

Fairy Tail 411

Chapter 411: Emergency Quest: Zombie Outbreak

The day after the duel, Alfonzo woke up in his bed with all his girls using him as a pillow of some sort. Then, after removing himself from all their embraces, he went down to the training room to train, thinking he would not have time to train at the guild hall and prepare lunch for the ladies from Mermaid Heel before they left to go home.

Not long after Alfonzo left, the girls also woke up. And because Alfonzo had already told them his plans for the morning, they all returned to their rooms before heading to the guild hall for morning training.

Around noon, the residents of the mansion, accompanied by the ladies of Mermaid Heel, Tsunade included, showed up at the mansion. And when they arrived in the dining room, they could not help but start salivating.

On the table were plates of grilled chicken sandwiches, onion rings, and salad, with a wide variety of salad dressings for the consumers to choose from. Surprisingly, there was even a plate for Tsunade, which almost made her tear up.

Then, after having lunch in a positive atmosphere, Alfonzo and his girls walked with the ladies of Mermaid Heel to bid them farewell at the train station.

Like Mermaid Heel, the wizards from the other guilds were also present at the train station. So, after a round of goodbyes and promises to meet again, everyone went back to where they came from. Meanwhile, the wizards of Fairy Tail could finally go back to business as usual, as well.

On the other hand, Alfonzo, Elicia, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy returned to the old mansion to clean up. And with the use of magic and magic items, they were able to clear everything they wanted to take with them out of the mansion in a single afternoon.

Then, after throwing away everything they did not want, including all the mattresses, and leaving the kitchenware behind, Alfonzo called Ur to discuss the price of the mansion with him and Elicia. And just as Alfonzo thought, Elicia had no issue selling the mansion to Ur at cost. So, Ur, Wendy, and Carla moved into the mansion the next morning.

After that, a little more than two weeks passed, and everyone was in the swing of Harvest Festival preparations. Well, almost everyone.

"Are you two really gonna take a quest at this time?" Ur asked Alfonzo and Elicia from behind her desk.

"That's right." Alfonzo replied.

"Yeah, it's been a while since we went on a quest with just the two of us." Elicia added with a smile.

"*Sigh* You do know that the two of you are the main event for this year's Phantasia Parade, right?" Ur asked in an exasperated tone. "With your recent marriage, you two are perfect to play the role as the king and queen of fairies."

"I really think Erza would make more sense for that role, though." Elicia replied. "I mean, she is called Titania, right?"

"That's not important." Ur said sharply, gaining a giggle from Elicia in response.

"Yeah, just as long as they don't start calling me Oberon, I'm fine with it." Alfonzo said with a shrug, causing Ur to shift her glare in his direction. "Besides, all we have to do is wear costumes and stand on top of a float while waving at the crowd. How much practice could we possibly need, Ur?"

"*Sigh* I know you're right, kids." Ur said while shaking her head. "But you know how the rest of the guild is. If they break one of the floats or damage any of their costumes while preparing for the parade, I would feel a lot better having the two of you here."

"It's not like we're gonna be gone all that long, Ur." Elicia said in a soothing tone. "Besides, I can't be gone for too long, anyway. I still have to make all the girls' outfits for the pageant."

"Yeah, and we definitely can't miss the time to train for the tournament, either." Alfonzo added. "So, there's nothing to worry about."

"Fine, I trust you two." Ur said.

"Anyway, how are things between you and Gildarts?" Elicia asked excitedly with the light of gossip shining in her eyes.

"That's none of your business." Ur shot back with a blush on her cheeks.

In fact, after all the wizards from the other guilds left Magnolia, Ur finally found Gildarts to apologize for the way she acted.

Naturally, that surprised Gildarts to no end. But what surprised him even more was the fact that Ur told him that she had developed feelings for him over the years. She also told him, in no uncertain terms, that if he could stop his womanizing, she was willing to give him a chance.

"I guess Gildarts hasn't given her an answer yet." Alfonzo said after examining Ur's expression. "Well, I guess that makes sense, Gildarts isn't jumping around like a fool and bragging about how he got her, either."

Bang!

"Shut up, you brat!" Ur shouted as she slammed her fists down on her desk. "You two are supposed to be leaving for a quest, right? Then, get the hell outta here, already!"

Smiling in response, Alfonzo and Elicia waved at Ur before turning around and heading into the elevator.

"Damn, those brats can be so annoying." Ur said while a smile crept onto her face.

A few minutes later, Alfonzo and Elicia, after saying their goodbyes to their guild mates, climbed into the Escalade before heading for the town gates.

"So, Zombies in Takanosu Town, we're gonna find what we think we're gonna find in this town, right?" Elicia asked excitedly from the passenger seat.

"Probably." Alfonzo replied while keeping his eyes on the road. "But seriously, what's up with this world? I mean, we've already found My Dress-Up Darling, My Bride is a Mermaid, FMA, Bleach, Naruto, and DMC. How many other worlds are rolled up in it?"

"Who knows." Elicia replied with a shrug. "But we might be able to add another one if our hunch is right."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Alfonzo said while shaking his head.

Like that, Alfonzo and Elicia drove across Fiore to solve an emergency S-Class quest about a dark ritual that turned most of the inhabitants of a town into zombies. The objective was to eradicate the undead and save as many people as possible.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Takanosu.

At the same time, a group of teenagers and an adult woman were fighting to escape from one of the kingdom's more prestigious schools that could be found outside of the capital. Unfortunately, most of the student body and teaching staff had already been transformed into zombies. So, getting away was much more difficult than they ever imagined.

Bang!

"Come on, everyone, we have to keep moving." A tall, well-endowed, young woman, looking to be about eighteen years old, with long, thigh-length purple hair, blue eyes, and a well-endowed figure wearing a school uniform, said as she smashed a zombie's skull with the wooden sword in her hands.

"I know, but everyone is so tired." A young man with spiky black hair and brown eyes replied while carrying a what appeared to be a baseball bat over his shoulder.

"I'd like to let them rest, Kamuro." The purple-haired young woman said. "But if we don't get off campus quickly, we could be overrun."

"She's right, Kamuro." A short, well-endowed, bespectacled, young woman with long pink hair tied into twin tails and orange eyes shot back. "If we don't hurry out of here, we'll have to deal with these things at night. And that could be a lot more dangerous than what we're dealing with right now."

"I know but..." The black-haired young man, Kamuro, or rather Takashi Kamuro, replied while looking at the other members of their group of escapees.

Meanwhile, the other members of their group, an overweight, bespectacled young man with black hair and eyes, a well-endowed young woman with long reddish-brown hair and red eyes carrying what appeared to be a broken mop handle, and a tall, extremely voluptuous, blonde woman with brown eyes and a sleepy expression appeared to be on edge while they watched the other discuss.

"If only they taught us magic here." The overweight young man said. "But this is a school to raise scholars, not a magic school, so what else would you expect."

"We don't have time for this, Fat ass." The pink-haired girl shouted in irritation. "We can worry about that later. For now, we need to get out of here and find a place where we can rest."

"Calm down, Saya." The brown-haired young woman said soothingly. "Being that loud will attract them to us."

"You think I don't know that!" The pink-haired young woman, or Saya Takagi, shot back fiercely. "I'm a genius. I'm the one that figured out they only react to sound, remember?"

"But Miss Takagi is right." The overweight young man said while adjusting his glasses. "I can bitch about not learning magic later. For now, we should get out of here."

"But how are we gonna do that?" The purple-haired young woman asked. "I mean, I could probably get out of here by myself with no issue. But I don't know about you all."

"Are you thinking of moving alone, Miss Busujima?" Takashi asked curiously.

"Just call me Saeko." The purple-haired woman, Saeko Busujima, replied with a smile. "And no, I wasn't going to move alone. I was just pointing that out."

"That's not important right now." Saya said, sounding more irritated as time went on. "Stay on topic. How should we get out of here?"

With that, the group of six fell silent while staying on alert and considering their options.

"Um..." The blonde woman muttered in an unsure tone.

"Do you have an idea, Miss Marikawa?" The Brown-haired woman asked.

"Well... What if we used the magic vehicles used to take students to the capital to receive awards?" The blonde woman, Shizuka Marikawa, asked. "The only problem is they are old-fashioned models. So, I would be the only one who can drive. Using the S.E. Plug"

Unlike the other five members of the group, Shizuka was not a student at the school. On top of that, she was a wizard trained in the use of [Healing Magic], which was why she was hired as a member of the school's medical staff.

"Oh, now that you mention it, you are a wizard, aren't you?" Saya asked while cupping her chin. "You usually act so dumb that I often forget."

"That's really mean, Miss Takagi." Shizuka said while puffing her cheeks out as she pouted.

"Either way, Miss Shizuka's idea is probably the best option we have." The brown-haired young woman said.

"Yeah, I agree with Rei." Takashi added. "Otherwise, we'll probably end up stuck in here."

"Of course, you agree with her..." Saya muttered with jealousy in her tone. "Like always..."

"Then, let's get going." Saeko said. "Since they usually keep the magic vehicles locked up, we should head to the faculty office to get the keys."

"We should probably find a weapon for fat ass over there, too." Saya added. "But he'd probably just tire himself out if we gave him a sword or a spear."

"Well, I actually know some [Guns Magic]." The overweight young man, Kohta Hirano, said timidly. "I mean, I was trained to join the ranged unit of the kingdom's knights. But---"

"But let me guess, you were so fat that they didn't accept you, right?" Saya said snappily.

"There's no need to be so hard on Hirano, Saya." Takashi said.

"Either way, if we're gonna get going, we need to go now." Saeko said, putting an end to that conversation. "But before we do that..."

With that, Saeko walked up to Shizuka. Then, she took the edge of Shizuka's somewhat tight skirt in her hands and...

Rip!

"What are you doing!?" Shizuka asked in an upset tone. "Do you have any idea how much that skirt cost? It's from the Taylor Shop, and it was a limited edition piece."

"Well, would you rather have your skirt or your life?" Saeko asked after she finished. "Anyway, you can buy another one if we survive this. Now, let's go."

Then, the group of six started running through the halls of their school to reach the faculty room.

"Weren't you listening?" Shizuka asked as she ran behind the rest of the group. "This skirt is a limited edition piece. I can't just go get another one."

Ignoring Shizuka, the group of six ran through the halls of the school, dispatching any zombies they came across. Eventually, they reached the faculty office and immediately started searching for the keys to the magic vehicles.

"Hey! Look what I found!" Rei shouted as she raised her left hand high above her head.

"Rei, did you find the keys already?" Takashi asked excitedly.

"No, but I did find a communication lacrima." Rei replied. "We should be able to call for help with this."

Hearing that, the others stopped their search for the keys and gathered around Rei.

"Well, what are you waiting for?" Saya asked impatiently. "Hurry up and call for help."

Nodding in response, Rei focused all her attention on the lacrima. A moment later, however, Re's expression showed confusion.

"Um... How do I use it?" Rei asked curiously.

With that, the room fell into an awkward silence.

"Yeah, now that you mention it, how do we activate this lacrima?" Takashi asked while scratching his head. "Don't you need to be able to use magic to use one of those?"

"If you can't use it, why did you get so excited?" Saya asked derisively.

"There's no reason to get so angry, Miss Takagi." Saeko said, placing a hand on the shorter girl's shoulder.

"Don't talk to me like I'm a child." Saya said while slapping Saeko's hand off her shoulder. "Either way, that thing is useless if no one can use it."

"Um... I can use it." Kohta said sheepishly.

"Oh, now that I think about it, so can I." Shizuka added while placing her right index finger on her chin.

Just then, the other four remembered that Shizuka and Kohta had both been trained as wizards.

"Then hurry up and do it!" Saya shouted as she snatched the lacrima from Rei and held it out in front of Shizuka and Kohta.

"Now how do I do that again?" Shizuka asked, sounding a bit confused and uncertain.

Instead of replying, Kohta gingerly took the lacrima from Saya. Then, he inserted a small amount of his magic power into the lacrima.

Static!

Unfortunately, after the lacrima was activated, not much happened. Although it did project a light, there were no images that appeared in the light.

"It looks like we can't connect to anyone." Kohta said in a downcast tone. "I guess that means the knights aren't coming to rescue us."

"There was probably a barrier placed over the town to stop communications from going out." Saeko said.

"And that means this disaster probably isn't natural." Saya added. "So, it's definitely because of some dark wizards."

"Great." Takashi said in an irritated tone. "Now, we have to find a way to get out of the town while dodging the zombies. And I'm pretty sure they aren't only showing up in the school."

"Yeah, when we were on the roof, I saw them roaming the rest of the town, too." Rei added.

"We can worry about what caused this later." Saeko said as she went back to searching for the magic vehicle keys. "For now, we just need to worry about getting out of the school and eventually the town. After that, we can worry about letting the kingdom know what's going on here."

In response, the other five nodded in agreement and also went back to searching for the keys.

Little did the small group of people know, back when everything first went to hell in the town, a team of C-Class wizards, who had a delivery quest in Takanosu, saw the pandemonium as they approached the

town on foot. So, they quickly turned around and made their way to the nearest village to contact the knights. And that's where the emergency quest that Alfonzo and Elicia accepted came from.

Chapter 412: The Slimy Shido

A couple of hours have passed since the group of six escapees reached the faculty office of their school. Since then, they found the keys they were looking for, rescued another small group of survivors, and made it to the magic vehicle. However, just as they were ready to pull off, a second group of survivors came running out of the school as well, hoping to get a ride out of this hell hole.

Meanwhile, a young blonde woman with an exaggerated hour glass figure was watching the hole exchange from atop the highest building in the town, the clocktower, with a euphoric smile on her face.

"Ooh~~~! Can you feel it, Monokuma?" The young woman, Junko Enoshima asked in a sultry tone. "All the despair! Isn't it just to die for?"

"Yeah, it's great." Monokuma, the half black and half white talking teddy bear in Junko's arms, replied happily while watching the two groups from the school. "Oh, and that man is adding to it."

As Monokuma spoke his last sentence, he saw the only adult among the second group of survivors kick a student who fell and asked for his help. As a result, the male student shouted loudly, drawing all the zombies over to himself before he was ripped apart by the undead abominations.

"Mmm~~~~~! The despair that boy must have felt in his last moments..." Junko whispered while she released Monokuma with her left hand and began caressing her body. "I'd love to feel such despair myself."

Before Junko could enjoy the feeling too much, however, her head snapped in the direction of one of the town's entrances.

"God damn it!" Junko shouted. "What are they doing here?"

"Does that mean that someone got away?" Monokuma asked as he looked in the same direction as Junko. "I mean, I put up the anti-communication barrier just like you told me to."

"No, I don't doubt you, Monokuma." Junko said, using her left hand to caress Monokuma's head. "I know you followed my orders to the letter. Either way, it doesn't matter how word got out about this town. Because they are here, it's already a partial failure."

"Does that mean it's time for us to leave?" Monokuma asked.

"Yes, we should go." Junko replied with a nod. "As much as I'd like to make that bitch from Fairy Tail pay for getting between me and Zeref, now is not the time for us to fight."

With that, Junko glared in the direction of the approaching cherry-red magic vehicle one last time before she disappeared from the top of the clock tower.

Meanwhile, inside the cherry-red magic vehicle, the Escalade, Elicia was rolling up her window after pulling her right arm back into the vehicle with a pout on her face.

"How did she notice us?" Elicia said unhappily. "More importantly, why did she run away?"

"I don't know about the answer to the second question." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "As for the first, there are a lot of ways she could have known we were here. But she's not why we're here, this time. Instead, we need to put down this infectious dark magic."

"I know..." Elicia muttered. Then, she got her expression under control. "So, how do you want to do this?"

"The first thing we need to do is make sure none of these things have gotten out of the town." Alfonzo said, receiving a nod from Elicia in return. "So, I'll let you out at the town's entrance. Then, I'll drive around the city with [MPD] extended as far as I can and take out any I find. After that, I'll create a giant wall around the town."

"That sounds like a plan to me." Elicia said with another nod. "And while you're doing that, I'll head into the city and rescue as many people as I can while taking out every one of those undead I come across."

"Right." Alfonzo said with a nod of his own. "But you need to be careful. You know what desperate humans can be like, right? And they are definitely more dangerous than mindless zombies."

"Yeah, I really don't wanna kill any normal humans if I can help it." Elicia said in a downcast manner. "But I'll do what I have to. It would be better than just leaving them tied up in a situation like this."

"Yeah, it's not their fault their town ended up like this." Alfonzo said in agreement. "But this isn't exactly like HOTD, Lici. I wouldn't be surprised if there were undead animals, too. So, be extra careful."

With that, Alfonzo pulled up to the entrance of the town, drawing the attention of a horde of zombies. At the same time, both Alfonzo and Elicia noticed there was a barrier erected around the town, too.

"What is that?" Elicia asked while frowning slightly.

"I'm not a hundred percent sure, but it feels like a communications jamming barrier." Alfonzo replied. "But I've never felt one this big. ON top of that, we could only feel it once we got inside."

"It was probably Junko." Elicia said with a frown.

"I wouldn't put it past her." Alfonzo replied. "Knowing that they wouldn't be getting any back up, that would definitely cause a lot of people to despair."

"Anyway, I'll take care of these zombies." Elicia said as she took off her seat belt. Then, she leaned over and kissed Alfonzo on the cheek. "If I find anything, I'll flare my magic power. You shouldn't have any problems finding me like that, right?"

"Even if you didn't do that, I'd be able to find you, Lici." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

Smiling in response, Elicia opened her car door and climbed out of the Escalade. Then, after closing the door, she faced the town entrance and shot her threads into buildings on either side of the street.

"[Thread Magic: Catapult Launcher]." Elicia chanted as she launched herself towards the center of the horde of zombies. Then, before she made contact, Elicia started spinning at high speed while releasing threads from all over her body as she continued to chant. "[Thread Magic: Loosening Spool]."

At the same time, Alfonzo pulled off to complete his own part of the plan.

Then, like a drill, Elicia's threads ground apart all the zombies in her path. ON top of that, many of the zombies around her were also cut into pieces. Unfortunately, parts of the ground were sliced through as well. But considering the state of the town, she doubted anyone would make a fuss about such a small amount of damage.

Eventually, Elicia landed in the middle of the horde. Then, she extended her threads from her fingertips and spun in place once again. By the time she stopped, there was a thread wrapped around each of the zombies' necks, though they were still ambling towards her.

"[Thread Magic: Thread Guillotine]." Elicia chanted as she contracted the threads at high speed.

In the next instant, all the zombies' heads shot up into the sky with geysers of blood. At the same time, Elicia created a [Thread Cocoon] around herself to make sure that no blood got on her or her clothes.

"Eww! Dealing with the undead is so gross." Elicia muttered as she brought down her [Thread Cocoon].
"Cleaning up this whole town is really gonna suck."

As she spoke, Elicia scanned her surroundings with her eyes. At the same time, using her [Magic Power detection], she inspected the town more closely.

"Let's see, there looks to be a shelter on the opposite side of the bridge on the east side of the town." Elicia muttered to herself. "Oh, there's another place where people are gathering on this side of the bridge, too. But it's on the west side. And if things are the way Fonzie and I think they are, one of those places should be the Takagi mansion. The other should be where the knights are gathering people. But since I've never been to this town, I don't know which is which."

Boom!

Reaching that point, Elicia side flipped to the right. And in the place where she once stood, there was a zombie with its right fist sunk wrist deep into the ground.

"It looks like Fonzie was right." Elicia muttered as she looked at the zombie. "Some of these zombies are a lot stronger and faster than the others. The good thing is that we can tell them apart by how much magic power they have."

Once again, Elicia was forced to evade. However, instead of flipping away, she simply sidestepped. At the same time, she wrapped the zombie's legs with her threads. Then, she cut them off using the same method she used to deal with the rest of the zombies.

"I'm guessing the ritual that created these zombies managed to awaken their magic power." Elicia said as she looped some of her threads around the zombie's neck. "They probably never awakened their magic power before all this happened. Either that, or they were just like Marin, who didn't even know she was using magic before she met us."

Cutting off the zombies head at the end of her monologue, Elicia looked towards the rest of the town. Then, she shot her threads at the tallest of the nearby buildings.

"I guess we'll never find out which it is." Elicia said to herself as she vaulted to the top of the building. "More important is finding the survivors and killing all thee undead."

With that, Elicia started racing across the rooftops towards the closest untainted magic power signature while dealing with any undead along the way.

Meanwhile, the two groups from the school were all seated into the magic vehicle, which was about the size of a tour bus, with Shizuka driving.

"So, where should we go?" Shizuka asked as she continued to drive through the streets of Takanosu.

"Before we decide on a destination, I think we should choose a leader." A fragile looking man with straight black hair, yellow eyes, and wearing a black, pinstripe suit with a white shirt, a yellow tie, a jeweled tie clip, and brown shoes said with a friendly, non-threatening smile on his face. "As they say, too many cooks in the kitchen can spoil the broth, right?"

"And let me guess, you think that leader should be you, right, Shido?" Rei said in a tone that hid none of the disdain or hatred she held for this Shido.

"Naturally." Shido, or Koichi Shido, said as he stood from his seat, stepped into the aisle of the magic vehicle, and spread his arms. "As a teacher, one who has been tasked with molding the minds of young adults, and leading them to greater heights, it is only natural that I should lead."

As Shido continued his speech, a ripple of magic power was released from the jewel on his tied clip. As a result, most of those riding the magic vehicle fell into a daze. At the same time, they started hanging onto Shido's every word.

'Ha! Once I've got that little bitch under my control, I'll show her the consequences of denying me.' Shido thought to himself as he continued his speech, appealing for his place as the group's leader. 'And when I'm done with her, she'll realize that just being held back a year in her studies was nothing compared to what I have planned for her.'

Meanwhile, Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Rei, Kohta, and Shizuka felt uncomfortable. Though, as inexperienced as they were, they could not understand why. But they were definitely not in favor of naming Shido the leader after having such an uncomfortable feeling accompany his words.

"You can talk all you want." Rei said once Shido's appeal came to an end. "But I'd rather die than have you lead me in anything. Especially after seeing you sacrifice that boy to save your own sorry ass back at the school."

"Then, perhaps we should put it to a vote?" Shido asked, his friendly smile cracking for an instant. "What do the rest of you think?"

With that, the students that came with Shido all cheered excitedly. They had all been caught by the effects of his [Charm Magic], after all. Meanwhile, those who escaped with Rei could only look on dumbfoundedly at how fervent Shido's supporters were. Even the students they saved just before leaving were no exception.

'What is going on?' Shido asked himself as he completely ignored all the students who voted for him. 'How are they resisting my [Charm Magic]? Does that mean they all have more magic power than I do? Impossible. Father had me trained as a wizard from a young age. Even if I have very little talent as a wizard, there's no way a bunch of kids could have more magic power than me. And then there's Marikawa. She's such a dunce. There's no way she should be able to resist, either. Still, I've definitely won the vote. So, they'll most likely fall in line. Unless they want to be cast out from the group.'

"Well, it looks like the overwhelming majority of the votes have gone to me." Shido said, rebuilding his friendly smile as he approached the magic vehicle's driver's seat. 'Now, why don't you take us to the--- Whoa!"

Screech!

Before he could reach Shizuka, however, she stopped supplying her magic power to the vehicle. As a result, it screeched to a halt.

"To be honest, if Mr. Shido is going to be the leader, I'd rather get eaten by those nasty zombies." Shizuka said in her normally ditzy tone. "I mean, you've always made me feel really uncomfortable. And as soon as you thought you were the leader, that feeling got even worse."

Hearing that, Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Rei, and Kohta looked at Shizuka with disbelieving expressions. Meanwhile, Shido, after regaining his footing, scowled scornfully. However, before letting his anger get the better of him, he switched his expression back to a friendly smile.

"Does that mean you plan to leave the group, Miss Marikawa?" Shido asked in a tone filled with mock concern. "You're a trained healer. And the students will definitely need you and your abilities at a time like this. Can you honestly say that you could abandon them over something so inconsequential?"

Despite her ditzy personality, Shizuka did take her role as a healer quite seriously. So, when Shido made that point, her resolve began to weaken.

"Stop trying to guilt trip her, Shido." Rei said, the disdain in her tone even more apparent now. "We both know you don't give a flying fuck about the students. You only want her to sate your lust. And I would know that better than anyone. Not giving into you is the reason I ended up held back a year, after all."

Immediately after hearing Rei's outburst, Saeko, Saya, and Shizuka all looked at Shido with disgusted expressions. Meanwhile, Takashi, who had defended Rei from Shido's clutches and ended up being held back as well, looked at him with hatred only second to Rei's. Kohta on the other hand, did not know what to say or do. But he did know that if he had a magic gun, he would probably put a bullet between the slimy teacher's eyes right now.

At the same time, Shido's expression had transformed into one filled with malevolence and hatred as he glared at Rei.

"Fine, if you can't accept the outcome of the vote, then we should split up here." Shido said menacingly. "But we'll be keeping the magic vehicle."

"And why the hell should we let you have it?" Takashi questioned threateningly.

"Because, if you don't..." Shido said as he raised his right hand. A moment later, as an orb of [Darkness Magic] gathered on his palm, he continued with a madness-ridden smile on his face. "I'll destroy the whole vehicle. Then, no one will have it. On top of that, the noise will definitely draw those undead creatures here."

"No way, he's a wizard." Kohta muttered in surprise.

"Damn it..." Takashi groaned while clenching his fists around his cudgel.

"And this is the kind of man you've elected to be your leader?" Rei asked as she shifted her gaze to the other students. "Now, you can all see what kind of---"

Before Rei could finish, she noticed the worship in the other student's' gazes as they watched Shido remove his mask. On top of that, all the female students, on top of looking at Shido with reverence, had no small amount of lust in their gazes.

"You really are disgusting." Rei said with such vitriol that the interior of the magic vehicle felt as if the temperature had dropped. "You actually used [Charm Magic] to gain their trust. You know what? I don't even fucking care about the magic vehicle anymore. As long as I can get as far away from you as possible, you can have it."

With that, Rei opened the door to the magic vehicle. Then, with her mop handle in hand, she wasted no time leaving. Following Rei's example, Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Shizuka, and Kohta also disembarked while looking at Shido like he was a steaming pile of human garbage.

Dispelling the [Darkness Magic] on his palm, Shido stomped up to the front of the magic vehicle, took the driver's seat, and wrapped the S.E. Plug around his wrist.

"Damn those bitches!" Shido shouted as he started supplying his magic power to the vehicle. "Sooner or later, I'll have them all. Then, I'll make them watch as those two boys are tortured right in front of them. After that, I'll have my way with them."

Screech~~~~~!

With that, Shido drove the magic vehicle away, leaving the group of six standing on the side of the road. On top of that, the squealing tires from Shizuka's stop and Shido's exit had drawn quite a crowd of undead to their location.

Chapter 413: Rescue

"Alright, I think I got all of them." Alfonzo muttered as he pulled the Escalade up to one of the town's entrances. "Now, let's see what's going on in the town."

While Elicia was moving through Takanosu town and killing every zombie she came across, she also made sure to clear the area around as many citizens as she could, as well. Meanwhile, Alfonzo made a circle around the town killing all the zombies who managed to escape. Unfortunately, he had no way to know how far any of the zombies had gotten. So, there was a chance that some of them could have escaped his detection range.

Still, once he made a sweep of the surroundings, Alfonzo returned to the entrance where he dropped off Elicia. Then, he raised an adamantite wall around the entire town that also covered the Escalade. He didn't need someone planting another bomb on its engine, after all.

After that, like Elicia had done, he began investigating the town. Unsurprisingly, he found the exact same things that Elicia did. However, he also noticed the six higher than average magic power signatures that were surrounded by a horde of zombies.

"Looks like those people are in some deep shit." Alfonzo muttered as his body was covered in arcs of violet electricity. "I guess I should go help them. [Electromagnetism Magic: Lightning Enhancement]."

In the next instant, Alfonzo vanished from where he stood with a flash of violet lightning. Then, after a few moments, he appeared in the air above the group of six he discovered.

"Hmm... That's the main cast of HOTD, isn't it?" Alfonzo muttered as he watched Saeko, Takashi, and Rei fight off the horde while trying to protect Saya, Kohta, and Shizuka. "But things are definitely different. For one, Hirano doesn't have a weapon. I guess I should do something about that. No one should be unarmed while shit like this is going down."

["You can analyze the situation later."] Bedlam said from Alfonzo's inner world. ["If you don't hurry, one of them is gonna die."]

"I know, I know." Alfonzo replied dismissively as he shot down towards the ground at high speed.

Boom!

A moment later, Alfonzo landed on the street in the middle of the horde. As a result of his heavy landing, a shockwave was created, blowing away all the zombies surrounding him.

"What the hell was that?" Takashi asked while knocking a flying zombie aside with his cudgel.

"I don't know!" Saya shouted. "But that will draw all the zombies to it.

"Then, we should start running." Rei said.

"[Metal Magic: Circular Cutter]." Alfonzo chanted before the conversation could go on for any longer.

A moment later, Alfonzo, with a pair of spinning circular saws attached to his forearms, could be seen removing the heads of every zombie within reach. On top of that, He was using his metal magic to fire at the zombies in his blind spot, as well.

"Holy shit!" Takashi exclaimed after seeing the speed at which Alfonzo dealt with the horde. "Is that guy even human?"

"Of course he is, you moron." Saya shot back. "He's a wizard... A powerful one."

"Yeah, but who is he?" Rei asked curiously.

"I don't know, but he's tall." Shizuka replied.

"And he's quite skilled in combat." Saeko added.

At this point, thanks to his many interviews in Sorcerer Weekly, Alfonzo was quite recognizable in Fiore. However, because of the arcs of electricity on his body, no one could see any of his defining features.

"He's probably at least an S-Class wizard." Kohta said.

"Yeah, that much is obvious, fat ass." Saya replied snappily while adjusting her glasses.

"Um... I do have a name, you know?" Kohta said hesitantly.

"Yeah, but I can't be bothered to use it." Saya shot back.

"We can discuss who he is later." Saeko said as she noticed more zombies closing in on them. "We still have incoming."

"Yeah, but our weapons have seen better days." Takashi said as he also noticed the approaching zombies.

"We'll just have to deal with it." Rei replied.

Shing! *Clang!* *Shing!*

Before the three fighters from the group of survivors could take a step forward to start engaging the zombies once again, a katana, a spiked mace, and a long spear fell in front of Saeko, Takashi, and Rei, respectively.

Surprised by the new weapons, they all threw their makeshift weapons away and picked up the metal ones.

"Metal weapons coming out of nowhere?" Kohta asked as his gaze repeatedly shifted between the new weapons and the glowing man in the ripping through the horde. Then, after connecting the dots, he shouted towards the man covered in arcs of electricity. "Hey, you're Alfonzo Marcus of Fairy Tail, right?"

"Yeah, that's me." Alfonzo replied without slowing down.

"Do you think you could make me a magic rifle.?" Kohta asked with anticipation in his tone. "Something semi-automatic and with a couple magazines?"

A moment later, without hearing a response, a silenced rifle similar in appearance to the SIG Sauer M400 and three thirty-round clips appeared floated in front of Kohta.

And when Kohta saw the weapon in front of him, his eyes lit up like a kid in a candy store. Then, when he got his hands on the rifle, his whole demeanor changed. Instead of the timid young man everyone

had seen for all the time they were in school together, the aura of a veteran shooter was now exuding from the overweight young man.

"Fat a--- I mean, Hirano, are you okay?" Saya asked in a wary tone.

"Oh yeah!" Kohta replied as he checked the rifle in his hands. Then, once he was satisfied, he loaded one of the magazines. "I'm better than okay. With this little beauty in my hands, I'm unstoppable."

"Click!* *Pssp!* *Pssp!* *Pssp!*

Then, just as he finished speaking, Kohta cocked the rifle, aimed in Saeko's direction, and fired a burst of three shots, slightly adjusting his aim as he did so.

As a result, a zombie that was sneaking up on Saeko's blind spot, the one to its left, and one of the faster and stronger ones all lost their heads.

"Holy shit!" Saya exclaimed in surprise.

"Wow, Hirano shoots fast." Shizuka said in an impressed tone.

Despite receiving genuine praise from Shizuka, Kohta almost tripped over his own feet, despite the fact that he was standing still when he heard Shizuka's choice of words.

"Ahahahahahaha!" Alfonzo, having also heard Shizuka's praise, could not help but start laughing. "Damn, that's gotta hurt."

"Huh? What do you mean?" Shizuka asked in a thoroughly confused tone.

"That's not important." Saya replied with slightly reddened cheeks. Then, she glared at Kohta. "Get it together. Otherwise, someone could die."

"Right." Kohta replied as his expression turned solemn once again.

The battle continued in that manner for the next few minutes, with Alfonzo doing most of the damage on the horde thanks to his superior speed and magical ability. Meanwhile, Saeko, Takashi, Rei, and Kohta did all they could to thin the numbers as much as they could, as well.

Eventually, however, the battle ended abruptly when all the remaining zombies heads flew up into the air with blood geysers shooting up from their necks.

"Huh?" Saeko exclaimed as her sword passed through where a zombie's neck should have been.

"What the fuck was that?" Takashi asked while supporting himself with the spiked mace in his hands.

"I don't know, but I think we won." Rei said through labored breaths.

"Yeah, but how?" Kohta asked as he lowered his rifle.

At the same time, Alfonzo had created a thin metal shield to protect himself from all the spraying blood. Then, once all the zombies fell over, he lowered the shield and spread his arms.

"Good job, Lici." Alfonzo said with a smile.

A moment later, Elicia fell from above and landed in Alfonzo's arms in a princess carry.

"Thanks." Elicia replied with a smile. "Did you manage to get all the ones that got out of the town?"

"I think so." Alfonzo replied. "But if a bunch of those ones that can harness the magic power in their bodies got out of the town, I have no idea how far they would have gotten."

"Well, that's the best anyone can expect, I guess." Elicia replied with a shrug.

"Yeah, plus, I put up an adamantite wall around the whole town." Alfonzo added. "That way, there won't be any more of those things getting out."

"Wait! Doesn't that mean we're all trapped in here?" Saya asked, cutting into the conversation.

Hearing the question, Alfonzo and Elicia were brought out of their own world. Then, they finally realized that the six survivors had approached them.

However, before Alfonzo could reply to Saya's question, someone else beat him to it.

"Of course not." Kohta said while hugging the rifle in his hands like a lover. "That's Alfonzo Marcus, the Master of Metals. He could open a hole in that wall whenever he wanted to."

"Sounds like you have a fan, Fonzie." Elicia said playfully.

"It does." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

Before the conversation could go on any further, Elicia, who had been looking over the six people in front of her frowned when she saw Shizuka's skirt. A moment later, she hopped out of Alfonzo's arms and started walking towards her.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo could only smile wryly.

"Excuse me, Miss, but what happened to your skirt?" Elicia asked as she crouched down in front of Shizuka.

"I tore it so that she would have an easier time moving." Saeko replied before Shizuka could.

Frowning slightly deeper, Elicia stopped herself from glaring at Saeko. Rationally, she knew that was the right move in the situation they found themselves in. Still, she hated seeing her creations damaged. Eventually Elicia shook her head to rid herself of those thoughts.

"It's really a shame that this hit your town." Elicia said. Then, she looked at Shizuka's skirt sadly. "I only made two hundred of those skirts."

"I know..." Shizuka said sadly. "I actually stood outside of the Taylor Shop in the capital overnight to get one of them."

"*Sigh* Lici, that's not important right now." Alfonzo said as he approached Elicia from behind. Then, he looked at the six survivors in front of them with a solemn gaze. "Are all of you okay? Did any of you get bitten or scratched?"

Hearing that, Elicia looked at the group solemnly as well.

"No, I'm fine." Saeko replied.

"Same here." Rei added.

"Me, too." Takashi said.

"None of them ever got close enough to the three of us." Saya said, gesturing to herself, Shizuka, and Kohta as she spoke.

"That's good." Alfonzo said in a relieved tone. "I would have hated to have to put any of you down."

"Yeah, especially since all of you have so much magic power." Elicia added cheerfully. "Peak C-Class at the very least. Fighting a zombie with that much magic power would have been really annoying."

Hearing that, all six of the survivors wore solemn expressions. None of them had any doubt that Alfonzo and Elicia would have done what they said if any of them had been infected by the zombie curse. A moment later, however, Shizuka's expression changed into a surprised and elated one.

"Wait! You're Elicia Taylor, the owner of the Taylor Shop!" Shizuka squealed excitedly.

"Damn... That's a late reaction..." Takashi muttered.

Ignoring Takashi's comment, Shizuka stepped forward and grabbed Elicia's hands.

"I love your clothes." Shizuka said, continuing to squeal excitedly. "Especially this year's summer collection. I spent an entire two paychecks on it. *Sigh* But it wasn't enough to buy one of everything."

"Looks like you have a fan, too, Lici." Alfonzo said with a smile.

Elicia, on the other hand, could only smile wryly.

"Anyway, I think we should find a place to settle down for the night." Alfonzo said. "From what I know about zombies, they get more active at night."

"Yeah, but where should we go?" Rei asked.

"We need to find somewhere with sturdy walls." Kohta interjected. "And somewhere that doesn't leak much sound. Somewhere high up would be good, too."

"That's right." Saya said in agreement. "These things only react to sound."

"Well, I've never been to this town." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "So, I don't know anywhere like that. I could make a shelter with my magic, though. But it wouldn't really be all that comfortable."

"I could probably make things to make it more comfortable." Elicia added. "But I'd rather have somewhere where I can take a bath. Even if none of those things or their blood ever touched me, I still feel really gross."

The other women in the group nodded in response. Meanwhile, Shizuka released one of Elicia's hands and placed the index finger of her free hand on her cheek.

"Um... I think I know where we could go." Shizuka said. "My friend's apartment isn't too far away. And it's probably the best apartment building in the whole town."

"And you're just telling us about it now?" Saya asked in a dumbfounded tone.

"Uh... Yeah." Shizuka said while nodding in reply. "I kinda forgot about it."

"But you asked us where we should go while we were on the magic vehicle, didn't you?" Takashi asked in just as dumbfounded a tone as Saya.

"Um... Maybe?" Shizuka replied while tilting her head cutely.

"Wait, if you guys had a magic vehicle, why are you out here on foot?" Alfonzo asked while thinking he already knew the reason.

"It's because of that asshole Shido." Rei said angrily.

"Calm down, Rei." Takashi said as he placed a hand on Rei's shoulder. "Anyway, it happened like this?"

Takashi then went on to explain the chain of events and how they ended up surrounded by the earlier horde of zombies.

"Yeah, that guy sounds like a real piece of filth." Elicia said after Takashi ended his story.

"You have no idea." Rei replied angrily.

"Anyway, we can talk more about that later." Alfonzo said while also feeling disgusted by the slimy teacher. "If we get the chance later, we'll deal with him. For now, we need to get to that apartment... Um... What was your name again, Miss?"

"Oh, I'm Shizuka Marikawa." Shizuka replied.

"Right." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "We need to get to that apartment Miss Marikawa was talking about."

"Just call me Shizuka." Shizuka said with a smile.

"Sure..." Alfonzo replied while smiling wryly.

A moment later, Alfonzo's wry smile deepened when he saw the look on Elicia's face.

'She's gonna try and add her to the harem, isn't she?' Alfonzo asked himself.

["Probably."] Bedlam replied with a shrug.

["Just accept it."] Riot said, sounding happier than usual. ["Lici always makes great decisions when it comes to adding to the harem."]

["Is Yoruichi included in that?"] Bedlam asked with a sneer.

Riot could only fall silent, not having anything to retort with.

Meanwhile, the group of eight, with Shizuka pointing the way, started moving towards the apartment Shizuka's friend owned.

Chapter 414: A Moment to Relax

Not long after the group of eight, Alfonzo, Elicia, Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Rei, Shizuka, and Kohta, started walking, they reached a luxurious apartment building only a few blocks away from where they fought the horde of zombies.

"Seriously, we were this close?" Takashi asked curiously. "Does that mean you would have drove right past it if we hadn't split up with Shido?"

"Um... Probably?" Shizuka replied. "I don't think I would have wanted him to know where Rika lived. She's really pretty, tall, and has big boobs. Not as big as mine, though."

"I don't think anyone has boobs as big as yours." Rei muttered. "I mean, seriously, what do you have to eat to get boobs like those?"

"Actually, I think I've seen someone with bigger boobs than Shizuka's." Elicia said while mentally comparing Shizuka with Tsunade.

"That's gotta be impossible." Saya replied with her eyes opened wide in surprise.

"Yeah, I'm pretty sure." Elicia said while supporting her chin with her right hand. "Shizuka, if I'm not mistaken, you wear a J-cup bra, right?"

"Uh huh." Shizuka replied as she bent down to flip the corner of the door mat. Then as she picked up the key that was revealed, she continued. "That's right."

"Yeah, I know someone with a K-cup." Elicia said with a nod. "Actually, now that I think about it, Erza wears a K now, too. But she's still a little smaller than Tsunade."

"Tsunade? Who's that?" Rei asked curiously.

"Oh, she's the master of---" Elicia replied energetically before she was interrupted.

"Lici, should you really be telling people about their measurements like that?" Alfonzo asked in an exasperated tone. "Though, I'm pretty sure Erza wouldn't mind at all, Tsunade will probably hunt you down if she ever finds out. Besides, if you keep going, I think Hirano is gonna die from blood loss."

As he spoke the last part, Alfonzo pointed at Kohta. Following the direction of Alfonzo's finger, the others saw Kohta smiling sloppily with blood leaking from his left nostril.

"Hehe! I like pandas..." Kohta said in a loopy tone.

"Oh... Oops!" Elicia exclaimed while smiling bashfully. "Just forget I said that, okay?"

"What a moron." Saya said while glaring at Kohta disdainfully.

Click!

At that moment, the sound of a door unlocking could be heard, drawing everyone's attention back to Shizuka.

"And... it's open!" Shizuka said as she pushed the door to her friend's apartment open.

Then, wasting no time, Shizuka walked into the building.

"Wait, why was there a key to the entire building under the door mat?" Takashi asked in a confused tone. "Isn't that dangerous for all the other residents?"

"Oh, Rika owns this whole building." Shizuka replied happily as she walked towards the stairs. "Then, after she bought it, she had the whole place renovated."

Hearing that, the rest of the group followed Shizuka into the building. In a normal situation, either Alfonzo or Elicia would have rushed past Shizuka to make sure it was safe. However, with [Magic Power Detection], they already knew the place was clear.

Eventually, Shizuka reached the second floor. And as soon as she did, she flipped a light switch. Then, when the rest of the group arrived, they were able to see another set of stairs leading up to a mezzanine with four doors, a living room, a kitchen, and a door they assumed led to the bathroom.

"Damn, this place is nice." Rei said as she turned her head back and forth. "What does your friend do, anyway?"

"Oh, she's a knight." Shizuka said as she made her way into the kitchen. Then, as she opened the refrigerator, she continued. "She's part of the special forces unit... Or something."

As she finished, Shizuka pulled a bottle of ale out of the refrigerator with a smile on her face. Then, she wasted no time opening the bottle and taking a long drink.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo approached from behind Shizuka and looked into the refrigerator.

"Well, it looks like we should have enough food for a couple of days." Alfonzo said with a nod. "Still, we should probably do some scavenging tomorrow."

Hearing that, Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Rei, and Kohta nodded in understanding. Meanwhile, Shizuka was too busy enjoying her drink to pay attention.

"Good." Elicia said with a smile. "Then, we can do that while we take out as many of those gross zombies as we can tomorrow. For now, I just wanna take a bath."

"Ooh~~!" Shizuka squealed excitedly. "Me, too."

Then, with the bottle of ale still in her hand, Shizuka skipped away towards the bathroom.

"I guess the ladies will get washed up first." Alfonzo said with a wry smile. "Then, while you all relax, we'll see if we can find anything useful in this building. I can feel a few magic guns in one of the bedrooms upstairs. There should be a magic vehicle downstairs, too."

Hearing that, Kohta's eyes lit up.

"Sounds good to me." Takashi replied with a shrug. "You two can check for the guns. I'll check downstairs in the meantime."

With everyone agreeing with the arrangements, Elicia, Saeko, Saya, and Rei followed Shizuka into the bathroom. Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Kohta headed upstairs to the magic guns Alfonzo detected. At the same time, Takashi went back downstairs to check the ground floor.

"They should be in here." Alfonzo said as he flipped on the lights in the room. "This is probably the owner's bedroom."

"Yeah, it looks like a master bedroom to me." Kohta replied.

"And that safe is where the weapons are." Alfonzo said, pointing to a large safe in the corner. "Oh, and the locking mechanism is purely mechanical. That's surprising."

"That magic seems really convenient." Kohta muttered enviously.

"Yeah, it is." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Anyway, why don't we check inside and see what kinda goodies there are."

Immediately, Kohta's envious expression disappeared. Instead, it had been replaced with one filled with excitement.

A moment later, Alfonzo and Kohta were standing in front of the safe. Then, Alfonzo took a hold of the safe's handle. At the same time, the sound of the locking mechanism being disengaged could be heard clearly. Finally, with little effort, Alfonzo twisted the handle and opened the safe.

"Ooh~~~!" Kohta squealed excitedly. "There's a magic shotgun, a magic sniper rifle, and a whole lot of magic pistols. And they all use your new magazine loaded design."

"Oh, most people don't know that I came up with that." Alfonzo said with an eyebrow raised in interest. "You must really be a gun nut, huh?"

"Yeah, magic guns are my passion." Kohta replied while inspecting all the weapons and ammunition in the safe. "For as long as I can remember, my dream has been to own a magic gun from .45 Caliber Art Warks."

"Oh, so you're my master's fan, too?" Alfonzo asked with a smile. "Well, I'm sure I could talk her into making a piece for you. Though, it might be her granddaughter who ends up making it."

"Wait!" Kohta, with his glasses slipping down his face, turned towards Alfonzo with a disbelieving expression on his face as he exclaimed. "You're saying that Nell Goldstein is your master?"

Like that, Alfonzo and Kohta continued to chat about all things magic gun related. Meanwhile, Takashi had found a type of magic vehicle he had never seen before.

At the same time, the ladies had all finished getting washed up in the luxurious bathroom and were currently relaxing in the large bathtub.

"Ah~~~!" Shizuka exclaimed, with the bottle of ale still in hand. "This is heaven."

"Yes. After fighting all those zombies all day long, this is wonderful." Saeko added as she sank into the tub up to her shoulders.

"Oh, your friend Rika has good taste." Elicia said happily.

"What do you mean?" Rei asked curiously. "I mean, this bath is nice."

"Yeah, but you make it sound like there's more to it." Saya said as she placed her glasses on the side of the tub.

"That's because there is." Elicia said as she reached her hand towards a sigil carved into the side of the tub.

In the next instant, all the ladies felt jets of water gently massaging their bodies.

"Ooh! This is amazing." Rei said as she started melting into the water.

"Oh, we have one of these at home, too." Saya said as she relaxed even further.

"Having one of these would have been nice after all my training." Saeko added.

While the other ladies started melting from the feeling of the hot tub, Shizuka started to pout.

"What's wrong, Shizuka?" Elicia asked curiously.

"Rika never told me about this." Shizuka said discontentedly. "And I come over here all the time."

"Well, from what I can tell, it's pretty new." Elicia said with a smile. "Maybe she just didn't get a chance to tell you about it."

"Maybe..." Shizuka said while continuing to pout.

A moment later, Shizuka sat up before chugging down the rest of her bottle of ale. Then she started scooting closer to Elicia, who was sitting to her left.

"Thank you for saving us from those nasty zombies." Shizuka said as she wrapped Elicia in a hug. "I didn't wanna be zombie food."

'Holy crap, those things are soft.' Elicia thought to herself. 'I mean, Erza's feel nice when she hugs me, too. But the softness on these things is on a whole different level.'

["Easy there, Old Man."] Scylla said while rolling her eyes.

'Don't worry, Scylla.' Elicia replied internally while smiling wryly. 'I would never do anything without Fonzie. Even touching. But I'm really curious to know how those things feel in my hands, though. I really should get her into Fonzie's harem.'

["Maybe you should talk to Fonzie about it, first."] Scylla said, rolling her eyes once again.

"Kya!" Shizuka yelped as she released Elicia and looked back over her shoulder. "Miss Miyamoto, what are you doing?"

"How the hell are these so big?" Rei asked while groping Shizuka's breasts. "And they're so soft, too."

"Are they really that soft?" Saya asked as she started moving towards Shizuka as well. "I wanna see, too."

Meanwhile Saeko only watched the others play around.

At the same time, Elicia scooted away from Shizuka and moved next to Saeko.

"You're not curious, too?" Elicia asked curiously.

"I am." Saeko admitted easily. "But It's not in my personality to just start grabbing to sate my curiosity."

"I see." Elicia replied with a nod.

"Anyway, Miss Taylor." Saeko said, turning towards Elicia.

"Technically, It's Mrs. Marcus." Elicia said with a smile. "But I kept the name Taylor because of my business. Either way, it's okay if you call me Elicia, or even Lici."

"If you say so." Saeko replied with a smile. "Then, Elicia. I noticed the craftsmanship of the blade Mr. Marcus created for me. Does he have much experience in creating katanas?"

"Oh, that?" Elicia replied with a smile. "He sure does. He's made quite a few in fact. Both Erza and Sun use them, after all."

"I'm not familiar with the name Sun." Saeko replied. "But by Erza, are you referring to Titania, Erza Scarlet?"

"That's right." Elicia replied with a nod. "Fonzie makes all of her swords and armor."

"I see." Saeko said, sounding quite interested.

Like that, the ladies continued to chat, relax, and have fun. Eventually, Elicia and Saeko were even pulled into the breast comparisons Saya and Rei started. On top of that, it was clear to see that Shizuka was slightly intoxicated after drinking that bottle of ale.

"Sounds like they're having fun." Takashi said.

After exploring the rest of the ground floor, Takashi had made his way upstairs to tell Alfonzo and Kohta what he found. Currently, the three young men were on their way down to the ground floor to check out the magic vehicle which naturally resulted in them passing by the bathroom.

"Yeah, it sure does." Kohta said with a perverted grin on his face. "Do you think we should take a little peek? You know, to make sure they're all okay."

As soon as those words left Kohta's mouth, a hand landed on his shoulder. And because of that hand, he felt like a mountain was pressing down on him. Turning his head slowly, Kohta made eye contact with Alfonzo, who was smiling brightly.

"Hirano, did you forget that my wife is in there, too?" Alfonzo asked in a friendly tone.

Unfortunately for Kohta, he was unable to respond due to fear. Meanwhile, Takashi could only face palm in response.

"Sorry..." Kohta was finally able to mutter after Alfonzo broke eye contact. "I actually did forget."

"*Sigh* Just don't let it happen again." Alfonzo said as he removed his hand from Kohta's shoulder. "I actually think you're a pretty cool dude. I hope you don't do anything to change that."

"Yes, sir!" Kohta replied as he stood at attention and saluted.

"I don't know how he didn't expect something like that." Takashi muttered under his breath. He then continued at a normal volume. "Anyway, let's go down stairs and check out that magic vehicle."

"Sure." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

Upon entering the garage where the magic vehicle was parked, the three young men saw a green magic vehicle that resembled a Humvee M1025 that used a rechargeable lacrima engine.

"Well, this will be helpful if we need to relocate." Alfonzo said while marveling at the magic vehicle in front of him.

'Damn, I never even thought to make something like this.' Alfonzo grumbled internally.

["I'm actually surprised you never did."] Bedlam said. ["I mean, this would have been a good choice for Earth Land's horribly maintained roads."]

["Plus, this thing is fucking bad ass."] Riot added.

'Yeah, I know.' Alfonzo replied. 'I only picked the Escalade because Dad had one in my past life. As for the Vanquish, that was the dream car I'd never get to drive in my past life.'

"Anyway, we should wait for the girls to get out of the bath." Alfonzo said as he turned to leave the garage. "Then, we can ask Shizuka if she knows where the keys are."

Nodding in response, Takashi and Kohta followed Alfonzo out of the garage and headed up stairs to help Kohta maintain the magic guns they found in the safe. Eventually, they returned to the master bedroom.

While Alfonzo spent his time creating ammo for the various magic guns, Kohta was giving Takashi a crash course on how to use and maintain them.

"Hey, Fonzie!" Elicia shouted from downstairs.

"Yeah, what's up?" Alfonzo shouted back.

"I'll be making clothes for all the girls." Elicia said. "None of them have a change of clothes. So, if you need me, that's what I'll be doing."

"Sure." Alfonzo replied. "Now that you mention it, our bags are still in the Escalade, I'll run back to get them."

"Okay, thanks!" Elicia said.

With that, Alfonzo finished creating enough rifle ammo to fill a magazine. Then, he stood from the bed and turned towards Takashi and Kohta. Before he could start speaking, however, he noticed that their eyes had opened wide. Then, before he could ask them what was wrong, a pair of slender arms wrapped around his chest while a soft, heavenly sensation pressed against his back.

"Alfonzo, I really wanna thank you for saving us earlier." Shizuka, wearing a tank top and a pair of shorts, most-likely from her friend Rika's wardrobe, as they were clearly too small for her and clung to her body tightly, said sensually into Alfonzo's ear.

"Don't worry about it, Shizuka." Alfonzo replied calmly. "It's part of my job."

"Still, I really would like to thank you." Shizuka said as her hands started roaming up and down on Alfonzo's chest. "But I... don't... know... how..."

As she spoke, Shizuka's hands slowed. On top of that, her voice grew softer. Then, by the time she was done, she was no longer moving, her breath was even, and she was leaning on Alfonzo's back.

"Did she just... fall asleep?" Takashi asked while looking away.

"Hehe! Pandas are great..." Kohta said absent-mindedly.

'God damn it...' Alfonzo muttered internally. 'I'm glad she fell asleep when she did. If she had kept going, I would have ended up with a boner.'

"I think she did." Alfonzo said as he turned around and picked up Shizuka in a princess carry. "Anyway, I'll tuck her into the bed in here. Then, I'm gonna head to my magic vehicle and get me and Lici's luggage."

"Sure." Takashi replied.

"And I think you guys should move all that stuff to another room." Alfonzo said. Then, he turned his gaze to Kohta. "Oh, and you should probably smack some sense into Kohta, too."

"Got it." Takashi said with a nod. "Then, he started gathering all the guns, magazines, and ammunition.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo floated everything Takashi could not carry into an empty bedroom. Then, he tucked Shizuka into the bed in the master bedroom before opening the door to the balcony and flying towards where he left the Escalade.

Chapter 415: Unsettling Observations

In an abandoned grocery store, a group of young men were going through the available food. Meanwhile, in the back room, there were many young women spread around the room. On top of that, they were all strip completely naked.

At the same time, there was a single man viciously violating the most voluptuous of the young women. And had any of the six survivors Alfonzo and Elicia rescued been present, they would have been able to recognize him immediately.

"Damn those bitches!" Shido, the man violating the young woman shouted angrily. "Once I've had enough time to amass more magic power, I'll give them a punishment worse than death! Ugh!"

Just then, after only four minutes of relieving his sexual urges with the young woman underneath him, Shido shuddered before flopping down powerlessly. Meanwhile, the young woman showed no signs of happiness or enjoyment. She only had a lifeless look in her eyes and an empty smile on her face.

A moment later, Shido pushed himself off the woman with a manic smile on his face.

"And once I've amassed enough magic power, I'll have full control over all the undead." Shido said with insanity in his tone. "When that happens, I pray all of you are still alive. I'll enjoy seeing you beg me for mercy. Hahahahaha!"

Standing up a moment later, Shido looked down at the young woman he just ravaged with disinterest.

"Such a plain woman." Shido said before walking away.

As he moved, Shido remembered another woman he lusted for. A blonde woman with an exaggerated hourglass figure.

"Then, once I've punished all those bitches." Shido said with a deranged smile. "I'll reward you for giving me this power, Junko Enoshima."

===NSFW End===

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, who had made a trip to his Escalade, was on his way back with his and Elicia's luggage. However, instead of flying straight to the Escalade and back, Alfonzo took the time to thin out some of the zombies roaming the streets.

On top of that, he found something rather unsettling. While most of the zombies were content with just roaming the town aimlessly, some of the more powerful ones were feasting on the weaker zombies. And when they did so, they grew in power.

"Damn, this is bad." Alfonzo muttered as he shot a bullet-shaped chunk of metal through one of the cannibalistic zombies. "Things are gonna get way out of hand if we don't start putting these mother fuckers down fast."

Eventually, while killing as many zombies as he could along the way, Alfonzo returned to the front door of Rika's home. Then using his [Metal Magic] he quietly unlocked the door and went inside.

A few moments later, Alfonzo had climbed the stairs to the main living area. When he did, he smelled the scent of food coming from the kitchen. Turning his head in that direction, Alfonzo froze in surprise.

'Damn, even though I knew this shit happened in the anime, I wasn't expecting to see it here.' Alfonzo thought to himself while he stared. 'But yeah, baby got back. God damn she thick.'

At the end of Alfonzo's line of sight, Saeko, only wearing an apron and a purple thong, was tending to a pot of soup over the stove.

"Uh... Miss Busujima..." Alfonzo said in an uncertain tone. Though he did not look away from Saeko's backside.

"Hmm? Oh, Mr. Marcus, you're back." Saeko said as she looked back over her shoulder. "Is something wrong?"

Naturally, Saeko had noticed Alfonzo's gaze. However, it did not seem to bother her. Instead, she simply turned back to the pot she was tending to. Though, Alfonzo would swear that he saw her butt jiggle when she did so.

"Believe me, I'm not complaining about the view." Alfonzo said with a wry smile. "But why are you dressed like that? I thought Lici was making clothes for you girls."

"Oh, that..." Saeko said. Then, she shrugged her shoulders, causing her butt to bounce a little, as she continued. "She's making them now. But I told her to focus on the other girls first."

"I see." Alfonzo replied as he started walking towards the stairs.

Climbing the stairs a moment later, Alfonzo missed it when Saeko looked over her shoulder and smiled. Instead, he noticed Saya sitting on the top step and glaring down at him.

"Is something wrong, Miss Takagi?" Alfonzo asked curiously.

"Your wife said you were some kind of genius." Saya said in a competitive tone. "Well, I just wanted to let you know that you're not as smart as I am."

With that, Saya stood up, turned around, and entered the master bedroom before closing the door.

"Well, that happened..." Alfonzo muttered while shaking his head.

Continuing forward, Alfonzo walked past the room where Takashi and Kohta were filling magazines with the bullets Alfonzo created. Then, he reached the room where he and Elicia would sleep. And when he did, he saw Elicia putting the finishing touches on an outfit that Rei was wearing while the two chatted animatedly.

Knock! *Knock!*

"Hey, I'm back." Alfonzo said as he knocked on the door frame.

"Welcome back, Fonzie." Elicia said as she continued to work. "How was the trip?"

"I got the luggage with no problem." Alfonzo replied. "But on the way back, I saw some shit I didn't like."

"The people are starting to act like animals, aren't they?" Rei asked, frowning slightly as she did so.
"Situations like this really bring out the worst in people."

"Although you're not wrong, that's not what I was talking about." Alfonzo said while shaking his head.
"What I saw is a lot more dangerous."

Hearing that, Rei's frown deepened. Meanwhile, Elicia waited until she was done working to react.

"What happened, Fonzie?" Elicia asked after making sure Rei's outfit was perfect.

"I think it would be better to explain it so that everyone can hear." Alfonzo said in a solemn tone.

"It's that bad, huh?" Elicia asked rhetorically. "Then, should we wake up Shizuka and Saya?"

"I doubt Saya is even asleep." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly. "I mean, she did just tell me that I wasn't smarter than her."

Hearing that, Elicia and Rei could not help but giggle.

"Anyway, I'll go get Saya." Rei said as she started moving towards the bedroom's door. "I don't know about waking up Miss Marikawa, though."

"Well, she's a non-combatant, anyway." Elicia replied with a shrug. "We can give her the short version tomorrow."

"Okay." Rei said as she left the room.

At the same time, Alfonzo stepped into the room and put down his and Elicia's luggage.

"You couldn't make a simple pair of shorts and a tank top for Miss Busujima?" Alfonzo asked while smiling wryly as he took a seat next to Elicia.

"What's wrong, didn't like the view?" Elicia said playfully.

"You know that's not it." Alfonzo replied, his wry smile widening. "But still, what if Kamuro or Hirano went down stairs. Kamuro aside, Hirano would have fainted while leaking blood from his nose."

"Oh, you don't have to worry about that." Elicia said. "I had my [Detection Threads] spread all over the apartment. So, if they had left that room, I would have known. Then, I would have stopped them from going downstairs."

"I see." Alfonzo replied while narrowing his eyes. "So, that was just to tease me?"

"What do you mean?" Elicia replied in the most innocent tone she could muster.

Rolling his eyes, Alfonzo took a change of clothes out of his luggage. He wanted to take a shower and get cleaned up, after all.

"Even if it was just to tease me, I don't understand why she would go along with it." Alfonzo muttered.

"Who knows." Elicia shrugged. "But when Takashi saw her like that in the anime, it didn't seem to bother her either."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Alfonzo replied with a shrug.

"She's got a nice butt, though, doesn't she?" Elicia said with a smile while nudging Alfonzo with her shoulder.

In response, Alfonzo could only smile wryly while shaking his head.

"Anyway, I'm gonna take a bath." Alfonzo said. "Get her a pair of shorts before everyone gets together for what I have to say."

"Kay~~~." Elicia replied.

With that, Alfonzo left the room and went downstairs to the bathroom. Meanwhile, Elicia made a simple pair of shorts and a tank top for Saeko while Rei and Saya tried to wake up Shizuka for the announcement. At the same time, Takashi and Kohta continued loading ammo into clips.

Half an hour later, Alfonzo left the bathroom. When he did, he saw the entire group, even Shizuka, sitting in the living room.

"So, what was so important that you needed to gather all of us?" Saya asked with her arms crossed in front of her chest.

Everyone else was looking at Alfonzo with solemn expressions as well. Well, everyone other than Shizuka, who was doing her best to stay awake.

"You all saw those zombies that were faster and stronger than the others, right?" Alfonzo asked after taking in everyone's expression.

In response, the others nodded.

"Well, while I was out getting Lici and I's luggage, I saw those kinds of zombies devouring the weaker ones." Alfonzo continued.

"Wait! You mean they were eating the other zombies?" Takashi asked in an astonished tone.

"That's right." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "And they got stronger with every zombie they ate."

While Elicia narrowed her eyes in response, the others opened their eyes wide in surprise.

"Now, I made sure to kill all the ones I saw eating other zombies while I was on my way back." Alfonzo said in a solemn tone. "But I'm sure there's no way that was all of them. So, when we go out tomorrow, we'll have to be careful of more powerful zombie variants. Hell, there's a chance they could even unlock magic with the extra magic power they gain through cannibalism."

That speculation caused all the survivors, with the exception of Saeko, who seemed excited, to wear downcast expressions. Seeing that, Alfonzo and Elicia made eye contact for a moment. Then, after a short conversation via eye contact, they both nodded.

"So, for tomorrow, we'll be putting you all through a crash course on how to use your magic power." Alfonzo said. "Meaning, while Lici goes out to cut down the number of zombies, I'll be training the lot of you. Unfortunately, I don't have any magic books on hand. Then again, I guess that doesn't matter. If you haven't awakened magic naturally, there's no way a day of training will be enough for you to use it in any meaningful way."

"Then what good will training do?" Saya asked in an irritated tone.

"For one, learning how to use your magic power can help strengthen your body." Elicia said while raising the index finger of her left hand. "Meaning, you'll be stronger, can move faster, have better reflexes, etc."

"Also, it will allow you to use some of the magic guns we found to protect yourself." Alfonzo added. "Because to use [Holder Magic] like [Guns Magic], all you need to do is flow your magic power into the magic gun as you pull the trigger."

"Learning the proper way to fire a magic gun would be needed, too." Kohta chimed in.

"Hirano's right." Alfonzo said with a nod. "So, he'll be helping me when it comes to training you in the use of magic guns tomorrow."

"Hmph! Like he could teach a genius like me anything." Saya said as she looked away.

"Anyway, you all should get some rest." Elicia said, ignoring Saya's statement completely. "Fonzie and I will take turns watching the surroundings."

"Are you sure?" Saeko asked. "Shouldn't we all take turns on watch duty?"

"If it were just the six of you, that would be a good idea." Elicia said as she wrapped an arm around Shizuka, who had fallen asleep on her shoulder. "But none of you are trained wizards. So, I'm sure you're minds and bodies are much more stressed and exhausted than you realize."

Reaching that point, Elicia picked up Shizuka and stood from the couch.

"As for me and Fonzie, we've been training since we were six." Elicia continued. "So, we'll take care of night watch."

"Lici's right." Alfonzo added. "Just take the chance to get as much rest as you can. You'll need it for tomorrow's training."

After hesitating for a moment, the group of survivors, minus Shizuka, for obvious reasons, nodded in understanding. Then, Elicia, carrying Shizuka, Saeko, Saya, and Rei headed up stairs to get some sleep.

While Elicia carried Shizuka into the master bedroom, Saya followed her. Meanwhile, Saeko and Rei took the only remaining empty room.

"You two aren't going to bed?" Alfonzo asked Takashi and Kohta curiously.

"Yeah, I'm exhausted." Takashi replied. "But I wanna take a bath first."

"Yeah, me, too." Kohta added.

"Alright." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "You guys get the room where we moved all the guns. And I'll be sharing a room with Lici."

"Roger that." Kohta replied.

"Got it." Takashi said as he stood up from the couch.

With that, Kohta and Takashi made their way into the bathroom.

"I'll have Lici make you guys some stuff you can sleep in." Alfonzo said from outside the bathroom door.

"It should be ready by the time you're done with your bath. We'll get some clothes for you to move around in taken care of later."

After receiving words of understanding, Alfonzo made his way upstairs. And when he eventually made it to the room he would be sharing with Elicia, he saw her weaving her Vibranium thread into cloth.

"Can you make something for the guys in the bath?" Alfonzo asked.

"Already on it." Elicia replied with a smile. "And I'll take the first look out. You can get some sleep for now. I'll wake you up in a few hours."

"Alright, thanks." Alfonzo replied as he lay on the bed next to Elicia. "Good night. Love you."

"Love you, too, Fonzie." Elicia said with her smile widening.

Like that, Elicia continued to work while Alfonzo got a few hours of sleep. All the while, Elicia worked on functional, protective clothing for the six survivors they were looking after. She even managed to finish the clothes for Takashi and Kohta to sleep in before they got out of the bath.

Chapter 416: Human Nature

The night passed peacefully. With her [Magic Power Detection] spread, Elicia finished creating clothes for Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Rei, Shizuka, and Kohta. Then, once all her work was complete, she woke up Alfonzo and went to sleep, allowing him to take over the night watch.

A few hours later, shortly after the sun peeked over the horizon, Alfonzo decided that he would make breakfast for everyone. And like always, he was looking forward to their reactions.

And just as Alfonzo expected, all their reactions were over the top. While Takashi's eyes opened wide before he started shoveling food into his mouth, Kohta started to cry silently as he ate. Meanwhile, Saeko, Saya, Rei, and Shizuka moaned sensually.

Unfortunately, Shizuka's reaction, the most sensual moan he had ever heard in either life, was more than he could handle. On top of that, the way she writhed around and caused her breasts to jiggle forced him to wolf down his food and run to the bathroom to take a cold bath.

"Huh? Is Alfonzo okay?" Shizuka asked innocently. "Does he have a tummy ache?"

That was the last straw for everyone at the table, causing them to laugh uproariously. Everyone except for Kohta, that is. Though, he had started shedding tears when he first started eating, that was only until the ladies started eating, too. And their moans hit Kohta much harder than they hit Alfonzo. As a result, he was now unconscious with a sloppy smile on his face and covered in blood from his own nosebleed.

Luckily, the clothes Kohta ruined were just the simple clothing Elicia created for him to sleep in. Otherwise, he might have had a very, VERY, bad time if the way Elicia was staring at him, was any indication.

Eventually, breakfast ended, and everyone was ready to complete their tasks for the day. So, as they discussed the night before, Alfonzo led Saeko, Takashi, Saya, and Rei in gaining control of their magic power. Meanwhile, Kohta went out into the backyard to set up targets that Alfonzo made for target practice. Shizuka, on the other hand, cheered for the trainees enthusiastically.

And while Alfonzo was training the others, Elicia ventured out into the town on her own to find survivors, scavenge for food, and exterminate as many zombies as possible, putting extra emphasis on killing the magic power enhanced zombies.

"Ugh! I hate this." Elicia said as she ripped through a small group of zombies with her threads. "They're so gross and they smell so bad. I should have stayed back and trained the others. So what if Fonzie is better at it than me?"

["Stop whining."] Scylla said in an annoyed tone. ["It's not like there's anything you can do about it now. Instead, just focus on the task at hand."]

"I know~~~." Elicia whined.

Despite all her complaints, Elicia had just cleared all the zombies on a street leading to a shop where she could feel several untainted magic power signatures. So, she made her way to the shop to let the occupants know that the street was safe.

Ring!

As soon as she opened the door to the shop, Elicia quickly looked over her shoulder when the bell over the door rang.

"*Sigh* I guess that wasn't loud enough to bring any zombies from farther away, right?" Elicia muttered to herself as she turned back to the front. "Hey! is everyone in here okay?"

As soon as the bell rang, Elicia could hear movement from the back of the store. So, she called out. However, even after a few moments, she did not receive a reply.

"Are they hurt?" Elicia thought aloud. "They aren't even moving. On top of that, they're all huddled together."

["Be careful."] Scylla said cautiously. ["Something seems off."]

Nodding in reply, Elicia made her way through the store front slowly. Eventually, she reached the door leading to the back of the store. Then, she carefully placed her ear on the door to see if she could hear what was going on.

A moment later, however, Elicia's expression changed for the worse. Then, she channeled her magic power into her right leg.

Bang!

In the next instant, she kicked the door off its hinges. And what she saw was exactly what she was expecting to see.

Currently, there were three men forcing themselves on a silently crying woman. And the lifeless expression she wore caused Elicia to act before her brain could process her actions.

"Who the hell are you?" One of the men asked.

"Doesn't matter." A second man said lustfully. "Now we have another--- Argh~~~~~!"

Before the second man could finish, Elicia's threads looped around his penis before constricting. As a result, he lost his manhood.

"God damn it!" The third of the men shouted in a panicked tone. "That bitch is a wizard!"

With that, the two unharmed men jumped away from the woman they were violating. Then, they lunged for the weapons they kept nearby.

Swish! *Swish!*

Before they could reach them, however, Elicia's threads looped around their wrists and cut off their hands.

"Animals like you three are even worse than the undead roaming around." Elicia said angrily as she stepped forward.

"No, please don't kill us." The first man said as he pushed himself away from Elicia while leaving a pair of bloody trails on the floor.

"Oh, I'm not gonna kill you." Elicia said as she reached the woman's side. "You're not worth the effort."

Then, Elicia kicked the man whose manhood she cut off away from the woman before kneeling down and cradling the woman in her arms.

"Everything's gonna be okay." Elicia said in the most gentle tone she could muster. "I'm gonna get you outta here, okay?"

Instead of responding, the woman turned her head in a certain direction. Following the woman's line of sight, Elicia saw a man's corpse leaning against the wall with a hole in his chest where his heart should have been.

"Was that your husband?" Elicia asked consolingly.

Nodding her head in response, the woman weakly struggled out of Elicia's arms. Then, after a few moments of struggle, she raised herself to her feet.

With wobbly steps, the woman walked over to the weapon, a short sword, the first man to speak lunged for. Then, she lifted it with hatred in her eyes.

"What are you doing?" The first man asked in a fear-filled tone. Then, he turned his head in Elicia's direction. "I thought you said you weren't going to kill us."

"I'm not." Elicia replied plainly. Then she pointed her finger at the irate woman. "She is."

Thunk! *Thunk!* *Thunk!*

At that moment, the woman plunged the short sword into the chest of the man in front of her.

"Ahh~~~~~!" The man screamed in pain and fear. "Please stop! Don't do this to me!"

Instead of listening to the man's plea, however, the woman removed the sword before plunging it into his chest repeatedly, only stopping when the man's eyes lost their light and his screaming stopped.

Then, with wrath in her eyes, the woman slowly walked to the other targets of her revenge and repeated the process.

Eventually, while covered in the blood of those who killed her husband and brutally violated her, the woman raised her head with tears trailing down her cheeks. Then, she turned her head in Elicia's direction while wearing the saddest smile Elicia had ever seen.

"Thank you..." The woman said weakly as she raised the short sword's tip to her throat.

"No, please don't..." Elicia said as she raised her hand in the woman's direction, intending to use her threads to take the sword away.

However, after seeing the look in the woman's eyes, she could not bring herself to do so.

"Now, I can be with him in the afterlife." The woman muttered.

Thunk!

Then, she plunged the short sword into her own throat without hesitation. A moment later, with a smile still on her face, the woman fell to the ground as her life slipped away.

Seeing all this, Elicia could only lower her hand slowly as tears welled up in her eyes. Then, without a word, she turned around and left the shop.

"I hope you can be happy in your next life." Elicia said quietly as she stepped past the shop's threshold.

["I know it's sad, Elicia."] Scylla said in a soothing tone. ["But we both know that living would have been even more painful for her."]

"I know." Elicia said as she shot her threads at the top of a nearby building. "That doesn't make it any easier to see, though."

["Yeah, I get it."] Scylla replied.

"But if I ever find out who performed this ritual, I promise they won't die quickly." Elicia said in a much gloomier tone than usual. "I wanna go home. I want a hug from Fonzie."

With that, Elicia swung towards the next untainted magic power signature she could sense.

Hours later, as the sun started to set, Alfonzo, who was overseeing the survivor's magic power control training, felt Elicia flaring her magic power.

Clap!

"Alright, let's call it for the day." Alfonzo said after gathering everyone's attention on him with a loud clap. "Lici is calling me. So, I'm gonna go see what she needs. Meanwhile, you guys should get some rest. And remember, don't go outside or do anything too loud. But if you're still feeling restless, it's okay to do some target practice. Those dummies I made absorb sound and all the magic guns have been silenced."

Then, without waiting for a response, Alfonzo ran out of the living room and down the stairs. Not long later, a violet flash lit up the front of the building as Alfonzo flew off in a hurry.

"Hmm... I wonder what that was about?" Rei said as she flopped down on the couch in the living room.

"Elicia must have contacted him somehow." Saeko said. "I mean, he seemed a little worried."

"Either way, I think I'm gonna go practice shooting." Saya said as she walked towards the stairs. "Come teach me how to do it, Fat a--- I mean, Hirano."

"Sure." Kohta said as he stood up and followed Saya.

"I hope Lici is okay." Shizuka said as she looked out a window.

Not long later, Alfonzo landed next to Elicia, who was standing outside a warehouse.

"Lici, what's wrong?" Alfonzo asked as he dispelled the arcs of lightning on his body.

Instead of answering immediately, Elicia flung herself into Alfonzo's arms, making him even more concerned.

"Lici, are you okay?" Alfonzo asked gently as he started combing his fingers through Elicia's hair.

"I hate this quest." Elicia said quietly while burying her face in Alfonzo's chest.

"What happened?" Alfonzo asked.

With that, Elicia told Alfonzo about what happened in the shop she entered earlier. As she did, she tightened her arms around Alfonzo's torso.

"Don't worry, we'll make whoever did this pay." Alfonzo said. "And I have a feeling Junko had something to do with this, too."

"Yeah, but I don't think she actually performed the ritual." Elicia said. "She wouldn't have run away like that if it were her. She would wanna see all the despair she caused."

"Yeah, you're probably right." Alfonzo replied. "Anyway, what happened that you called me out here. I mean, if you just wanted a hug, that's fine, too."

Finally letting a small smile find its way onto her face, Elicia raised her head and looked into Alfonzo's eyes. Then she pointed a finger at the warehouse she was standing in front of.

"All the people I was able to save are in there." Elicia said. "But I can't bring them all back to our base. So, I wanted you to help me make it safer for them to stay here. I've already found them as much food as I could. But I can't do anything about the sounds coming from inside."

"So, you want me to soundproof the place, huh?" Alfonzo asked rhetorically. Then, he released radio waves to map out the building before tapping his right heel on the street as he continued. "Done."

Though it could not be seen from outside, Alfonzo coated all the interior walls, doors, and windows with an ultra-thin layer of sound dampening metal. Though there would still be space for air and sound to enter and exit the building, unless the people inside were deliberately trying to be heard, no one would be able to hear them from outside.

"Thanks, Fonzie." Elicia said before standing on the tips of her toes and pecking Alfonzo on the cheek.

"No problem." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Ready to go back now?"

"Mhmm." Elicia hummed as she nodded.

Then, Alfonzo, with his arms wrapped around Elicia's waste, levitated into the air and started heading back to Rika's apartment. Before they could get halfway to their destination, however, they felt a trio of untainted magic power signatures moving in their direction.

On top of that, though it was not very close, a horde was moving in the same direction. And Alfonzo and Elicia could feel five of the more powerful zombies walking along with the horde.

"Damn, there are people out on the street this late?" Alfonzo muttered.

"Seriously... Things are a lot more dangerous at night." Elicia added. "I mean, just the lowered visibility is bad enough. But then there are those ones that eat other zombies."

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Looks like we're taking a detour on the way back. I mean, we can't just lea---."

"Fonzie?" Elicia asked in a concerned tone, surprised that Alfonzo stopped mid-sentence.

"Damn, I know exactly who they are." Alfonzo said as he sped up. "And if we don't hurry, that little girl is gonna become an orphan."

The reason for Alfonzo's change in atmosphere was because he felt the magic power signatures, a little girl with pink hair and purple eyes, a middle-aged man with brown hair and black eyes, and a white puppy, had stopped.

If that had been all, Alfonzo would not have been bothered. However, he could feel a metal blade approaching the trio. And if things were like they were in the Highschool of the Dead anime/manga, that blade was about to be plunged into the man's chest.

So, without another word, Alfonzo and Elicia disappeared from where they were flying in a flash of violet light.

Bang! *Bang!* *Bang!*

At the same time, the brown-haired man, carrying a wrench covered in dried blood in one hand, knocked loudly on the front door of a house.

"All I'm asking is for you to give my little girl a place to stay!" The brown-haired man shouted angrily. "Just open the door. Once you let her in, I'll leave."

"Please, just go away." The voice of a scared man said from the other side of the door.

"If you don't open this door, I'll break it down!" The brown-haired man said as he raised the wrench in his hand.

"Daddy..." The pink-haired little girl said in a scared tone as she tugged on the hem of her father's shirt.

A moment later, before the man could smash the wrench into the door, it opened slightly.

"Good..." The brown-haired man said in a relieved tone as he lowered the wrench in his hand.

Unfortunately, the brown-haired man was relieved a little too soon. Because in the next instant, a knife that had been fastened onto the end of a walking stick shot out of the slightly opened door, aimed at his heart.

"Kya~~~~~!" The pink-haired little girl screamed in both fear and surprise.

Before the knife could sink into the man's chest, however, it came to a complete and utter stop, thoroughly confusing the brown-haired man, the man in the house, and the pink-haired little girl.

Flash!

Bark! *Bark!* *Bark!*

In the next instant, everyone present was blinded by a flash of violet light which caused the puppy to start barking in a panic.

"Alright, there's no need for that." Alfonzo, who appeared with the flash, between the brown-haired man and the front door of the house, with Elicia in his arms, said as he tapped a finger on the completely immobilized knife. "Why don't you just take this back and close the door. I'll take them with me."

With that, Alfonzo stopped exerting control over the metal of the knife. Then, the man in the house pulled his makeshift spear back quickly...

Bang!

... and slammed the door shut.

Meanwhile, Kohta, who had been watching the entire event through the scope of the magic sniper rifle they found in the safe, breathed a sigh of relief.

"Good, they saved them." Kohta said, causing Takashi, who was ready to run outside to help the little girl w

Chapter 417: The Man, the Girl, and the Dog

"Who are you?" The brown-haired man asked as he warily took a step away from Alfonzo and Elicia while raising his wrench defensively and pulling his daughter along.

As previously mentioned, Alfonzo and Elicia, due to their many interviews in Sorcerer Weekly were easily recognizable. Unfortunately, thanks to the bright flash in the middle of the dark night, the brown-haired man was having problems seeing their faces.

"The guy that just saved your life." Alfonzo replied while rolling his eyes. "I mean, what were you thinking, dude? You know what kind of shit this town is in and you threatened to break down someone's door? That's a quick way to get yourself killed... or worse."

"Fonzie..." Elicia said while gesturing towards the little girl with her chin.

"*Sigh* I know, Lici." Alfonzo said after taking a deep breath. "Look, I just want you to understand, your actions put not only you in danger, but your daughter as well."

Hearing that, the man lowered his head guiltily. However, he did not lower his guard towards Alfonzo and Elicia. Eventually, the atmosphere was quickly broken when the puppy approached Alfonzo and started nuzzling its head against his leg.

"Oh, what a good boy." Alfonzo said happily as he unwrapped his arm from around Elicia's waist, knelt down, and started scratching the puppy behind its ears. "You stayed with your master even with all this shit going on. What's your name, boy?"

"His name is Zeke." The pink-haired little girl said while poking her head out from behind her father.

"Zeke, huh?" Alfonzo said with a smile. "Such a good boy."

"Anyway, who are you two?" The brown-haired man asked, this time putting his wrench down as he did so."

Smiling wryly, Elicia knew Alfonzo was too enthralled by the puppy at his feet to answer. So, she took it upon herself to do so.

"We're wizards from Fairy Tail." Elicia said, her wry smile turning into a friendly one. Then, she gestured to herself and Alfonzo in turn. "I'm Elicia Marcus Taylor. And that's my husband, Alfonzo Marcus."

Hearing those names, both the brown-haired man and his daughter opened their eyes wide in surprise. Had it not been for the darkness of the night combined with the bright flash Alfonzo and Elicia appeared with, they would have recognized them easily.

"Wow! I saw you two in Sorcerer Weekly!" The pink-haired little girl exclaimed excitedly.

"Indeed." The brown-haired man said with a nod. "I've heard a lot about you. Whenever I go to the headquarters, Jason won't stop talking about how 'cool' you two are."

"Oh, does that mean you work for Sorcerer Weekly, too?" Alfonzo, who had finally gotten his fill of petting the puppy, Zeke, asked as he stood up."

"That's right." The Brown man replied. "I'm Kenji Moresato, a reporter for Sorcerer Weekly. But since I live in this town, I've never had the opportunity to interview anyone from Fairy Tail. Oh, and before I forget, this is my daughter, Alice."

"Hi..." The pink-haired little girl, Alice, said bashfully. Though, her eyes were still shining excitedly.

"Anyway, why are you guys out here at night?" Elicia asked curiously. "You know it's much more dangerous at night, right?"

"Yes, I know." The brown-haired man, Kenji, replied with a solemn nod. "We were trying to get to the shelter across the bridge that the knights set up during the day. But when the people waiting to be processed got impatient, things started to get out of hand. So, we decided that we would try to go to the Takagi mansion to find shelter there. Unfortunately, while we were moving, the sun started to set. So, we wanted to find a place to stay for the night. But... You see how that went in the end."

"Yeah, you definitely went about that the wrong way." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "On top of that, all the noise from banging on the door, the scream, and this little guy's protective barking made things even more dangerous."

"What do you mean?" Kenji asked with a slight frown. A moment later, the light of understanding flashed in his eyes. "Do you mean those things heard us?"

"Bingo!" Elicia replied. "So, even if you had been able to get inside that house safely, things would have been dangerous for everyone in that house."

By now, Kenji's face had paled completely. Meanwhile, Alice was holding onto her father's hand tightly with fear in her eyes.

"Lucky for you, we happened to find you before everything went sideways." Alfonzo said. "We'll make sure you make it through this."

Though the relief in Kenji and Alice's expressions was visible, the worry had not been replaced completely.

"So, why don't you three follow Lici back to where we're staying with a few more survivors we saved." Alfonzo suggested. "While I take care of the nuisances on their way here."

"But how many are there?" Kenji asked in a concerned tone. "Is it another horde? Will you be okay alone?"

"You don't have to worry about Fonzie." Elicia said with a smile. "He's strong. Like, really~~~ strong. He'll be okay."

Although Kenji had heard about the strength of the youngest wizard to reach S-Class in history, he was still worried. Alfonzo had just saved his life and kept Alice from becoming an orphan, after all.

"Seriously, there's no need to worry." Alfonzo said while smiling reassuringly. "There's nothing in this town right now that can threaten my safety."

'If those zombies keep eating each other, that might change, though.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

["Things would be so much easier if we could just nuke the whole town."] Riot grumbled.

["That might be an option if the town was free of untainted people."] Bedlam replied. ["In fact, I bet the king would order it in a heartbeat if there were only zombies here."]

["You think I don't know that?"] Riot questioned angrily. ["I was just sayin'..."]

"Anyway, Lici, you should get going with them." Alfonzo said, ignoring his bickering [Armament Spirits]. "I'll go take out that horde."

"Okay." Elicia replied before pecking Alfonzo on the cheek. "See you when you get back."

Smiling in return, Alfonzo was once again covered in violet arcs of electricity before he vanished from where he stood in a burst of speed.

"Alright, let's go." Elicia said cheerfully. "We might be out of bedrooms, but we can just move Kamuro and Hirano out to the living room. I'm sure they'll be fine."

With that, Elicia extended her threads and wrapped them around Kenji and Elicia's right wrists, as well as Zeke's front right leg, and put them all under the effects of her [Hiding in Plain Sight] spell before leading them back to Rika's apartment.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo had reached the horde of undead. Unsurprisingly, he saw all five of the magically enhanced zombies eating the weaker zombies while they walked.

"It's almost like this ritual was made for the purpose of creating these stronger zombies." Alfonzo muttered while floating above the horde. "I mean, I only came across isolated cases last night, but now that I see them in a group, the other zombies don't even seem to mind that they're being eaten. Hell, even the ones being eaten aren't struggling."

["Yeah, it's really strange."] Bedlam added.

["And look at how fast their growing."] Riot added. ["Just how many have those things eaten. The strongest of them has already gained A-Class levels of magic power. And the other four are at the peak of C-Class at the weakest."]

"Hmm... Now that you mention it, they don't seem to attack the other magically enhanced ones, either." Alfonzo muttered. "Well, we can think about that later. I'd better just take care of them."

With that, Alfonzo descended to the ground like a lightning bolt. A moment later, Alfonzo's foot smashed the head of the A-Class zombie into the ground.

"Damn, these things have gotten sturdy." Alfonzo muttered while looking down at the zombie whose head he expected to splatter all over the ground. "I'll have to let Lici know about this when I get back. [Electromagnetism Magic: Spider Lightning]."

In the next instant, all the arcs of lightning surrounding Alfonzo shot out horizontally, attacking the nearest zombies. At the same time, Alfonzo raised his right foot with lightning coating it.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Lightning Strike]." Alfonzo chanted as he brought his foot down on the magically enhanced zombie's head.

Splat!

In the next instant, the zombie's head exploded into chunks of gore. However, thanks to the arcs of electricity covering Alfonzo's body, all the gore that would have hit him was burned away.

Then, without getting a moment to take a breath, Alfonzo ducked down to the ground. In the place where his head used to be the hand of a zombie with peak B-Class magic power. Then, in the next instant, Alfonzo was forced to jump to avoid a second lunging zombie, this one with average B-Class magic power reserves.

"Are these things working together?" Alfonzo asked himself as he oriented himself horizontally between the outstretched arms of the attacking zombies. "Looks like they're getting smarter, too. [Electromagnetism Magic: Thunder Wheel]."

In the next instant, Alfonzo, using his magic, made himself spin with his right leg extended. Then, when his foot impacted the two zombies' heads, they exploded into charred chunks.

"Damn, that smells fucking disgusting." Alfonzo said as he landed on his feet. "Cooked zombie is not a smell I'll ever fucking get used to."

["Quit your bitchin' and finish killing these things."] Riot complained.

"Yeah, yeah, don't rush me." Alfonzo muttered as he formed a pair of short swords in his hands. "I'm working on it."

By now, the last two of the magically enhanced zombies had rushed towards Alfonzo as well. On top of that, the rest of the horde was closing in to take their pound of flesh, too.

"Usually, I'd use the Eskrima sticks for this..." Alfonzo said as he leaned his head out of the way of a swiping arm. Then, as he raised the short sword in his left hand, he continued. "But since I don't have to worry about accidentally killing anyone, I think these should be fine."

Swish! *Thunk!*

Parrying away the arm he just avoided with the flat of the blade in his right hand, Alfonzo plunged the blade in his left into the skull of a normal zombie. Then, after ducking under the bite of the other magically enhanced zombie, he raised the sword in his left hand and stabbed it through the recently avoided zombie's lower jaw and pierced its brain from below.

Then, in one fluid motion, Alfonzo used the sword stabbed into the zombies' brains to swing them at the several zombies surrounding him, making a bit of space for himself. However, he did not stay still for long. Taking the initiative, Alfonzo charged into the horde and cut off or pierced the heads of every zombie he came across.

A few minutes later, after several failed attempts to kill Alfonzo, the final remaining magically enhanced zombie tried to blend in with the rest of the horde. Just as Alfonzo thought, the zombies got smarter as their power level rose. Which he confirmed by leaving that particular zombie alive.

Unfortunately for the zombie, Alfonzo had been tracking it with his [Magic Power Detection] even before he rescued Kenji, Alice, and Zeke. So, when he saw it distancing itself from him, he swung the sword in his right hand, cut off the head of a zombie, then released the sword at the end of his swing.

As a result, the sword flew out of Alfonzo's hand. Then, less than a second later, it buried itself up to the hilt in the back of the magically enhanced zombie's head.

"Damn... at this level, they're even smart enough to run when they can't win." Alfonzo muttered as he dispelled the sword in his left hand. "Well, now that my experiment is over, I should get rid of the rest of these things. [Metal Magic: Spike Rain]."

In the next instant, a black iron spike appeared over the heads of all the remaining zombies. Then, Alfonzo willed the spikes to impale all the zombies' heads before piercing into the street, as well.

"Alright, that's taken care of." Alfonzo said while dusting off his hands. "We can head back now."

["Hey, I got a question for you."] Bedlam said.

"Yeah, what's up?" Alfonzo asked as he was once again covered in violet arcs of electricity.

["Why did you change the name of that one spell?"] Bedlam asked. ["This time you called it [Spider Lightning]. But don't you usually call it [Chidori Stream]?"]

"Oh, that's because I know shinobi from Naruto are in this world." Alfonzo replied. "And since Guy was nineteen or twenty when we went on that joint quest last year, if Kakashi is in this world, too, he should have already made the Chidori. So, I decided to call it something else. I've also told Marin to change the names of her [Shoot to Kill] and [Growl] spells."

["How the hell did you get her to agree to that?"] Riot asked curiously.

"I told her the spell names weren't cute enough." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "And she agreed immediately. So, she's been trying to think of new names for them."

["Really? And that actually worked?"] Bedlam asked in a disbelieving tone.

"Sure did." Alfonzo replied as he vanished from where he stood in a flash of violet light.

Meanwhile, Saeko, Takashi, Saya, Rei, Shizuka, and Kohta were watching the entire encounter with binoculars from the apartment's balcony.

"Alfonzo is really strong." Shizuka said in an impressed tone.

"Yeah, you should have noticed that when he first helped us." Saya said snappily.

"But Miss Shizuka is right." Takashi said. "He's really strong."

Rei and Kohta nodded in agreement.

At the same time, Saeko was watching Alfonzo with rapt attention while thinking about what she just saw.

'He's a swordsman, too.' Saeko thought with a somewhat dangerous smile on her face. 'I'd love to fight him. Maybe he could help me improve my own swordsmanship.'

As those thoughts ran through her head, Saeko unconsciously licked her lips.

Chapter 418: The Devil's Whispers

About ten minutes after Alfonzo finished off the horde of zombies, Elicia, Kenji, Alice, and Zeke were approaching Rika's apartment. Then, without any warning, Zeke ran away from the group and bolted for the apartment building's front door.

"Zeke, come back." Alice said in a worried tone.

"You don't need to worry, Alice." Elicia said gently. "Zeke is gonna be fine."

"But..." Alice muttered, still sounding worried.

Despite Alice's worry, the group continued to walk. After a few more moments, they saw Zeke lying on his side. On top of that, Alfonzo was scratching his belly vigorously. Then, while continuing to scratch the puppy's belly, Alfonzo raised his head with a smile on his face.

"You guys took a while." Alfonzo said. "I thought I was gonna have to come back to get you."

"Not everyone can move at hypersonic speed, Fonzie." Elicia said as she rolled her eyes. Though, she was smiling, too. "Besides, we had to slow down for little Alice to keep up."

"I'm not that slow." Alice said somewhat bashfully.

In response, both Alfonzo and Elicia smiled while Kenji patted Alice on her head.

"Anyway, I'm sure you two must be tired." Alfonzo said as he finally stopped scratching Zeke's belly and stood up. "We should go inside. Then, you all can take a bath and have a little something to eat."

"Uh oh..." Elicia muttered.

"What's wrong, Lici?" Alfonzo asked curiously.

"I kinda gave all the food I scavenged to the people in that warehouse from earlier." Elicia replied bashfully.

"Don't worry about it." Alfonzo said while waving dismissively. "We have enough to give these two a late dinner---"

Bark! *Bark!*

"These three, I mean." Alfonzo said with a smile. "And unless someone goes through the fridge without any consideration, we should have more than enough for breakfast and lunch, too."

"I'll make sure not to forget tomorrow." Elicia said apologetically.

"I'll take care of going out tomorrow." Alfonzo said gently.

"Are you sure, Fonzie?" Elicia asked in a concerned tone. "You're better at training people than I am."

"It's fine." Alfonzo said. "You went out today, so tomorrow should be my turn."

"Thanks, Fonzie." Elicia replied with a smile.

Although Alfonzo mentioned that he was just taking his turn, Elicia knew he was giving her a break after what she saw in that shop today. Besides, through [Magic Power Detection], Alfonzo could tell there was a horde approaching one of the shelters that would arrive some time tomorrow. And he wanted to be there to deal with it.

"Anyway, let's go inside." Alfonzo said as he opened the front door.

Following Alfonzo, the group quickly reached the main living area where they were warmly welcomed by the others. Then, after the introductions, the girls took Alice to take a bath while Alfonzo cooked dinner and chatted with Takashi, Kohta, and Kenji.

Around the time dinner was ready, the ladies came out of the bathroom. Then, after a good meal, Kenji went to take a bath while Alfonzo, Takashi, and Kohta moved all the guns and ammunition out of the room they were using.

Not long after the boys finished moving all the weaponry, Kenji finished his bath and everyone decided to call it a night, with Elicia once again taking the first night shift and making clothes for Kenji and Alice during her shift.

The next morning, everyone woke up to another one of Alfonzo's meals. Then, they started getting ready for the day. And just like Alfonzo said the night before, he would be the one going out to deal with the zombies.

"Mr. Marcus." Saeko said just before Alfonzo could descend the stairs.

"Yeah, what's up?" Alfonzo asked curiously. Then, with a wry smile, he continued. "And seriously, just calling me Alfonzo is fine."

"Would you mind if I came with you?" Saeko asked with hope shining in her eyes. "I want the opportunity to help free the town I grew up in from this undead menace."

'Although there's probably some truth to what she said, she probably just wants the chance to commit some justified acts of violence.' Alfonzo thought to himself as he looked into Saeko's eyes. 'But then again, this is a different world, so I could be wrong.'

"Are you sure?" Alfonzo asked. "Things will be a lot different from the first day, you know?"

"Yes, I know." Saeko replied. "But I still want to go with you."

"*Sigh* I probably should say no..." Alfonzo said. "But something tells me if I do, you'll go on your own."

["If you really wanted her to stay, you or Elicia could make sure of that."] Bedlam said from Alfonzo's inner world.

'I know.' Alfonzo replied. 'But I'd rather not hold anyone against their will if it can at all be avoided.'

"That's right." Saeko replied while nodding solemnly.

"Fine." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "Hurry up and get ready."

"Okay." Saeko replied as she spun on her heels before running upstairs.

Smiling wryly, Alfonzo turned away from the stairs leading down to the first floor. Instead, he approached Shizuka, who was sitting at the table in the kitchen.

"Hey, Shizuka." Alfonzo said when he was close.

"Yes?" Shizuka asked while tilting her head cutely.

"Since Saeko wants to come with me, do you think your friend would mind if we used her magic vehicle?"

"Um..." Shizuka hummed as she placed her right index finger on her cheek while she thought about Alfonzo's question. "Probably not."

"Then, do you know where her keys are?" Alfonzo asked. "We never really looked for them after we Kamuro found the vehicle."

"Oh, they're in her bedroom." Shizuka said with a smile. "Wait right here, I'll go get them."

With that, Shizuka shot up to her feet, causing her breasts to jiggle gloriously. Then, she trotted past Alfonzo before climbing the stairs. Meanwhile, Alfonzo simply watched her go.

"I hate to see her leave..." Alfonzo muttered.

Before he could finish the saying, however, Alfonzo felt a glare on him. Tracking the source of the glare, he met eyes with Saya, who was standing on the mezzanine.

"Is something wrong, Miss Takagi?" Alfonzo asked curiously.

"If you're taking Miss Busujima, take me with you, too."

"You're not exactly a fighter, though." Alfonzo replied. "So, why do you want to come with us?"

"I want to see if my parents are okay." Saya replied.

"*Sigh* Fine." Alfonzo replied. "Get ready to go. And before you come back down, see if anyone else has an idea where their families might be."

"Good." Saya said while nodding happily.

With that, Saya turned around and rushed off to get prepared. Meanwhile, Alfonzo took a seat at the kitchen table.

Shortly after taking a seat, Alfonzo saw Zeke trotting up to him. So, like every other time the puppy approached him, he leaned down and started scratching him.

"I forgot how much you like dogs." Elicia said as she came down the stairs. "Should we get one?"

"I would love to." Alfonzo replied with a big smile. "but we'd have to run it by the other girls. If one of them doesn't like dogs, it probably wouldn't be a good idea."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Elicia said as she nodded in agreement. "Anyway, are you really taking those two with you?"

"*Sigh* Yeah." Alfonzo replied as he stopped petting Zeke. "Something tells me the only way to keep them from going out on their own is to tie them up. And I'd rather not do that. So, at least if they're with me, I can keep them safe."

"I guess you're right." Elicia replied as she took a seat in Alfonzo's lap. "Just be careful, okay?"

"Of course." Alfonzo replied. "Being careless with these zombies will end a hell of a lot worse than just losing an arm."

Nodding in response, Elicia enjoyed the few minutes with Alfonzo before Saeko, Saya, and Shizuka came back downstairs.

"I'm ready to go." Saeko said with the sword Alfonzo made her on the first day sheathed on her hip.

"Me, too." Saya added with a pair of magic pistols holstered on her hips and a bag filled with ammo.

"Did you find out where Kamuro, Miyamoto, Shizuka, and Hirano's families might have been before all this shit started?"

"So uncouth." Saya muttered quietly. Then, in a normal volume she answered Alfonzo's question. "Ms. Marikawa said that her family passed away a long time ago, so we don't need to worry about her. Takashi said that his mom should have been teaching at the primary school near my house. Hirano said that his parents were out of the country on business, and Miyamoto said that her parents should be at the shelter with the knights, since her father is one of the knight policing the town."

"Well, I guess we can check both those places while we're out." Alfonzo said with a shrug. Then, he turned to Saeko as he continued. "And what about you? Where are your parents?"

"MY mother passed away when I was young." Saeko said calmly. "As for my father, he was taking part in a tournament for swordsmen in Caelum. So, he's not in danger."

"Alright." Alfonzo said as he lifted Elicia off his lap. "Now all we have to do is wait for Shizuka to come back with the keys to the magic vehicle."

"I'm coming!" Shizuka shouted as she started running down the stairs with a smile on her face. "I found the---! Kya~~~~!"

Unfortunately, before even getting halfway down the stairs, Shizuka, in her excitement, missed a step and started to fall down the stairs.

Luckily, before things got dangerous, Elicia reacted quickly, sending out her threads and wrapping them around Shizuka. Then, she lowered Shizuka to the bottom of the stairs gently before dispelling her threads.

"*Sigh* That would have hurt." Shizuka said while patting herself on the chest, causing her breasts to quake with every pat. Then, when she managed to calm down, she smiled once again. "Anyway, I found the keys!"

As she spoke the last sentence, Shizuka trotted over to Alfonzo. Then, when she was within arm's reach, she held out her right hand with her palm up, showing the keys to the magic vehicle.

"Thanks, Shizuka." Alfonzo said as he reached for the keys with one hand and subconsciously started combing his fingers through Shizuka's hair with the other.

Realizing what he was doing a moment later, Alfonzo smiled wryly as he pulled his hand away from Shizuka's head. At the same time, the content smile on Shizuka's face was replaced by a discontent pout.

"Sorry about that." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly. "I didn't mean to do that."

"I don't think she minded." Elicia said with a mischievous smile.

Ignoring Elicia's teasing, Alfonzo turned towards the stairs leading to the ground floor.

"Let's get started." Alfonzo said as he started walking towards the stairs. "We've got a lot of ground to cover today."

Looking between Alfonzo and Shizuka with weird expressions, Saeko and Saya eventually followed Alfonzo down the stairs. Then, when only Elicia and Shizuka were left in the kitchen, Shizuka started running her own fingers through her hair.

"That felt really nice." Shizuka said with a pout. "His fingers against my scalp was really soothing."

"I know, right." Elicia said while smiling happily. "And you know, if you come back to Magnolia with us when this is all over, you can get him to do that whenever you want."

Elicia's words were like the devil's whispers in Shizuka's ears as her eyes lit up at the thought.

'I wonder if Rika would come with me if I moved to Magnolia...' Shizuka thought to herself. 'Then we could still see each other all the time.'

"And if you joined Fairy Tail and worked as one of its healers, you would get even more chances to feel Fonzie's fingers in your hair." Elicia continued after seeing the glint in Shizuka's eyes.

'And if I'm guessing right, she's thinking of a way to get Rika to come with her, too.' Elicia thought to herself while continuing to tempt Shizuka into joining Fairy Tail. 'So, if things go well, we'll be getting two for the price of one outta this deal.'

["You really wanna touch her boobs that much?"] Scylla asked disdainfully. ["You really are just a dirty old man on the inside. You're even trying to drag an unsuspecting woman into this."]

'No, no, no, Scylla.' Elicia replied internally. 'What I'm doing is for the good of the guild. With more healers in the guild, everyone will be safer if they get hurt on a quest. What I'm doing is objectively a good thing. Plus, having another [Magic Gunner] wouldn't be bad for the guild, either.'

["If you hadn't said something about getting Shizuka into Fonzie's harem so you could feel how soft her boobs are the other night, I might believe you."] Scylla replied while rolling her eyes.

'I have no idea what you're talking about, Scylla.' Elicia replied with a smile.

Chapter 419: On the Way to Takagi Mansion

"So, where are we heading first?" Saeko asked from the passenger seat of the Humvee.

"We should check out the primary school where Komuro's mother should have been working when everything went to hell." Alfonzo replied while driving. "We'll take out any zombies we see along the way, too."

"The primary school is close to my house." Saya said as she checked the magazines in her magic pistols.

"I know." Alfonzo replied. "We'll be heading there after we check on Komuro's mother."

Not long later, Alfonzo, Saeko, and Saya saw a horde of zombies, numbering about four hundred, loitering outside a rather large building.

"That's the primary school, right?" Alfonzo asked.

"That's right." Saya replied with a stern nod.

"Well, it looks like there are still quite a few people still alive inside." Alfonzo said as he narrowed his eyes.

"How do you know that?" Saya asked with her eyebrows furrowed. "There's no way you can see or hear anything inside from here."

"Fairy Tail guild secret." Alfonzo said with a smile. A moment later, however, his expression turned solemn. "Alright, ladies, brace for impact."

"What are you--- Kya!" Saya began to question before screaming in surprise.

Screech!

Not giving Saya the chance to ask her question, Alfonzo stepped on the accelerator before sending the Humvee into a slide. And with the use of his magic, Alfonzo made sure that the vehicle did not roll. Instead, the driver's side of the vehicle crashed into the horde of zombies, sending many flying.

"Alright, let's take care of this horde." Alfonzo said as he slammed the door open, sending another zombie flying from the force. "Miss Takagi, climb to the roof and provide cover with your magic guns. Be careful, though. We don't need any friendly fire."

"Just who do you think you are?" Saya asked as she opened the hatch on the vehicle's ceiling. "A genius like me doesn't need to be reminded of something so simple. And you should just call me Saya. Miss Takagi is too slow to say in a situation like this."

As she spoke the last part, a slight blush made its way on to Saya's face. Meanwhile, Saeko had already opened her door, hopped out the vehicle, unsheathed her katana, and shut the door behind her.

Bang!

As the sound of the door slamming could be heard, the heads of three nearby zombies flew up into the air. Then, Saeko dashed forward, cutting through every zombie in her path. At the same time, she gracefully avoided the hands, fingernails, and teeth of the zombies.

Swish! *Swish!*

Making a quarter turn, Saeko dodged a zombie's outstretched hand. Then, with an upward slash, she cut off its hand. And with the reverse slash, she bisected the same zombie from its left shoulder to its right hip.

Bang!

Before the zombie's upper body could fall to the ground, Saeko spun on her left heel and through a devastating right kick into the zombie's upper body, sending it flying head first towards another zombie's head.

Bang! *Splatter!* x 2

As a result, both zombie's heads exploded into a mess of brain matter and shattered skull fragments.

"Flowing magic power through my body really makes a huge difference in battle." Saeko muttered to herself as she spun around and cut the legs off a zombie that tried to grab her from behind.

Shing!

Then, in the same motion, Saeko stabbed her katana through the head of the downed zombie.

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

In the next instant, four bullets, two on each side, whizzed past Saeko's head, exploding the heads of four approaching zombies.

"Thanks, Miss Takagi." Saeko said with a smile as she turned around and dashed into the horde.

Instead of replying to Saeko's thanks, Saya pointed her pistols at the zombies further into the horde, hoping to lessen the number of zombies Alfonso and Saeko would have to face. Rapidly pulling the triggers, although not all of Saya's shots were headshots, she did manage to land every shot, slowing down the zombies' approach.

'That girl really is a genius.' Alfonzo thought to himself as he cut through the zombies with his [Circular Cutters]. 'She only had a night to train with those pistols. Yet, she's landed every shot.'

["Yeah, she's pretty good."] Bedlam said while nodding in agreement. ["Still, I don't think [Guns Magic] is her true calling. She seems like she'd do better with some kind of [Caster Magic]. Fire maybe...?"]

'Well, if she joins a guild, I'm sure they'd be able to help her figure out her specialization.' Alfonzo replied. 'And if I had brought any magic books with me, I could have got the process started faster.'

["Quit crying over spilled milk!"] Riot said in an irritated tone. ["Instead, you should save that girl."]

'I know.' Alfonzo replied nonchalantly. 'I'm already on it.'

In the next instant, Alfonzo made a three hundred sixty degree turn with his arms extended. As a result, he cut through the necks of every zombie surrounding him. Then, he let the circular saw attached to his left arm disconnect, sending it flying in Saya's direction.

Meanwhile, Saya, who was about to eject the empty magazines from her magic pistols, panicked when she saw the circular saw flying towards her. Before she could try to evade, however, it flew past the left side of her head before splitting a magically enhanced zombie's head in half.

As a result, Saya was sprayed with blood and brain matter from behind, causing her to jump in surprise. Then, after getting her heart beat under control, she looked back over her shoulder.

Not seeing anything behind her, Saya looked down at the road. There she saw a zombie with its head split vertically down the middle.

"You could have warned me first!" Saya shouted as she dropped the empty magazines through the Humvee's hatch. Then, as she reached into the bag she carried to retrieve a new pair of magazines, she continued. "You almost scared me to death. That saw of yours almost killed me!"

"Nah, you were perfectly safe." Alfonzo replied as he manifested a pair of short swords in his hands. "I have perfect control of my magic."

Hearing Alfonzo's carefree tone, Saya gritted her teeth. Yet, she did not let her frustration slow her down. Instead, she reloaded her pistols and continued shooting.

Meanwhile, Saeko had cut a path from the Humvee to the gates leading to the primary school. Then, she began slaughtering all the zombies who were close to it. On top of that, she could hear the faint sounds of children crying and whimpering on the other side of the gate.

"Alfonzo was right." Saeko muttered while feeling amazed at how acute her senses had become with magic power bolstering them. "There really are a lot of people still inside. "And most of them seem to be children. No wonder there were so many zombies gathered here. I'm sure the kids are terrified and can't stop crying."

With that, Saeko, who was enjoying the violence, had her whole demeanor change. Although she truly enjoyed committing acts of violence, she was also raised to follow the knight's code. So, her desire to protect the weak superseded her desire for violence.

At the same time, while the battle on the street outside the primary school was going on, a number of children and teaching staff were huddled together in the main hall of the school building.

Fortunately, none of them were in particularly bad shape. While this place was a school, and there were stores of food for emergencies, there was not enough to completely fill the stomachs of all of the people present for more than a day.

As a result, none of the adults had eaten since lunch on the day all this started. Still, as responsible educators, they did all they could to keep the children safe. Even if they knew that most of these children would be orphans when everything was over.

"Mrs. Kamuro..." A little girl, appearing to be six or seven years old, said in a scared tone. "What are those things doing outside? Why is it so noisy?"

"I'm not sure." Mrs. Kamuro, or Sayuri Kamuro, Takashi's mother, said while hugging the little girl soothingly. "But I promise, we won't let anything happen to you or the other children."

Sayuri Komuro, a tall woman, standing at about 5'7" tall with long, straight black hair, brown eyes, fair skin, and a voluptuous figure, was currently the one leading the survivors in the primary school. Unfortunately, many of those higher in rank than her had been turned into zombies early on. Luckily, she and the other untainted teachers were able to put them down, keeping most of the student body safe. Though there were a few students who also lost their lives in this incident.

Like that, while listening to the sounds of battle coming from outside the primary school, the group of survivors huddled together in fear. Then, after about twenty more minutes, all the sounds stopped.

"Is it over?" Sayuri muttered while hugging the little girl in her arms a little tighter.

Eventually, the sound of the gates opening made its way into the main hall, causing everyone to panic once again. Yet, they never heard the sound of a large number of footsteps approaching.

Knock! *Knock!* *Knock!*

Instead, after about a minute, they heard the sound of someone knocking on the school's main entrance.

"The zombies outside the gates have been dealt with." A deep male voice said calmly after the knocking subsided. "Although I wouldn't suggest going outside, there is no immediate danger at the moment. Do you think you could let us in to check the conditions of those inside."

Hearing that voice, which belonged to Alfonzo, the entire group of survivors froze. At the moment, they were too scared to believe anything coming from outside the walls of the school. However, as the leader of the group, Sayuri eventually decided to, at least, speak to the ones outside the doors.

Releasing the little girl in her arms, Sayuri slowly stood up. Then, with steps weakened from hunger, she made her way to the front doors of the primary school.

"Who are you?" Sayuri asked through the door.

"Mrs. Komuro, is that you?" A female voice familiar to Sayuri asked in response.

"Saya?" Sayuri asked in surprise. "Is that really you?"

"Yes, it's me, Saya!" The female voice, Saya, exclaimed excitedly.

Hearing that, Sayuri breathed a sigh of relief. Then, with all the strength she could muster, she moved the heavy plank used to hold the door in place.

Bang!

The loud sound of the plank falling to the floor scared those hiding in the school. However, Sayuri was undeterred. The thought of meeting someone she knew in such a chaotic situation was driving her forward.

Eventually, Sayuri opened the door. However, instead of Saya, the first thing she saw was a brown-skinned young man. And when she saw him, Sayuri opened her eyes wide in surprise.

"You... You're Alfonzo Marcus of Fairy Tail... Right?" Sayuri asked.

"That's right." Alfonso replied with a nod and a reassuring smile.

"Thank goodness." Sayuri said in a relieved tone as she slumped down to the floor. "Then, that means we'll be saved."

"Mrs. Komuro." Saya said in a panicked tone after seeing Sayuri fall to the floor. Then, she rushed past Alfonzo to support her. "Are you okay? You're not hurt, are you?"

"Saya, it really is you." Sayuri replied with a relieved smile. "I'm glad you're okay."

"Yeah, I'm fine." Saya said as she held Sayuri. Then, she pointed at Alfonzo. "He saved us when things were looking really bad."

"Us? Does that mean there are more people with you?" Sayuri asked with hope shining in her eyes.

"That's right." Saya said with a nod. "Ms. Busujima from the year above mine is here. Plus, Takashi, Miyamoto, and four others are back at our base, with Alfonzo's wife, Elicia Taylor."

"Thank goodness, my son is safe." Sayuri said, even more relief making it into her tone after hearing that Takashi was safe.

"We can talk about the situation later." Alfonzo said, stepping through the primary school's door as he did so. "For now, we need to check on the conditions of everyone here. The good thing is that I can't feel the presence of any more zombies nearby. Still, we need to make sure all the kids are okay."

"The kids should be fine." Sayuri replied. "They're probably a little hungry, though."

"I guess it's a good thing we've scavenged some food, then." Alfonzo said with a smile. "But I'm not sure if it will be enough for everyone."

"Just as long as you can give the kids enough to eat, it should be fine." Sayuri replied.

"No, that's not enough." Alfonzo replied sternly. "You and the other adults are here taking care of these kids. How are you supposed to keep doing that if you can't move because of hunger?"

"But..." Sayuri tried to argue.

"No buts." Alfonzo said, cutting off Sayuri's retort. "We'll be heading to the Takagi mansion after this. There's a shelter set up there. So, I'm sure they'll be able to spare some food for you. Hell, they might even be able to relocate all of you. And if you're lucky, some of the kids might be able to reunite with their families."

"*Sigh* You're right." Sayuri replied with a smile making its way onto her lips.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo turned his attention to Saeko and Saya.

"You two stay here." Alfonzo said. "Help them get a little food in their stomachs. Meanwhile, I'll go back to the apartment and get Shizuka. We don't have anyone better for making sure all these people are okay."

"Understood." Saeko replied.

"That's probably the best idea." Saya muttered as she nodded in understanding.

With that, Alfonzo turned around and made his way to the Humvee. Then, using his magic, he brought the food the trio managed to scavenge on the way to the primary school inside. After that, while Saeko and Saya started preparing food, Alfonzo headed back to the apartment to pick up Shizuka.

However, when he would eventually return, everyone staying in the apartment would be accompanying him. On top of that, Elicia would be driving the Escalade, as well.

At the same time, Shido, who had been gathering magic power to take full control of the ritual that started this zombie apocalypse, had finally completed his task. So, he was currently standing at the entrance of the grocery store where he and the students who followed him had been hiding.

Meanwhile, in the street in front of the grocery store, a small horde of eighty zombies, thirty of which were magically enhanced, with the strongest five reaching S-Class in strength, were devouring several human bodies.

"Now, I have control of the undead, I'll make those bitches pay." Shido said as he watched the zombies under his control devour the male students, he had [Charmed] at the beginning of this incident. "But first, I think it's time I make my way to Takagi mansion. I've waited so long for my chance to taste that woman, Yuriko Takagi."

A few minutes later, once all the students were gone, Shido, still standing at the front entrance of the grocery store, looked over his horde of zombies with a manic smile on his face.

"Then, once I've had my fill of the mother, I'll go retrieve the daughter." Shido said as he started walking away from the grocery store. "And I'll enjoy them together. The way they should be enjoyed. Hahahaha!"

After a few steps, Shido reached the magic vehicle he took from Saeko, Takashi, and the others. Inside of which, all the female students, with their minds broken and still under the effect of Shido's [Charm Magic], were seated obediently. Then, after taking a seat behind the wheel and without acknowledging any of the young women in the vehicle, Shido wrapped the S.E. Plug around his wrist and pulled away from the grocery store.

At the same time, Shido commanded the small horde of thirty magically enhanced zombies and fifty normal zombies to follow him at a distance.

On a side note, the horde Shido controlled would have been bigger. However, the magically enhanced zombies had eaten five-sixths of the original number while Shido had his fun with the enslaved young women for the last time before heading out.

Driving slowly, Shido made his way across the town towards the Takagi mansion. At the speed he was going, he was slated to arrive near sunset. On top of that, Shido exerted control over every zombie the group passed, causing his horde to grow as they travelled.

Chapter 420: The Shopping Outlet

About an hour and forty minutes later, two magic vehicles, the Escalade and the Humvee pulled up to the primary school. A moment later, Alfonzo, Elicia, Takashi, Rei, Shizuka, Kohta, Kenji, Alice, and Zeke climbed out of the two vehicles. Then, before anyone could say a word, Takashi took off towards the primary school's gates.

Having closed the gates on the way out, Alfonzo could only smile wryly at Takashi's enthusiasm. Though, he could understand how the guy was feeling. So, he wasted no time manipulating the gate with his [Metal Magic] to open it before Takashi arrived.

Turning his head to nod at Alfonzo in appreciation, Takashi continued running through the, now, open gates. Then, as soon as he reached the school's front entrance, he pulled the door open with force.

"Mom! Are you okay?" Takashi shouted as soon as the door was open.

At the same time, Sayuri, who was helping Saeko, Saya, and a few other staff members hand out meals, looked towards the door.

"Takashi!" Sayuri shouted as she dropped the serving spoon in her hand.

Then, without minding the child who was waiting for a serving of the vegetables in the pan she was serving from, Sayuri sprinted towards her son.

"I'm so happy you're alright!" Sayuri shouted as she wrapped her arms around Takashi with tears in her eyes. "I don't know what I would have done if I had lost you, too."

In this world, Takashi's father was a knight. Unfortunately, during a magic beast subjugation mission, he lost his life, leaving the mother and son alone. However, thanks to the pension received after his death, Takashi and Sayuri were able to live in relative comfort for the past year and a half.

"I'm glad you're okay, too, Mom." Takashi replied as he wrapped his arms around his mother, as well. "I was so worried about you when this all started. I'm sorry I couldn't come sooner."

"No, it's okay." Sayuri replied. "It was too dangerous to be moving around. We're just lucky your friends and Mr. Marcus found us."

"Yeah, I'm glad they came, too." Takashi said. "If Alfonzo and Elicia hadn't come, I probably would have died on the first day."

Hearing that, Sayuri separated herself from Takashi to look into his eyes with a shocked expression.

"What happened?" Sayuri asked.

"It's because of that asshole, Shido." Takashi said through gritted teeth.

Then, after getting that out, Takashi proceeded to tell his mother everything he had experienced since the zombies first showed up.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, Elicia, Rei, Shizuka, Kohta, Kenji, Alice, and Zeke had finally arrived at the front of the school.

"Alright, Shizuka, you should go check everyone and make sure they're okay." Alfonzo said as they all entered the school.

"Roger." Shizuka said while saluting. Then, she let a silly smile creep onto her face as she continued. "I sounded like a knight, just like Rika."

A moment later, before anyone could comment, Shizuka ran past Sayuri and Takashi and made her way over to the survivors. Meanwhile, Sayuri, who just realized Takashi did not come alone, looked towards the door to see who else had entered.

"Rei!" Sayuri exclaimed happily as she let go of Takashi. "You're safe, too. I'm so glad."

"Thanks, Mrs. Komuro." Rei replied with a smile as Sayuri wrapped her in a hug.

Then, while the two women greeted each other and talked about what they had experienced, Alfonzo, Elicia, Kohta, and Kenji went to help where they could with the children and staff. Meanwhile, Alice and Zeke went off to play with the kids, hoping to lift their spirits.

Eventually, everyone was checked for any injuries and fed. Then, Alfonzo and Elicia separated from the rest of the group.

"We still need to take a trip to Takagi mansion." Alfonzo said.

"Okay, take Saya and whoever else you want to take and go ahead." Elicia said with a smile.

"Sure." Alfonzo replied with a nod and a smile of his own. "As for you, I think you should take a couple people and head to that big shopping outlet Ms. Miyamoto was talking about. These people are gonna need more food if they wanna eat regularly."

"No problem." Elicia replied with a nod, her expression turning solemn. "I think I'll take Kohta and Rei. I'd take Takashi, too. But he just found his mother. So, I'll give them a little more time to catch up."

"Sounds good to me." Alfonzo replied. "And be careful, I know you can feel that horde that's going towards Takagi mansion. Just don't let them discover you or follow you back here."

"I know, Fonzie." Elicia said while rolling her eyes with a smile. "I got this."

"Sorry... I know." Alfonzo said with a wry smile. "It's just something seems off about that horde. On top of growing as time passes, there are an abnormally high number of magically enhanced zombies, too."

"Yeah, plus it seems like their following a magic vehicle. "But the people in the magic vehicle don't seem to be in a hurry to get away."

"Yeah, that's bothering me, too." Alfonzo said with a frown.

"Don't worry, I promise I'll be careful." Elicia said as she raised up on her tip toes and pecked Alfonzo on the lips. "For now, just worry about uniting Saya with her family."

"Yeah, I know you're right." Alfonzo replied as he pecked Elicia on the lips in return. "Alright, we'll get going. See you later tonight."

"Yeah, see ya." Elicia replied.

With that, Alfonzo and Elicia separated. Then, they both gathered the members of their groups to complete their tasks.

Eventually, with Saeko and Saya, Alfonzo drove the Humvee towards the Takagi mansion while following Saya's directions.

Meanwhile, Elicia took Rei and Kohta with her to gather supplies for themselves and those staying at the primary school. In fact, it was probable that Alfonzo and Elicia's group would more than likely take up residence at the school to protect the children after today.

"So, what kind of stores are there in this shopping outlet?" Elicia asked while driving the Escalade.

"All kinds." Rei replied from the passenger seat. "Everything from clothing stores, to hardware stores, to grocery stores are in that outlet."

"I wonder if we'll find other survivors hold up in there." Kohta wondered aloud.

"Oh, we definitely will." Elicia said with a nod. "I can sense around twenty people hiding in there."

"I wanna learn how to do that." Kohta muttered.

"If you join Fairy Tail, it wouldn't be a problem teaching you." Elicia said with a smile.

"Speaking of joining Fairy Tail, what's it like being part of the kingdom's strongest guild?" Rei asked curiously.

"Well, there's never a boring day at Fairy Tail." Elicia said with a wry smile. "Quests, comrades, and fights are what you can look forward to with Fairy Tail."

"Fights?" Rei and Kohta asked simultaneously.

"Yeah, brawls happen at least four times a---" Elicia said, happily explaining what life in Fairy Tail was like until she suddenly closed her mouth and swerved the Escalade.

"*Screech!*

Bang!

A moment later, the sound of a gun was heard. On top of that, there was a small crater in the street, as well.

"What the hell was that?" Rei asked warily.

"Someone with a sniper rifle shot at us." Kohta replied as he took hold of the magic sniper rifle, they found in Rika's bedroom.

"It looks like the people hiding in that outlet aren't friendly." Elicia said as she narrowed her eyes. "Or, at the very least, not all of them are friendly."

As she spoke, Elicia put the Escalade under the effect of her [Hiding in Plain Sight] spell. Then, she stepped on the accelerator and sped towards the outlet.

A few minutes later, Elicia stopped the Escalade in front of the shopping outlet while still under the effects of the [Hiding in Plain Sight] spell.

"So, what are we gonna do now?" Rei asked curiously while peeking at the building through the passenger side window.

"We're gonna go inside and see what's going on in there." Elicia replied.

"But they have magic guns." Rei said apprehensively.

"Don't worry about that." Elicia said. "I'll have us all covered with my [Camouflage magic. So, they won't even know we're inside."

"And how are we planning to deal with the attackers?" Kohta asked while checking his magic rifle.

"We'll immobilize them." Elicia replied after a few seconds of consideration. "And after checking the status of all the other people in the building, we'll decide how to deal with them."

"Roger." Kohta replied with a solemn nod.

"Does that mean we're gonna kill them?" Rei asked in an uncertain tone.

"That depends on what state the other people in the building are in." Elicia replied. "If they were only shooting at us to protect everyone else in the building, then we'll just take what we need and leave them alone. But if they've got the people enslaved or are using them for sexual relief, we'll take more drastic measures."

Hearing that, Kohta seemed to be unbothered. Rei, on the other hand, seemed put off by the thought. However, after thinking about Shido and the way he treated the female students at her school, she clenched her teeth and nodded.

"Alright then, let's go." Elicia said as she opened the driver's side door.

With Elicia taking the lead, Rei and Kohta also climbed out of the car with their weapons. Then, they approached the front door of the shopping outlet.

Immediately upon arrival at the front door, the trio noticed that the door was blocked. And because the doors had glass panels, they knew it was blocked by furniture and other heavy objects.

"How are we gonna get in with the door blocked like that?" Rei asked.

"Well, I could use my threads to move the blockade, but they would know." Elicia said as she spread her threads around the building. "Instead, I'll look for another way in."

"Hey, someone is watching the front door." Kohta said while pointing his magic rifle at a third story window.

Looking in the direction Kohta pointed, Elicia's eyes lit up.

"I think we found our entry point." Elicia said as she extended her threads towards the open third-story window.

At the same time, more of Elicia's threads wrapped around Rei and Kohta's waists, surprising them momentarily.

"Alright, I'm gonna pull all of us up to that window." Elicia said, informing her companions.

A moment later, after receiving nods from the other two, Elicia pulled herself, Rei, and Kohta above the window. Then, while hanging upside down, just above the head of the lookout, Elicia looked into the room. And when she did, she clenched her fists at what she saw.

"Why is it like this wherever I go in this town?" Elicia asked quietly.

Hearing Elicia's voice, Rei and Kohta were surprised. However, Elicia did not leave them to think about what she meant for long.

"Right now, there are four men in the room." Elicia said. "One of them is on lookout duty. But the other three are raping bound women."

Immediately, Rei was ready to rush into the room. However, with Elicia's threads suspending her above the window, she was unable to. Meanwhile, Kohta had narrowed his eyes as he tightened his grip on the rifle in his hands.

"Kohta, I'm gonna immobilize the lookout." Elicia continued. "At the same time, I'm gonna lower you to look through the window..."

"And I'll put them all down with one shot each." Kohta said in a cold tone. "Scum like that don't deserve to live."

Hearing Kohta's tone, Rei was taken aback. She had never heard him sound like this before. Not that she interacted with him much before the zombies appeared. Still, he always seemed rather friendly when they were at the apartment.

'*Sigh* I'm glad he was trained for stuff like this.' Elicia thought to herself. 'Even though I could take care of this myself, I wanna see if he'd be able to do what needed to be done if I invited him to the guild.'

["Yeah, but it looks like we don't need to worry about that."] Scylla replied. ["And as skilled as he is, I bet he'd be a good addition to Alzack and Bisca's team."]

'Yeah, but I still think they need someone else who can fight at close range to complete their team.' Elicia added.

Deciding she could think about that later, Elicia quickly wrapped her threads around the lookout's mouth and torso before pulling him out of the window and dangling him upside down. She even caught the rifle he was holding, not allowing it to fall to the ground and make extra noise. At the same time, she lowered Kohta so that he could see through the window. Then, once he was in place, Kohta aimed his rifle before the three men could react to their lookout being pulled out of the window.

Pssp! *Pssp!* *Pssp!*

Then, in less than a second, Kohta shot a burst of three bullets, shooting each of the three rapists through the head without harming the women.

"Huh?" One of the women exclaimed in confusion when the man who was violating her slumped down on top of her.

"Kya~~~~~!* x 3

A moment later, all three women screamed after the blood of their captors sprayed on them.

Those screams alerted everyone else in the building. The first to arrive were another pair of men. Elicia surmised that they were the first four men's accomplices. So, she used her threads to tie them up before they could hurt the women.

A moment later, Elicia, Rei, and Kohta climbed through the open window.

"Stay on your guard, there are more coming." Elicia said as she followed the movements of a group of six with [Magic Power Detection]. "And one of them is a wizard from what I can tell."

With that, Kohta moved to a corner of the room with a good line of sight on the door. On top of that, there was a bit of cover he could hide behind in case the other side started shooting. Meanwhile, Rei hid near the door with her spear ready to strike on Elicia's signal. Elicia, on the other hand, only smiled wryly.

'I guess they forgot about my [Camouflage Magic], huh?' Elicia said to herself.

["You can't blame them for that, though."] Scylla replied. ["It's not like they're used to working with you. On top of that, this is their first time doing something like this, remember."]

'Yeah, I know.' Elicia replied. 'Anyway, I guess we'll just wait to see who's coming.'

A few minutes later, after running up from the first floor, the group of six, led by a small woman, no taller than 5'1", with a petite figure, light brown, almost blonde, hair, and blue eyes dressed in the uniform of a squire with a magic pistol in hand and a sword strapped to her left hip.

However, when the group of six saw the state of the room, they were thoroughly confused. Three of the men who they were at odds with were dead, two were tied up and thrown in a corner, and the last was nowhere to be seen.

"Oh, so it's her." Elicia muttered under her breath while simultaneously making herself visible.

"Who are you?" The female squire asked harshly while pointing her magic pistol at Elicia. "And what happened here?"