered around Alfonzo and Ultear and were curiously inspecting Alfonzo's new arms.

"So, now that the first seal on your [Soul Arms] has been released, do they have any new abilities?" Erza asked curiously.

"[Soul Arms]?" Alfonzo asked while tilting his head in confusion.

"That expression is really cute, too." Mirajane said with a smile, receiving nods from the other girls in response.

"Yes." Erza replied. "While I was out on my last quest, I took to calling my sword a [Soul Armament] after hearing a petite black-haired girl with an eye patch over her right eye talking to one of her friends about a demon armament. Though, I'm quite sure she was just acting out her delusions. But I thought the name was quite fitting for the [Soul Weapons] you created."

'Did she run into Rika Takanashi, or something?' Alfonzo and Elicia thought simultaneously.

"I think the name fits, too." Marin said excitedly. "It sounds like something that would appear in one of the fantasy novels Erza and I read."

"Indeed." Erza replied with a nod. "I was thinking along the same lines."

"Well, I think it sounds better, too." Mirajane replied while wearing her usual, pleasant smile.

With that, the other girls voiced their agreement. And since Alfonzo didn't see anything wrong with it, he agreed as well.

"Well then, we'll call them [Soul Armaments], or [Soul Arms] for short, from now on." Alfonzo said with a shrug. Then, he lowered his hands that were wrapped around Ultear's waist and grabbed a hold of her butt.

"Kya!" Ultear yelped in response.

"Even with this liquid metal substance covering my hands, I haven't lost any of the sensation in them." Alfonzo continued while lifting Ultear off the floor. Then, after stealing a quick kiss, he continued explaining. "As for other abilities, when using my more destructive spells, there is a huge reduction in magic power consumption. And I can tell this is an effect that comes from my right hand."

As he explained, Alfonzo casually squeezed Ultear's butt with his right hand, gaining another yelp in the process.

"As for my left hand, it reduces the cost of creating permanent metals and imbuing my abilities into the things I create." Alfonzo continued while casually squeezing Ultear's butt with his left hand this time.

"So, your offensive and support abilities are strengthened when you release you [Soul Arms]..." Sun muttered. Then, her eyes started to sparkle with excitement. "That's so cool."

On top of that, I can do this." Alfonzo said as he held up his right hand while holding Ultear's but more securely with his left.

In the next instant, an exact replica of Alfonzo's penis grew out of the palm of his right hand. Though, it was completely black in color. Meanwhile, the girls looked on in amazement.

["Are you seriously considering using our powers to make sex toys?"] Bedlam asked with a hint of amusement in his tone.

["What the fuck are you thinking using us for something like that?"] Riot asked angrily.

'Oh, quit your bitchin'" Alfonzo replied mentally. 'In fact, you should be thanking me. It's not like you were ever gonna get into some pussy, if I don't do this.'

["I'll fucking kill you!"] Riot roared in rage.

Meanwhile, Bedlam started laughing uproariously.

"Are you seriously thinking about jamming metal dildos inside of us?" Cana asked with a rather put off expression.

"Oh, you don't have to worry about that." Alfonzo said as he lowered the red faced Ultear to the floor. "Other than the color, the tactile sensation is the same as the real thing."

"Really?" Sun asked curiously. "I wanna see."

A moment later, Sun grabbed Alfonzo's arm with her left hand. Then, she began stroking the penis growing out of his palm with practiced movements.

"It's true!" Sun exclaimed. "It really feels like the real thing."

A moment later, all the girls swarmed around Alfonzo's right arm and took turns testing the feel of the artificially grown penis.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo regretted showing off his new talent.

'Damn it, the tactile sensation is the same for me, too.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'Although I can tell that I won't bust a nut, this feels pretty fucking good.'

["Ha! Seres you right, Asshole!"] Riot shouted in a gleeful tone. ["I bet you'll turn into a two pump chump with all the extra stimulation."]

'Never that.' Alfonzo replied in his mind.

["*Chuckle* Don't let his words fool you."] Bedlam said, the smile he was wearing evident in his tone. ["Right now, Riot is writhing around on the ground and red as an apple thanks to the touch of those girls."]

["Fuck you, Bedlam!"] Right shouted angrily. ["You really want me to kill you, don't you? Well, I'd be happy to grant your wish!"]

["Ahahahahaha!"] Bedlam laughed hysterically as the communication was cut.

'I guess they're having fun.' Alfonzo muttered internally.

"Anyway." Alfonzo said, interrupting the girls before Marin could wrap her tongue around the artificial penis. Then, as he retracted it back into his palm, he continued. "If I do it in this released form, I should have no issue making the [Soul Arms] for the rest of you."

Although all the girls were disappointed that the new toy had been taken away, they brightened up quickly when Alfonzo mentioned their [Soul Armaments].

"Awesome!" Marin shouted excitedly.

"Yeah, what are you waiting for?" Cana added. "Let's go!"

Not only Cana and Marin, but Ultear, Mirajane, and Sun were excited, as well. And to not keep his girls waiting, Alfonzo created [Soul Armament Embryos] for them on the spot. On top of that, because he had even greater control of his creative abilities, the pendants he created this time were personalized for each girl.

Then, after creating the [Soul Armament Embryos], Alfonzo cancelled his release. As a result, his new arms turned into liquid metal once again and reformed the tonfa before Alfonzo put them back in the strap on his lower back.

On top of that, Alfonzo noticed that when he left his released state, the magic power he used to create the [Soul Armament Embryos] was refilling at a normal pace.

'I guess it's true what they said.' Alfonzo mused. 'The [Second Origin] allows a wizard to perform miraculous feats.'

"Anyway, it's getting late, girls." Alfonzo said with a smile. "So, why don't we call it a day."

Hearing that, the girls stopped gushing over their new accessories, for now. Then, they all made their way out of the training room.

"You girls should go on ahead." Alfonzo said after closing the training room behind the group. "I need to go somewhere with Elicia. But we'll be back before too long... I think."

Hearing that, all the other girls exchanged glances before nodding at Alfonzo. Meanwhile, Elicia wore a confused expression. However, when she saw the girls get on the elevator, leaving her and Alfonzo together on the tenth floor, she had an idea where Alfonzo wanted to take her.

Then, when the elevator returned and Alfonzo pressed the button for the top floor, Elicia's suspicions were confirmed.

"*Sigh* I guess I can't run from this anymore, huh?" Elicia whispered while the elevator rose.

"You shouldn't have run in the first place." Alfonzo muttered while not looking at Elicia.

Not that Alfonzo was deliberately being cold in this situation. But he knew if he saw the pitiful expression on Elicia's face, he would more than likely stop the elevator with his magic and send it to the ground floor instead.

'*Sigh* I really dote on her too much, don't I?' Alfonzo thought to himself.

["And what's wrong with that?"] Riot grumbled. ["She's been there for your dumb ass for so long. I think she deserves it."]

["You sound like a world-class simp right now, Riot."] Bedlam said with a chuckle.

["Shut the hell up, you bastard!"] Riot roared angrily.

A moment later, the elevator opened, and Alfonzo and Elicia were greeted with the sight of Ur sitting behind her desk with her fingers folded together under her chin.

"Well, I brought her." Alfonzo said while nudging Elicia forward.

Then, as soon as she was no longer in the elevator, Alfonzo pressed the button for the ground floor. Then once he reached the ground floor, he ordered a drink and took a seat at an empty table to wait for Elicia.

Although he had no idea what Ur would do to punish her, Alfonzo had a pretty good guess when Elicia exited the elevator half an hour later with streaks of dried tears on her face while she shivered and rubbed her butt, which was clearly in pain.

Chapter 334: Elicia's Punishment

While Alfonzo was waiting for Elicia to finish seeing Ur, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun were on their way home from the guild hall. And naturally, they were discussing the situation between Alfonzo, Elicia, and Yoruichi.

"So, what are we gonna do about Lici's punishment?" Marin asked as the group approached the mansion's gates.

"I'm not sure. But I feel like she should no longer be able to live in the master bedroom." Ultear said.
"She should get a room upstairs like the rest of us."

"*Sigh* Although I agree, I don't think Fonzie will be okay with that." Cana replied. "I'm mean, he designed that room with the both of them in mind. And moving her out would kind of defeat the purpose."

"Yeah, I know you're right." Ultear said with a shrug. "I wasn't actually even serious about that. I just think it's unfair that she gets to share a bed with him every night."

"You should be that honest during sex, Tear." Marin said in a teasing tone.

"Shut up!" Ultear shouted as her face turned red.

"I think we've gotten off topic." Mirajane interjected. "We need to decide how we're going to punish Lici."

With that, the group of girls fell silent and stayed that way until they entered the mansion.

"Well, let's all get changed into something more comfortable then reconvene in the living room." Erza suggested once the front door was closed.

After everyone nodded in agreement, the girls all went to their rooms on the second floor to get changed. Then, after about fifteen minutes, they all gathered in the living room in their pajamas or casual clothing.

"So, does anyone have any bright ideas?" Mirajane asked as she took a seat on the couch.

"*Sigh* Whenever I think of a punishment, the only thing I can think of is a spanking with an ice covered hand." Ultear grumbled as she shivered involuntarily and rubbed her Butt.

"Well, I'm sure she already got one of those from your mother." Cana replied after taking a sip from a bottle of brandy. "But the only time I can remember getting punished involved getting a spanking, too."

"Oh, I remember that." Sun cheered happily while clapping her hands.

"Yeah, we were all there to see it." Mirajane added with a chuckle.

"That was so humiliating." Cana replied while covering her face with her free hand.

With that, the rest of the girls laughed for a while at Cana's expense. However, they eventually returned to the topic.

"Unfortunately, all the forms of punishment I can think of are not suitable for the situation either." Erza said once all the laughter died down. "I'm sure a vicious beating with a whip and starvation are not warranted in this case, correct."

Hearing that, the girls fell silent for a moment.

"Damn, I almost forgot how tragic your past was, Erza." Marin said while wrapping the tall redhead in a hug.

"There's no need to worry." Erza replied with a smile while patting Marin on the hand. "I've moved past that over the years, and I have all of you to thank for that."

"But Erza's right, that would be a bit much." Mirajane said while placing her right index finger on her chin. "Actually, now that I think about it, most of us haven't had normal childhoods... with normal punishments."

Hearing that, the group of girls once again fell into silence.

"Well, I think Marin and Sun, who grew up with their parents outside of wizarding, probably have the most normal childhoods, right?" Cana asked.

"Yeah, I guess." Marin replied. "But my mom passed away when I was little and my dad was always away on business, so I pretty much raised myself."

"Yeah, and even though my parents were around, you know how my dad is..." Sun added.

"Yeah, but at least your mom is normal, right?" Ultear asked. "What did she do whenever you did something wrong."

"Hmm... Let me think." Sun said while staring up at the ceiling in contemplation. "My dad was firmly against spanking his little princess. So, I never experienced that before meeting Alfonzo... Hehe..."

"Focus, Sun." Mirajane said with a wry smile.

"Oh, right." Sun said sheepishly while snapping back to reality. "But she usually took away the things I liked the most when I did something wrong. Like not letting me go out to swim, or not letting me have my favorite snacks. You know, things like that."

"Actually... that makes a lot of sense." Erza said. "I think that's an excellent idea."

"You mean taking away the things Lici likes the most?" Marin asked. "Yeah, I guess that's a pretty good idea. But what does she like the most? I mean, it's not like we can take Fonzie away from her."

"That's true." Mirajane replied with a nod. "We can't take away Alfonzo, but we can take away his cooking."

Hearing that, the other five girls looked at Mirajane as if she said something truly diabolical.

"I think Lici might actually die if we did that." Cana said.

"Well, it's not like we can take the food away from her completely." Mirajane said with a crafty smile. "But she'll have to spend the points from the guild to get it, instead. And we can even extend that to when she's at home, too."

"But how can we do that?" Sun asked curiously.

"Did you forget?" Mirajane asked. "I'm the one who keeps track of all the points, remember? So, it won't be a problem to add the meals at home to the records."

"Although that sounds good, I don't think it's enough." Ultear said. "So, what else can we take away? What's her next favorite thing? Sex with Alfonzo?"

"Nope, we definitely can't take that away?" Cana replied. "Fonzie wouldn't allow it."

"Perhaps we could do something about her voyeurism fetish." Erza suggested.

"Oh, tell me more." Ultear said while leaning forward in interest.

Then, Erza went on to tell everyone her idea about taking away Elicia's fetish. And with some suggestions from the other girls, they were positive that Elicia would never consider doing something like that again.

A few minutes after hashing out the details of Elicia's punishment, the seven girls heard the front door open. So, they naturally knew that it was time to pass judgement.

"Hey! We're home!" Alfonzo shouted.

"Come to the living room!" Cana shouted back.

Less than a minute later, Alfonzo and Elicia, who was still rubbing her butt and shivering, entered the living room. And when they did, they saw that the couches and the reclining chair had been rearranged into a U-shape, with all the girls seated and facing the entrance of the living room.

"Defendant, Elicia Taylor, step forward to receive your sentence." Cana, who was seated in the recliner at the center of the group, said in the most authoritative tone she could muster while under the influence.

'Wow, they're really going all out with this.' Alfonzo and Elicia thought simultaneously.

Still, Elicia stepped forward and stopped at the mouth of the U-Shape. Meanwhile, Alfonzo stepped to the side before leaning against the wall to watch the proceedings.

"Elicia Taylor, you have been found guilty of conspiring with an outsider to take advantage of our shared man." Cana continued once Elicia was in place. "And for that, we have determined your punishment. Mira, please read the sentence."

"Yes, Your Honor." Mirajane said with a slightly sadistic grin on her face. "Your punishment will be broken into two parts. First, until Alfonzo starts calling you 'Lici' again, you will no longer receive his cooking for free."

As soon as Mirajane reached that point, Elicia's face paled before staggering back as if she had just taken physical damage. Then, she turned to look at Alfonzo. However, before she could make eye contact, Alfonzo averted his gaze, resulting in Elicia slumping her shoulders with despair written all over her face.

"You don't need to worry too much, we're not heartless, after all." Mirajane continued, her smile widening as she spoke. "You will be able to eat Alfonzo's food by exchanging points for it. That even extends to home."

Once again, Elicia's expression changed drastically, as relief washed over her.

"But even if you've saved up quite a few points, how long will they last if they have to support three meals a day?" Marin asked with a devious smile.

Hearing that, Elicia's expression changed once again. Though, it was not nearly as drastic.

'Well, as long as I ration my points well, I should be able to manage.' Elicia thought to herself.

"As for the second part of your punishment, Erza will explain." Cana said while Elicia was contemplating how she would get through this.

Immediately, Elicia was pulled out of her contemplations as her gaze landed on Erza. Even Alfonzo was curious to know how the second part of this punishment would go.

"As a group, we have decided that we will be taking away your voyeurism fetish." Erza said in a stern tone. "But not in the conventional sense."

Hearing that, Elicia tilted her head in confusion while Alfonzo raised an eyebrow in interest.

"Instead of banning you from being nearby whenever any of us have sex with Alfonzo, provided that you are not busy, you will be required to be in the room." Erza said, continuing her explanation.

Naturally, both Alfonzo and Elicia were even more confused after hearing the first part of the explanation.

"However, for the duration of our love making, you will be blindfolded." Erza continued. "And the blindfold will not be made of any cloth material that you might be able to manipulate with your magic. Instead, it will be created by Alfonzo's magic."

"Wait, are you saying I have to listen to all of you have sex with Fonzie whenever I'm home and you're in the mood?" Elicia asked with a mortified expression on her face. "And I'm not allowed to watch? Even though I love seeing Fonzie give it to all of you."

"That is correct." Erza replied with a nod. "But that's not all. You will also be shackled to the headboard."

"Yeah, we can't have you clumsily crawling towards us while we're in the throes of passion, after all."
Marin added.

"And since we heard how your little romp with Yoruichi went, we will have the right to use your mouth as we please for the duration of our love making." Erza concluded.

"Are you serious?" Elicia asked in a horrified tone. "But this is cruel and unusual."

"A punishment befitting the crime." Ultear said sternly. "Lici, you should realize by now exactly how bad you messed up. So, I really don't think you have the right to complain about how you're punished."

In response, Elicia lowered her head. She knew Ultear was right, so she fell silent.

"Anyway, that concludes the sentencing." Cana said before chugging down nearly a quarter of her bottle of brandy.

At the same time, Alfonzo shook his head. Then, he turned and walked out of the living room.

"Anyway, I'm hungry." Alfonzo said. "Any request for dinner?"

Hearing that, all the girls eyes lit up. Then, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun all stood up and followed Alfonzo out of the living room. Meanwhile Elicia continued to stand in place while contemplating the last few days.

'All things considered that could have gone a lot worse.' Elicia muttered internally.

["And it probably should have."] Elicia's [Soul Armament Spirit] replied. ["What you did was become an accessory to a serious crime, after all. You're just lucky that they've all come to love you so much."]

'*Sigh* I know.' Elicia said as she walked over to one of the now empty couches. Then, after sitting down and hugging her thighs to her chest, she continued her mental conversation. 'I really am blessed in this life.'

With that, Elicia slipped into her inner world subconsciously. And Elicia's inner world was exactly what one would expect from a seamstress. There were mannequins wearing both finished and unfinished clothing designs as far as the eye could see. On top of that, the ground was covered with plush, handmade carpets and rugs.

"Well, I sure wasn't expecting to see you here after all that." A female voice said from behind Elicia.

Turning back, Elicia saw a beautiful, brown-skinned woman with spiky blonde hair, vibrant blue eyes, golden, dragon scales around her eyes, bright red lipstick, and a bombastic figure wearing a blue, sleeveless cheongsam with a cut out on the chest that showed off her cleavage and slits on either side that showed off her legs.

"Yeah, I didn't expect to be here, either." Elicia replied with a shrug and a wry smile.

"Even more surprising is how calm your inner world is after you were, quote-unquote, sentenced." The [Spirit] added.

"Believe it or not, I feel like things are the way they're supposed to be." Elicia replied, her wry smile morphing into a genuine one. "I believed that I needed to be punished by all the people who were hurt by my actions. And now that I have been, I feel..."

"You feel... Liberated?" The [Spirit] asked, finishing Elicia's sentence with a question.

"Yeah, that sounds like the right word." Elicia replied with a smile. "I'm feeling quite liberated. And I have the feeling that when all this is over, our bonds will be even tighter than they were before."

"You're certainly optimistic." The [Spirit] replied with a shrug. "With your state of mind like this, I wouldn't be surprised if you were able to hear my name now."

"Why not give it a try then." Elicia replied with a shrug of her own.

"Why not?" The [Spirit] replied. "If you can hear it, you can call me Scylla."

Chapter 335: The Trial of the Century: Fairy Tail Vs. The Magic Council Begins

Just like when Alfonzo learned the name of his [Soul Armaments], Elicia's also underwent a change. Now, instead of simple needles of varying lengths and thicknesses, they all took on a golden hue. On top of that, the eye of each needle was in the shape of a dragon's head with a piercing blue eye. Meanwhile the eye of the needle was now the space between the dragon's jaws.

One thing that was unlike the change in Alfonzo's [Soul Armament], however, was the fact that Elicia's change did not go completely unnoticed.

["Hey, I think you should go check on Lici."] Riot said from Alfonzo's inner world.

'Hmm? Did something happen?' Alfonzo asked while chopping vegetables for the stir fry he was planning to make for dinner.

["Just hurry and go check on her, Asshole!"] Riot shouted angrily.

["It wouldn't kill you to give him a little more information, would it?"] Bedlam asked. ["Well, what was I expecting from someone like you. Let me tell you what's going on, as there's probably no one better for the job than me."]

["Grr!"] Riot growled in rage.

["Anyway, it feels like her [Soul Armament] went through a change."] Bedlam explained. ["And I'm sure you really want to be the first one to see it, right?"]

With that, Alfonzo's movements came to an immediate stop. Then, after a moment, he calmly laid his knife down on the cutting board before casually walking out of the kitchen.

Naturally, this drew the attention of the girls at the kitchen table.

"Hey, Fonzie, what's wrong?" Marin asked curiously.

"It's nothing, I just got a feeling about something." Alfonzo replied without stopping his steps. "And I'm going to check it out."

This answer only led the girls to be even more confused. Still, they decided to let him be... for now.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo had made his way to the entrance of the living room. And just as Bedlam said, he saw a change in Elicia's [Soul Armament].

"I guess she's been doing quite a bit of soul searching since this whole mess started, huh?" Alfonzo whispered not to disturb Elicia's meditation session.

["Well, that tends to happen when you do something that nearly ruins all your relationships."] Bedlam replied.

["You two are way too hard on her."] Riot interjected. ["She deserves a second chance. So, just let it go."]

In response, both Alfonzo and Bedlam rolled their eyes. Though, Alfonzo agreed with Riot on a subconscious level.

Meanwhile, in Elicia's inner world.

"Oh, so your name is Scylla?" Elicia said with a smile.

"Yeah. But you can think about that later." Scylla replied. "For now, you should go back outside. There's someone waiting for you to wake up."

Hearing that, Elicia was slightly confused. Still, she returned her consciousness to her body just as Scylla said.

A moment later, Elicia slowly opened her eyes. And when she did, the first thing she saw was Alfonzo sitting on the couch opposite her. And he was smiling at her. Smiling very gently.

"Congratulations." Alfonzo said when he saw Elicia open her eyes.

Instead of replying immediately, Elicia's expression changed from serene to upset. Then, tears began to drip from her eyes.

"Fonzie!" Elicia shouted as she leapt off the couch she was sitting on and lunged at Alfonzo.

Reacting quickly, Alfonzo opened his arms and caught Elicia, who wrapped him in a tight hug as she began crying loudly.

"Fonzie! I'm sorry!" Elicia shouted as she cried. "I'm so sorry! I never meant to hurt you. I never meant to hurt anyone! And I know I don't deserve your forgiveness, but I promise I'll do whatever it takes to make it up to you!"

In response, Alfonzo, who was not expecting this kind of reaction, wore a confused expression at first. However, a moment later, he wrapped his arms around Elicia and started combing his fingers through her hair.

["Don't just sit there in silence, forgive her already!"] Riot Shouted.

["Simp."] Bedlam muttered.

Ignoring Riot's shouting and Bedlam's jabs at Riot, Alfonzo continued to hold Elicia in silence while she vented her emotions.

A few moments later, the other girls also came running to the living room after hearing Elicia's cries. However, after seeing Alfonzo holding her while she repeatedly apologized, no one knew what to say. Nor did they wish to interrupt the moment.

Eventually, Elicia cried herself to sleep. Then, Alfonzo lifted her and carried her out of the living room to put her to bed. Meanwhile, the other girls simply watched Alfonzo leave.

"I guess we never noticed just how much she hurt herself with her actions, huh?" Marin asked.

"Well, we weren't exactly looking for it, either." Ultear replied.

"Was punishing her really the right thing to do?" Sun asked, feeling sorry for Elicia after seeing her cry the way she did.

"Definitely." Cana and Erza replied simultaneously.

"They're right, you know." Mirajane added as she started patting Sun on the head. "Even if we don't want to punish her, it has to be done. She really did do something wrong this time."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Sun replied while lowering her head.

"Anyway, let's go back to the kitchen." Cana said. "Once Fonzie puts her to bed, he'll come back and finish cooking dinner."

In response, the other girls nodded before they all returned to the kitchen table. And when Alfonzo eventually returned to the kitchen, no one spoke of what just happened. They simply enjoyed dinner before heading to bed themselves.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Crocus.

April 18, x785.

After the night Elicia released the seal on her [Soul Armament], things went back to normal. And the following day, the guests from Mermaid Heel left after finalizing the deal for the training rooms. After that, Alfonzo and Ur focused on the upcoming trial against the magic council.

And during that time, they tried to get as much support for their case as they could from other guilds. As well as the support of former Magic Councilor, Yajima.

On top of all that, they even managed to pull the former chairman of the Magic Council, Crawford Seam, into the trial to be judged for his actions.

Now, some people would say that the fact that Crawford Seam lost his position as Magic Council Chairman should be punishment enough. But Alfonzo begged to differ. After all, Crawford Seam was not fired from his position. Rather, he was given the opportunity to resign. And to Alfonzo, that sounded less like punishment and more like retirement.

And finally, with all their preparations made, Alfonzo and Ur, who would be representing Fairy Tail in this trial, were standing outside the Royal Castle in Crocus, where the trial would be held. On top of that, the several of the nations of Ishgar were in attendance to act as the panel of judges in this case.

Not only the rulers, but most of the Ten Wizard Saints were in attendance as well. However, the rank one of the Wizard Saints, God Serena, claimed that he could not be bothered with such a trifling matter and refused to participate.

"*Sigh* Our words would have more ewghit behind them if God Serena had decided to show up." Ur grumbled as she and Alfonzo were led through the halls of the castle.

"Man, fuck that guy." Alfonzo replied. "Just because people started calling him the strongest wizard on Ishgar, he started thinking he was above it all. Just wait... As soon as I get the chance, I'll challenge him to a duel for his position and whoop his ass."

'Plus, the mother fucker is a traitor.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'And the way Acnologia basically one shotted him in the series was too quick a death for an arrogant, treacherous asshole like that.'

["I agree."] Bedlam replied from Alfonzo's inner world. ["People like that deserve a slow, painful death."]

["Hell yeah, make that son of a bitch beg for death."] Riot added excitedly.

'Oh, we will.' Alfonzo muttered darkly to his [Soul Armament Spirits]. 'We definitely will.'

"Sounds like you don't have the best impression of the rank one of the Ten Wizard Saints." Ur said with a grin.

"Not really." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "It's not like he really had to work for his level of power, after all. I mean, hell, if you stuck eight dragon lacrima in anyone else, they would probably be dumb strong, too. Yet, because of that, he got arrogant."

"Hahaha! And to think, there was a time when a lot of us thought you were arrogant, too." Ur said with a laugh.

"Yeah, I could see that." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "I never hid the fact that I was proud of what I had accomplished. Hell, I still don't. But I know that in no way does that make me better than anyone else. And the only time I ever look down on someone is when they're utterly irredeemable douchebags."

Before the conversation could continue, however, the knight who was leading them to the room where the trial would be held signaled that they had arrived.

"Well, it's about that time." Alfonzo said as he straightened his tie.

Today, as the occasion would dictate, Alfonzo wore a black business suit with a light grey vest, a white dress shirt, a black tie, and black leather shoes. Naturally, the ensemble was designed and sewn by Elicia.

Meanwhile, Ur was wearing a dark blue, form-fitting business suit with a matching skirt, a white collared shirt, a dark blue tie, a pair of pantyhose, and black heels.

Then after a nod to the knight, signaling they were ready for entry, the knight opened the large double doors leading to the court room. And when they entered, the first thing they noticed were the rulers of

Fiore, Caelum, and Isvan sitting on a raised platform. The next thing they noticed were the members of the Wizard Saints sitting on a slightly lower platform.

After that, they saw that the members of the Magic Council were seated to the right side of the raised platforms while the members of Fairy Tail were seated to the left. Lastly, they saw that the witnesses were seated on either side of the room, just waiting to be called to testify.

Another thing to take note of was the fact that Crawford Seam was seated with the members of the Magic Council while Gran Doma, the current Magic Council Chairman, was seated with the witnesses.

After checking the room's layout, Alfonzo and Ur exchanged glances before nodding at each other and making their way over to Fairy Tails side of the room.

Bang!

A moment later, the double doors to the room were closed.

"Are all in attendance?" Toma E. Fiore, the King of Fiore, asked in a booming voice that did not seem to fit his small stature. Then, after receiving nods to his question, he continued. "Then, let us start the proceedings. Today, we are here to bear witness and pass judgement on the trial of Fairy Tail Vs. the Magic Council. Plaintiff, Fairy Tail, you may make your opening Statement."

Once again, Alfonzo and Ur exchanged glances. Then, after receiving a nod from Ur, Alfonzo stood from his seat and adjusted his tie before walking to the center of the court room.

"Ladies and gentlemen." Alfonzo said in a sonorous tone. "I am Alfonzo Marcus, an S-Class wizard of the Legal Guild, Fairy Tail. And I'm sure you are all aware that our guild has not always had the best reputation. As we were prone to acts of public property damage in the past."

When Alfonzo reached this point, everyone, other than the wizards from Fairy Tail, who flushed in embarrassment, nodded their heads in agreement.

On a side note, Team Natsu, the wizards in the guild most likely to cause property damage, were out on a quest. So, they could not attend the trial... Or make a mess of Alfonzo and Ur's plans.

"Yet, in the last few years, our guild has done no more damage to public property than any other guild on Ishgar." Alfonzo continued. "However, despite our change in behavior, the Magic Council has always been biased against us. And on two occasions, they have taken actions that would seriously damage our guild had they succeeded, claiming their actions were for the greater good."

Hearing that, many of the members of the Magic Council frowned. Meanwhile, the others showed very little in terms of expression.

"One example would be when they fired the Etherion on a small, unnamed island off the coast of Caelum." Alfonzo said. "I know all of you are aware of that incident. The Council was briefly disbanded because of it, after all. But what you may not know... Or rather what you most-likely do not know is that myself along with four other promising wizards from Fairy Tail were on that island at the time the Etherion was launched. On top of that, the Council was aware of that fact, as we had submitted a report before heading over there to stop the Tower of Heaven from being utilized."

That last piece of information was enough to gain the members of the Magic Council a few inquisitive looks, as they had not reported the fact that there were people other than dark wizards on the island.

"Even more recently, Fairy Tail held its annual S-Class Promotion Exams on our holy ground, Tenrou Island." Alfonzo continued. "And just as the exam was completed, the island was attacked by the Dark Guild, Grimoire Heart. Yet the Magic Council, whose naval fleet was anchored a short distance from the island, did not give the order to assist us. Luckily, we were able to emerge victorious against such a daunting foe."

At that point, the gazes the Magic Council received grew colder as time went by.

"On top of that, we came to find out that an officer employed by the Council had also infiltrated our guild, using methods unknown to us." Alfonzo said, glaring at Doranbolt as he spoke. "I suspect it to be some kind of [Memory Control Magic]. Though, without the chance to analyze it, I'm only speculating. Yet, everyone in our guild seemed to have memories of him. Just under a different name."

This time, all the cold gazes in the room were shifted to Doranbolt, who began to sweat under the pressure.

"In conclusion, the Magic Council has schemed against Fairy Tail to weaken us in the hopes of disbanding us." Alfonzo said passionately with anger in his tone. "They wish to harm us, who have completed tasks for the continent such as killing Deliora in Ispan, eliminating many harmful Dark Guilds, including both Grimoire Heart and the Oración Seis, and bringing in a pair of dangerous rogue scientists from the Bureau of Magical Development."

At this point, Alfonzo paused to catch his breath and scan the expressions of everyone in the court room. And to his surprise, many of those involved in giving a verdict on this case seemed to be moved by his passionate speech.

"Thus, for the Magic Council's transgressions, Fairy Tail seeks the maximum sentence for their crimes." Alfonzo said, bringing his opening statement to an end with a bow to the rulers seated at the highest position in the room.

Chapter 336: The Trial Continues

Shortly after he finished his opening statement, Alfonzo took his seat. However, the man representing the Magic Council in this trial took his time to get up. And when the people in the court room saw his face, it was obvious to see why.

Apparently, he was not told of all the things the Magic Council had done to wrong Fairy Tail. Or rather, the more likely truth was that he was told a watered down version of the events.

Still, he eventually stood up and made his opening statement, as well. Though, it was clearly not as impactful as Alfonzo's.

Then, after the opening statements were made, Fairy Tail was given the right to summon their first witness, Yajima. And everything went downhill from the Magic Council for there.

Alfonzo asked Yajima about the incident when the Magic Council fired the Etherion on the island off the coast of Caelum. In response, Yajima explained that the idea was put forth by Jellal Fernandes, who was going by the name Siegrain at the time. He explained that he was against the firing of the Etherion from the start, and how he voted against it when it came to that, as well.

Yajima also explained that out of all the members of the Council, that he was the only one who voted against firing the Etherion. He also went on to mention that because he was a former member of Fairy Tail, his opinions on most matters were often dismissed without getting much in the way of consideration.

Then, when Alfonzo was done with his questions, the Magic Council's representative cross referenced him. And honestly, there was not much to ask. Especially since there were reports about everything that Yajima said submitted as evidence. So, after a few meaningless questions, Yajima was allowed to leave the stand.

The questioning of all the other witnesses Alfonzo called followed a similar pattern. Alfonzo would ask some questions, the witness would reply with answers backed up by evidence, and the defense would ask a few questions that had little to no effect on the trial's outcome.

Eventually, Alfonzo called Gran Doma to the stand. And after he was sworn in, Alfonzo asked his first question.

"Chairman Gran Doma, please tell us, why were the naval fleet and the Fourth Custody Enforcement Unit anchored off the coast of Tenrou Island during the most recent S-Class Promotion Exam." Alfonzo requested.

Before answering, Gran Doma took a deep breath, then he shot a glare at Org, who was seated among the rest of the members of the Magic Council. Though, they were also glaring at him contemptuously.

"*Sigh* It's because not even the Magic Council was made aware of Grimoire Heart's attack on Fairy Tail until the day of the attack." Gran Doma replied, sounding ashamed of what he just said.

Hearing Gran Doma's response, Alfonzo could not help but feel anger bubbling up to the surface. Of course, he had seen the evidence the Magic Council side submitted. So, he knew that Org had taken it upon himself to hide the information about Grimoire Heart's attack. And that meant that Org had jumped straight to the top of his shit list.

"If that's the case, then why were the naval fleet and the Custody Enforcement Unit anchored there?" Alfonzo asked.

"Because they were ordered to do so by Org, who had hidden the information away from the rest of the Magic Council." Gran Doma replied.

"I see..." Alfonzo replied with suppressed rage. "Then, I guess we'll have to wait until Org comes up to the stand to get the full story."

Though Alfonzo wanted to question Gran Doma about it, the last thing he wanted to hear was "Objection! Hearsay!" from the other side of the court room. Especially since he had yet to have the chance to shout "Objection!" himself.

Then, after a few more questions, the defense was allowed to cross examine Gran Doma, which ended like the other witnesses did, with little to help their case.

After that, Alfonzo questioned all the guild masters and former guild masters in attendance as character witnesses, which painted a rather bad image of the Magic Council. Basically, they stated that the magic Council never really took the complaints from the guilds seriously. Instead, they threatened to disband any guild that made too much of a ruckus about a ruling or law that they found unfair.

And like before, the Magic Council's representative could not do much to prove otherwise.

"The Prosecution rests." Alfonzo said after all the witnesses from his side had been called.

"Very well." Toma said from his spot on the high platform. "Then, we'll use this opportunity as a chance to break for lunch. Report back here in an hour. At which point, we will resume the proceedings."

With that, the trial went into recess. However, nothing of note took place during the break. So, after an hour, everyone reassembled in the court room.

"The defense may call its first witness." Toma declared, officially resuming the trial.

From that point, the man representing the Magic Council called forth his witnesses, which were all members of the Magic Council, former and present. And during his questioning, he asked questions that painted the Council in a positive light.

However, when Alfonzo got his chance to cross examine, his questions highlighted the Council's incompetence. For example, with every witness, he asked the same question.

"How is it that one man, by himself, could stem the information flow about a group of the most wanted criminals on the continent?"

Needless to say, none of the members of the Magic Council had a proper answer to that question. Which led the people present in the court room to believe Alfonzo's claim that the Magic Council, as an organization, was incompetent and corrupt.

Then, as the last witness, Org was called to the stand. No one was sure why he was called. But they all guessed that it was in an attempt to paint his actions in a different light. Unfortunately, because Org had been imprisoned in the Magic Council's prison for the last four months, he was less than cooperative. As a result, it only made the Magic Council's standing in the people's eyes even worse.

Eventually, the Magic Council's representative ended the questioning early to cut his losses. And naturally, that gave Alfonzo the opportunity to cross examine Org.

To everyone's surprise, however, as soon as Alfonzo stood in front of Org, the man lost it.

"Damn it!" Org shouted. "None of this would have happened if your group of ruffians had simply allowed yourselves to be disbanded!"

Org's hysterical shouting naturally caught everyone off guard. Especially since most people could not understand exactly why Org had been so against Fairy Tail despite the fact that they had cleaned up their act over the past few years.

"And what gives your guild the right to have a wizard like the Maiden of the Sky?" Org continued. "With a wizard like her as one of my subordinates, so much more good could have been done for Ishgar. And I and the rest of the Council would have been able to remain healthy longer to continue serving the continent."

At that point, Doranbolt, who had been tasked with kidnapping Wendy during the S-Class Promotion Exam, had the opportunity presented itself, blanched. From what Org told him, she was to be saved from losing her life during the Grimoire Heart attack so that she could be sent to give relief to those hurt in disasters, whether natural or manmade. But it seemed that Org only wanted to keep her as a personal healer for himself and the Council.

Meanwhile, Ur, who had taken Wendy in after the truth about Cait Shelter was revealed, was seething. Her loss of emotional stability was even causing the temperature in the court room to drop drastically.

"Mom, calm down." Ultear whispered in hre mother's ear while wrapping her in a tight hug. "Thee's no way Alfonzo is going to let that guy off the hook for that."

Still, Org, as if he were unaffected by the fluctuations in temperature, continued ranting.

"And you!" Org shouted while pointing at Alfonzo. "Why couldn't you just die? You're like a cockroach. Not even the Etherion or Grimoire Heart could kill you. If it had, those patents would have been the Magic Council's. And they would have been put to much better use than to line the pockets of a ruffian from a ruffian gild! But no---"

After reaching that point, the room was washed over by a potent killing intent, causing Org to finally falter. But not only Org, but almost everyone in the room was also affected in one way or another by the killing intent. And when they finally tracked it to its source, they found Elicia glaring at Org with the promise of death in her eyes.

"Calm down, Elicia." Alfonzo, the only person not affected by Elicia's killing intent, said calmly. "He's going to get what's coming to him. And there's no way around it. Not after that outburst."

Hearing that, Elicia's killing intent slowly receded. However, she continued to glare at Org with hatred.

"So, you're telling me that because I had no next of kin, you had been targeting me for my patents." Alfonzo asked, seemingly unbothered by everything that just happened.

However, Org remained silent, refusing to answer Alfonzo's question. As it turned out, Elicia's killing intent was enough to bring him out of his madness. Unfortunately, it was too late.

"Well, I guess the prosecution rests." Alfonzo said as he turned away from Org. "Since he basically answered all my questions before I had the chance to ask them."

With that, Org was allowed to leave the stand. And he did so with his head lowered. Meanwhile, the rest of the Council looked at him as if they were disgusted that they shared positions in the same organization.

And with Org's testimony, the defense had no more witnesses to call to the stand. As a result, Toma called for another break in the proceedings to have dinner. Then, after another hour, the court reconvened.

And with the trial commencing once again, both sides were given the opportunity to give a closing statement, with the Magic Council representative going first. Though, he really did not have much he could say to save his clients.

Then, once the magic Council's representative was finished, Alfonzo once again stood from his seat, straightened his tie, and strode to the center of the court room.

'Damn it, we've been at this all day.' Alfonzo grumbled internally. 'And I didn't get the chance to shout Objection even once.'

["Quit crying and just bring this shit show to an end!"] riot shouted in annoyance.

["For once I agree with the kid."] Bedlam added. ["Just end this so we can put that old man to work. Hehehe."]

["Who the hell are you calling a kid?"] Riot growled.

["Who else?"] Bedlam replied with a chuckle.

["I'll kill you!"] Riot Shouted angrily.

Ignoring his [Soul Armament Spirits'] usual antics, Alfonzo continued walking towards the center of the room without changing his expression.

"Ladies and gentlemen." Alfonzo said as he reached the center of the room. "I'm sure I don't need to say much more about the Magic Council's apparent incompetence, as they said enough about it for themselves. But that's not why I'm here, anyway. For now, at least. Instead, I'm here to seek justice on behalf of my guild."

With the beginning of his speech, Alfonzo quickly gained the undivided attention of everyone in the room.

"In firing the Etherion on that island, the members of the Magic Council who voted in favor committed no less than five counts of attempted murder." Alfonzo continued. "And that only refers to myself and the four other wizards that accompanied me to stop the atrocities that were taking place on that island. But if we consider all the innocent people who were forced into slavery to complete the tower, that number grows exponentially."

Immediately, the members of the Magic Council along with Crawford Seam's expressions fell. When the crime was just dereliction of duty and incompetence, they were not too worried about the punishment they would receive. At the very worst, they would be heavily fined and dishonorably removed from their positions.

But when terms like "attempted murder" were thrown around, things became much more serious. And if they were convicted, fines would be the least of their worries, as prison time would be what they were looking forward to.

"And as I said before, Fairy Tail seeks the maximum sentence allowed under the law." Alfonzo said in a firm tone. "And I hope that you take into account that Crawford Seam, the former chairman of the Magic Council's punishment should be heavier than the rest in this matter, as he should be held to a higher standard than the rest of the Council as its chairman."

Hearing that, Crawford Seam paled even further. AS a former chairman of the Magic Council, he was quite clear about what kind of punishment he should receive for not stopping the Etherion.

"As for Org." Alfonzo continued while shooting a disgusted glare at the man in question.

At the same time, Alfonzo thought he heard the sound of excited female panting while he glared, but he decided to write it off as a figment of his imagination.

"On top of taking part in those cases of attempted murder, he also engaged in the attempted kidnapping of a minor, colluding with a Dark Guild, and attempted coercion." Alfonzo continued after tearing his gaze away from Org. "And I implore you to take that into consideration while deliberating his punishment."

Again, Alfonzo finished his speech with a bow to the rulers sitting on the highest platform before returning to his seat.

"And with that, today's proceedings have come to an end." Toma announced once Alfonzo had taken his seat. "I as well as the King of Caelum and the Prime Minister of Isvan will take the evening to deliberate on this case. Then, we will all gather once again tomorrow at noon for the verdict. Until then, dismissed."

Chapter 337: Verdict, Sentencing, and a New Proposal

Early in the morning of the next day, Alfonzo slowly opened his eyes in the hotel Fairy Tail book for all its wizards who decided they wanted to attend the trial. And as is common, Elicia was clinging to him when he woke up.

"*She looks so happy just because she can hold me in her sleep." Alfonzo said as he swept a lock of hair out of Elicia's face.

["Yeah, it's kind of amazing how anyone can love an asshole like you that much."] Bedlam said. ["I mean, if it were me..."]

'Yeah, yeah, yeah, I get it.' Alfonzo replied mentally. 'You really don't have to say it.'

["Why don't you just fucking forgive her already?"] Riot asked in an annoyed tone. ["It's clear that you're not angry anymore. ON top of that, it would make her happy."]

'Not yet.' Alfonzo replied as he began combing his fingers through Elicia's hair. [I've already got something planned as far as when and where I'll do it.]

["Whatever..."] Riot replied, trying to sound uninterested.

Meanwhile, Elicia, after feeling Alfonzo's fingers brushing against her scalp, subconsciously hugged him tighter before she started opening her eyes a moment later. Then, as soon as she saw Alfonzo, she smiled brightly, despite the fact that she was barely awake.

"Mornin', Fonzie." Elicia said groggily.

"Good morning, Elicia." Alfonzo replied with a gentle smile.

For a split-second, Elicia pouted at the term of address. But her bright smile reappeared just as quickly as it disappeared.

"Come on, let's start getting ready for hopefully what is the last part of the trial." Alfonzo said while continuing to comb his fingers through Elicia's hair.

"Kay~~." Elicia said lazily.

With that, Alfonzo climbed out of bed. But to his surprise, Elicia continued clinging to him, allowing herself to be dragged to the edge of the bed.

Amused, Alfonzo stood up, only for Elicia to quickly wrap her legs around his waist like a koala. Then, she rested her head against the side of his neck and closed her eyes with a contented smile on her face.

"Come on, Elicia." Alfonzo said with an amused smile on his face. "We seriously need to get up."

"Kay~~." Elicia replied just as lazily.

"If you don't get up, you're gonna regret it." Alfonzo warned as he made his way towards the room's bathroom.

Instead of responding, Elicia only slightly adjusted her position to make herself more comfortable.

"Fine, you asked for it." Alfonzo muttered as he entered the bathroom.

A few moments later, the sound of Elicia's screams echoed throughout the entire floor of the hotel.

About forty minutes later, Alfonzo and Elicia, who was wearing quite the obvious pout, made their way into the hotel's dining hall, where they found the members of Fairy Tail occupying several large tables on one side of the venue.

"Hey, Fonzie, over here!" Cana shouted after noticing the duo enter the dining hall.

"By the way, Elicia." Alfonzo said with a wry smile after waving at Cana.

"Hmph!" Elicia snorted while looking away.

"How did you manage to convince the others to let you share a room with me last night?" Alfonzo asked while trying to suppress a chuckle.

In response, Elicia glared at Alfonzo from the corner of her eye while making her pout more pronounced. Still, she decided to answer his question.

"Rock-Paper-Scissors." Elicia replied.

"Ah, got it." Alfonzo acknowledged as he and Elicia arrived at Cana's table.

When they arrived at the table, they noticed the expected group of people sitting there. Namely, the rest of Alfonzo's girlfriends, minus Erza, Levy Jet, Droy, Lisanna, and Elfman. Meanwhile, the rest of their closest friends, like Team Natsu, were out on quests and were unable to attend the trial.

"Hey, Lici, what's wrong?" Marin asked after noticing Elicia's pout.

"Marin, you'll never guess what Fonzie did to me this morning." Elicia said, pulling Marin into a hug as she told her story. "He actually picked me up out of bed and brought me under the shower while the water was freezing cold."

In response, everyone at the table looked at Alfonzo while trying to suppress their laughter. Meanwhile, Alfonzo's upper lip was twitching violently.

"Although that's not wrong, I feel like you're leaving out some crucial details, Elicia." Alfonzo replied. "Like the fact that I tried to wake you up so that we could get ready. Or the fact that you continued to cling on to me even though I said you'd regret it if you didn't get up."

"Small details." Elicia replied with her head buried in Marin's chest.

"That's not small." Alfonzo replied.

"That's what she said." Cana interjected.

Immediately, the atmosphere around the table froze while everyone looked at Cana in disbelief.

"Alfonzo says stuff like that all the time, but it never gets this awkward." Cana muttered.

"*Sigh* Alfonzo is rubbing off on you." Mirajane said while shaking her head with a wry smile.

"Cana, *Sniff* I'm so proud of you." Alfonzo said while wiping a non-existent tear from his eye.

"Yeah, yeah, just eat." Cana said in an annoyed tone. Though, she scooted closer to Alfonzo, and even tried to feed him.

Like that, the rest of breakfast went on peacefully with a happy atmosphere. Then, when everyone was done eating, they returned to their rooms and changed into their court room attire.

Once everyone was properly dressed the entire group from Fairy Tail traveled together towards the Royal Castle, Mercurius, the Flower Light Palace. Which, to anyone familiar with Fairy Tail, could be quite intimidating. Yet, they had no intension of causing trouble for the people of Crocus.

"So, how do you think the kings will rule on the case?" Lisanna asked curiously.

"If they rule them anything other than guilty, then I'm moving our guild to another continent." Ur replied.

"Ur's right." Alfonzo added. "If the verdict is anything other than guilty, we'll know there's some foul shit going on on this continent. But since we're expecting a guilty verdict, the more important question is what will their sentence be?"

"Then, what do you think the sentence will be?" Lisanna asked.

"Honestly, I don't know." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head. "But like I said, I'm hoping for the maximum sentence."

'Because if the whole council doesn't get time behind bars, I won't be able to suggest the next step of my plan.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

"Well, considering all the evidence, that shouldn't be a problem." Levy added. "I mean seriously, the attempted murder argument pretty much sealed it."

"I hope so." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "Either way, we can only wait and see."

While continuing to chat about the trial, the wizards of Fairy Tail eventually reached the gates of the Flower Light Palace, where they were all searched before being allowed to enter. Then, like they had done the day before, they all made their way to the court room and waited for the rest of the attendees to arrive.

Slowly, all those who attended yesterday's proceedings trickled into the court room. There were even a few extra faces, as well. Mainly guild masters who were not interested in supporting Fairy Tail during the trial. However, they were definitely interested to know what would become of the Magic Council afterwards.

Then, at noon on the dot, Toma E. Fiore, the king of Caelum, and the Prime Minister of Isvan entered the room and made their way up to the highest platform. Then, once they were all seated, Toma began speaking.

"Good afternoon, and welcome back to those who were in attendance yesterday." Toma said in that same booming voice that did not fit his stature. "And to those who decided to attend for the trial's verdict, welcome. Now, I'm sure none of you wish to hear me drone on. Therefore, I'll get straight to the point. Org, Second Seat of the Magic Council, step forward."

Following Toma's instructions, Org moved to the center of the court room before lowering his head to the three rulers.

"We find you guilty of all crimes." Toma said in a stern tone. "AS for your sentence, the simple fact that you have been convicted of treason leaves us with no choice but to give you the death penalty."

Hearing that, Org's expression fell immediately. Yet, he remained silent, as there was nothing he could do about it.

A moment later, a pair of Cherry Blossom Holy Knights approached Org from either side before taking him away in anti-magic cuffs. Though, Org did glare with murderous intent at Alfonzo as he was taken away.

"I kinda wish he was able to struggle away from those knights and attack me." Alfonzo muttered while glaring back at Org. "Then, I'd be justified in killing him in self-defense. In fact, I could just cause those cuffs to break, and I'm sure he would rush at me like a bull in a china shop."

"You definitely can't do that, Alfonzo." Ur whispered sternly.

"I know, you don't have to worry about me, Ur." Alfonzo replied with a smile while waving off Ur's concerns. "I was just kidding."

"Uh huh..." Ur replied while staring at Alfonzo with skepticism.

A moment later, once Org had been escorted out of the court room, Toma called on the next member of the Magic council to be judged.

"Michello, Third Seat of the Magic Council, step forward." Toma ordered.

Like that, the rest of the Council was called forth to receive their judgment one by one in descending order of their ranks. And they mostly received a life sentence. However, some of those, Such as Belno, who had not taken things too far when dealing with other matters, were given the chance for parole if they behaved well while in prison.

"Crawford Seam, step forward." Toma ordered.

Crawford Seam, after seeing all the others receive life in prison as a sentence, was not too worried. Other than when dealing with fairy Tail, his record was spotless. Though, that was not because he always treated everyone justly. Rather, it was because he had someone else do the dirty work for him. Still, he was certain that he would only be sentenced to life in prison.

Unfortunately, he forgot one of the last things Alfonzo said about him.

"Crawford Seam, you have been found guilty of all charges against you." Toma said, announcing the verdict. "As for your sentence, like Org, you will be sentenced to death."

Immediately, Crawford Seam's eyes opened wide in disbelief. Then, his beard and mustache began to bristle, a sign of the deep rage he was experiencing.

"This is outrageous!" Crawford Seam shouted angrily. "I dedicated most of my life to the betterment of Ishgar. And for one bad decision, this is how I'm treated?"

"Your one bad decision led to the Magic Council firing Ishgar's most powerful weapon on itself, the near loss of five of its most outstanding young wizards, and the near loss of many more innocent lives. Not to mention, you did not even warn the public before firing. And as Mr. Marcus said in his closing statement yesterday, as the Chairman of the Magic Council at that time, you must be held to a higher standard."

"This is preposterous, I am Clearly being targeted." Crawford Seam bellowed.

"Guards! Take him away." Toma ordered as four more Cherry Blossom Holy Knights entered the room to take Crawford Seam away. And like Org, while he was being led away, Crawford Seam glared at Alfonzo with hatred.

At the same time, from the door where the knights entered the room from, Alfonzo could feel a cold stare fall on him. And when he looked towards the door, he saw King Bradley staring at him. Though, he could not figure out why.

'Did getting the Council convicted somehow get in the way of Father's plans?' Alfonzo wondered while making eye contact with Bradley. 'Well, not that it matters to me. If he wants to jump up, I have no problem smacking him down. Besides, I'm pretty sure I already know where Father's lair is. If the place where my Techno Organic Metal was pulled out of Envy's body is any indication.'

["If you already know where that bastard is, we should just go down there and bust some heads."] Riot said in response to Alfonzo's inner monologue.

["Before he can do that, he has to do something about the giant transmutation circle first."] Bedlam added.

Then, as the voices in Alfonzo's head continued their conversation, the doors to the court room were closed once again.

"With that, the trial of Fairy Tail Vs. the Magic Council has concluded." Toma said. He then continued in a conflicted tone. "Unfortunately, now the Magic Council consists of only one member, Gran Doma, and the number of magic infractions all over Ishgar will once again rise."

Hearing that, Alfonzo and Ur exchanged glances. Then, after receiving a nod from Alfonzo, Ur stood from her seat.

"Excuse me, Your Majesty, if you'd allow it, I might have a suggestion that could solve that issue." Ur said while bowing her head politely.

"Oh." Toma muttered in interest. "By all means, if you have a suggestion that could help the continent through this, speak your mind, Master Milkovich."

"Thank you, Your Majesty." Ur said, bowing once again. "I believe that filling the seats of the Magic Council with former guild masters and members of the Ten Wizard Saints would be the best way to keep the Magic Council going after such an outcome."

"But how would that work?" The King of Caelum asked in a confused tone. "There are so many guilds on Ishgar. With that many members, the Council would never be able to agree on anything."

"I can understand your concerns, Your Majesty." Ur replied with a nod. "But instead of having former guild masters from every guild, I believe that representatives should be elected from the guild's in a particular country. And the size of the country, as well as the number of guilds in said country, should determine how many representatives from that guild are chosen."

"Interesting." The Prime Minister of Isvan said while stroking his beard.

"Indeed." Toma added. "You mentioned representatives for the guilds, but what about the countries themselves?"

"That's where the Chairman comes in." Ur replied. "The chairman, from this point forward, should always be someone who is not affiliated with any guild. And their role will be to look at any proposals from the perspective of the kingdoms and countries. And if he believes that the proposal is detrimental

to the countries, he has the right to bring it to a vote between the ruling bodies of each nation, which would immediately veto the proposal should it be voted down by the rulers."

Like that, the rulers, the members of the Ten Wizard Saints, and the current and former guild masters in attendance continued to question Ur about her proposal. Meanwhile, a certain member of the Wizard Saints, who also happened to be the former master of a guild. The former master of Fairy Tail, to be exact, stared at Ur in bewilderment.

After retirement, Makarov thought he would be able to live his remaining days in leisure, without the thought of filling out paperwork having to cross his mind. Yet, he just found out that not only would he have to do paperwork again if this proposal passed, but as a member of the Ten Wizard Saints, he would likely not be able to refuse.

On top of that, even if he resigned as a wizard saint, he would more than likely be elected as a representative thanks to his power and experience as a guild master.

'Damn it! That girl was waiting for this.' Makarov grumbled internally. 'I guess I shouldn't have gloated so much while helping her learn the ropes. But still, how could she do this to me?'

Eventually, after the rulers, Wizard Saints, and guild masters were satisfied with Ur's explanation, the court proceedings were concluded, and those not necessary for the forming of the new Magic Council were allowed to leave while those who would participate in the new Magic Council's establishment stayed to hash out all the finer details.

Chapter 338: A Quest in the Rebuilt Rosemary Village

A few days have passed since Fairy Tail's trial against the Magic Council concluded. In that time, thanks to the many media outlets around the continent, the outcome of the trial has been circulated to nearly every person on Ishgar. In fact, the news had even made it to people on other continents as well. Though, the interest in news on other continents was quite low.

Meanwhile, as the details of the new Magic Council system were being ironed out, Gran Doma and the available Wizard Saints, which included Makarov, were taking care of the Magic Council's duties for the time being.

As for Fairy Tail, they were back to business as usual. Even Alfonzo, who had not taken a quest in months due to his research on Fairy Sphere, preparing for the trial against the Magic Council, and designing the training rooms and their control mechanisms for Mermaid Heel, was finally back to proper wizarding work.

And today, along with Erza, he was standing outside of a small, rural village.

"It looks just like I remember." Erza said in a nostalgic tone.

"So, this is the village where you lived before... that happened, huh?" Alfonzo asked while spreading his [Magic Power Detection] and radar waves.

'There's a large tunnel passing underneath this village.' Alfonzo thought as he examined the feedback from his detection skills. 'I guess this is part of the big ass transmutation circle the homunculus are making.'

["It makes sense."] bedlam replied. ["There was a massacre here in the past, after all."]

'Yeah, it makes me wonder if those mother fuckers had something to do with it being attacked in the first place.' Alfonzo wondered.

["I still say you should just storm their hideout and kill them all."] Riot grumbled.

"Still, I wonder who rebuilt it." Erza said, pulling Alfonzo's attention away from his internal conversation.

"Well, since we have to meet the village chief anyway, I'm sure we'll find out soon." Alfonzo said with a gentle smile while wrapping his right arm around Erza's waist and letting his hand rest on her hip.

"You're right." Erza replied with a smile as she snuggled a little closer to Alfonzo.

"Then, shall we?" Alfonzo asked with a smile.

"Yes, let's." Erza replied with a smile of her own.

With that, the couple made their way into the village. As they did, they caught a lot of attention from the villagers. Though, no one seemed keen on coming to talk to them.

Eventually, Alfonzo and Erza arrived outside the largest house in the village. Thinking the size of the house indicated the homeowner's status in the village, they assumed that it was the village chief's home.

Knock! *Knock!* *Knock!*

Once at the front door, Alfonzo knocked with his free hand. Then, after a few moments, he and Erza could hear footsteps on the other side of the door.

"Just a minute." Came the sound of a deep, yet vaguely familiar, male voice from the other side of the door.

Then, after another moment, the door was opened, and the person behind it surprised both Alfonzo and Erza.

"Can I... help... you...?" A large, muscular, black-haired man with a metal plate on his jaw and an eye patch over his eye asked. Though, he trailed off at the end.

Just like Alfonzo and Erza, he was also surprised when he recognized the people knocking on his door.

"Simon, is that you?" Erza asked in a tone mixed with equal parts happiness and surprise. "You're the chief of this village?"

"Erza?" Simon replied in a dumbfounded tone as he stared at Erza blankly. Then, he absent-mindedly answered her question. "Uh, yeah, I rebuilt our old village and became its chief."

"I'm here too, you know." Alfonzo said playfully while grinning at Simon.

Alfonzo's playful question was enough to pull Simon out of his stupor. Then, he glanced at Alfonzo out of the corner of his eye. And when he saw the grin on his face, his brows furrowed.

"I really wish you weren't." Simon replied coldly.

"Aww, come on, man." Alfonzo said with a smile. "Don't be like that, we're here to help with your magical beast problem."

"Indeed." Erza replied with a nod, her surprised expression morphing into a solemn one. "The request said you were being attacked by Crow Tengu, correct?"

Hearing that, Simon exhaled a sigh. Then, he stepped aside and gestured for Alfonzo and Erza to enter the house.

A few minutes later, Alfonzo and Erza were seated side by side on a couch in Simon's living room. Meanwhile, Simon had just entered the room, carrying a tray with a teapot and three tea cups. Then, after setting the tray on the coffee table, pouring a cup of tea for the three of them, and taking a seat himself, Simon finally got to the details about the quest.

"*Sigh* This village has only been operational for three months and we're already being attacked like this." Simon said in a tired tone.

"But that doesn't make sense." Alfonzo replied with a frown. "Usually, Crow Tengu live in mountainous regions away from contact with other living beings. I mean, sure there is a mountain not too far away, but why would they be living so close to humans? Unless..."

"They made the mountain their home during the years when no one lived here." Erza said, finishing Alfonzo's sentence. "And now, they're attacking because you invaded their perceived territory."

"As far as I can tell, that's correct." Simon replied with a nod. "And considering how long this area was just a village ruin, it's also the most reasonable conclusion."

In response, both Alfonzo and Erza nodded.

"But I don't get it." Alfonzo said with a slight frown. "You're actually pretty strong, Simon. And Crow Tengu are usually only A-Class magic beasts. So, what's going on? Are there just too many for you to handle? Or is there some kind of anomaly in that murder of crows?"

"*Sigh* Both, unfortunately." Simon replied. "On top of their flock having an abnormally high number, they also have two leaders that are stronger than me. I'm just lucky they haven't both attacked at the same time. Otherwise, I'm afraid this village would have been destroyed again."

"Does that mean they are just killing people randomly?" Erza asked. "Your quest sheet only asked us to deal with a group of Crow Tengu. But there wasn't much more information than that."

"Yeah, in fact, if it weren't for the location being Rosemary Village, we probably would not have taken this quest due to the lack of information." Alfonzo added.

"Is that why it took so long for a guild to respond to my request?" Simon asked with an eye brow raised.

"Exactly." Erza replied with a nod. "You didn't even mention if the victims of the attacks were being killed or taken away. For all anyone who read it would know is that the Crow Tengu were just harassing the village without causing any major damage."

"I see..." Simon said while nodding in understanding. "This is the first time I've ever put in a request from the Legal Guilds. So, that will be helpful for the future. Though, I pray I never need to use that information."

"Actually, I'm surprised your sister didn't respond to your request." Alfonzo said. "I mean, even though you didn't put your name on the request as the village chief, she should recognize the name too, right?"

Hearing Alfonzo mention his sister, Simon tensed while he glared at Alfonzo warily. However, after a moment, he realized that now was not the time for that. So, he relaxed slightly before responding to the question.

"*Sigh* I made sure that the request did not make it to Mermaid Heel." Simon replied. "I didn't want Kagura to see the village in this state. As far as she knows, everything in the village is fine."

"Simon, you really shouldn't keep things from her like that." Erza said sternly. "She's your sister. And I'm sure she would want to help you through this."

After reaching this point, Erza turned towards Alfonzo, and her gaze softened into something gentle and loving as she gripped his hand in hers.

"That's what family does, after all." Erza continued with a smile.

At the same time, Alfonzo thought he heard the sound of one of Simon's molars cracking. But he decided it was just his imagination a moment later while ignoring the pain-filled glare he was receiving.

"*Cough* Anyway, what have the Crow Tengu been doing when they attack?" Alfonzo asked, bringing the conversation back on track.

In response, Simon took a deep breath to push down his agitation. Meanwhile, Erza's expression changed back to a solemn one as she waited for Simon's answer.

"For the most part, they only cause confusion and mayhem." Simon replied. "Luckily, they don't just slaughter the people randomly. However, when the leaders of the flock make their appearance, they usually target a person, an adult at their peak, and try to abduct them."

Hearing that, Alfonzo and Erza's gazes sharpened.

"While I can get between them and their target, most of the time, that usually doesn't matter." Simon continued. "Because one of their subordinates will just take the person away while I'm distracted."

At that point, Simon lowered his head in shame.

"Lucky for me, as soon as they secure their target, the whole group leaves, including the leader." Simon said in a tone of self-loathing. "No matter how close to killing me it is."

With that, the room lapsed into silence for the next few minutes.

"Simon, I know you must feel guilty for surviving despite the fact that your villagers are being taken away." Erza said. "But without you, it's likely that this village would have been destroyed much sooner."

"I know, but..." Simon replied while clenching his fists.

"Anyway, that's why we're here. Alfonzo replied with a reassuring smile. "We'll handle those crows, just give us as much information as you can about them."

"*Sigh* Right." Simon replied with a nod.

Then, Simon went on to tell Alfonzo and Erza everything he knew about the Murder of Crow Tengu living on the nearby mountain.

As it turned out, like most bird species, they don't have much activity at night. So, all the attacks have come during the day. However, like most magical beasts, they have the ability to navigate through darkness, making Simon's [Dark Moment] spell useless. It even makes catching their prey easier as they can't see where to run to.

"One more thing..." Simon said. "They usually only attack twice per week. And since they just attacked the day before yesterday, there should be a few more days until they attack again."

Hearing that, Erza's eyes lit up.

"That means I'll have some time to explore the village, right?" Erza asked excitedly.

"That's right." Simon replied with a smile.

Hearing that, Erza smiled as well. Then, she wrapped her arms around Alfonzo's.

"Then, I'll be able to show you around the village." Erza said while looking into Alfonzo's eyes.

At the same time, Alfonzo saw Simon's smile cramp in real time. He also thought he saw the number "9999" pop up over Simon's head for a second. But he once again wrote it off as a figment of his imagination.

"Sure." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "And while we're at it, I'll make some upgrades to the houses. That way, while we're dealing with the Crow Tengu, the people in their houses should be safer."

"Yeah, and as long as we have our [Magic Power Detection] active, we'll be able to give an early warning, giving the people time to retreat to their houses." Erza added.

Meanwhile, Simon wore an uncertain expression after hearing the unfamiliar term.

"[Magic Power Detection]?" Simon inquired.

"Ah!" Erza exclaimed, realizing that she let that slip in her excitement.

"*Sigh* It's fine, Erza." Alfonzo said as he began combing his fingers through Erza's hair. "Because he's the chief of your old village, I don't mind."

As he finished speaking, Alfonzo shifted his gaze to Simon.

"We'll teach you the spell so that you can keep the village safe, Simon." Alfonzo said with a solemn expression on his face. "But [Magic Power Detection] is an exclusive spell of our guild. So, I need your word that you won't teach it to anyone else. Not even your sister."

'Damn, I really need to learn [Contract Magic] for situations like this.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

["Yeah, but the kind of magic you're thinking of would be a kind of [Dark Art]."] Bedlam replied, pouring cold water on Alfonzo's thoughts.

["So what?"] Riot exclaimed with a sneer. ["People who can't keep promises deserve harsh punishments. And losing their ability to use magic seems fitting."]

Meanwhile, Erza was also having a conversation with her [Soul Armament Spirit], as well.

'I can't believe I let that slip out.' Erza said mentally while beating herself up on the inside.

["You need not worry."] Said a female voice in a chivalrous tone. ["It is clear that Alfonzo understood it happened because of your care for our friend and former village."]

'I know, but like he said, it's a secret of Fairy Tail.' Erza replied.

["Indeed."] The [Soul Armament Spirit] replied. ["And should we ever find evidence that Simon betrayed our trust and the trust Alfonzo put in us, we shall return and make him pay with our own hands."]

'Um... Just out of curiosity, what kind of punishment are you thinking?' Erza said, thinking her [Soul Armament Spirit's] words sounded a bit too ominous.

["What other punishment is there for treachery?"] The [Spirit] asked. ["Though, because he has been a good friend for many years, we will not let him suffer and grant him a quick death."]

'Yeah, that's what I thought.' Erza muttered internally. '*Sigh*' Alfonzo mentioned that our [soul Armament Spirits] manifest as amplified versions of certain emotions within us. And it's clear to see that mine manifested my sense of justice. Then, as Alfonzo likes to say, "cranked it up to eleven".'

Meanwhile, Simon actually considered giving his word and still telling his sister how to use the spell, just to spite Alfonzo. But several things stopped him from doing that in the end. The first being that Kagura would look down on him, as she had a very strong sense of justice. The second was that he did not want to break Erza's trust. And the third was the spike of killing intent he felt just when that thought crossed his mind, whose source he could not identify.

Chapter 339: What Should We Do About Yoruichi?

While Alfonzo and Erza were discussing their quest's details with Simon, the rest of Alfonzo's girls were at the mansion. While Elicia was at her work station creating the pieces for this year's summer collection, the other girls, Cana, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun were meeting in Sun's bedroom.

"Is it really okay to talk about this while Erza isn't here?" Sun asked in a concerned tone.

"don't worry about it, Sun." Marin replied with a smile. "I talked to Erza before she left with Alfonzo. She said she trusts our judgement on this."

"If you say so." Sun replied. "It still feels wrong not having her here for something so important, though."

"Yet, we've put it off for so long." Ultear said.

"Well, you can't blame us for that, right?" Cana asked, surprisingly, she was without a bottle of alcohol. "I mean, if we do, we'll undoubtedly have to think about what happened to Fonzie."

With that, the room was engulfed in a slightly angry atmosphere.

Naturally, the important thing the girls were talking about was what happened when Alfonzo, Elicia, and Yoruichi spent the night together, and what they would do about Yoruichi.

"So, does anyone have any thoughts?" Mirajane asked, breaking the silence.

In response to Mirajane's question, the other girls remained silent while exchanging glances. Eventually, Sun opened her mouth, breaking the silence once again.

"Did Alfonzo say anything about what he thought?" Sun asked while looking at everyone with curiosity in her gaze?

"I don't know, I've never talked about it with him." Cana replied. "Well, other than when he told us that he'd let us decide."

"Me neither." Marin replied with a nod.

"Same here." Mirajane added while shaking her head gently.

"*Sigh* Of course, none of us talked to him about it." Ultear said. "And it makes sense since we've all been avoiding talking about it this whole time."

The rest of the girls nodded in response.

"But I think it's pretty clear how Alfonzo feels about it, though." Ultear continued. "I mean, if he was against letting her join us, he would have told her no. Like he did with Laki a few years back."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Cana said with a frown. "But I can't understand why..."

"It's probably because he knows her better than we do." Marin suggested. "I mean, other than Lici, none of us had ever met her before... that... happened. Actually, Mira and I met her during that Joint mission, but neither of us really interacted with her very much."

"That's true." Mirajane affirmed with a nod. "Besides, even though what Lici did was wrong, I really don't think she would have done it if she didn't see something in Yoruichi."

Once again, the room fell into silence while the girls contemplated Mirajane's words.

"Even if that's true, I still don't like her." Cana said, breaking the silence. "And if it were up to me, I'd keep her as far away from Fonzie as possible."

"I understand what you're saying, Cana." Marin replied. "But this isn't all about what we want."

"Actually, I have to disagree." Ultear said, disagreeing with Marin's opinion. "This time, it really is all about us. The decision was left in our hands, after all."

"I think we should give her a chance." Sun said in an optimistic tone.

"Even after what she did to Fonzie?" Cana shouted angrily while standing up explosively. "She even pulled Lici into it. She made me distrust my best friend!"

"Calm down, Cana." Mirajane said, grabbing Cana by the hand as she spoke.

At the same time, Sun was taken aback and almost fell off the edge of her bed in surprise.

"Easy there, Sun." Ultear said as she caught Sun before she could fall to the floor. Then, with Sun in her arms, she shifted her gaze to Cana. "Mira's right, you need to calm down. Or are you going to do this every time someone's opinion differs from yours?"

Before Ultear had even spoken, Cana had already calmed down when she saw Sun's expression after her outburst. However, she had no intension of apologizing.

"Are you saying we should just let her join us?" Marin asked Sun a moment later.

"Uh... No." Sun replied while shaking her head after getting seated once again. "I'm saying we should get to know her. Then, we can decide after that."

"And how are we supposed to do that?" Ultear asked curiously. "Mermaid Heel isn't exactly close to Magnolia."

"But Alfonzo will be staying there for a while, right?" Sun asked while tilting her head cutely.

"Yeah, that's right." Mirajane replied. "Are you suggesting we stay there with him?"

"No." Sun replied while shaking her head. "Well... Yes?"

"Hehehe. Which one is it, Sun?" Marin asked, finding Sun's expression amusing.

"Um... I mean, we should all take turns staying with Alfonzo while he's there." Sun said. "And while he's working, we can try to get to know her. Like, we can talk to her and the other members of Mermaid Heel to figure out what she's usually like."

Hearing Sun's suggestion, Ultear, Mirajane, and Marin exchanged glances. Meanwhile, Cana continued to look away as if she were no longer interested in the conversation.

"That's actually..." Ultear muttered.

"A pretty good... No, really good idea." Mirajane said, finishing Ultear's sentence.

"Awesome, Sun!" Marin shouted as she wrapped the younger girl in a hug.

In response, Sun smiled brightly. Until the only voice of dissent echoed through the room.

"I don't want anything to do with this." Cana said coldly. "I seriously can't believe that you all plan to forgive her so easily."

"That's why we want to---" Marin said, trying to explain why they agreed with Sun's suggestion.

"Don't bother, Marin." Ultear said while placing a hand on Marin's shoulder and shaking her head.
"Trying to explain it to the most selfish among us isn't worth it."

"I know you're not talking about me!" Cana roared angrily.

"Who else would I be talking about?" Ultear asked, not backing down in the slightest. "Which other girl planned to hurt Alfonzo just as badly if she failed the Promotion Exam again? Hmph! And you have the nerve to take offense at being called selfish."

Immediately, a lot of Cana's anger vanished after hearing Ultear's retort.

"And as far as making mistakes goes, who almost killed most of the guild with her [Super Nova] spell just because her barrel of ale got destroyed in a battle with Phantom Lord?" Ultear continued, causing Cana's anger to recede even further. "You really shouldn't throw stones from your glass house, Cana."

With that last sentence, Cana lowered her head in shame.

"I think that's enough, Ultear." Mirajane said calmly. "There's no need to be so harsh with her. Especially since we can all understand how she feels. What that Yoruichi girl did is unforgivable, after all."

"Not that we're asking you to forgive her, Cana." Marin said gently. "But it's clear that Alfonzo has positive feelings for that girl, despite what she did to him. So, it might not be too bad to see why. Then, like Sun said, after we have a little better understanding of her, we can make our decision."

After Marin finished speaking, the room fell into silence once again, with all eyes focused on Cana, curiously waiting for her response.

"*Sigh* Fine~~~." Cana said, her discontent evident in her tone. "I'll give her a chance. But I'm not going in with the mindset of trying to like her, or anything."

"Honestly, I don't think any of us will." Mirajane said, her usual smile creeping onto her face.

"As long as you actually try to get to know about her, that should be enough." Ultear added.

"Yeah, then after we've all spent a little time around her and the people that know her, we can get together and talk about it again." Sun said.

"And do you think Erza will go along with this plan?" Marin asked curiously.

"Oh, she definitely will." Cana said in an exasperated tone. "She'd probably challenge her to a fight as soon as she arrived, saying something like, 'the best way to get to know someone is through clashing swords'."

Hearing Cana's attempt to imitate Erza's voice, the other girls could not help but start giggling while completely agreeing with Cana's assumption.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Rosemary Village.

Sneeze!

At the same time, Erza sneezed so hard that some of the dust on the village's roads was blown away.

"Damn, that one must have come from the tips of your toes." Alfonzo said while blankly watching the dust scatter. "Are you getting sick?"

"I don't think so." Erza replied while wiping her nose with a handkerchief she [Requipped into her hands]. Then, after [Requipping] it away, she continued. "But I feel like someone is talking about me."

"Oh." Alfonzo replied with a nod.

Currently, Erza was showing Alfonzo around the rebuilt village of Rosemary. And despite the fact that the village had once been destroyed, Simon had rebuilt it exactly as it was all those years ago. The only thing different about it was the people living there.

"Anyway, last but not least." Erza said as she stopped in front of a small house. "This is where I used to live."

Surprisingly, Erza's name was carved into the door frame.

"I guess Simon decided this would be your house whenever you came to visit. "Do you wanna head back to Simon's place and get the key to take a look inside?"

In response, Erza shook her head gently.

"Although it's nostalgic, I won't let myself be trapped in the past." Erza said as she reached for Alfonzo's hand. Then, once she had his hand in hers, she squeezed it before continuing. "I already have a wonderful home and a loving family. There's really no reason to look back."

Hearing that, Alfonzo couldn't help but smile. Then, he pulled Erza into an embrace before planting a kiss on her lips.

At the same time, Simon, who just remembered about Erza's old house, had come around the corner with the key to Erza's old house in hand. And the first thing he saw was Alfonzo and Erza kissing passionately in front of the house.

Cough!

Immediately after seeing the couple, Simon turned around and coughed into his hand. A moment later, he saw that it was covered in blood. Luckily, he didn't cover the key to Erza's old house in blood, as it was in the other hand.

Meanwhile, Simon's cough managed to break Alfonzo and Erza out of the world they created for themselves a few moments ago.

"Oh, Simon, did you need something?" Erza asked without a hint of shame in her expression.

"Not really." Simon replied while turning towards Erza and hiding his blood stained hand behind his back. "It's just that I remembered your old house and came to find you and give you the key."

With that, Simon extended the key to Erza.

"I even upgraded it a little when I had it rebuilt." Simon continued. "Now, instead of just one room with a place to cook, there's a bedroom. Also, I added a bathroom with plumbing, too. The kitchen is fully equipped, as well."

"Thank you." Erza said with a smile as she accepted the key. "Then, I guess we can stay here while we're taking care of the quest instead of looking for an inn. Honestly, I don't even remember if the village had one back then."

"It didn't." Simon replied while shaking his head. "And it still doesn't. We don't get enough visitors to warrant building one. And if those Crow Tengu continue tormenting this village, we never will."

"You don't have to worry about that." Alfonzo said. "By the time we're done, they'll either all be dead, or they'll relocate to somewhere else. And for the right price, I could even install some defensive measures for the village, just in case there are other threats in the future."

Hearing that, Simon sounded quite interested. As a village chief, keeping his people safe was his top priority, after all.

"Speaking of price..." Alfonzo continued after some thought. "Please, don't take this the wrong way... But how did you get the money to pay to have this village rebuilt so quickly? I mean, it hasn't even been a year since you started roaming the kingdom."

Not only Alfonzo, but Erza was curious to know the answer to that question, as well.

"Well, you came with me when I packed my belongings in the Tower of Heaven, remember?" Simon said, directing his question at Alfonzo.

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied with a nod.

"Well, most of that stuff were the luxurious items the ones who enslaved us before Jellal took over owned." Simon continued. "And although they were nice, I had no need for them. So, I sold them off once I started my journey. And to my surprise, I ended up quite rich after selling all of it."

"Ah, that makes sense." Alfonzo replied. "I wondered why you packed all that glittery shit when we were under a time crunch. But now I see that it was a good thing you did."

"Indeed." Simon replied with a nod.

Meanwhile, though she had been listening to the conversation, Erza had stepped up to the door of her old house and used the key to unlock it. Then, after opening the door, she was surprised at what she saw.

The inside of the house was fully furnished with some of the highest quality items one could buy.

"This is a bit much, isn't it, Simon?" Erza asked in a tone filled with confusion.

"Oh, that?" Simon asked as he walked towards Erza, quickly followed by Alfonzo. "Well, since you and your guild mates---"

"Family." Erza said, correcting Simon mid-sentence.

"Yes." Simon replied. "Since you and your family were the ones who saved me from the Tower's influence, I did this to honor you. So, you can just think of this as a token of my gratitude."

"Just accept it, Erza." Alfonzo said as he placed a hand on Erza's shoulder. "You can look at it this way, at least we'll have somewhere comfortable to live while we're here. And if we can get some ingredients, I even have somewhere to cook."

Hearing that, Erza's eyes lit up light torch lights. Then, she turned towards Simon with such vigor that he took a step back subconsciously.

"What's wrong, Erza?" Simon asked apprehensively.

"Is there anywhere in the village that sells strawberries?" Erza asked in an intense tone.

"Uh... Yes?" Simon replied.

"Then, please, lead us there." Erza said as she grabbed Alfonzo by the hand. "We should have strawberry shortcake to celebrate the reestablishment of Rosemary Village."

"Well, I saw that coming." Alfonzo replied with a shrug and a smile while allowing himself to be dragged along to the village market.

Chapter 340: The Crow Tengu Attack

A few more days had passed since Alfonzo and Erza arrived in Rosemary Village. And since then, not much has happened. Apart from training in the mornings, Erza spent her time refamiliarizing herself with the village while Alfonzo reinforced all the houses in the village with sigils that would only react to outside force over a certain threshold. Simon, on the other hand, aside from performing his duties as the village chief, spent all his free time learning [Magic Power Detection].

Unfortunately, the peaceful atmosphere in the village was about to end. And the reason for that was obvious. Alfonzo and Erza had detected a group of magic power signatures approaching the village from the sky.

"They're here." Alfonzo muttered as his spar with Erza came to an abrupt end.

"Indeed." Erza replied as she sheathed her [Soul Armament]. "So, how should we handle this situation?"

"That's a good question..." Alfonzo said as he fell into a state of contemplation. "I'll go and intercept the crows coming to the village. Meanwhile, you go and let Simon know what's going on."

Understood." Erza replied with a nod. "Then, once I've done that, I'll come and join you."

"No." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head.

Hearing that, Erza was slightly confused. However, Alfonzo continued before she could put her thoughts into words.

"Instead of coming to me, you should go to the mountain where these Crow Tengu reside and take out the other one of the two leaders." Alfonzo clarified. "Because I'm almost certain that if I kill the one coming here, the other one will come, too. And I'd rather keep as many of them away from the village as possible."

'It's not like I can let Erza fight too close to the village.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'She still doesn't know the meaning of restraint, after all.'

"Okay." Erza replied. "I'll handle the ones on the mountain."

With that, Alfonzo and Erza split up and made their way to their respective destinations.

["If you were so concerned with damaging the village, why didn't you go and attack them preemptively?"] Bedlam asked curiously.

["Hmph! Isn't that obvious?"] Riot asked in a disdainful tone. ["It's because he's too soft-hearted."]

Shaking his head in response, Alfonzo picked up the pace to intercept the incoming Crow Tengu.

'It's because I wanted to let Erza have more time in the village.' Alfonzo replied mentally. 'The last of the materials for Mermaid Heel's training rooms will be arriving in Magnolia in the next few days, remember? And I need to be there to make sure there are no problems with the shipment. So, we can't stay any longer after the quest is complete.'

["I still don't understand why you didn't just use us to create all the necessary materials."] Riot said with a scoff. ["With the power of our releases, you could have made them all for free. Then, you could have really fleeced those chicks."]

["Although taking advantage of a group of women is beneath me, I'm curious why you didn't use us to make the materials, too."] Bedlam added.

'It's like Bedlam said, I didn't want to take advantage of them after we already had an initial agreement.' Alfonzo replied.

["Hmph!"] Riot snorted. ["Like I said, just a soft-hearted fool."]

"We can talk about that later." Alfonzo said as he came to a stop a distance outside the village. "There they are."

As he spoke, Alfonzo looked up into the sky where dozens of humanoid magical beasts with black feathered wings, the heads of crows, and carrying all manner of bladed weapons approached from the nearby mountain. However, the one leading this group had a much more human appearance.

The one leading the group of Crow Tengu was a large, muscular man standing nearly 7' tall with long black hair, a bushy black beard, red eyes, and two pairs of black feathered wings, with one pair growing from his shoulder blades and one pair growing from his lower back.

Also, this large man wore crudely crafted armor reminiscent of Chinese armor and carried a long staff that was taller than he was with weighted ends.

This man, though he noticed Alfonzo, paid him little mind as he led his flock towards Rosemary Village.

"That mother fucker is ignoring me, isn't he?" Alfonzo asked as he saw that the Crow Tengu were not slowing down.

Just after his words fell, Alfonzo began levitating into the air., which caused the Crow Tengu to focus on him. A moment later, when he was floating at the same level as the leading Crow Tengu, Alfonzo used his [Metal Magic] to create a gigantic chain-link fence behind him, cutting off the Crow Tengu's path to the village.

Naturally, this caused the group of Crow Tengu to stop their advance.

"Sorry, but that village..." Alfonzo said while pointing at Rosemary Village from over his shoulder with his thumb. "It's under my protection. So, you can either relocate your whole murder. Or you will die here. Either way is fine with me."

Though most of the Crow Tengu could not speak the human tongue, they could tell that Alfonzo was threatening them based on his tone. Meanwhile, the large man leading the Crow Tengu glared at Alfonzo angrily.

"Stand aside, human." The Crow Tengu ordered in a deep, booming voice.

Surprised, Alfonzo looked at the leading Tengu with interest.

"I wasn't expecting you to speak our language." Alfonzo said.

"Destroy the obstruction." The Crow Tengu ordered his flock, completely ignoring Alfonzo's words.

In response, the crows began to caw excitedly before flying towards the fence at high speed.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you." Alfonzo muttered as he simply watched the crows approach.

A moment later, a Crow Tengu wielding a large, two-handed sword reached the fence. Then, with a powerful swing, the Cro Tengu attempted to cleave through the fence.

Zap!

Unfortunately, as soon as his weapon came in contact with the metallic fence, an arc of electricity ran up its weapon, electrocuting it in an instant. Then, with the scent of burning feathers and flesh, the Crow Tengu fell from the sky.

Though all the Crow Tengu saw the outcome of the first of their kind's attempt to break through the metallic obstruction, not all of them were able to stop their attacks in time. As a result, several more Crow Tengu lost their lives via electrocution while the rest backed away, gathering behind their leader.

Naturally, this outcome both terrified and enraged the Crow Tengu in equal measure. And the angry caws that echoed through the area were the perfect indicator.

"A wizard." The Crow Tengu's leader muttered while narrowing his eyes at Alfonzo. "Kill him. If he dies, the obstruction will vanish. And if we feast on his flesh, we shall grow in power."

Once again, the Crow Tengu cawed excitedly.

"You all really should just go home." Alfonzo said.

However, he was once again ignored as the Crow Tengu raised their weapons and charged at Alfonzo as a group.

"*Sigh* They never listen." Alfonzo said in a tone of lament.

In the next instant, a number of small metallic balls materialized in the air around Alfonzo. At the same time, he pulled Riot and Bedlam from the strap on his lower back. Then, with lightning sparking on the two [Soul Armaments], he began striking the metal balls, sending them flying at the incoming Crow Tengu.

Caw!

Caw!

Caw!

Instantly, the pain-filled, angry caws of the Crow Tengu began to ring out, as pieces of flesh were torn away every time a metallic ball sailed past them. While many of the Crow Tengu tied on the spot, there were just as many who were permanently disabled as they had lost limbs and wings.

"Enough!" The leading Crow Tengu shouted as he rushed forward.

Then, with surprising mastery over his weapon of choice, the leading Crow Tengu swatted the electrified metal balls out of the air with his staff, saving many of his brethren.

'That staff isn't made of metal... Interesting.' Alfonzo thought to himself after realizing he could not take control of the human-looking Crow Tengu's weapon. 'On top of that, he's really fast with equally quick reflexes. Although these attacks aren't on the level of my [railgun], they're still moving faster than the speed of sound.'

["Why aren't you using the [Railgun], anyway?"] Bedlam asked curiously.

'Because if they hit the mountain behind these crows, it could cause an avalanche.' Alfonzo replied. 'And I don't know if that would affect the village.'

While Alfonzo was answering Bedlam's question, the leading Crow Tengu managed to defend the remaining Crow Tengu. And based on the fact that he was neither sweating nor breathing heavily, Alfonzo concluded that it took little effort for him to do so.

"There are more of you still alive than I expected." Alfonzo said while surveying the surviving Crow Tengu. "Either way, I'm not letting you get close to the village."

Instead of replying, the leading Crow Tengu, with rage burning in his eyes, charged forward. Meanwhile, all the other Crow Tengu spread out, surrounding Alfonzo and their leader in the process.

"*Sigh* I tried to give you a way out..." Alfonzo muttered as he took his fighting stance.

Meanwhile, Erza, who had just left the village after informing Simon about the Crow Tengu's attack, was dashing alongside the fence Alfonzo created and heading towards the mountain where the rest of the Crow Tengu lived.

"That one leading the group is quite strong." Erza muttered as she glanced up at the battle between Alfonzo and the attacking Crow Tengu.

["Indeed."] Erza's [Armament Spirit] replied from her inner world. ["But Alfonzo will be able to handle them."]

"Agreed." Erza replied. "This should be no problem for him."

As she spoke, Erza smiled with confidence. However, as she reached the foot of the mountain, she finally felt the magic power of the Crow Tengu who stayed behind.

"The one at the top of the mountain is more than likely the true leader of this murder of Crow Tengu." Erza said while looking up at where the strongest of the Crow Tengu was located. "Still, I will stop them from terrorizing this village. [Requip: Black Wing Armor]."

In the next instant, Erza was covered in the light of her magic. Then, as the light faded, she shot up towards the mountain peak, now clad in her [Black Wing Armor].

Caw~~~~~!

As she ascended the mountain, Erza heard a loud caw that echoed around. Then, a number of Crow Tengu flew up from various points on the mountain, quickly surrounding her.

"Leave this mountain and I promise that none shall be harmed." Erza said while wielding her [Soul Armament] in both hands. "But if you decide to attack, I will show no mercy."

Like the ones facing Alfonzo, all the Crow Tengu confronting Erza were wielding all sorts of bladed weapons. And after hearing Erza's warning, they readied their weapons before charging forward to deal with the intruder.

"I see you've made your decision." Erza said while narrowing her eyes.

In the next instant, Erza leaned her head back to avoid a slash from a curved sword. Then, in one swift motion, Erza thrust her sword forward, impaling the attacking Cro Tengu through the throat. Before grabbing it by the shoulder and swinging it in the path of a swinging axe.

A moment later, after dislodging her sword from the dead Crow Tengu's throat, she made a half turn to avoid the thrust from a spear and while using the momentum from her turn, slashed another across the chest.

Like that, with precise movements and swift swordsman ship, Erza evaded all the Crow Tengu's incoming attacks while dispatching them one by one.

"This is Tedious." Erza muttered as she bent her back to avoid a slash from another spear. "[Requip: Heaven's Wheel Armor]."

Once again, Erza was covered in the light of her magic. At the same time, two dozen long swords were summoned around her.

"[Heaven's Wheel: Circle Sword]." Erza chanted once the light of her [Requip Magic] faded.

In the next instant, the swords floating around Erza began to rotate around her at high speed. Then, they were sent flying outwards, impaling one Crow Tengu each. Meanwhile, the Crow Tengu who were not targeted by the spell backed away before regrouping.

"I warned you." Erza said as her swords returned to float around her. "Now, if you value your lives, leave this mountain. This is my last warning."

Caw~~~~~!

At that moment, another loud caw echoed around the mountain. Then, after a few moments, the powerful magic power signature Erza felt before she started ascending the mountain started to move.

["Be careful."] Erza's [Armament Spirit] cautioned. ["They're coming."]

"I know." Erza replied while focusing on the direction of the new arrival.

A few moments later, the Crow Tengu began to separate, making a path for their leader to deal with the intruder. And when the powerful presence arrived in her line of sight, Erza was surprised at what she saw.

Instead of another burly man, a slim, curvaceous, fair skinned woman with short black hair, red eyes, a beautiful human face, large breasts, and a pair of black feathered wings growing from her lower back wearing a revealing, armored leotard, hair ornaments in the shape of black wings, thigh high black socks, and straw sandals wielding a long spear with a large, intricately crafted spearhead approached through the path opened by the Crow Tengu.