

Fairy Tail 341

Chapter 341: Collapsing the Tunnel

Bang! *Bang!* *Bang!*

In the air outside Rosemary Village, Alfonzo had just deflected a sweep of the most human of all the Crow Tengu's staff with Riot, swept Bedlam at his waist in the same motion, which the Tengu pulled his staff back to block, then used Riot to deflect the other end of the staff, which the Tengu had brought up to strike between his legs.

"Seriously uncool, man." Alfonzo complained, which the Crow Tengu ignored.

Instead, the Tengu began whirling his staff at high-speed. As a result, Alfonzo was forced to either dodge or deflect each attack, as he was unable to shorten the distance to land a decisive blow.

On top of that, with every contact of the two combatant's weapons, Alfonzo would send a current of electricity through his weapon. However, the Tengu seemed to be completely unbothered. In fact, from what Alfonzo could tell, the electrical current died out before it even reached the Tengu's hands.

"What the hell is that staff made of?" Alfonzo muttered in frustration.

At that moment, one of the Tengu surrounding the battlefield threw a throwing knife, aiming for the back of Alfonzo's neck.

"And why are these mother fuckers still here?" Alfonzo asked as he used his [Metal Magic to stop the throwing knife in place.

Then, in the next instant, the throwing knife turned around and sped towards the confused Crow Tengu who threw it, piercing it through the throat before it could react.

Seeing yet another of his brethren lose their lives, the Leading Crow Tengu's red eyes shined with anger. Then, with all his might, he raised his staff over his head and brought it down at Alfonzo's head.

Alfonzo, on the other hand, created two metal balls in Riot and Bedlam's path. Then, as he brought them up to defend against the incoming smash, they grazed the metal balls, shooting them at the Tengu at hypersonic speed.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Double Railgun]." Alfonzo chanted as he put his tonfa in place to defend.

Bang!

Bang!

Boom!

Caw~~~~~!

In the next instant several things took place in quick succession. First, the two [Railguns] Alfonzo fired ripped through the Tengu's right waist and the outside of his left thigh. Second, The Crow Tengu's staff slammed into Riot and Bedlam, which Alfonzo had crossed over his head defensively. Third, Alfonzo was sent towards the ground at high speed, kicking up a dust cloud upon impact. And lastly, the Crow Tengu finally registered the pain from Alfonzo's attacks and released a loud caw of pain.

Meanwhile, the other Crow Tengu could only look at their leader with concern. At the same time, there were a few who looked at him with the desire to take his position now that he was so heavily injured. A moment later, however, the leading Crow Tengu's actions crushed those desires.

Rip!

Caw~~~~~!

With a pain-filled cry, the leading Crow Tengu ripped away the cauterized flesh around his wounds, causing large amounts of blood to spray from the wounds.

Naturally, this caused the surrounding Crow Tengu to be surprised. But what surprised them even more was the fact that the, now bleeding, wounds began to regenerate at high speed. Then, once their leaders wounds were healed to the point they were no longer bleeding, the Crow Tengu all cawed in excitement.

At the same time, the dust cloud on the ground had almost completely settled. And Alfonzo could be seeing trying to shake the dust out of his hair.

"Damn, that big son of a bitch is a lot stronger than I thought." Alfonzo muttered as he walked out of the dust cloud. "And that regeneration is a pain in the ass."

["Does that mean you're finally going to use us?"] Riot asked in an annoyed tone.

"Yeah, it does." Alfonzo replied as he held his [Soul Armaments] out to his sides. "[Run Wild with Destruction on your Fingertips. Usher in Pandemonium with Creation in Your Hands. Riot, Bedlam]."

Just as Alfonzo finished his chant, his magic power shot up to about five times its normal amount, putting pressure on everything in the area. IN fact, even the people in Rosemary Village felt as if the air had grown heavy. So, the Crow Tengu in the air were not having a particularly good time at the moment.

Then, as Alfonzo's tonfa melted down into liquid metal and covered his hands, he noticed that some of the weaker Crow Tengu had fainted and were currently falling from the sky.

Seeing this, the leading Crow Tengu powerfully flapped his wings and flew towards the one who was closest to hitting the ground.

"Nope, I already gave you all a chance to get out of this alive." Alfonzo said as he pointed his right index finger at the falling Crow Tengu. "But you spat on my good will."

In the next instant, Alfonzo's right finger elongated to twice its normal length. At the same time, a hole opened on its tip while electricity sparked along its length.

Bang! *Bang!* *Bang!*

A moment later, all the Crow Tengu falling from the sky had large holes in the middle of their foreheads. Then, they all heard the sound barrier break multiple times in quick succession.

Once again, the leading Crow Tengu's eyes glowed red in anger. Then, he turned towards Alfonzo without losing any momentum and pulled his staff back to swing it horizontally, hoping to break Alfonzo in half with the blow.

"[Metal Magic: Circular Cutter]." Alfonzo chanted relaxedly.

In response, Alfonzo retracted his finger. Then, a spinning circular saw grew from the back of each hand. And just as the staff was in range, Alfonzo raised his left arm quickly, cutting through the staff easily.

Still, the Crow Tengu did not stop his assault, lifting his right leg to kick Alfonzo in the head. However, just like the staff, the Tengu's leg was easily severed when Alfonzo made a quarter-turn to the right and raised his right hand. As a result, The Crow Tengu lost everything from the knee down while his blood splattered all over the ground.

However, without stopping his turn, Alfonzo flung his now raised right arm at the Tengu's neck, ripping out a large portion of his throat in the process.

Caw~~~~~!

Seeing this, the remaining Crow Tengu in the sky cawed in anger before they charged at Alfonzo in unison.

Noticing the incoming attack, Alfonzo rose into the sky at high-speed, quickly ascending higher than the Crow Tengu, forcing them to change their flight path. Then, once he was at a safe height, he waited for the Crow Tengu to draw near.

"This should be high enough to not damage the ground, right?" Alfonzo muttered.

["That all depends on your control."] Bedlam replied with a grin. ["But since you're my wielder, you should be able to handle it. In fact, you probably would have been fine if you were even closer to the ground."]

"Probably." Alfonzo muttered. "But I wanted to have a bit more of a safety margin. Oh, they're here. [Electromagnetism Magic: Super Flare]."

With his chant, Alfonzo's body began glowing bright red. Then, in an instant, that red glow expanded outward, creating a sphere that engulfed all the approaching Crow Tengu, superheating their bodies.

As a result, most of the Crow Tengu were dead once the [Super Flare] ended. And those that were not died after falling to the ground.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo glanced down at the ground and was thoroughly surprised that the Crow Tengu's leader was not dead. In fact, his throat was regenerating while his leg was being regrown slowly as well.

"This guy's definitely a Cockroach Tengu and not a Crow Tengu." Alfonzo said in a surprised tone.

["Stop thinking something stupid!"] Riot ordered. ["Just finish him off already."]

["Riot's right."] Bedlam added. ["And while you're at it, you should take care of that tunnel running under the village, too."]

Hearing that, Alfonzo spread his detection spells. And he noticed that the Crow Tengu's corpses were mostly lying above the tunnel.

"I guess that will make a perfect mass grave for these brave warriors." Alfonzo said as he raised his right hand towards the leading Crow Tengu.

A moment later, purple light began to coalesce into an orb in front of Alfonzo's palm.

"Damn it, it's not the right color." Alfonzo grumbled as he continued to amass UV radiation. ["I should have changed the color from the beginning."]

A moment later, the purple orb turned into a bright blue color.

"Perfect." Alfonzo said, nodding at himself in satisfaction. Then, once he had gathered enough energy, he chanted his spell. ["Electromagnetism Magic: Big Bang Attack]."

With his chant, Alfonzo fired the blue orb of UV radiation down at the Crow Tengu's leader.

Boom!

Then, as soon as the orb reached the ground, it caused an explosion large enough that it could be seen from the village. At the same time, the ceiling of the tunnel running underground collapsed while the Crow Tengu Corpses fell into the hole.

As for the leader of the Crow Tengu, he was vaporized in the explosion.

"Oh, no..." Alfonzo said in a monotonous voice. "Look at this big ass hole I left in the ground. I'd better do something to fill it, or someone might get hurt. *Sigh* How could I be so careless?"

As Alfonzo spoke, he lowered himself towards the hole in the ground. Then, once he was floating about a foot above the surface, he stretched his arms forward. A moment later, liquid metal began pouring from his palms like he had turned on a tap, filling in the hole in the process.

"Damn, without you guys, I'd probably be ready to collapse after creating this much metal." Alfonzo said as he used his magic to shape the liquid metal into a thick cylinder that perfectly filled the collapsed portion without letting it spread any further.

["That's right, we all know you're practically useless without us."] Riot grumbled. ["Hell, you couldn't even beat that bird man without our help."]

Ignoring Riot's grumbling, Alfonzo continued filling the hole in the ground. Then, once it was filled, he created a thin layer of adamantite along the ceiling of the tunnel, making sure that none of the town's people would accidentally be infected by the liquid metal, which happened to be Techno Organic Metal.

Just a few moments after Alfonzo finished his work and had dispelled his [Soul Armaments'] release, Simon came running from the direction of the village.

"Alfonzo, what happened here?" Simon asked once he was within earshot. "We could see the explosion all the way from the village. On top of that, the whole area shook like there was an earthquake."

"Ah, sorry about that, that Tengu commanding the group was a lot stronger than I expected and I had to use more power than I wanted to kill it. And well... You know how things went after that."

'Even though I tried it out in training, it's hard getting used to the reduced consumption when the adrenaline is pumping.' Alfonzo thought to himself while maintaining his facial expression. 'If I used even a little more magic power in that last spell, I could have collapsed the area from here to the foot of the mountain.'

["You should have done it."] Riot cheered. And for the first time, he did not sound angry. Instead, he sounded like an excited teenager. ["That would have been sick as fuck."]

'I think this is the first time Riot hasn't sounded like my own personal version of Bakugo.' Alfonzo mused at Riot's tone.

["Although you're not wrong, riot, Alfonzo would have been deemed just as bad as the old Fairy Tail if he had done that."] Bedlam said.

["And who the fuck are they to judge him?"] Riot asked angrily. ["We should just kill all those powerless morons who think they have the right to judge the strong for their actions."]

'And it's gone.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

As Alfonzo spoke, he smiled sheepishly while simultaneously conversing with his [Armament Spirits] and patting out some of the dust still clinging to his hair. Meanwhile, Simon looked around the destroyed area with a blank expression.

"And what's with the metal under the surface of the ground?" Simon asked after looking around for a few moments.

"Oh, you don't have to worry about that." Alfonzo replied while waving off Simon's concerns. "I just used it to fill in the crater. Wouldn't want anyone getting hurt if they come out here, after all."

Hearing that, Simon nodded in appreciation. Meanwhile, Alfonzo's thoughts were a little different.

'Probably shouldn't tell him that the metal is actually there to disrupt a massive [Transmutation Circle] that will kill everyone inside and turn them into a Philosopher's Stone.' Alfonzo thought. 'That might cause a little panic if it ever got out.'

"I see." Simon replied. "And what about Erza? Is she okay?"

"She should be fine." Alfonzo replied. "But I was planning to go check on her. She should be facing the other one of the leading Tengu right now."

"Then, please hurry." Simon said with concern lacing his tone. "I don't want anything to happen to her."

"Don't worry, Erza is strong." Alfonzo replied. "Really strong."

Despite his words, Alfonzo began levitating with his magic.

"Well, I'll see you back in the village." Alfonzo said as he started moving towards the mountain. "And I'll have Erza with me when we get back."

With that, Alfonzo shot off towards the mountain, leaving Simon standing in place with an anxious expression.

Chapter 342: Deliver Justice as Swiftly as the Wind

While Alfonzo fought the group of Crow Tengu who were sent to attack Rosemary Village, Erza was confronting the remaining Tengu and their chief, a red-eyed, black-haired woman with black feathered wings growing from her lower back.

Currently, they were all floating over the mountain near the village. While Erza was surrounded by the Crow Tengu. However, with her [Soul Armament] in hand and [Requipped] into her [Heaven's Wheel Armor], Erza showed no hints of fear.

"Why do you attack my people, human?" The Crow Tengu Chief asked in a sharp tone.

"Because you are harming the people of that village." Erza replied. "I offered you and your people a chance to relocate. However, I was---"

"You order us to abandon our home and expect to not be attacked?" The Crow Tengu Chief asked in a mocking tone.

"Where you live isn't the issue." Erza said while shaking her head. "It's the fact that you are harming the people of the nearby village. If you were to promise not to hurt them anymore, this could end without a fight."

"Hehehe.... Hahaha... Ahahahahahaha!"

Hearing Erza's proposal, at first, the chief chuckled. Before that chuckle turned into laughter that quickly morphed into uproarious laughter that echoed throughout the mountain. Then, her laughter ended abruptly as she glared angrily at Erza with glowing red eyes.

"First those humans settle in the middle of our hunting grounds." The chief said disdainfully. "Then, you come here, kill my people, and ask us to not kill the humans who invaded our territory? Don't make me laugh. Because of your insolence, I will kill you and all the humans on the ground."

With that, Erza's eyes narrowed as she tightened the grip on the two swords in her hands.

"It would seem negotiations have broken down." Erza replied while flaring her magic power.

In the next instant, the Crow Tengu Chief cawed loudly. Then, the rest of the Crow Tengu turned towards the village. However, just as they began to move, Erza summoned more swords around her. Then, with one sword per Crow Tengu, she fired all her swords outward at the Tengu surrounding her.

Swish!

Clang! *Clang!* *Clang!* *Clang!* *Clang!*

To Erza's surprise, none of her swords met their mark. The only thing she could see was the Crow Tengu chief's image become blurry for a moment before the sounds of metal clashing echoed through the air and her swords were knocked away in all directions.

'Fast.' Erza said internally.

["Indeed."] Erza's [Soul Armament] Spirit replied. ["You must be careful with this one."]

'I know.' Erza said. 'Luckily, I'm able to keep track of her with no problem.'

Although she could not follow the Crow Tengu Chief's movements with her eyes, Erza was able to keep track of her with her [Magic Power Detection].

"I will not allow you to take the lives of any more of my people." The Crow Tengu said as she raised her spear and pointed its tip at Erza's throat.

Like before, The Crow Tengu Chief's image blurred. At the same time, Erza raised her [Soul Armament] upwards.

Clang!

A moment later, the image of the Crow Tengu chief vanished. At the same time, she appeared in front of Erza with her spear deflected upwards and a shocked expression on her face.

"I'll admit, you are very fast." Erza said as she slashed the sword in her other hand at the Crow Tengu's right shoulder. "But you're not so fast that I can't react."

Swish!

Erza's slash cleaved from the Crow Tengu chief's right shoulder to her left waist. However, not a drop of blood splattered from the wound. Instead, Erza was forced to spin in place to parry a thrust aimed at her heart from behind. Meanwhile, the cleaved image of the Crow Tengu Chief faded away.

"I see." The Crow Tengu Chief replied while drawing her spear back to parry a horizontal slash. "The first time was no mere coincidence. I wonder how fast I'll have to go to overcome those reflexes..."

Clang!

Once again, the Crow tengu Chief moved faster than the eye could follow, leaving another after-image in her place. Then, before it could fade, she swept her spear at Erza's back. And just like before, Erza was able to turn and parry the sweep upwards with both swords, before swinging them down a split second later.

Swish!

Once again, Erza cut through an after-image. And just like that, the same song and dance played out several dozen times. The only difference being that the Crow Tengu Chief increased her speed slightly with every failed attempt, slowly overwhelming Erza's reaction time.

Eventually, Erza was even forced to [Requip] back into her [Black Wing Armor], the armor set that provided her the greatest boost in speed, to compensate. Still, she found herself being overwhelmed once again not long later.

Caw~~~~~!

Finally, after what felt like hours of exchanging missed strikes to Erza, the sound of crows cawing from the distance echoed over the area, causing the Crow Tengu Chief to flinch. Naturally, Erza did not waste the opportunity this presented.

"[Black Wing: Moon Slash]." Erza chanted.

Pushing her magic power to its limit and causing her hair to rise from the pressure, Erza flapped the wings on the back of her armor and propelled herself forward with both her [soul Armament] and her summoned sword held aloft, ready to strike. Then, after slashing her swords in an X-shape, Erza soared past the Crow Tengu Chief, before coming to a stop a moment later.

"Even with that, I missed." Erza muttered as she turned towards the location where she could feel the Crow Tengu Chief's magic power signature.

When Erza next caught sight of the Crow Tengu Chief, she saw her gently rubbing the sides of her neck with her thumb and index finger of her left hand. At the same time, she was staring towards Rosemary Village with a mixture of anger and sadness in her gaze.

"They're dead..." The Crow Tengu Chief muttered with suppressed rage. "They're all dead..."

Then, she turned towards Erza with pure malice in her gaze.

"What did you do?" The Crow Tengu Chief asked, though it sounded more like she was ordering Erza to tell her.

"I've done nothing." Erza replied, ignoring the Tengu woman's tone. "But your forces must have run across my fiancée on their way to the village. And because of your orders, they more than likely ignored his request for them to turn back. As a result, they were eliminated."

"I see." The Crow Tengu replied, lowering her hand from her neck as she did so. "It was your mate who killed my people."

With her hand now lowered, a shallow pair of lines could be seen on either side of the Crow Tengu's fair neck.

"Then, I shall deliver him the same feeling of agony I am experiencing right now." The Crow Tengu said, her magic power increasing with every word. "And since you are his mate, before killing him, I will present him with your severed head on the tip of my spear."

In the next instant, the Crow Tengu appeared in front of Erza, moving at a speed much faster than she had displayed at any time prior. On top of that, her spear tip was aimed at the center of Erza's throat.

Then, before Erza could react, she found herself in her inner world.

Erza's inner world was a space with swords and weapons of all kinds impaled into a vast, desolate play. While in the sky, all of her armor sets floated on display.

"Why am I here at a time like this?" Erza wondered aloud.

"Because this was the only way I could think to save your life." Erza's [armament Spirit] said, her voice coming from above.

Looking up, Erza saw a slender woman with long, smooth black hair, an olive skin tone, vibrant green eyes, pointed ears like those of an elf or fairy, and two pairs of translucent, green fairy wings growing from her back donning an armored black dress with a green skirt, golden shoulder pauldrons, long black gloves with golden bracers, and thigh-high, black, armored, high heeled boots with golden accents descending from among the floating armor sets.

"How will this save my life?" Erza asked, a hint of confusion in her tone.

"I pulled you in here so that you can hear my name." The [Armament Spirit] replied. Then, in a severe tone, she continued. "Because... If you are unable to hear my voice this time, your life will end."

Hearing that, Erza's tone turned solemn, as well.

"Then, tell me your name." Erza replied solemnly. "I will hear it this time."

Nodding in satisfaction, [The Armament Spirit] landed in front of Erza with a plain, unadorned, longsword sheathed on her left hip.

"Before I tell you my name, remember this." The [Armament Spirit] said as she unsheathed the sword on her hip. [If you are able to hear my name, as soon as you return to your body, speak the words that resonate between your soul and my name.]

As she finished, the [Armament Spirit] stabbed the blade of the longsword into the ground in front of her, which just so happened to be the exact center of Erza's mindscape.

"Now!" The [Armament Spirit] shouted sonorously. "Here me, for my name is..."

In the next instant, Erza found herself back in her body. Then, she swung her [Soul Armament] at the incoming spearhead.

"[Deliver Justice as Swift as the Wind, Astraia]." Erza chanted as her magic power exploded while wind gathered around her blade, increasing the speed of her swing exponentially.

Clang!

In the next instant, to both Erza and the Crow Tengu's surprise, Erza's blade parried the incoming spear before it could pierce Erza's throat. At the same time, thanks to the force behind Erza's parry, the Crow tengu was blown off to the side, along with her spear.

"That was... incredible." Erza muttered while looking blankly at the Crow Tengu in the distance.

A moment later, Erza looked down at the longsword in her right hand. However, instead of the plain, unadorned longsword she had grown accustomed to over the past half a year, she now held a longsword with a green, double-edged blade with golden edges, a handguard that resembled two pairs of green fairy wings, a black hilt, and a golden pommel.

["Now that my seal has been released, you will have the wind at your disposal when administering justice."] Astraia said in a righteous tone. ["Whether it be to cut down our foes, hasten your steps, or defend the innocent, the wind will bend to your will."]

"I see." Erza muttered as she unsummoned the sword in her left hand, while once again focused on the Crow Tengu in front of her.

In the next moment, Erza vanished from where she floated like a gust of wind. However, due to the fact that she was not used to the speed at which she moved, she soared right past the Crow Tengu without even touching her.

"I guess this will take some getting used to." Erza muttered with a slight blush as she turned around to face the Crow Tengu again.

["Indeed."] Astraia replied to Erza's mutters. ["Still, increasing your speed is not the only thing you can do with the wind."]

"Right." Erza replied as her eyes sharpened and she raised her sword overhead with both hands.

["Just remember, an attack without a name is but an empty attack."] Astraia continued. ["Let your soul resonate with your attack. And the name of the spell will come to you naturally."]

Listening to Astraia's advice, Erza flowed her magic power into her sword.

Meanwhile, the Crow Tengu was frozen in disbelief. Until now, she had never met another living being who could match her in speed, let alone surpass her. Yet, she was unable to follow Erza's movements with her eyes.

Slowly, the Crow Tengu turned around to face Erza just as the wind began swirling around her blade. At that moment, her instincts were telling her to do whatever it took to get away from the red-haired swordswoman in front of her. However, before she could follow her instincts, Erza swung her sword from the distance.

"[Gale Cutter]." Erza chanted as her sword blurred into motion.

Splatter!

Then, before the Crow Tengu could react, the sound of flesh tearing, and blood spraying could be heard. A moment later, she looked around to try and determine from where the sounds originated. That was when she noticed that she was losing altitude. And from the corner of her eye, she saw that a body missing everything above its left shoulder to its right waist was falling next to her.

'Whose body is that?' The Crow Tengu wondered as her vision faded into darkness.

Meanwhile, Erza exhaled a deep breath. Then, she dispelled her [Soul Armament's] released before sheathing her blade.

["Well done, Erza."] Astraia said with a smile if judging by her tone.

"Thank you, Astraia." Erza replied, her lips curving into a smile.

Meanwhile, while floating even higher than Erza, Alfonzo smiled proudly.

"See, I told you I wouldn't have to interfere." Alfonzo said in a boastful tone. "My girl is strong as fuck. Both in mind and body."

["Tch!"] Riot clicked his tongue in displeasure.

"And now, you have to start doing all those anger management exercises I've read about in both this life and the last one." Alfonzo said in a teasing tone.

["Ahahahahaha!"] Bedlam laughed hysterically at Riot's plight.

["Fuck you both!"] Riot roared angrily.

Chapter 343: Strawberries and Cream (R-18)

"Ah~~~~~!" Erza intoned with her mouth wide open, and her eyes closed blissfully.

Currently, the sun had set and Alfonzo and Erza, having changed into comfortable clothing, were back at Erza's house in Rosemary Village. While Alfonzo sat on the couch in her living room, Erza sat on his lap, happily being fed a strawberry shortcake as a reward for breaking her [Soul Armament's], Astraia's, first seal and winning the battle above the mountain near the village.

After eliminating the Crow Tengu, first, Alfonzo showed himself to Erza, who was so focused on the battle with the Crow Tengu Chief, that she did not notice his presence until he descended in front of her. Then, hand-in-hand, they returned to the place where Alfonzo fought the Crow Tengu's head warrior to see Simon still looking at the devastation with a blank look in his eye.

Once again, Alfonzo thought he heard the sound of one of Simon's teeth crack when he and Erza arrived holding hands, but like before, he chalked it up as a figment of his imagination before the trio returned to the village.

Upon arrival, Simon spent some time reassuring the villagers that everything was fine, and that the threat had been dealt with. Then, the trio made their way to Simon's house where Alfonzo and Erza reported on their successful quest and Simon handed over the reward.

After that, while leaving Simon's house, Alfonzo asked Erza what she wanted as a reward for breaking Astraia's first seal. And Erza answered that she wanted Alfonzo to feed her a strawberry shortcake. So, the duo once again went to the market to buy ingredients.

Then, after some preparation and a lovely dinner, we come to the present. With Alfonzo gently guiding a small piece of strawberry shortcake skewered on the end of a fork into Erza's mouth.

"Mmm~~~~~!" Erza moaned in pleasure as she carefully chewed and leaned into Alfonzo's chest.

'If this girl keeps this up, I'm gonna eat her after she finishes eating this cake.' Alfonzo thought as he listened to Erza's oddly sensual moaning.

["I thought you'd be used to this by now."] Bedlam said with mirth in his tone. ["I mean, this kind of thing has been happening since you started cooking for the guild, right? If I remember correctly, Evergreen was the first one to ever moan because of your food, right?"]

'Yeah, but there were two huge differences between then and now.' Alfonzo replied mentally while skewering another piece of cake. 'First, she was only seven or some shit. And second, she wasn't sitting in my fucking lap.'

["Fair enough."] Bedlam replied with a shrug.

Like that, Alfonzo continued feeding Erza the strawberry shortcake and Erza continued to moan with every bite. On top of that, about halfway through the whole episode, Erza began squirming as she ate, intentionally or unintentionally rubbing her butt on Alfonzo's crotch.

'This girl's trying to get fucked, isn't she?' Alfonzo thought to himself as Erza's butt squirmed against his growing erection.

["Seems that way."] Bedlam replied.

On a side note, Riot had been quiet ever since Erza won her battle. Just as mentioned previously, he was going through all the anger management material Alfonzo had read in both lives with a scowl on his face. But since a bet was a bet, he followed through with his end of the deal. Though, no one knew if anything would come of it.

Eventually, there was only one fork full of the strawberry shortcake remaining. And like with every other piece, Erza closed her eyes as soon as Alfonzo skewered it on the tip of the fork.

"Ah~~~~~!" Erza intoned, looking forward to savoring the last piece of her favorite dessert.

However, unlike before, she never felt Alfonzo bringing the fork close to her lips. So, wither brows slightly furrowed, she opened her eyes.

As soon as her eyes were open, Erza saw Alfonzo's face drawing nearer with the piece of cake held between his lips.

"Huh?" Erza exclaimed in confusion before her lips were sealed by Alfonzo's. "mm~~~~~!"

Alfonzo continued to kiss Erza while she gently chewed the last piece of cake. Then, once he heard her swallow, he broke the kiss with a smile on his face.

"Was it good?" Alfonzo asked.

Instead of replying verbally, Erza placed her hands on Alfonzo's cheeks before pulling him in for another, more passionate kiss.

Like that, with their tongues dancing passionately, Alfonzo and Erza continued to kiss for the next two or so minutes. Meanwhile, Alfonzo's right hand, which at some point, had dropped the fork on the coffee table, had crept to Erza's waist and was entering under her tank top.

Erza, on the other hand, had wrapped her arms around Alfonzo's neck while grinding her butt on Alfonzo's crotch.

"Ah!" Erza gasped as Alfonzo's hand finally reached her left breast and gave it a squeeze.

Leaning back in to continue the kiss, Erza did not react in the slightest as Alfonzo slowly raised her tank top, exposing her breasts and abdomen. Instead, she moaned softly as his fingertips ran across the sensitive skin of her breasts and brushed against her rapidly hardening nipples.

Eventually, with Erza still in his arms, Alfonzo stood from the couch and carried her to the kitchen before sitting her on the countertop. At the same time, he used his magic to open the stainless steel refrigerator and take out two metal bowls, one containing leftover cream while the other contained unused strawberries.

Breaking the kiss, Alfonzo used the opportunity to raise Erza's tank top over her head before tossing it to the floor. At the same time, the sound of the two bowls landing next to Erza on the countertop drew her attention.

"Cream and Strawberries, what are those for?" Erza asked, already having a pretty good idea of the answer as her face quickly gained the same hue as her hair.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo was sliding Erza's shorts down her legs. Then, when he heard her question, he looked up with a grin.

"We both know you already know the answer to that question." Alfonzo said as he materialized a large metal spoon in his right hand.

After scooping a generous amount of cream onto the spoon, Alfonzo stopped for a moment to admire Erza's naked body. Smooth, fair skin, large, perky breasts, a slim waist, a round ass, and long, toned legs.

"Beautiful..." Alfonzo muttered as he raised the spoon and began drizzling the cream on Erza's torso.

Starting at her neck, Alfonzo left a trail of cream running past her right collar bone, down to her breast. Then, once he reached her nipple, he scooped another spoonful of cream before plopping the entire spoonful on top of her nipple and areola. After that, he restarted his trail, drizzling the cream down the rest of her breast towards her navel and finally down to her pussy, where he made a small mound on top of her clit.

Then, Alfonzo repeated the process, but down the left side of Erza's torso. And once he was satisfied with his work, he put the spoon into the bowl of cream before reaching for a strawberry. And like the strawberry shortcake from before, he put it between his lips before kissing Erza.

Meanwhile, as the kiss continued, Alfonzo carefully placed a few more strawberries on the cream he had spread on Erza's body. Namely, atop her nipples, on her naval, and right above her clit. Then, once everything was ready, Alfonzo broke the kiss.

Starting on the left side of Erza's neck, Alfonzo began licking and kissing the cream off of her skin as he followed the trail. And with every kiss and brush of his tongue, Erza would squirm. While at the same time, trying not to move too much and cause the strawberries and cream to fall from her body.

Eventually, Alfonzo reached Erza's left nipple, where a mound of cream was topped by a strawberry. Then, he bit into the strawberry before bringing it to Erza's mouth and letting her eat it as he continued cleaning her left breast with his lips and tongue.

"Mmm!" Erza moaned softly as Alfonzo's tongue swirled around her areola and nipple, cleaning them both of cream.

Once Erza's left nipple was free of cream, Alfonzo began moving down once again. However, just before he reached Erza's naval, he moved up to Erza's neck and repeated the process down her right side. Then, after reaching her naval once again, Alfonzo bit into the strawberry situated on top of it. But instead of feeding it to her, he chewed it himself while continuing to kiss away all the cream on her abdomen.

Eventually, Alfonzo reached Erza's pussy. And when he did, he took the entire mound of cream, the strawberry, and Erza's clit into his mouth.

"Ah!" Erza gasped.

Then, with his lips wrapped around her clit, Alfonzo started chewing the strawberry and cream in his mouth while his lips clumsily massaged her clit.

"Ahn~~~!" Erza moaned from the stimulation.

Unbothered, Alfonzo continued to eat. And when he eventually swallowed the strawberry and cream, he began eating her pussy properly.

"Oh my... Mmm~~~~~! Alfonzo..." Erza moaned as she threw her head back when Alfonzo started sucking on her clit while simultaneously massaging it with his tongue.

A moment later, Alfonzo even inserted the middle and ring fingers of his right hand into Erza's pussy while reaching up with his left hand and massaging her right breast. And with all the stimulation, it did not take long for Erza to reach her first climax. However, just before she could cum, Alfonzo completely stopped all his movements and pulled his fingers from inside her.

Naturally, Erza whined at the denial of her orgasm. However, when she saw Alfonzo taking his own clothes off, her gaze was stuck. And when she saw him smearing cream all over his erect dick, she hopped off the counter and fell to her knees in front of him with sparkling eyes.

In the next instant, Erza took Alfonzo's whole dick into her mouth in one motion, not even gagging as it scraped against the back of her throat. Then, after another moment, Erza pulled her head back, revealing

Alfonzo's dick, free of cream. Still, she leaned forward and ran her tongue over every inch to make sure she did not miss anything.

Before she could start sucking his dick again, Alfonzo lifted Erza to her feet. Then, without a word, he turned her around and bent over the counter and buried himself balls deep in her pussy in one go.

"Ahn~~~~~!" Erza moaned as her back arched from the sudden penetration.

And Erza's moans grew in volume as Alfonzo pounded her from behind. And with every stroke, Alfonzo increased the speed and power behind his thrusts.

Then, after only a few minutes, Erza felt herself reaching an orgasm once again. But just like last time, Alfonzo completely stopped.

This time, too, Erza whined as Alfonzo pulled out of her. However, all she got in return was a devilish grin.

And just like that, Alfonzo continued to fuck Erza, changing positions and locations as he did so. And just like the two times previously mentioned, Alfonzo would stop every time Erza was about to reach an orgasm. Yet any time Alfonzo felt as if he would cum, he would stop pounding her before putting his dick in her mouth and letting go. Or, he would simply pull out and cum all over her.

Eventually, after nearly three hours of denying Erza's orgasms, Alfonzo, with Erz's legs over his shoulders and pressing her against her mattress decided that she had been tortured enough. So, with all his might, he pounded Erza into the bed.

"Ahh~~~~~! Alfonzo! Alfonzo! Please, let me cum this time, Ahn~~~~~!" Erza moaned and screamed as she begged for release.

And to her surprise, and slight disappointment, Alfonzo did not stop this time. Instead, he picked up the pace.

"Ahh~~~~~!" Erza screamed as she was finally allowed to cum.

And while cumming so explosively, Erza's back arched hard enough to push Alfonzo from on top of her, her eyes rolled back into her head, her toes curled, and her hands gripped the sheets so tightly that they ripped in her grasp.

And through it all, Alfonzo continued to pound Erz's pussy like his life depended on it, extending her orgasm until he eventually came as well.

"Ugh! Fuck!" Alfonzo groaned as he came inside of Erza for the first time this evening.

After that, it took two full minutes for Erza to stop convulsing. Then, as soon as she did, she passed out.

"Hmm... If I hadn't kept going when I let her cum, we could have probably went for another round." Alfonzo muttered as he scooped Erza up in a princess carry. "Oh well, I'll get us cleaned up before we go to bed. I'm sure Erza would hate waking up and smelling like a combination of cum, sweat, and cream."

With that, Alfonzo carried Erza into the bathroom before washing her unconscious body and his own body. Then, after drying both of them off, he changed the bedding before climbing into bed with Erza before falling asleep as well. They would have to return to Magnolia tomorrow morning, after all.

Chapter 344: Another Mermaid Arrives

The next morning, Erza slowly opened her eyes. Feeling the pair of arms wrapped around her and the warm body pressed against her back, she could not help but smile. A moment later, however, her face reddened as remembering what happened before passing out last night.

["You're finally awake."] Astraia said from Erza's inner world. ["I never thought I'd see the day you passed out from exhaustion."]

'*Sigh* Last night was a bit too much.' Erza replied. 'It's quite rare that I'm the focus of all of Alfonzo's love, after all.'

["*Chuckle* Indeed."] Astraia said mirthfully. ["Still, it may be a good idea to increase your stamina training. I doubt you enjoyed being overwhelmed so one-sidedly, after all."]

'I was thinking the same, actually.' Erza replied with a nod.

After that short conversation, Erza carefully removed Alfonzo's arms from around her waist to not wake him up. However, her efforts were for not as just before she moved his arms, Alfonzo's hug tightened.

"Good morning, Erza." Alfonzo said, the smile on his face evident in his tone. "Did you sleep well?"

"I did." Erza replied. "Though, I'm not really happy about passing out like I did."

"Yeah, sorry about that." Alfonzo said before kissing Erza on the side of her neck. "I think I went a little overboard at the end."

"No, you have nothing to apologize for." Erza replied in a determined tone. "It just means that I need to increase my training."

Hearing that, Alfonzo chuckled.

"Well, I can hear it in your voice. No matter what I say, you won't change your mind." Alfonzo said as he started combing his fingers through Erza's hair. "Not that more training is a bad thing."

Like that, the two laid in comfortable silence for a few minutes. Then Alfonzo slowly released his arms from around Erza's waist.

"Anyway, we should have breakfast." Alfonzo said as he sat up and stretched. "We've got a long drive ahead of us to get back to Magnolia."

With that, Alfonzo and Erza got out of bed. And while Alfonzo prepared breakfast, Erza packed their belongings.

Then, after a hardy breakfast, Alfonzo and Erza decided to head to Simon's house to say goodbye. However, when they opened the front door of Erza's house, they noticed dried blood splattered on the ground in it.

"Is this blood?" Erza asked, squatting down to investigate. "I wonder what it's from."

'I think I have a pretty good idea.' Alfonzo thought to himself with a grin. 'Simon did come by the house last night. But he never knocked on the door. I guess he heard the sounds of love making inside and... well...'

"We should report this to Simon." Erza said solemnly, looking up as she did so.

Shaking his head, Alfonzo did not have the heart to deny Erza. So, the duo made their way to Simon's house. And when Erza told Simon about the blood they found outside of her house, Alfonzo struggled to keep his laughter in check as Simon's face reddened while he stammered out an excuse about a cat catching a mouse or something.

Meanwhile, Erza, believing her old friend would not lie to her, nodded her head in understanding before informing Simon that she and Alfonzo would be leaving.

Deciding to accompany the two Fairy Tail wizards to their vehicle, which they parked outside the village due to the roads in the village being too narrow, Simon bid Erza farewell as she climbed into the Escalade while Alfonzo put the bags in the trunk.

Then, without a word to Alfonzo, Simon turned around and returned to the village.

"Why does it seem as if Simon doesn't like you very much?" Erza asked curiously as soon as Alfonzo took his seat behind the wheel.

"Who knows, Alfonzo said with a shrug. "It's probably because he hasn't' gotten to know me like he has with you and your other friends from the tower."

"Perhaps." Erza said with a nod.

And with that, Alfonzo and Erza began the twenty-five hour trip back to Magnolia, taking a break over night at the nearest town to Magnolia.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Magnolia.

The next day, when Alfonzo and Erza arrived in town, rain was falling in sheets. AS a result, the usually bustling town had a much more subdued atmosphere. Though, there was a certain beauty to the town when drenched in rain.

"I guess the guild will be rowdier than usual today." Erza said as she looked at the town through the Escalade's window.

"Yeah, no one likes to go out on a job in weather like this." Alfonzo replied while driving carefully through the town. "By the way, I heard the girls were going to decide how to deal with Yoruichi while we were gone. Are you sure you didn't wanna be a part of that?"

In response, Erza shook her head gently.

"I trust their judgement." Erza said. "And I know they will make the best possible decision."

"And what's your opinion on the matter?" Alfonzo asked curiously.

"I don't really have one." Erza replied. "Although what she did angered me, I don't know her well enough to know if it was done with malice or just a mistake in judgement."

"I see." Alfonzo replied.

With that, the conversation about Yoruichi ended and the couple continued to chat while they made their way to the guild hall.

If Alfonzo were to be honest, he did not care one way or another if the girls allowed Yoruichi to join his harem. Though, he was leaning slightly towards not letting her join. She did take advantage of him while he was drunk, after all. But he also knew that there was no malicious intent behind her actions, and that's why he said he'd let the girls decide.

Eventually, the Escalade pulled up to the guild. However, instead of parking in front of the sliding doors like usual, Alfonzo brought the Escalade around to the back of the guild hall before opening the path to the underground garage and parking there.

A few minutes later, Alfonzo and Erza stepped into the main hall through the elevator doors. And naturally, Elicia was the first to notice their arrival.

"Fonzie and Erza are back!" Elicia shouted happily.

Despite Elicia's loud shout, no one reacted to it. And the reason for that was simple. Other than a few people, Elicia included, the entire guild hall was embroiled in a brawl.

Seeing the sight in front of them once they exited the elevator, Alfonzo could only smile wryly while tilting his head to dodge a mug of ale that came flying at him, allowing it to crash in to the closed elevator doors behind him.

Erza, on the other hand, was scanning the guild hall with a solemn expression on her face. All the while, her left eyebrow was twitching in irritation.

"Well, it looks like a few people, and by a few people, I mean a lot of people, are about to have a bad time." Alfonzo muttered while his wry smile widened.

"That's enough!" Erza shouted loudly as she unsheathed her [Soul Armament]. "[Deliver Justice as Swiftly as the Wind, Astraia]."

In the next instant, just as all the brawlers froze due to the sound of Erza's voice, Erza vanished from where she stood with a gust of wind.

Bang! *Bang!* *Bang!* *Bang!* *Bang!*

Then, near simultaneously, all those taking part in the brawl squatted down and covered their heads with pain-filled expressions on their faces.

Bang!

Followed by the sound of something smashing into a wall.

"I still can't control it." Erza said as she took a step away from the wall next to the bar while rubbing her reddened nose.

["What did you expect?"] Astraia asked in an exasperated tone. ["It's only been three days since you first used it. On top of that, you haven't used it since then, either."]

"I guess you're right." Erza muttered in response as her eyes narrowed.

Then, Erza spun around to glare at the members of the guild while still rubbing her nose, stifling the laughter that would have undoubtedly erupted had she not done so.

"I swear, this is all you lot ever do." Erza said, switching from rubbing her nose to her forehead. Then, she glared in the direction of the quest board. "And for the love of everything holy, Nab, please pick a job!"

Hearing that, Nab could not help but flinch. Still, he continued to look through each quest posting with concentration.

"*Sigh* Why can't you all use your time to do something more constructive?" Erza asked while shaking her head.

Then, Erza walked over to the table where she and her friends usually sat.

"Welcome back, Erza." Elicia said with a smile.

"Thanks." Erza replied, letting a smile creep onto her face as well. "It's good to be back."

"Is that your unsealed [Soul Armament?]" Sun asked with curiosity shining in her eyes.

"Indeed." Erza replied with a nod as she dispelled the release, the fairy wings on the handguard retracting as she did so. "Her name is Astraia."

'Goddess of Justice, huh?' Elicia thought to herself after hearing Erza's [Armament Spirit's] name. 'It really suits her.'

"So, how was it seeing your old village again?" Marin asked while patting the seat next to her. "And how was your time alone with Fonzie?"

"Both were quite enjoyable." Erza said, a slight dusting of red appearing on her cheeks as she sheathed Astraia and took a seat next to Marin.

"Ooh, I need details, girl!" Marin said excitedly.

Not only Marin, but all the girls who were not part of the brawl showed interest in Erza's story. Meanwhile, those who took part in the brawl, namely Cana and Ultear, glared at her as they returned to the table. Still, they listened to her story in fascination, nonetheless.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, who had seemingly been forgotten, turned around and pressed the elevator call button.

"I guess I'll go report on the quest." Alfonzo muttered as the elevator doors opened.

A few hours later, after giving Ur his report, and spending some time talking to his guild mates, Alfonzo decided to go back to the mansion. Although he was pretty sure the materials for Mermaid Heel's training rooms would not be delivered in such heavy rain, stranger things had happened before.

Meanwhile, the others living in his mansion decided to wait out the rain. So, he made the trip back home, alone.

"Our birthday is coming soon." Alfonzo muttered to himself as he drove down the street leading to his house. "I guess now's the time to do it."

["Are you talking about finally forgiving Lici?"] Riot asked, speaking for the first time in nearly three days. ["It's already been, like, two months."]

"Yeah, I'll be doing that, too." Alfonzo replied while focusing on the road. "But that's not what I was talking about."

["Hmm... This sounds quite interesting."] Bedlam said in an amused tone. ["You're not even letting us know. I tried peeking into your thoughts, but you're shielding them. I didn't even know that was possible."]

["Come on, Dude, just tell us."] Riot said in an irritated tone. Despite his irritation, however, he did not raise his voice. ["It's not like we can tell anyone and spoil the surprise."]

'Is that anger management shit actually working?' Alfonzo and Bedlam thought at the same time.

["He's right, you know."] Bedlam said, speaking in the tone of a shady merchant. ["Why don't you just tell us. Maybe we can help you brainstorm for whatever you're planning."]

Realizing the two [Soul Armament Spirits] were correct, Alfonzo wondered why he had been keeping it a secret from them in the first place. Well, he knew why he kept it a secret from Riot. And that was because if that guy knew, he would go into full simp mode.

Nearing the front gate of his mansion, and just as he was about to tell Riot and Bedlam what he was planning for his and Elicia's birthday, Alfonzo caught sight of an abnormal female silhouette lying on the ground between his and the Seto family's mansion with an umbrella being blown away by the wind not far away from her.

"Oh, hell nah." Alfonzo groaned after recognizing the silhouette. "Even if it happened a few years later than I expected, I still don't wanna deal with the shit she'll definitely bring with her."

As Alfonzo got closer to his mansion's gate, the identity of the silhouette on the ground solidified in his mind more and more. And when he made eye contact with the beautiful young woman with pink eyes and hair tied into twin tails, a petite figure, and a yellow fish tail in place of legs, his hunch turned into certainty.

Chapter 345: The Merfolk Are Increasing

Maintaining eye contact with the mermaid lying on the ground for a few more moments, Alfonzo decided in the end that he did not see her. So, he continued driving towards his mansion's front gate without a care.

"I know you can see me!" The mermaid shouted angrily in a high pitched voice. "Now, get over here and help me!"

Hearing the scream in the distance, Alfonzo exhaled a sigh.

"I know I'm gonna regret this." Alfonzo muttered as he stepped on the brake. "But I really can't just leave her there... Even if it's against my better judgement."

["Yeah, leaving a girl in such a place is beneath us."] Bedlam added. Though, it was obvious he would rather leave the mermaid where she was as well.

Once the Escalade came to a stop, Alfonzo opened the car door. Then, as he stepped out of the vehicle, he created a parasol made of thin metal and closed the door behind him.

After a few moments, Alfonzo stood before the pink-haired mermaid and looked down at her while she glared up at him in return.

"What took you so long?" The mermaid asked aggressively.

"*Sigh* I should have just went home..." Alfonzo said under his breath.

"What!?" The mermaid shrieked. "Help me out of this rain immediately. Then, dry my tail. After that---"

"Slow down, sweetheart." Alfonzo said while narrowing his eyes. "I don't know who the hell you think you are, but that's not the way you ask someone for a favor. Oh, and don't forget the magic word when you try again."

"How dare you!" The mermaid shouted. "Do you have any idea who I am? I'm Lunar Edomae! A songstress famous throughout the continent, as well as the daughter of the head of the Edomae Group. Just for seeing me like this, I should have you put to---"

"Sorry, but that threat won't work, either." Alfonzo replied, his eyes narrowing even further. "I'm already betrothed to someone from your race, so I have every right to know your secret. So, say another word about it, and I'm leaving you here."

Hearing that, the mermaid fell silent. This was the first time her true form had ever been exposed in front of a human, so she did not know what else to do. On top of that, she was famous all over the continent. So, when she saw that Alfonzo was about to ignore her earlier, her attitude turned aggressive.

"*Sigh* I'm sorry." The mermaid said, lowering her head apologetically. "I've never been in a situation like this before... and I panicked. Please, can you help me?"

This time, it was Alfonzo's turn to fall silent. Never in his wildest dreams did he think that the girl in front of him, Lunar Edomae, would lower her head in apology or ask for help politely. And with so much sincerity, as well. It was all so far outside of his expectations that he did not know how to respond.

"Hey, is someone there?" A voice echoed from the Seto Family's mansion, breaking the awkward atmosphere.

Looking in the voice's direction, Alfonzo and Lunar saw Shark Fujishiro poking his head out from the mansion's front door.

'Damn, I actually forgot about this guy.' Alfonzo thought to himself after catching sight of the shark merfolk. 'I haven't seen him in such a long time, I thought he went back to Akane Beach to continue working for the Seto Group.'

As a matter of fact, Shark Fujishiro had been banned from going to the town and interacting with its people after Sun found him standing over a child, who had fallen and scraped his knee, with drool dripping from his mouth.

Afraid that he would one day end up eating one of the townsfolk after losing control of his instincts, he had been confined to the Seto mansion. Though, the original plan was to send him back to Akane Beach as Alfonzo thought. However, because of his strength, he was kept on as the mansion's guard.

"Hey, Fujishiro!" Alfonzo shouted, waving his hand under his parasol. "I found a girl from your species laying on the ground out here."

"One of my species? A merfolk?" Fujishiro mumbled to himself as he stepped out of the mansion. "But why are they out here? Such a pain?"

'He still has that same weird ass speech pattern...' Alfonzo and Lunar thought simultaneously.

Meanwhile, as Fujishiro made his way over to the two, Alfonzo expanded his parasol to cover Lunar as well.

"So, what are you doing here?" Alfonzo asked, already having an idea of the answer.

"I heard Sun was living here." Lunar replied, shifting her gaze back to Alfonzo. "And I wanted to see her."

'Hmm... Since she spent much more time alone after Sun came with me, did she realize that Sun was her only friend and actually mellowed out because of it?'

["That's how it looks to me."] Bedlam replied. ["Besides that, she should be seventeen or eighteen now. Surely, she has matured more than what would have been shown in the anime, right?"]

'Yeah, you're probably right.' Alfonzo replied.

"I see." Well, Sun is at the guild right now." Alfonzo said. "She planned on waiting out the rain. So, she won't be back for a while."

"*Sigh* I guess that makes sense." Lunar replied. "I should have done the same thing."

Seeing the regret on Lunar's face, Alfonzo's heart softened a bit.

'Maybe she won't be as bad as I thought she would.' Alfonzo said to himself.

["Only time will tell."] Bedlam replied. ["But you should be careful. I could definitely see Sun trying to add her best friend to your harem, too."]

Just the thought of having Lunar in his harem made Alfonzo shudder involuntarily. Although Lunar seemed like she would be much easier to get along with than her canon counterpart., Alfonzo did not even factor her into the equation

'Yeah, no thanks.' Alfonzo replied mentally. 'Two doting fathers-in-law are enough for me. And I really don't wanna add that budget Terminator to the list.'

["Hahaha... Yeah, I get it."] Bedlam replied with a hollow laugh.

At that point, Fujishiro reached Alfonzo and Lunar's location. And as he did, he quickly took shelter from the rain under Alfonzo's metal parasol.

"You still look delicious as ever?" Fujishiro said while gazing at Alfonzo hungrily.

"Bruh... Although I know what you mean when you say that, that sounds pretty gay." Alfonzo said with a blank expression. "Not that I have a problem with anyone's sexual preferences. But I'm not into that shit, personally."

Immediately, Fujishiro's hungry gaze turned into a dumbfounded one. Then, after processing what Alfonzo said for a moment, he was broken out of his thoughts by a stifled giggle from Lunar.

"I'll eat you?" Fujishiro shouted as he lunged at Alfonzo with his sharp teeth bared.

A moment later, however, Fujishiro's forward momentum was forced to a stop when a metal rod appeared between his jaws, holding his mouth open. ON top of that, thanks to Alfonzo's magic, it stayed in place despite Fujishiro's body moving forward.

"I'll pass." Alfonzo said nonchalantly. "For now, we have more important things to take care of. Let's get Miss Edomae inside and into some dry clothes. And while you do that, I'll go back to the guild to pick up Sun, Gozaburo, Ren, and Masa."

Unable to speak or even move from where he stood, Fujishiro could only acknowledge Alfonzo's words with his eyes.

Seeing Fujishiro's acknowledgement, Alfonzo removed the effect of the metal rod being anchored in place. Then, he bent down to pick up Lunar.

"Excuse me." Alfonzo said as he picked up Lunar and carried her in one arm like a small child.

At the same time, Lunar could not help but blush at the close contact with a male other than her father. And her face stayed that way until Alfonzo put her down on a couch in the Seto's living room.

"Okay, I'll be back soon." Alfonzo said, turning towards the front door. "Fujishiro, make sure she gets into some dry clothes. Since she should be around the same height as Sun, if not a bit shorter, her clothes should fit."

Then, Alfonzo glanced back at Lunar from over his shoulder.

"Though, they might be a little loose in some areas." Alfonzo continued.

Following Alfonzo's line of sight, Lunar looked down at her chest, and she could not help but bristle with anger.

"What are you looking at, you damn pervert?" Lunar shrieked while covering her chest defensively.

In response, Alfonzo only shook his head with a light smile on his face.

"Anyway, get her some dry clothes." Alfonzo said once again. "And a towel so that she can dry her tail would be good, too."

"You hear that, Maki?" Fujishiro shouted.

"On it." A high pitched female voice echoed from further inside the house.

'Forgot about her, too.' Alfonzo muttered internally.

["Well, after what you did to her, it only makes sense that she hasn't shown herself in front of you since then."] Bedlam replied in a mirthful tone.

In fact, ever since Sun was engaged to Alfonzo, Maki had always followed Sun around secretly. And although Alfonzo knew about it, he did nothing. Someone of Sun's background having a bodyguard was not out of the norm, after all.

However, after Sun had sex with Alfonzo for the first time, Maki actually tried to assassinate Alfonzo in his sleep for tainting Sun's purity. It should go without saying that her plan did not succeed thanks to the danger awareness Alfonzo had cultivated after his run in with the Leviathan.

So, as punishment, Alfonzo put Maki in a small cage and dangled her in front of Happy for several hours, nearly scaring the little hermit crab merfolk to death.

On a side note, most merfolk are terrified of cats. An exception to this fear being Masa, who seems to be as cool as a cucumber in all situations.

"Anyway, I'm gone." Alfonzo said. "I'll be back in about half an hour."

With that, Alfonzo left the house under Lunar's angry glare while smiling lightly.

Then, just as he said, he returned half an hour later with the entire Seto family.

"Lunar!" Sun shouted as soon as she entered the living room while dashing towards her friend. "It's been so long! How are you? What have you been up to?"

A moment later, Sun pulled Lunar, who was sitting on the couch with her legs back in their human form, into a hug. However, Lunar was unable to respond to Sun's rapid fire questions because Sun was smothering her with her bosom.

At first, Lunar tried to push Sun away feeling jealousy over Sun's explosive curves. Unfortunately, thanks to Sun's increased strength from all the training she's done as a wizard, her attempts were futile. As a result, Lunar could do little more than flail her arms. However, as time passed, her struggle lessened due to a lack of oxygen.

"Sun, Sweetie, I know you're happy to see Lunar, but if you don't let go, you're going to kill her." Ren said while smiling wryly at her daughter's enthusiasm.

"Huh?" Sun exclaimed in confusion as she glanced back at her mother. Then, she looked down at Lunar, who had fallen limp in her arms.

"Ahh~~~~~! Lunar, are you okay?" Sun asked in a panic as she released Lunar from her embrace. Then, when Lunar did not respond after a moment, she began shaking her violently. "Hey, Lunar, stay with me!"

"*Sigh* She really might kill her..." Ren said in an exasperated tone.

"That's actually quite ironic." Alfonzo muttered with a wry smile. "She might be the first merfolk in history to die from suffocation."

Luckily, Lunar came back to the world of the living after a few moments.

"Well, I'm gonna head home." Alfonzo said with a yawn. "After my quest and all that driving, I'm pretty tired."

"Yes, I heard Erza talking about your quest." Ren replied with a smile. "You deserve a rest."

"Okay, see you later, Alfonzo." Sun said energetically. "I'll stay here and talk with Lunar for a while."

"Yeah, get out of here and get some rest, Kid." Gozaburo said with a shit eating grin.

It was obvious to everyone in the room that Gozaburo just wanted Alfonzo to leave so that he could spend time with Sun without him being around. Still, considering that he did not insult his future son-in-law, he had made a lot of progress.

"Alright, see y'all later." Alfonzo said as he turned around while waving at the group from over his shoulder.

"I'll see you to the door, Alfonzo." Masa said, following Alfonzo out of the living room.

Eventually, the two men reached the mansion's front door.

"You really didn't need to see me out, Masa." Alfonzo said as they reached the entrance.

"Actually, I wanted to warn you about something." Masa replied in a slightly unsure tone.

"Oh, go ahead." Alfonzo said.

"Well, it's about Miss Edomae's father..." Masa said, his tone becoming more uncertain.

"Don't tell me, he's just like Gozaburo?" Alfonzo asked playfully.

"That's... one way to put it." Masa replied. "Like the Boss, he's quite the enthusiastic father. Even if he doesn't show it outwardly like the Boss does. And seeing as Miss Edomae has come in contact with you, he will undoubtedly find out and come to... test your metal, excuse the pun.""

"I see." Alfonzo replied with a nod, expecting Masa to say something along those lines. "But since I have no interest in his little girl, it shouldn't be a problem, right?"

"*Sigh* That might be a problem in itself." Masa replied. "He may take issue with the fact that you're not interested in her, thinking that you don't find her beautiful."

"So, a damned if I do, damned if I don't situation, huh?" Alfonzo asked with a chuckle. A moment later, however, his eyes narrowed as his gaze sharpened. "Well, if he gets out of pocket, he can catch a bitch slap just like Gozaburo did a few years ago. And since I'm a lot stronger physically than I was back then, it will probably hurt like a mother fucker."

"I guess that's true." Masa replied with a smile.

"By the way, Masa." Alfonzo said.

"Yes?" Masa asked.

"Do you have any experience with wielding Tonfa?" Alfonzo asked.

"It's not my best weapon, but I can use them." Masa replied with a nod. "I'm no worse with Tonfa than I am with a sword. Being able to use any weapon in any situation is a staple in my line of work, after all."

"I see." Alfonzo said with a wide smile. "Then, do you think you could help me improve my tonfa technique?"

Masa smiled in return.

"I would be happy to offer my assistance to Mis Sun's fiancé." Masa replied with a smile.

Chapter 346: Alfonzo's Plans Take Shape

Shortly after Alfonzo left the Seto family's living room, Sun turned to Lunar with excitement gleaming in her eyes.

"Hey, Lunar." Sun said energetically. "I heard you were caught in the rain. How 'bout we take a bath and get you all warmed up."

"Sure, Sun." Lunar replied with a smile. "A bath sounds nice right about now."

"Great!" Sun shouted happily as she jumped off the couch. Then, she grabbed Lunar by the arm and pulled her up, as well. "Come on let's go! Maki! Could you please prepare the bath for us?"

"As you wish, Miss Sun." Maki said, poking her head out from around a corner now that Alfonzo was gone.

"Hey, Sun, wait..." Gozaburo said weakly while raising his right hand in Sun's direction powerlessly. "Daddy wanted to... spend some time together..."

While Gozaburo looked completely heartbroken that Sun had left him so readily, Ren could only shake her head at Gozaburo's antics.

"You make it seem like you don't get to see her almost every day at the gild." Ren said in exasperation. "Anyway, can you believe how much Lunar has changed in the last four years?"

"Yeah, the brat finally grew up." Gozaburo said grumpily as he lowered his hand. "We really should thank her manager. Because I'm pretty sure Edomae had very little to do with it."

"*Sigh* As true as it may be, you really shouldn't say things like that, Dear." Ren said.

As Masa had told Alfonzo, Lunar's father does not show his care for his daughter outwardly. Instead, he shows his affection by buying her luxuries of all kinds. Especially after his wife, Lunar's mother passed away. As a result, due to his grief, he very rarely spent any quality time with her. And that was probably what led to Lunar's bratty personality. Well, part of it, anyway.

Meanwhile, Sun and Lunar were in the changing room of the mansion's large Japanese-style bathroom.

"So, what have you been up to since the last time I saw you, Lunar?" Sun asked excitedly. "That was a little over four years ago, right? At the East/West Merfolk Union meeting, I think."

"Yeah, Lunar replied with a nod. "Not long after that, I started my career as a songstress."

"A songstress? You mean a singer, right?" Sun asked while tilting her head cutely.

"Yeah." Lunar replied.

"That's so cool.!" Sun said happily while putting her clothes in the laundry basket. "But what made you want to do that?"

"After losing to you again at the Union Meeting's talent show, I became a professional singer to prove to everyone that I was a better singer than you." Lunar replied through gritted teeth.

"But why?" Sun asked, not really understanding Lunar's motive.

"*Sigh* I was jealous." Lunar replied, exhaling all the negativity she was feeling. "I would practice so hard for the talent show every year. Yet, you would win with whatever ridiculous song you sung. I just wanted to win against you."

"But Lunar, I..." Sun said, however, she was unable to finish.

"And at first, I felt like I did win." Lunar continued, her tone saddening as she spoke. "I had so many fans around the continent. So many people loved my songs. They loved 'Lunar.' But they only loved the Lunar they saw on stage, not 'the real Lunar'."

At this point, Lunar had stopped undressing, and Sun was just listening to her tell her story.

"And when I found out, it broke my heart." Lunar continued. "A boy about my age came to one of my shows. And after the performance was over, he came back stage to get my autograph. However, he happened to see me the way I was back then, throwing a tantrum because I didn't get my way. And he was horrified at what he saw."

"Oh, Lunar..." Sun said in a conciliatory tone.

"So, I decided that I would make him fall in love with me." Lunar said with a self-deprecating smile. "Yeah, that was my solution. Because he did not like the me that he saw that day, I wanted to make him fall in love with me so deeply that he would not be able to live without me."

However, to Sun's surprise, Lunar's expression suddenly morphed into a gentle, loving expression.

"But somehow, I was the one who fell in love." Lunar continued in an affectionate tone with a slight blush on her face. "And when I realized it, my reason for making him fall in love with me changed."

"Ooh~~~~~!" Sun squealed excitedly. "And? How did it go? Tell me! Tell me!"

Giggling at her friend's enthusiasm, Lunar continued getting undressed.

"Well, it took almost two years." Lunar said with a happy smile. "But Nagasumi eventually told me that he loved me, too. And it was the happiest day of my life. Though, he still has to deal with the occasional death threat from Papa."

Hearing that, Sun's eyes sparkled brightly. Also, Lunar had finally finished getting undressed, so the two made their way into the bathroom.

"The only problem is that he doesn't know I'm a mermaid yet." Lunar said as she took a seat in front of one of the bathroom's showerheads.

"You haven't told him yet?" Sun asked while doing the same.

"No." Lunar replied, shaking her head as she reached for the faucet. "I'm too afraid. Afraid of how he'll react."

"Well, you need to tell him sooner or later." Sun said, an uncharacteristically serious expression on his face. "And the sooner the better, in my opinion."

At that moment, both young women turned on the showers they sat in front of at the same time. And as soon as the water hit her, Lunar's legs glowed for a moment before morphing into a yellow fish tail.

"Yeah, but what if he rejects me after knowing the truth?" Lunar asked, picking up a bottle of body wash.

"*Sigh* As sad as it sounds, then it means that the two of you just weren't meant to be." Sun said with a shake of her head. "Honestly, if you didn't tell me that you already had someone you were in love with, I would have suggested getting with Alfonzo."

"Huh?" Lunar exclaimed in confusion while snapping her head in Sun's direction. "But he's your fiancé. Are you saying... that... you would... have..."

Before she could finish her question, Lunar caught sight of Sun's legs, which were still legs despite being drenched, and faltered in her words.

"Lunar?" Sun asked, tilting her head in confusion. "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

Sun's question snapped Lunar back to her senses. Then, she glared at Sun fiercely.

"Don't 'What's wrong?' me!" Lunar shouted. Then, she pointed at Sun's fleshy, smooth, somewhat muscular legs with a shaky finger. "Your legs, how are they still... legs? No, wait, that's a stupid question. You learned how to control your transformation? How? How did you do it?"

In response, Sun tilted her head in confusion for a moment. Then, after remembering the change in her body, she smacked the bottom of her right fist into her left palm with an expression of enlightenment on her face.

"Oh, that's right." Sun exclaimed. "I guess that means you're still a virgin, since you can't control your transformation yet, huh?"

Satisfied at her deduction, Sun picked up a bottle of body wash, squeezed some of its contents into her hands, and began to lather herself. Meanwhile, Lunar could only stare at Sun with her eyes and mouth wide open in both surprise and disbelief.

In fact, Lunar stayed stunned for so long that Sun had the time to finish washing and rinsing off.

"Lunar, is everything okay?" Sun asked in a concerned tone. "You're still only partially washed up. Do you need my help?"

Once again, Sun's question snapped Lunar out of her daze. And when it did, her face immediately reddened in embarrassment while she glared at Sun.

"Does that mean you've had.... Se-se-se-se-sex before?" Lunar stuttered out.

"Uh huh?" Sun replied with a smile and a nod. "Anyway, I'll help you get cleaned up. Then, we can get in the bath. We don't want you catching a cold, after all."

"There's no way a mermaid would catch a cold from something like this!" Lunar shouted, yet she did not refuse Sun's help. "But we have more important things to discuss!"

"We do?" Sun asked while lathering her hands.

"Uh, yeah~~~!" Lunar replied while rolling her eyes. "Like..."

Lunar paused and looked around the bathroom as if she were afraid that someone might be listening. Then, she continued in a small voice while her face reddened even further.

"How was it having se-se-sex?" Lunar asked in a voice that was barely louder than a whisper.

"It's great!" Sun exclaimed excitedly. "And it feels really good."

With that, Sun helped Lunar wash up before picking her up and carrying her to the bathtub. Meanwhile, Lunar continued to ask all sorts of questions about sex that Sun answered happily and without hesitation.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo had finally returned to his mansion. However, instead of heading to his bedroom, he made his way to the living room, where he usually took care of any design work he had piled up. On top of that, he had told Riot and Bedlam what he was planning to do for Elicia on their birthday.

["Well, it's about damn time."] Riot said while nodding in approval. ["And you're going all out for this, just like she deserves."]

["*Sigh* I admit, this is pretty big."] Bedlam said while looking over the building plans Alfonzo showed them. ["But just how long will it take to build something like this?"]

"Two months, or so." Alfonzo replied. "Well, that's if I use you two to create the materials. Then, I'll have to inscribe all the sigils, dig the foundation at the bottom of the lake, and get the regular builders to do all the other work. So, yeah, two months should be enough."

["I see."] Bedlam replied with a nod. ["Well, at the very least, she'll be surprised. Though, if she died of a heart attack from the shock, I wouldn't be surprised, either."]

["Ignoring this idiot."] Riot cut in. ["What about the lake? How are you going to afford it?"]

"Hehehe.... Did you forget how much I charged Mermaid Heel for the training rooms?" Alfonzo asked with a chuckle. "If I add that to the money I have saved up, I should have enough to buy the whole thing."

["I guess you've been planning this for a lot longer than just these past two months, huh?"] Bedlam said with a smile. ["Well, I should expect nothing less from the man I was created from.']

"The only problem is that I can't build it here." Alfonzo said in a frustrated tone. "I'll have to build it somewhere else then transport it here in secret. *Sigh* But that will be damn near impossible. No one would be able to miss something like that floating through the sky. I mean, the sheer amount of magic power it would give off would attract even those who can't use [MPD]."

["Yeah, that could be a problem."] Bedlam replied while cupping his chin with his right hand.

["Too bad Mystogan isn't here."] Riot muttered absent-mindedly. ["He always put most of the guild to sleep every time he showed up. If the two of you worked together, I'm sure you could put the whole town to sleep just as easily."]

While Riot was only grumbling for the sake of it, Alfonzo's mind started whirling at ten miles a minute after hearing what he said.

"Riot, you're a fucking genius!" Alfonzo exclaimed in excitement.

["Fuck are you talking about, Dude?"] Riot asked in a confused tone.

["Indeed, you've even confused me, too." Bedlam added.

"I can just ask Mystogan to help with my plan." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

["Hey, dumbass, did you forget he's in Edolas?"] Riot asked in exasperation.

"Of course, I didn't." Alfonzo replied while rolling his eyes. "But it looks like the two of you forgot that I made a magic item that could open a small Anima that was big enough for only one or two people to cross."

With that, the light of realization lit up in both Alfonzo's [Armament Spirits'] eyes.

"Ahahahahaha!" Alfonzo started to laugh uproariously when his [Armament Spirits] started thinking along the same lines as he was. "I love it when a plan comes together. And if Mystogan accepts to help me with this, I should make him a [Soul Armament as well."

["And just how would that work?"] Bedlam asked curiously.

"Well, I'm sure I'd have to make quite a few adjustments." Alfonzo said. "But making it so that the [Soul Armament Embryo] only takes will and spiritual power to bond with its host shouldn't be so difficult. The real issue will be making it so that he can use magic. I guess I'll have to talk to Porlyusica about that. Since she's from Edolas, too."

Like that, Alfonzo, Riot, and Bedlam continued discussing Alfonzo's plans. However, they were forced to stop while Alfonzo scrambled to put all his blueprints away when he felt all the girls, other than Sun returning to the house.

Chapter 347: Something Seems off about This Quest

A few days have passed since Lunar showed up in Magnolia. And to Alfonzo's surprise, Sun did not come to him and ask him to take in her best friend. But what truly surprised him was the reason why.

"Wait, Lunar already has a boyfriend?" Alfonzo asked in a shocked tone while he stopped his hands that were checking the contents of the material delivery that arrived a few hours ago. "That guy must be a fuckign saint to deal with the Budget Terminator."

"Yup." Elicia replied with a smile while sitting on top of one of the crates and swinging her legs like a child. "And you'll never guess who."

"Well, it can't be that hard to figure out." Alfonzo replied, lowering his head to return to his work. "It's gotta be Nagasumi, right?"

"Boo! You're no fun." Elicia replied with a pout.

Hearing that, Alfonzo smiled without letting his hands slow down.

"Anyway, our birthday is coming up." Elicia said, changing gears completely. "Aren't you excited?"

"Hahaha... You're just excited that you won't have to spend your points to eat my food that day, aren't you?" Alfonzo asked in a teasing tone.

In response, Elicia's pout returned to her face as she glared at Alfonzo lightly. And after feeling Elicia's glare, Alfonzo looked up once again with a teasing grin.

"Oh, come on now, don't look at me like that." Alfonzo said with a smile. "You know I was joking."

"Yeah, well, it wasn't funny." Elicia grumbled while flopping backwards to lay down on top of the box.

"You know, I've run out of points completely three times in these past two months. I've even had to take a lot more jobs to feed my habit."

In response, Alfonzo could only smile wryly. Although he really did feel bad for her, it would not be much of a punishment otherwise.

"Well---" Alfonzo said, wanting to console Elicia. However, he was interrupted before he could barely get started.

"And what's up with that cruel torture Erza came up with for the other part of the punishment!" Elicia shouted as she threw a tantrum, flailing her arms and legs around.

With that, Alfonzo's wry smile could only widen.

Elicia's second punishment, being present while restrained and blindfolded whenever Alfonzo had sex with the other girls while having her mouth available for any of the girls to use at any time, had been carried out more than a few times since the punishment was announced.

But nothing went as she expected. In fact, she thought that being used by the girls would make the punishment bearable. However, not once did any of the girls use her.

"I swear, Erza is just a red-haired demon!" Elicia continued with her tantrum. "She said they would use my mouth as they please. But they haven't used it at all. Not. A. Single. Time!"

'Yeah, I have to admit, that was pretty devious.' Alfonzo mused while watching Elicia with amusement. 'They dangled the possibility in front of her. Yet, they never made it a reality.'

["Devious Indeed."] Bedlam chimed in. ["I approve."]

["You should be outraged for her."] Riot said, clearly trying to keep his anger in check. On top of that, Alfonzo felt like he was glaring at Bedlam. ["She's put up with so much for us---"]

'Sorry, Riot, this time I can't agree with you, even subconsciously.' Alfonzo chimed in. 'Although I wanted to forgive her immediately just because she's Lici, I know that what she did angered a lot more people than just me, this time. And she hurt a lot of people who trusted her implicitly.'

In response, Riot fell silent.

Meanwhile, a different conversation was going on in Elicia's head.

["I don't' know why you're acting like that."] Scylla said disdainfully. ["Stop acting like you haven't had some of the best make up sex in either of your lives since then."]

'You just don't' get it, Scylla.' Elicia replied. 'I---'

["You feel left out."] Scylla said, interrupting Elicia. ["Yeah, I already know what makes you tick."]

In response, Elicia stopped flailing around and simply pouted while looking away from Alfonzo.

["But so, what?"] Scylla continued. ["You deserve it."]

"I know..." Elicia said.

"Anyway, it's about time for me to go." Alfonzo said while taking a look at the watch on his wrist. "I've got a date with Lucy in about an hour."

"Huh?" Elicia exclaimed as she sat up. "Is it that time already?"

"Yup." Alfonzo replied with a nod as he checked off a few items on the packing list in his hand.

In fact, ever since they got back from Tenrou Island, Alfonzo had done his best to make more time for the girls to spend some alone time with him. And over the past four and a half months, he's gone on several dates with all of them individually.

On top of that, Alfonzo and Lucy were an official couple as well. However, it took until the third date before it became official. And that's because Lucy actually repeated her blunder from their first date at the end of the second one, as well. Then, on their third date, Alfonzo took the initiative to ask her to be with him before initiating their customary goodnight kiss. And to know one's surprise, Lucy agreed.

"I wonder when she'll move in with us." Elicia wondered aloud as she hopped off the box she was sitting on.

"No clue." Alfonzo replied with a gentle shake of his head. "But she said she's not quite ready to take our relationship to that step, yet."

"I guess that makes sense." Elicia replied with a nod. "She's known you a lot less time than the other girls, who had known you for years by the time they got together with you."

"*Sigh* And when that happens, we'll only have one guest room left." Alfonzo muttered as he started to leave the storage shed with Elicia following closely behind him. "I guess we'll need a new house, soon."

"Yeah, who would have thought that an eight bedroom mansion wouldn't be enough after only five and a half years." Elicia replied with a nod. "Anyway, I guess I should get going, too."

"Be careful." Alfonso said, turning around with concern in his eyes. "This ruin you're going to was one of the massacred cities Hughes mapped out."

"Don't worry, I'll be careful." Elicia replied with a smile. "I don't plan on letting a single person, more than necessary, see me. We don't need Father and his Homunculi thinking we know what they're planning, after all."

"*Sigh* That's just a matter of time." Alfonzo said as he began combing his fingers through Elicia's hair. "They'll figure out where Hughes and his family are eventually."

"I know." Elicia replied, leaning into Alfonzo's touch. "But we won't let anything happen to them. They became family as soon as they joined the guild."

"Right." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Anyway, we should get going, neither of us wants to be late, after all."

"Kay." Elicia said before standing on her tip toes and giving Alfonzo a kiss. "I'll be back in a few days. There's no way I'm missing our birthday party."

With that, Elicia ran towards the garage instead of the inside of the house. She had packed her necessities for the quest before finding Alfonzo, after all. Then, after hopping into her Z3, she drove off towards her destination.

Earth land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Open Road.

"So, I'm supposed to find some kind of family heirloom that was left behind when the people fled from the attack of a Dark Guild, huh?"

Nearly thirteen hours after leaving Magnolia, Elicia was close to her destination. So, she was looking over the request one more time sheet while taking a break to refill her Z3's magic power supply.

["Doesn't the location of this ruined village sound familiar?"] Scylla asked from Elicia's inner world.

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Elicia asked as she looked up from the quest sheet with confusion.

["Well, I'm not a hundred percent sure, but it's similar to the place where Ultear found Meredy, isn't it?"] Scylla replied. ["Unfortunately, the village was unnamed and the only thing she could remember about it was that it was past Clover Town."]

"So, you think this might be a trap?" Elicia asked as her gaze sharpened.

["There's a possibility."] Scylla replied.

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Elicia said with a nod. "If I remember correctly, Grimoire Heart killed every man, woman, and child in that village, Meredy being the sole survivor. So, there shouldn't be anyone that would want a family heirloom from those ruins. On top of that, it's been years. Yet, the quest was posted not long ago."

["Exactly."] Scylla replied with a nod. ["So, you need to keep your guard up."]

"I will." Elicia replied as she fell silent and continued to charge her Z3's rechargeable lacrima.

Three hours later, Elicia had finished refilling her Z3's rechargeable lacrima and restored her magic power to full. Then, she started her trip to the unnamed village once again.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Unnamed Village Ruins.

After driving for another hour and a half, Elicia finally arrived at the village mentioned in the quest.

"Yeah, Grimoire Heart really did a number on this place, huh?" Elicia said as she opened the car door.

["Yeah, and look over there."] Scylla said, directing Elicia's sight to a decaying sign. ["There's the orphanage Ultear mentioned in her report. This is definitely the same place."]

Hearing that, Elicia went on alert, immediately. Then, just before closing her car door, she activated the car's protective barrier and took the emergency beacon out of the center console.

["Are you sure you want to take that with you?"] Scylla asked after Elicia stored the emergency beacon in her waist pouch. ["What if it were to get damaged?"]

"[Camouflage Magic: Hiding in Plain Sight]." Elicia chanted, turning herself invisible. "I don't know if the Gluttony of this world can eat magic, but if he can, it wouldn't be safe in there, anyway."

["*Sigh* I guess you're right."] Scylla replied.

With that, Elicia slowly made her way into the ruins of the village. Meanwhile, from a distance, two people watched Elicia as she disappeared from view.

"Where did she go?" A fat man with beady eyes and a large nose asked while putting a finger in his mouth in confusion.

"Gluttony, wasn't that like what you told us happened when Hughes disappeared, too?" A beautiful woman, the homunculus, Lust, asked as she began approaching the village.

"Uh huh." The fat man, Gluttony, replied with a nod. "I didn't get to eat him."

"Don't worry, Gluttony, you'll definitely get to eat that woman." Lust said with a malicious grin. "And all her little friends in that guild of hers, too."

"Really?" Gluttony replied with excitement.

"Yes, it's true." Lust replied with a nod. Then, she continued in a somewhat saddened tone. "It's just such a pity that we'll have to kill such a talented clothing designer. But since she decided to get in the way of Father's plans, there's nothing that can be done about it."

Meanwhile, Elicia had arrived at the place where the quest sheet said she would be able to find the heirloom.

"This should be it." Elicia muttered as she looked at the small house in front of her. "The house in the northeastern most corner of the village."

["Be careful, Elicia."] Scylla said in a heavy tone. ["Someone is approaching."]

"I know." Elicia replied. "There are two of them. I guess it really was a trap by the homunculus. I can't feel them with [MPD] at all. It's a good thing I still have my [Detection Threads], though. But how did you know they were coming too, Scylla."

["I can feel the souls trapped in their Philosopher's Stones"] Scylla replied. Then, she asked a question of her own. ["Any idea which ones they are?"]

"Well based on the pressure my threads are sending back to me, one should be an adult woman. So, that's definitely Lust." Elicia replied. "And the other one is pretty heavy. So, either Gluttony or Sloth. But since they're with Lust, I'm betting on Gluttony."

["Why not Envy?"] Scylla asked curiously.

"Because I remember his weight from the time Fonzie fought him." Elicia replied, finding a small pendant with a vibrant red stone. "And he's a whole lot heavier than that. And there's the quest item."

["Got it. Let's grab it and---"] Scylla replied as Elicia picked up the pendant. However, before she could finish, she cut herself off and she shouted at Elicia in warning ["Get out of here, now! They're attacking the house."]

Meanwhile, a few moments earlier, Lust and Gluttony had arrived outside the same house Elicia just entered.

"Can I eat it now, Lust?" Gluttony asked with his index finger in his mouth.

"Not yet, Gluttony, be patient." Lust replied.

A few moments passed with Gluttony watching the house as if it were a sumptuous meal. Then, as soon as Elicia picked up the pendant, which was housing a Philosopher's Stone, Lust smiled maliciously.

"You can do it now, Gluttony." Lust said.

Without a word, Gluttony's face morphed into a radiant smile. A moment later, however, Gluttony's body underwent a change. First, he opened his mouth, far further than what should be possible. Then his torso split open from its center, revealing an eye inside of his torso. On top of that, long, sharp teeth jutted out from the peeled back flesh.

Then, once his transformation was complete, Gluttony inhaled a deep breath. A moment later, everything in a thin, conical area, not even enough to destroy the entire small house, stretching a hundred feet in front of him, was sucked into the eye inside Gluttony's torso.

Chapter 348: Mend the Seams of Reality

Under the light of the moon, in an unassuming village ruin, two people stood among the ruined buildings at the northeastern edge of the village. In front of these two people, Lust and Gluttony, there was a then, conical scar in the ground that widened as the distance from the two increased. And at one point, there were the remains of what used to be a house on either side of the scar. In fact, everything in the path of the scar had just recently been devoured into another dimension by Gluttony.

"Good job, Gluttony." Lust said, reaching over to the side to pat Gluttony on the head. "That's one less annoyance we have to worry about."

In most cases, whenever Lust praised Gluttony, he would exude a sense of happiness that could be felt from nearby. However, nothing of the sort happened this time. Instead, when Lust looked in his direction, she noticed that he was staring at the devastation he just caused with a confused and unsatisfied gaze.

"What's wrong, Gluttony?" Lust asked as her eyes narrowed.

"I didn't taste her..." Gluttony mumbled in a disappointed tone.

Hearing that, Lust's eyes raised in surprise.

"Did she manage to escape?" Lust thought to herself while looking around. 'But how? Did she feel us coming? No, that should be impossible. We don't have magic power. So, we don't agitate the ethernano in the air when we move.'

Although she was unaware of the [Magic Power Detection] most of the wizards from Fairy Tail used, Lust had lived long enough to have a grasp of how other wizards feel for the presences around them. Either way, she was correct about the fact that Elicia had no way of detecting her by normal means.

On top of that, Father and the homunculi were aware that Alfonzo had taken Mayuri Kurotsuchi's Zanpakuto research. However, they vastly underestimated his ability to understand the research's more technical information about the relationship between the soul and magic power. So, they did not expect Elicia to have her [Soul Armament]. They also overlooked the fact that Elicia could spread her threads to act as a spider's web for detection.

"Gluttony, stay alert, she can camouflage herself." Lust ordered sharply. Then, Lust turned her head in a certain direction. "She'll probably try to run away. Hurry up Gluttony, go and--- Argh~~~~~!"

Before Lust could finish giving her orders, however, she screamed and covered her eyes. Meanwhile, blood streamed down her face from under her hands.

"Lust!" Gluttony shouted with a mixture of anger and concern in his tone. "Are you okay?"

"I'll be fine." Lust replied with a growl as she pulled the objects that impaled her eyes out of her eye sockets.

A moment later, Lust's eyes were healed with the sparking of red electricity. Then, she looked down at the two thin objects she was holding in her hand.

"Needles?" Lust asked, clenching her hand around the two golden needles with dragon motifs. "It was that little bitch from Fairy Tail. She's still here."

"That's not very nice" Elicia's voice echoed from around the area. "You have quite the potty mouth, don't you? I think we should do something about that."

"If you think you can, why don't you---" Lust began to say in a threatening tone.

However, she was interrupted once again. And this time, she felt a number of thin threads wrap around her tongue mid-sentence.

"[Thread Magic: Vibrational Cutter]." Elicia chanted.

In the next moment, the threads wrapped around Lust's tongue began to vibrate at a high frequency, causing damage from the heat generated by the vibrations alone. Then, they were pulled taut, cutting off a part of Lust's tongue as they tightened around it.

"Argh~~~~~!" Lust screamed in pain.

Meanwhile, with bloodshot eyes, Gluttony was searching his surroundings. It was clear by the look in his eyes that he wanted to make the one hurting Lust, Elicia, suffer.

"You're more ruthless than your psych profile would suggest." Lust replied after her tongue regenerated and she spat out a mouthful of blood. "You'd better pray to whatever god you believe in that I don't get the opportunity to sink my claws into you."

As she spoke, Lust extended her fingernails into a battle ready state.

Meanwhile, while under the cover of her [Hiding in Plain Sight] spell, Elicia was watching Lust and Gluttony from atop a nearby building.

"If it was just one of them, I could probably take care of them with little effort." Elicia muttered as she watched Lust regenerate her tongue. "But dealing with both of them might be a little tough."

["Why don't you use my power?"] Scylla asked. ["Dealing with them would be much easier, wouldn't it?"] Scylla asked.

"It would." Elicia replied with a nod. "But there's a chance one of them might escape. And if that were to happen, the enemy would have more information about our capabilities. Then, they would prepare countermeasures."

["And?"] Scylla asked with a snort.

"I guess you're right." Elicia replied with a smile. "[Mend the Seams of Reality, Scylla]."

In the next instant, the wrist band on Elicia's left wrist started to glow. Shortly afterward, Elicia's left hand was covered in the same glow. And that glow eventually covered her right hand, as well. A moment later, the glow dissipated, revealing Elicia's hands once again. However, instead of her smooth, brown-skinned hands, her hands were now covered in golden dragon scales, while her fingernails elongated into claws.

At the same time, Elicia's magic power sky rocketed to five times its normal amount, dispelling her [Camouflage Magic] in the process.

"Hmm... That's something we'll need to work on." Elicia muttered as she watched Lust and Gluttony's heads whip in her direction.

A moment later, Elicia shot one of the scales on the back of her right hand towards a nearby building. And that scale, when ejected, took the shape of a golden sewing needle. On top of that, the eye of the needle was already threaded with Elicia's [Thread Magic].

Then, with a light tug, Elicia pulled herself from the rooftop she was standing on. Then, the building was sucked away just like the house she found the philosopher's stone in.

"I really need to do something about that." Elicia muttered as she watched Gluttony turn in her direction again. "But I need to do something about her, first."

With Lust's ability to extend and sharpen her fingernails to the point they could supposedly cut through anything, the [Ultimate Spear], Elicia knew that simply binding either of the homunculi she was facing off against would be an exercise in futility. So, she would have to incapacitate one of them before she could do any real damage.

["Well, now that you're using me, you can do exactly what you do best, right?"] Scylla asked.

"Right." Elicia replied quietly. "[Piping]."

A moment later, a number of the threads Elicia released with her [Detection Threads] spell suddenly shot upwards around Lust. ON top of that, the tips of the threads had all turned into the same golden needles as her scales. Then, before either Lust or Gluttony could react, the needles, along with the threads pierced into Lust from all directions.

"Argh~~~~~!" Lust screamed in pain once again.

However, instead of just piercing into her, the needles and threads were constantly moving throughout her body, leaving stylized Fairy Tail emblems all over her skin, muscles, and organs.

"Stop hurting Lust!" Gluttony shouted.

"I should be able to do something about you now, two." Elicia said, raising her hands in Gluttony's direction as she did so. "[Straight Stitching]."

With her chant, a large number of the scales on Elicia's fingers were fired towards Gluttony. More specifically, towards the edges of his open torso. Then, before Gluttony could activate his power, they pierced through the sides of his open torso and started stitching them back together.

"Gwargh~~~~~!" And just like with Lust, Gluttony also bellowed in pain thanks to the feeling of needles and threads stitching his body.

A moment later, Gluttony's torso had reverted to its original state. On top of that, Elicia had left a smiley face with its tongue sticking out on Gluttony's stomach as a point of mockery.

"Huh?" Gluttony exclaimed in confusion after noticing his torso had closed.

Then, he looked down and saw the smiley face on his abdomen, which caused him to tilt his head. However, his head snapped in Lust's direction when she screamed once again.

"Argh~~~~~! I'm going to kill you, Elicia Taylor.!" Lust shrieked angrily.

"I'd rather you didn't." Elicia replied with a smile. "[Thread Magic: Dehiscence]."

A moment later, all the Fairy Tail emblems embroidered into Lust's body were ripped out. As a result, she was left in a heap of blood and gore. On top of that, the Philosopher's stone that was the core of her being was pulled out of her body, as well.

'Hey, with your powers, is there anything I can do about that thing?' Elicia asked internally.

["Probably."] Scylla replied. ["But there are two issues with doing it right now. First, you have no experience in dealing with souls. And second, if you released the souls trapped in the stone, killing Lust in the process, Gluttony would go on a rampage. I'm not sure the [Cross Stitching] would hold. And I doubt you would like having a completely crazed Gluttony chasing you back to magnolia."]

"*Sigh* I get it." Elicia grumbled as she flicked her fingers a few times. "Then, I'll just get her away from here."

A moment later, a number of thin threads held the Philosopher Stone.

"What are you doing to Lust?" Gluttony asked angrily.

"Don't worry, she'll be fine, I promise." Elicia said with a dazzling smile.

In the next instant, with the use of her threads, Elicia sent the Philosopher's Stone flying in the direction opposite Magnolia. Meanwhile, Gluttony could only stare blankly as Lust's Philosopher's Stone soared off into the distance.

A few moments later, the Philosopher's Stone began sparking with red lightning. Then, Lust's body began reforming around it. And as soon as enough of her body reformed to speak, she shouted angrily.

"Damn you~~~~~!" Lust shrieked.

Lust's scream was enough to finally pull Gluttony out of his daze.

"Lust~~~~~!" Gluttony shouted as he started running after Lust.

Meanwhile, Elicia simply watched the two homunculi fade into the distance.

"*Sigh* If either of them was alone, I would have killed them without hesitation." Elicia grumbled.

[I'm surprised you didn't take the opportunity to kill Gluttony after tossing Lust away."] Scylla replied.

"Honestly, I'm not sure if I would have had enough time." Elicia said as she started walking towards her Z3. ["In the canon, Scar killed Gluttony over and over. Like during the whole fight under Central. Yet, he only brought him to the brink of death before Father took him back into himself and kept him alive. And the worst part is we don't know exactly how long that fight took."]

["I guess I understand."] Scylla replied with a nod. ["It's the magic of anime time dilation. A fight that actually spanned hours can be shown in the time after the commercial break. Meanwhile, a five minute fight on a dying planet could span several episodes."]

"Bingo." Elicia replied with a smile. "Either way, I'm surprised they actually used one of these as bait. Elicia said, pulling the smaller Philosopher's Stone in the pendant that she picked up in the destroyed house out of her waist pouch. "They have no idea what Fonzie could do with something like this."

["He wouldn't actually use it, would he?"] Scylla asked skeptically.

"No." Elicia replied while shaking her head. "But he would research it. Then, I'm sure he'll find a way to negate the powers the homunculi get from them."

["I see."] Scylla replied with a nod. ["That makes sense. By the way, Elicia..."]

"Yeah, what's up?" Elicia asked as she tilted her head.

["Why haven't you cancelled my release yet?"] Scylla asked in confusion. ["We've been out of battle for a while now."]

"Oh, because I don't want the stitches holding Gluttony closed to disappear." Elicia replied. "I mean, that's what happened whenever Kisuke released Benihime's Bankai, after all."

["*Sigh* Just cancel my release already."] Scylla said in an exasperated tone. ["Those stitches won't disappear, I promise."]

"If you say so." Elicia replied as her hands turned back to normal and the wristband holding the sewing needles reappeared on her left wrist. "Oh, and what about when they return to Father? Fonzie said that all his metal was taken out of Envy's body after they went back."

["In theory, he shouldn't be able to do anything about the stitching we did."] Skylla replied. ["Although the threads used for the stitches are material, they were created with the combination of magic power and spiritual energy. So, those threads are much more than just normal threads."]

"I hope you're right." Elicia replied. "Anyway, let's go home. I still have work to do on the pieces for my summer collection. On top of that, I have to put the finishing touches on Fonzie's birthday gift."

With that, Elicia disabled the barrier around her Z3. Then, she hopped inside and started the drive back to Magnolia.

Chapter 349: Happy Birthday (R-18)

Nearly a week has passed since Elicia returned from her trip to Meredy's old village. During that time, Alfonzo spent most of his time researching the Philosopher's Stoen Elicia brought. Aside from that,

Alfonzo also created defenses around Magnolia, with the mayor's approval, of course, just in case Father and the Homunculi decided it was a good idea to raid the town.

On top of that, Romeo, Macao's son, finally decided on what kind of magic he wanted to use. And the magic he chose was [Fire God Slayer Magic]. And there were two reasons for that. One, like his father, he had a predisposition for fire magic. And the second reason was that he basically idolized Natsu for that time he saved his father from Mt. Hakobe.

The fact that his newest friend, Elicia Hughes was already learning magic spurred him on, as well. Since he did not want to be left behind.

As for the current...

"Ah! Fonzie, harder! harder!" Cana screamed.

"Come on, Cana, hurry up and cum." Marin said. "I want my turn soon."

... Alfonzo and the girls were having some adult fun in the mansion's master bedroom. Even Lucy, who wanted to see what it was like being involved with Alfonzo and all his girlfriends/fiancées, despite still being a virgin, was there.

'Wow! This is kinda... no, really hot.' Lucy thought to herself while watching Alfonzo pound Cana from behind from the love seat in the master bedroom. 'I wonder what kind of faces they'll all make when they watch me.'

Despite being fully dressed, Lucy was rubbing her thighs together in excitement while watching the goings on in the room. On top of that, unbeknownst to her, her vain personality, that somewhat sought the attention of those around her, was manifesting into a strange fetish.

Meanwhile, the other girls were watching Alfonzo and Cana while touching, kissing, or pleasing the two or each other. After hearing about Elicia's time with Alfonzo and Yoruichi, they realized that just waiting for their turns with Alfonzo was a bit boring.

Lastly, there was Elicia. Currently, she was chained to the bedframe with her hands behind her head and her legs spread wide open. On top of that, she was wearing metal headgear that acted as a blindfold. Plus, she wore a deep, frustrated, pout.

In fact, she had been stuck in that position for the last four hours.

'Hey, Scylla, do you have any idea what time it is?' Elicia asked in an irritated tone.

["Hmm... If my senses aren't wrong, it should be a couple minutes before midnight."] Scylla replied with a smirk.

'Don't tell me Fonzie is gonna make me bring in my twentieth birthday like this.' Elicia complained internally. 'And why are you smirking.'

["Because I was just thinking the same thing."] Scylla replied in a tone of schadenfreude.

'How can you be like that?' Elicia asked grumpily.

["Because I was formed from the part of you that wishes you would think more before you act or speak."] Scylla replied. ["So, seeing you reap the consequences of your poorly thought out actions brings me pleasure."]

'That question was rhetorical.' Elicia replied.

Before the conversation could continue, however, Elicia heard all the sounds of love making in the room come to a stop. Then she felt the bed shaking as she felt a presence drawing near to her.

'I wonder what's going on' Elicia muttered internally.

A moment later, she felt a pair of hands grip the headgear she was forced to wear. Then, it was lifted off her head. And when her vision was cleared, Elicia saw Alfonzo kneeling in front of her with a radiant smile on his face.

Then she curiously scanned the room. And the next thing she noticed was Cana sprawled out on the bed with semen dripping out of her and her eyes rolled back in her head. After that, she saw Ultair, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun huddled together with smiles and excited flushes on their faces. Lastly, she noticed the fully clothed Lucy sitting on the love seat with an excited flush of her own.

'Huh? Lucy was here, too?' Elicia thought with confusion before returning her gaze to Alfonzo.

"What's up, Fonzie?" Elicia asked curiously. "Are you guys done already?"

Ding! *Dong!* *Dong!* Ding!*

March 8, x785.

At that moment, the sound of a clock's chime sounded twelve times.

"Happy birthday, Lici." Alfonzo said in a gentle tone.

Immediately, Elicia's eyes widened in surprise as her body stiffened. Meanwhile, Alfonzo released the shackles on Elicia's limbs one by one. Yet, Elicia remained unmoving, even when she was completely unrestrained.

"Happy Birthday, Lici!" All the girls, other than Cana, who was still reeling from her orgasm, shouted happily.

That was enough to finally snap Elicia back to reality.

"Fonzie!" Elicia shouted as she lunged forward and wrapped her arms around Alfonzo's neck, knocking him back on the mattress in the process. "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! And I'm sorry! I'm so sorry! I Promise, I'll never do it again. I love you! I love you so much!"

As she screamed her thanks and vented her emotions, Elicia buried her face in Alfonzo's chest while sobbing uncontrollably. Meanwhile, Alfonzo continued to smile gently while combing his fingers through Elicia's hair.

"I love you too, Lici." Alfonzo replied in a soothing tone.

By now, Cana had come to her senses and joined the other girls, minus Lucy in surrounding Alfonzo and Elicia on the mattress.

After a few minutes, Elicia finally calmed down. Then, with a bashful expression on her face, she raised her head and looked Alfonzo in his eyes.

"Happy birthday, Fonzie." Elicia said.

"Thanks." Alfonzo replied with a bright smile. "But now, let me give you the first of your birthday gifts."

"Huh?" Elicia asked while tilting her head in confusion. "First?"

"I think I've made you wait long enough, Lici." Alfonzo said, once again stroking his fingers through Elicia's hair. "I think it's about time we finally got married."

Once again, Elicia opened her eyes wide in shock. However, her shock did not last very long this time as she leaned forward and showered Alfonzo with kisses all over his face.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!" Elicia replied as if she were agreeing to a proposal.

Meanwhile all the other girls in the room smiled. Then, they all exchanged glances as their smiles widened. A moment later, all of them grabbed Elicia and pulled her off of Alfonzo.

"Huh? What's going on?" Elicia asked in confusion while looking around at the girls.

"It's time for our gift as a group, too" Cana said while smiling seductively.

===R-18 Start===

"What are you---? Mmph!" Elicia began to ask before she was cut off.

Mid-sentence, Ultear leaned down and stole Elicia's lips. At the same time, Cana started kissing and licking the side of her neck. Then, Mirajane and Sun began sucking on one of Elicia's nipples each. At the same time, Marin elongated her tongue with her [Transformation Magic] and began tickling Elica's clit with its tip.

"Mmm~~~~!" Elicia moaned into her kiss with Ultear from all the stimulation.

Meanwhile, Erza sucked and stroked Alfonzo's dick with her hands to make sure that he was completely ready for Elicia. Then, when she felt he was ready, she moved to Elicia's side before she and Marin spread Elicia's legs wide open, while Marin continued to stimulate Elicia's clit.

A moment later, Alfonzo positioned himself between Elicia's legs and started rubbing the head of his dick against her pussy lips. Then, without warning, he slammed into her, balls deep.

"Ahn~~~~~!" Elicia moaned loudly as her back arched, toes curled, and eyes rolled back as she broke her kiss with Ultear. Then, as Alfonzo started his piston, she could not help but continue moaning. "Oh my God! Fonzie! Fast... Ahn~~~~~! ... er, faster!"

And just as Elicia asked, Alfonzo increased his pace. He even wrapped his hands around Elicia's waist and raised her butt off the mattress so he could reach deeper inside of her.

"OoH~~~~~! Oh, God! Yes! Fuck me, Fonzie! Don't stop." Elicia' continued to moan uncontrollably. "Don't stop! All of you! Don't fucking stop! OH! God! I'm cumming!"

Meanwhile, Lucy, who was still watching from the love seat, had slipped her hand into the shorts she wore as pajamas, and furiously rubbed her clit while she reached under her tank top with her under hand and fondled her breasts while occasionally squeezing her nipples.

"Mmm~~~~!" Lucy moaned as her body shuddered from an orgasm.

'That looks so amazing.' Lucy thought through the haze brought by her orgasm. 'Having everyone's attention focused on you must feel incredible.'

Like that, the group of nine continued until only a couple hours before sunrise. And for the whole night, Elicia was the focus of everyone's attention. Except for the time right after Alfonzo would cum inside of her. Then, in turns, one girl, other than Elicia, would get Alfonzo ready for action as quickly as possible with a combination of their hands, breasts, and mouths.

Meanwhile, Lucy continued to watch the proceedings while furiously masturbating. Despite that, she managed to keep herself from joining on the spur of the moment, or showing more skin than she wanted to by constantly reminding herself that her first time should be special. Then, about halfway through the group of eight's sexual escapades, she passed out on the love seat.

===R-18 End===

In the morning, though it was closer to noon, the girls started waking up, one by one. Even Lucy, who had been moved onto the bed after everyone was done to sleep more comfortably.

"Mornin'." Elicia said sleepily after making eye contact with Erza.

"Good morning, Elicia." Erza replied with a lethargic smile. "And happy birthday again."

Following Erza, the other girls also gave their birthday wishes again.

"So, how did you like our gift?" Cana asked with that same seductive smile.

"It was great." Elicia replied with a smile. "There was so much going on, my body felt overloaded. But it all felt really good."

"Glad to hear it." Ultear replied.

"Yeah, it was a lot of fun." Sun added.

"Plus, seeing the way Lucy went at it by herself let us know how good we were doing, right along with your moans, Lici." Marin said with a smile before winking at Lucy.

Then, all the eyes in the room focused on Lucy, who blushed in response.

"A-Anyway, where is Alfonzo?" Lucy asked.

Before anyone could respond, and as if to answer Lucy's question, the scent of breakfast wafted into the room.

Growl! x 8

"I think that answers your question, Lucy." Mirajane said with her usual smile. Though, she blushed slightly due to her stomach's protest.

"Yeah, and since we're just smelling the scent of Fonzie's cooking, we should have a little time to get cleaned up." Elicia said as she climbed over Erza and moved towards the edge of the bed.

"Yeah, we all smell like sex." Ultear added while getting up, as well.

"It probably wouldn't hurt to crack a window in here, too." Marin said while following the other two.

Eventually, all the girls got up and filed into the master bathroom, where they helped each other get washed up, so they could be at the table by the time Alfonzo finished cooking.

Meanwhile, Yoruichi, of Mermaid Heel, stepped off a train at Magnolia Station, wanting to celebrate Alfonzo and Elicia's birthday as well.

"I really hope they won't just kick me out." Yoruichi muttered to herself as she walked through the train station. "And then there are the rest of his girls, they might actually kick my ass when I see them. Well, not like I don't deserve it. Still, I'm most concerned with Alfonzo and Elicia's, especially Elicia's, reactions. I didn't get to talk with her before I left last time, after all."

A few moments later, after stepping out of the train station, Yoruichi vanished from the sights of the passersby in a burst of speed with the use of [Flash Step]. Not even a second later, a petite black-haired young woman poked her head out from the train station's entrance.

"Lady Yoruichi, why must you continue to lower yourself like this?" Sui-Feng asked in a worried tone. "If they can't forgive you for a mistake, then they don't deserve you."

By now, after doing some research on Alfonzo and Elicia, a lot of Sui-Feng's hostility towards them had vanished. ON top of that, she no longer thought they were so far beneath Yoruichi in terms of status. Though, she still thought there was no one who could match Yoruichi in terms of appearance.

Instead, most of her hostility towards Alfonzo and Elicia was from the fact that Yoruichi had been so down since the group from Mermaid Heel left Magnolia two months ago. So, when she heard that Yoruichi intended to travel to Magnolia to celebrate their birthday she secretly followed. Though, Yoruichi was aware of her presence the whole time.

"If those two make Yoruichi sad again, I'll make them pay." Sui-Feng said while clenching her fists. "Even if it costs me my life."

With that, Sui-Feng, like Yoruichi had done a moment prior, vanished in a burst of speed with the [Flash Step], as well.

Chapter 350: Yoruichi and Sui-Feng Arrive

After taking the time to get cleaned up and dressed, Elicia, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy arrived in the dining room just in time to see Alfonzo putting down the last dish for breakfast on an already set table.

"Wow! Pancakes!" Elicia shouted happily.

"There are all kinds of fruit to top them with, too." Marin said energetically.

"Whipped cream, too." sun said happily.

"Perfect timing." Alfonzo said with a smile. Then, while taking off his apron, Alfonzo continued while moving behind Elicia's usual seat. "I just finished. "

A moment later, Alfonzo pulled out the chair and gestured for Elicia to take a seat. And she wasted no time doing so with a smile on her face. Shortly afterwards, the other girls took their seats as well. And when Alfonzo finally took his seat, they dug into the food like they had not eaten in days.

For the next few minutes, breakfast continued in a jovial atmosphere, until...

Ding! *Dong!*

"I guess someone is here to wish us a happy birthday." Alfonzo muttered with a mouthful of pancakes.

Then, Alfonzo spread his [Magic Power Detection] to see if he recognized the magic power signature at the mansion's gate. Which he did. However, the awkward expression that showed up on his face after he did drew all the girls attention.

"Alfonzo, is something wrong?" Erza asked on behalf of the rest of the girls.

"*Sigh* Yoruichi is here." Alfonzo said as he put his cutlery down before standing up from his seat. "And it looks like her little follower came, too."

Hearing that, the expressions of all the girls at the table changed. While Elicia lowered her head with a measure of guilt on her face, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun wore expressions ranging from uncomfortable to downright pissed off. Meanwhile, Lucy, who was unaware of what happened back in March looked at all of them with confusion.

A moment later, Alfonzo left the dining room.

Bang!

"Why is that bitch here?" Cana spat while slamming her fist on the table.

"Cana~~..." Marin hissed while gesturing at Elicia, whose head had lowered even further due to Cana's outburst.

"She's probably here to wish Alfonzo and Lici a happy birthday." Ultear said while calmly cutting her stack of pancakes.

"Yeah, that makes the most sense." Sun added with a nod.

"Either way, it's not up to us whether she can stay or not." Mirajane said.

"Indeed." Erza added. "Still, I'd like the chance to fight her. It would help immensely in getting to know her better."

In response, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Sun looked at Cana with shocked expressions.

"I told you that's what she would say." Cana said while shaking her head. "Anyway, if Fonzie lets her in, I'll play nice. But I won't go out of my way to like her."

"That's fine." Ultear replied.

"Umm...." Lucy said, interrupting the ongoing conversation. "When you mentioned Yoruichi, did you mean the ace of Mermaid Heel? And if so, why does it seem as if none of you like her very much?"

"Oh, that's right, Lucy doesn't know." Mirajane replied with an expression that screamed "Oops!" "Well, she's the ace of Mermaid Heel, like you thought. And..."

From there, Mirajane explained what happened with Yoruichi when Mermaid Heel visited. And what they decided they would do about her.

"Seriously?" Lucy exclaimed in surprise. "Something like that really happened?"

"Yeah, but we can talk about that later." Sun said as she pulled Elicia into a hug. "Lici looks like she's gonna cry."

Finally noticing the expression on Elicia's face, the girls decided to drop the subject for the time being.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo had just reached the front door. And upon opening it, he could see Yoruichi standing at the gate nervously. Then, with a wry smile on his face, he pressed the button near the front door to open the gate, allowing Yoruichi to enter.

Seeing Alfonzo at the front door, Yoruichi could only smile wryly as she stepped past the gate. But when the gate did not close behind her immediately, Yoruichi's eyes opened wide in surprise.

"Tell your little stalker to come in, too." Alfonzo said before Yoruichi could question him.

IN response, Yoruichi smiled wryly once again. Then, she turned back towards the gate. More specifically, towards a tree about two hundred feet away from the gate.

"You heard him, Bumble Bee." Yoruichi said. "Come inside with me."

A moment later, Sui-Feng poked her head out from behind the tree with a pout.

"I wasn't stalking Lady Yoruichi, I was protecting her." Sui-Feng grumbled as she took a step forward.

In the next instant, Sui-Feng appeared next to Yoruichi with the use of the [Flash Step]. A moment later, the gate closed behind the guests. And when it did, both Yoruichi and Sui-Feng felt the defensive barrier's activation, which caused Sui-Feng to shudder.

"I'll admit I wasn't expecting to see the two of you until I came to Mermaid Heel's guild hall, in a few days, to start the job." Alfonzo said with a welcoming smile. "Either way, come in. We were just having breakfast."

"Thanks for having us, even though we showed up unannounced." Yoruichi said. "And happy birthday."

"Thanks." Alfonzo said with a happy smile.

Meanwhile, Sui-Feng only scowled. So, since she was being so rude, Alfonzo ignored her. Still, he led the two guests to the dining room. And as soon as they entered, all eyes fell on them. Or rather, they fell on Yoruichi. All except for Elicia's, whose head was still lowered.

"Well, it looks like they don't like me very much." Yoruichi said with a wry smile. "Not that I can blame them."

"Anyway, you two can have a seat." Alfonzo said as he walked towards his own seat at the head of the table. "There're still plenty of pancakes and stuff left. You can help yourselves."

"Thanks." Yoruichi replied with a smile.

Then, while walking to an open seat, Yoruichi took the bag she was carrying off of her shoulder. However, when she did, she seemed to remember something.

"Oh, before that..." Yoruichi said as she started rifling through her bag. A moment later, she pulled two packages from inside. "Happy Birthday, Lici, Alfonzo. I have gifts for you."

Hearing that, the nine Fairy Tail wizards stopped eating and raised their heads. Then, they focused on the two packages in Yoruichi's hands.

While one was quite small, no bigger than a ring case, and wrapped in royal blue wrapping paper, the other was much larger by comparison. Wrapped in baby pink wrapping paper, it was a cylindrical shaped package.

By now, the levels of wariness and hostility on the girls' faces were replaced with curiosity. Well, for everyone other than Cana, who still looked at Yoruichi with quite some hostility, that is.

With the gifts in hand, Yoruichi altered her course to hand the gifts to Alfonzo and Elicia. Then, after accomplishing her task, she turned back and returned to the seat she was going to sit on. Meanwhile, while Yoruichi walked past all the girls to give the gifts, Sui-Feng watched them like a hawk, thinking to step in if they suddenly attacked.

"That girl is too uptight, right?" Lucy whispered to Marin.

"Yeah, I mean seriously." Marin replied. "Does she really think we'd start a fight with someone as strong as Yoruichi in our own home? That wouldn't do anything but damage the house and make Alfonzo mad at us."

With that, Lucy shuddered involuntarily. She had just imagined the damage the mansion would have taken if a fight started between them and Yoruichi inside the house. Then, she flushed a bit when she thought of Alfonzo's stern expression.

'What am I thinking?' Lucy muttered internally while shaking her head. 'I'm not a masochist. 'But when Alfonzo is being stern or working seriously, he's really hot. Maybe being punished might not... No, bad Lucy!'

Naturally, Lucy's odd behavior and rapidly changing facial expressions drew a lot of attention. But the Fairy Tail wizards decided to ignore her. Meanwhile, Yoruichi held back a giggle while Sui-Feng glared at Marin and Lucy with a twitching eyebrow, having overheard their conversation.

"Anyway, what is this?" Elicia, who's expression brightened a lot after receiving a gift, asked while looking at the cylindrical gift sitting next to her chair.

"If you open it, you'll know." Yoruichi replied, trying to sound mysterious.

Elicia pouted in response. However, her expression returned to a curious one only a moment later. Meanwhile, Alfonzo reached over and started combing his fingers through Elicia's hair with a smile on his face.

"Why don't we finish breakfast before we open them, Lici." Alfonzo said in a gentle tone. "It's not like their gonna grow legs and run away."

"Kay~~~..." Elicia replied reluctantly as she struggled to turn her eyes away from the gift.

"She's like a little kid when she gets like this." Ultear said with a smile.

"Yeah, it's kinda cute." Sun added.

Hearing that, Elicia flushed slightly in embarrassment while her harem sisters laughed at her expense. Meanwhile, Yoruichi breathed a sigh of relief.

'Good, he's back to calling her Lici again.' Yoruichi said to herself internally.

With that, breakfast continued. Though, it was not quite as lively as before with Yoruichi and Sui-Feng's inclusion. Still, there were a few people who tried to engage her in conversation, to get to know her just like the girls had discussed.

Eventually, breakfast ended, and Alfonzo, Mirajane, and Sun took the dirty dishes to the kitchen. Meanwhile, Elicia led Lucy, Yoruichi, and Sui-Feng to the living room while the other girls dashed off to their own rooms.

"Tch!" Lucy clicked her tongue. "If I had moved in already, mine would be here, too."

Hearing that, all three girls knew exactly what Lucy was talking about. It was clear to anyone that the girls were returning to their bedrooms to get their own gifts for Alfonzo and Elicia after seeing Yoruichi hand them hers.

A few moments later, Elicia, Lucy, Yoruichi, and Sui-Feng reached the living room before taking seats on the couches. And since she knew that Alfonzo would definitely sit next to Elicia today, Lucy took a seat on the same couch as she did in order to cuddle with Alfonzo when he arrived.

Meanwhile, Yoruichi took a seat on the reclining chair and Sui-Feng stood behind her like a bodyguard.

"Seriously, Bumble Bee, they were right earlier." Yoruichi said in an exasperated tone. "No one's gonna start a fight here."

"Yoruichi Shihouin, I, Erza Scarlet, challenge you to a duel." Erza, the first of the girls to reach the living room, said as if to prove Yoruichi wrong while carrying a large package over her left shoulder and a second similarly sized package under her left arm.

Immediately, Sui-Feng looked at Yoruichi with an expression that shouted: "See, I told you so!" Meanwhile, Elicia and Lucy could only face palm. Yoruichi, on the other hand, looked at Erza with an expression that suggested she was expecting to receive a few more of these challenges before the day ended.

Bang!

Then, before Yoruichi could respond to her challenge, Erza put the large packages she was carrying on the floor next to one of the couches before taking a seat. However, the loud rumbling sound one of the packages made when it made contact with the floor caught everyone off guard.

"What the heck is that, Erza?" Lucy asked in a surprised tone.

"Be patient, Lucy." Erza replied calmly. "I shall explain when my gifts are opened."

And as the seconds passed, the rest of the girls arrived in the living room from upstairs. And like Erza, they were each carrying a pair of gift wrapped packages. Then, Alfonzo arrived in the living room, and took a seat between Elicia and Lucy, causing a few girls to click their tongues while glaring at Lucy enviously. After a few more minutes, Mirajane and Sun also arrived after running upstairs to get their own gifts for Alfonzo and Elicia.

"So many presents." Elicia said excitedly, basically bouncing in excitement. "Which one should I open first?"