

## Fairy Tail 461

### Chapter 461: Alfonzo's Hypotheses

During dinner, Alfonzo explained the concept of the [Soul Armaments] to Winry, Edward, and Alphonse. Then, after everyone was done eating, he showed the trio to the guest rooms. A few moments later, he then took Marin, Sun, and Lucy to the master bedroom. And while his three girlfriends took some time to take a bath after their long trip, Alfonzo went back out into the hallway.

And just as Alfonzo expected, Edward and Alphonse were standing in front of the guest rooms they were given, waiting to talk to him.

"The two of you couldn't wait until morning, huh?" Alfonzo asked while smiling wryly.

"We've been waiting for this for a long time." Edward said in a solemn tone.

"Yeah, I'm ready to get my body back." Alphonse added just as solemnly. "Though, we're really not expecting too much. But your idea might lead us in the right direction."

Seeing Edward nod in agreement with his brother's words, Alfonzo could only smile wryly. He was not surprised that the Elrics did not have full confidence in his idea. He is not an Alchemist, after all.

"I understand." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Well, why don't we head down to the living room and get comfortable while we talk."

In response, Edward and Alphonse nodded their heads as they started walking down the hall.

"Oh, and Winry, you should join us, too." Alfonzo added before he started walking.

Immediately, Edward and Alphonse came to a stop and looked back at Alfonzo. At the same time, Winry's door slowly opened, revealing Winry, who was embarrassed to be caught eavesdropping.

"Winry?" Edward asked in a confused tone. "I thought you said you were going to sleep."

"Well... I was." Winry replied sheepishly. Though, it was clear to see that she was worried about Edward and Alphonse. "But when I heard the three of you talking, I got curious."

"Brother." Alphonse said, drawing Edward's attention. "Since she's already awake, we should just let her come with us."

"Fine..." Edward muttered in a huff as he started walking again.

With that, the quartet moved down to the living room on the villa's first floor. Then, they all took seats on the two sofas in the room, with Winry, Edward, and Alphonse seated on one and Alfonzo, facing the trio, seated on the other.

"Well, before I give you my theory about how to get your bodies back, can you tell me the whole story behind how you ended up that way?" Alfonzo asked while gesturing at Edward's left arm and right leg, as well as Alphonse's entire body.

While Winry looked at them in worry, Edward and Alphonse exchanged glances. Then, after receiving a nod from Alphonse, Edward took a deep breath before looking into Alfonzo's eyes.

"When we were young, our mother lost her life during an epidemic." Edward said in a solemn tone.

From there, Edward went on to explain that when it happened, their father was nowhere to be found. So, they started studying [Alchemy] much more seriously. And after eventually meeting their teacher, Izumi Curtis, who happened to visit their town, they became her students.

Then, after training for several years, they left Izumi's tutelage before returning to Resenbool. And with much more knowledge at their disposal, they committed [Alchemy's] greatest taboo. [Human Transmutation], in an attempt to bring their mother back to life.

Thinking they had made all the preparations necessary, they drew the [Human Transmutation Circle] on the floor of the basement in their home. Then, they activated the [Circle]. At first, everything seemed to be going smoothly. They even saw the materials they gathered form a human body.

However, that was when everything went wrong. Instead of the vibrant blue color they were used to when using [Alchemy], the [Transmutation Circle] began glowing in an ominous dark color. Then, an eye opened up in the center of the [Circle]. And after that, both Edward and Alphonse were sucked into the circle.

"The next thing I knew, I was standing in a white space with a large gate hovering behind me. And in front of me, there was... a being of some kind..." Edward said in an apprehensive tone. "He said his name was Ankhseram, the God of Life and Death. But being a scientist... an Alchemist... I didn't really take him seriously."

"Neither did I..." Alphonse added. "At least, not back then, anyway."

"Anyway, he basically told us that I would be punished for trying to break the cycle of life and death." Edward continued. "But he also mentioned that because I used [Alchemy], a type of magic that follows the laws of equivalent exchange, he had to provide me with something equal to the punishment I would receive."

"Same here." Alphonse added.

"Then, as punishment, it took my right leg from below the knee." Edward continued.

"And he took my whole body." Alphonse supplemented.

"And in exchange, I received a large amount of [Alchemic] knowledge." Edward and Alphonse said in unison.

"And when I got back to the real world, I was bleeding from the stump where my right leg used to be." Edward said. "On top of that, I couldn't find Al anywhere.'

"Yeah, my body was gone, after all." Alphonse said. "But I was still there. I was in that human body we created, though."

"Wait, seriously?" Winry, who had been silent and on the verge of tears since the brothers started telling their story, shouted in surprise. "You never told me about that."

"Well, I couldn't remember that, at first." Alphonse replied while scratching the side of his helmet.

"And when he remembered, we didn't think it was important enough to mention." Edward said, slightly panicked at the tears welling up in Winry's eyes.

"I actually don't think it's all that big of a deal, either." Alfonzo replied. "If I had to guess, Al's disembodied soul was just latching on to the closest thing it could."

"How do you even know things like that?" Edward asked with a strange gaze.

"Like I said, I've done some research into the soul." Alfonzo replied. "Otherwise, I would have never been able to create the [Soul Armaments]. Anyway, let's keep going."

Though Edward was still interested to know more, as Alfonzo had never gone into great detail about his research into the soul, he nodded his head and continued onto the conclusion of the story.

"Right." Edward said, his tone becoming solemn once again. "Anyway, after not finding Al, I panicked. Not wanting to lose the only family I had left, I used my blood and the new knowledge I had just obtained to draw a seal on the inside of a suit of armor that was stored in the basement. Then, while sacrificing my left arm, I bound Al's soul to it."

"After that, once I was conscious again, I rushed Ed to Winry's house to get his injuries taken care of." Alphonse said, bringing an end to the story.

With the end of the Elric Brother's story, the living room fell into silence. A few moments later, under the gazes of the three sitting in front of him, Alfonzo broke that silence.

"Well, I expected Ankhseram to be involved in [Human Transmutation] at some level." Alfonzo said while rubbing his chin. "And your story confirmed it. As a result, I'm even more sure of my hypotheses."

Hearing that, Edward and Alphonse straightened their backs before leaning forward in interest. Meanwhile, the light of hope began shining in Winry's eyes.

"And what is that hypothesis." Edward asked, sounding a bit impatient.

"Actually, I have two theories." Alfonzo replied. "The first is to perform [Human Transmutation]. Then, exchange Al's soul for your arm, Ed..."

"There's no way in hell!" Edward shouted angrily.

"Chill out, Dude." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly. "I'm not done."

"Ed, let him finish." Alphonse said in a consoling tone.

In fact, the reason Edward and Alphonse reacted the way they did was because they had also considered that solution.

"Anyway, after exchanging for your arm, Ed." Alfonzo continued. "You'd have to give up something pretty big to get Al's body back. And I'm thinking something on the level of your ability to use [Alchemy], along with all the knowledge you received from the first time you used [Human Transmutation], as a cost."

Hearing that, Edward and Alphonse could not help but lower their heads. Other than the [Alchemic] knowledge they received, their own theory about getting their bodies back was identical to Alfonzo's. On top of that, it would still leave Edward with an artificial right leg.

"\*Sigh\* that's almost exactly what we thought, too." Edward replied in a slightly downcast tone. "But we held off on doing it until we could hear your theory."

"I see." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Well, since you two know more about [Alchemy] than I do, I guess I should have expected that."

"Still, for someone who doesn't practice [Alchemy], that was really impressive." Alphonse said, trying to console Alfonzo, thinking he might be disappointed that he could not tell them anything they did not already know.

Shrugging in response, Alfonzo only smiled at Alphonse's attempt at consolation.

"Well, if that's the same as what they were thinking, what's the other hypothesis you came up with?" Winry asked, the hope in her eyes still not extinguished.

At that moment, Edward and Alphonse also remembered that Alfonzo said he had two theories.

"Oh, that one is much simpler." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Use a Philosopher's Stone."

Immediately, Winry, Edward, and Alphonse showed signs of rejection.

"No way!" Edward shouted in defiance.

"Do you know how Philosopher's Stones are even made?" Alphonse asked in a put off tone.

Meanwhile, Winry remained silent. However, she looked at Alfonzo with disappointment.

"Alright, alright, don't look at me like that." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly and raising his hands disarmingly. "Before you burn me at the stake for heresy, hear me out, at least."

Though the three remained silent, they did give Alfonzo a chance to explain himself.

"Yes, I know that Philosopher's Stones are made with human soul's as their main ingredient." Alfonzo said, starting his explanation. However, he had to raise his hand to gesture for Edward to let him finish once again when he reached that point. "And that's why I think it's the best bet for you two to get your bodies back."

Though Edward and Alphonse were clearly disgruntled by Alfonzo's line of thought, they allowed him to continue without interrupting.

"And the reason for that is simple." Alfonzo continued. "It's because Ankhseram is the one you'll be trading with to get your bodies back."

This time, Winry, Edward, and Alphonse could not follow Alfonzo's train of thought. So, they looked at him with gazes that asked him to continue... quickly.

"Well, as you said earlier, Ankhseram is the God of Life and Death." Alfonzo said, answering the silent request. "And a Philosopher's Stone is filled with the souls of those who were kept from the cycle of Life and Death."

When Alfonzo reached that point, Winry, Edward, and Alphonse began following Alfonzo's line of thinking.

"So, if you offer those souls back to Ankhseram, he would more than likely be willing to trade you for what you want." Alfonzo said, smiling brightly as he noticed the understanding in the trio's gazes.

\*Bang!\*

"Damn, why didn't we ever think of that?" Edward asked as he slammed his fist on the coffee table between the two couches.

"You answered that question already." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "Because as scientists... Alchemists... you didn't believe in Gods, right? But I guess you've come to accept the fact that Gods are real over the years. Otherwise, you wouldn't have accepted my line of thinking so readily. It must have just been your pride as Alchemists getting in the way."

"\*Sigh\* You're probably right." Alphonse said while nodding in agreement. "Also, the thought of sacrificing souls to benefit ourselves didn't sit well with us, either."

"Yeah, but when you think about it as the souls being returned to the cycle of life and death, it doesn't sound so bad anymore." Edward said.

With that, the atmosphere around Edward and Alphonse became much more positive.

"Um... But there's still a problem." Winry said, hesitant to break up the happy atmosphere.

"What do you mean?" Edward asked.

"We would still need a Philosopher's Stone, right?" Winry asked. "And I don't think it's right to sacrifice people to make a new one."

Immediately, Edward and Alphonse froze in realization. Then, the atmosphere surrounding them started turning gloomy.

"You don't have to worry about that." Alfonzo said, cutting through the gloomy atmosphere while waving his hand dismissively. "I actually have a pretty big Philosopher's Stone. And from what my [Armament Spirits] said, there are at least a few dozen souls trapped inside. So, I really don't think there will be a problem."

Hearing that, the three childhood friends opened their eyes wide in surprise.

"But why would you have something like that?" Edward asked skeptically.

"Seriously, Dude, don't look at me like that." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly. "Lici gave it to me after taking a quest last year, which happened to be a trap set by the homunculus. And they used a pendant made from a Philosopher's Stone as the item to be retrieved."

In response, Winry, Edward, and Alphonse breathed sighs of relief.

"Anyway, you can give it a try when I get back to magnolia." Alfonzo said as he stood from the couch. "I don't have a habit of carrying something like that with me, after all. And it's locked up tight in a safe at my new mansion."

"We've waited this long." Edward said in a resolute tone. "So, waiting a few more weeks won't kill us."

Winry and Alphonse nodded in agreement while Alfonzo nodded in understanding.

"Alright, then that's settled." Alfonzo said with a smile. "And now, I'm going to bed. I'll see you three tomorrow."

Then, while receiving good night wishes from Winry, Edward, and Alphonse, Alfonzo left the room and headed to the master bedroom. And after chatting for a few more minutes, Winry, Edward, and Alphonse headed to their own rooms, as well.

#### Chapter 462: Arriving in Era

After his conversation with Edward and Alphonse, Alfonzo enjoyed the time he had at Akane Beach. As a group, he, Marin, Sun, Winry, Lucy, Edward, and Alphonse spent a lot of time just having fun. Though, Alfonzo did make time to have finish his motorcycle. He even made time to take each of the girls for a ride. He also managed to keep its key out of Winry's hands.

On top of taking the motorcycle for a spin, the group spent a day at the Akane Resort doing everything they could to have fun. They also spent time playing on the beach and just relaxing, as well.

However, like all good things, the vacation eventually came to an end. And when it did, on March 13, Marin, Sun, Winry, Lucy, Edward, and Alphonse all piled into Lucy's 1500 and made their way back to Magnolia. Meanwhile, Alfonzo boarded Sixth Sense and set sail for Era.

At the present, Alfonzo was only about half an hour out from the Magic Council's port. And if everything went as it was supposed to, he would be an hour early for his appointment with the Magic Council.

"\*Sigh\* I really need to make more time to just relax like that." Alfonzo said while steering the ship. "I feel so refreshed after only doing the things I wanted to do, rather than the things I had to do."

["Yeah, a little R&R is good for the soul."] Bedlam added. ["Hell, even Riot seems a lot less angry than usual."]

["Fuck off..."] Riot replied without even looking in Bedlam's direction.

["But seriously, what do you think this summons from the Magic Council is about?"] Bedlam asked, his expression turning much more serious. ["I mean, we've known about it for a month. But we really haven't spent any time thinking about it."]

["I bet they want Alfonzo to build a state of the art HQ for them."] Riot said with a sneer. ["And when they do, I'm sure they'll end up properly fleeced."]

"Well, I hope that's all they want." Alfonzo said while checking the sea chart. "But something tells me it's gonna be much bigger than that."

["You really think they're gonna do that?"] Bedlam asked.

"Yeah, I do." Alfonzo replied solemnly while nodding his head. "And if they do, I'm gonna refuse. Unless they meet my demands, that is."

[ "If you go through with it, you'd better win! " ] Riot shouted. [ "Defeat is not an option! " ]

"I know." Alfonzo replied. "But the more important issue is whether or not he'll accept my challenge. Hell, he might not even be there today."

[ "One can only hope." ] Bedlam said. [ "Anyway, until they make their announcement, we have no idea what the Magic Council actually called you in for." ]

"I know, I know." Alfonzo replied. "I just hope it's worth the trip."

Like that, Alfonzo continued to sail towards Era while chatting with his [Armament Spirits]. Then, after half an hour, just as he expected, he caught sight of the Magic Council's dock where their entire fleet was docked.

"We're here." Alfonzo muttered as he looked upon the large building that acted as the Magic Council's headquarters.

[ "Yeah, and they sent a welcome party, too." ] Bedlam said.

["Too bad they're not hostile."] Riot said in a disappointed tone. ["For as long as you've had this thing, you've never had the chance to test its weapon system on live targets."]

"Yeah, kinda makes me wish I had built it right after I made S-Class." Alfonzo said wistfully. "If I had, I could have used it against the Leviathan. I mean, that's the only naval battle I've ever been a part of in my whole career."

{"Attention! Approaching vessel, please stop!"} A male voice rang out over the sea with the use of a magic item. {"You are entering Magic Council controlled waters. Please allow us to inspect your vessel. Otherwise, we will deem you as hostile and attack! I repeat..."}

["Hey, let's pretend we didn't hear them."] Riot said with a smile.

"You're trying to turn me into a dark wizard, aren't you?" Alfonzo asked while rolling his eyes.

["Ignore this idiot."] Bedlam said. ["We've got more important things to worry about than causing explosions."]

["Fuck you!"] Riot shot back.

Ignoring the bickering from his [Armament Spirits], Alfonzo did as asked and cut the engine to his ship. Then, after a few minutes, the ships from the Magic Council approached. And when they did, Alfonzo stepped on to the deck. Not long later, a squad of Rune Knights led by Mest, who was still acting as Doranbolt, boarded Sixth Sense.

"Alfonzo Marcus, we we've been expecting you." Mest said in an authoritative tone. "Please, present your documents for inspection."

Without a fuss or any unnecessary words, Alfonzo showed the squad from the Magic Council all the documents they asked for. Then, once the inspection was over, Mest led the Rune Knights back to their ship before Alfonzo followed them back to land.

Fifteen minutes later, Sixth Sense was moored alongside the Magic Council fleet, and Alfonzo was being escorted to the waiting room in the Magic Council building by Mest. However, they did not engage in small talk along the way, despite the fact that Mest had regained his memories of his time as a Fairy Tail wizard. No one knew who was listening, after all.

"So, you still can't tell me why I was called here, can you?" Alfonzo asked in a bored tone.

"As stated back in February, I was not made aware of the Magic Council's reason for summoning you." Mest replied in a professional tone.

"Well, can you at least tell me who is here?" Alfonzo asked.

"If I'm not mistaken, the entire Council is present for this announcement." Mest replied.

"So, the former guild masters and the two through nine of the Wizard Saints then." Alfonzo muttered.

"Precisely." Mest replied as he stopped in front of a door. "We have arrived."

With that, Mest pushed the door open before ushering Alfonzo inside.

Shrugging his shoulders at the lack of information, Alfonzo walked into the waiting room. And what he saw was a typical waiting room with a couch, a coffee table, a few decorative plants, and a pot of tea waiting on the coffee table.

"If you need anything, you can press this button." Mest said while pointing at a button near the door after Alfonzo entered the room. Until then, please wait here. "And should you need the rest room, there is one adjoined to this room."

As he spoke the rest of his sentence, Mest pointed at a door on the opposite wall.

"Alright, I got it." Alfonzo said as he flopped down on the couch. "\*Sigh\* I kinda hope they call me late. Spending two days alone on the sea is more tiring than I thought it would be."

In response, Mest let a small smile slip. However, he did not reply. Instead, he nodded one last time before closing the door behind him.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo spread his arms and rested them on the couch's backrest with his eyes closed.

'They're watching me.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'There are five recording lacrima set up in this room. But why do they need so many?'

And just as Alfonzo thought, the members of the Magic Council were all watching him.

Currently in one of the rooms, Makarov, Ur, and Shizuka were watching the waiting room through a magic projection connected to one of the five recording lacrima.

"He looks so tired." Shizuka said in a worried tone. "Is he gonna be alright?"

"it's probably just from sailing for so long by himself." Ur said while smiling wryly. "You really don't need to worry, Shizuka."

Though that only lessened Shizuka's worry for Alfonzo by a little, she nodded her head vigorously, which caused her breasts to bounce along with the movement. And naturally, Makarov's eyes were drawn directly to the bounce.

\*Smack!\*

"Seriously, you're like a boy in puberty." Ur said as she slapped Makarov upside the head. "Can't you act your age at least once?" I mean, for God's sake, you're already ninety."

"If you know I'm so old, Ur, you should be more gentle." Makarov grumbled.

"When you act like someone worthy of gentleness, I'll be more gentle." Ur replied sternly. A moment later, her tone changed back into her usual tone. "Anyway, do you think he figured out why he was called here?"

"Probably." Makarov replied while continuing to rub the back of his head. "he's always been a smart boy, after all."

"Why was he called here, anyway?" Shizuka asked in a clueless tone. Then, she turned her attention towards Ur. "You never told me about it, Master."

Immediately, Makarov and Ur fell silent. Although there was no point keeping the reason for Alfonzo's summons secret at this point, for some reason, they felt like Shizuka would find a way to let him know before the announcement was made.

"You'll just have to wait and see." Ur said in a mysterious tone, causing Shizuka to pout and stare at her with puppy dog eyes.

'Just don't look, Ur.' Ur said as she quickly turned her head away. 'If you don't see those eyes, you'll be fine.'

Even Makarov, who had decades more experience dealing with people than Ur, had to quickly turn his head away from Shizuka.

'Seriously, that's just not fair.' Makarov thought to himself. 'How can someone with such a hot body be so cute?'

At the same time, in another room, three elderly men were also watching Alfonzo's waiting room.

"He's quite composed for such a young man." The first of the three men, an older gentleman with clean-cut, dark purple hair and a well-groomed mustache of the same color, red eyes, pointy ears, and a cross-shaped tattoo on the left side of his forehead wearing a black cape, white button down dress shirt, a lightly-decorated black vest, black slacks, and a black bow tie, said while watching the monitor. "He looks as though he would make a good addition to our ranks."

This man was Draculus Hyperion, the second seat of the Ten Wizard saints and one of the Four Gods of Ishgar.

"Oi! Can we just get this over with?" The second of the three older men, an older man with a dark green beard wearing a dark blue shirt, a light blue vest, dark blue slacks, dark brown rimmed glasses, and a large, light grey hat that covered his hair, said in an impatient tone. "If he's not suitable for the position, we'll just kick him out. Oi!"

This impatient man was the third seat of the Ten Wizard Saints and one of the Four Gods of Ishgar, Wolfheim.

"I don't think that will be a problem, Wolfheim." The last man in the room, an old man with facial features that resemble a slightly gnarled tree trunk, hair reminiscent of a leafy tree top wearing a high colored grey kimono tied closed with a light green belt, loose-fitting light green trousers, and a pair of black boots, said in a friendly tone. "I bet he can even take a joke, too."

And last, but certainly not least, the man with the tree-like appearance was Warrod Sequen, four seat of the Ten Wizard Saints, one of the Four Gods of Ishgar, as well as a founding member of Fairy Tail.

While Draculus nodded in agreement with Warrod's assessment, Wolfheim grunted in annoyance. Then, Draculus stood from his seat. And as he did, he picked up the cloak draped over the back of his chair.

"Anyway, I believe it's time that we get going." Draculus said as he draped his cloak, the same cloak Makarov wore to official meetings that signified the status of a Wizard Saint, over his shoulders. "We wouldn't want to be late now, would we?"

Before the other two could stand from their seats, however, the door to the room was opened abruptly. And when the three turned their attention toward the door, they were surprised by who they saw.

Standing in the open doorway was a man with shoulder-length wavy, yet spiky, orange hair that juts up at the top of his head like rabbit ears and a scar on the bridge of his nose wearing a fanciful white robe with blue sleeves, a blue belt, blue pants, and simple black boots. However, the part of his attire that stood out the most is the wheel of blades he wore on his back that gave him a superficial divine appearance.

"God Serena, I did not expect you to attend today's meeting." Draculus said in a surprised tone.

"I wanted to see the kid you all were making so much noise about." The new arrival, God Serena, the first seat of the Ten Wizard Saints, replied in an arrogant tone. "And to be honest, I'm not impressed."

"Perhaps it would be better to wait until you meet him to pass judgement." Warrod said in his usual tone. "Otherwise, it will be more like you're passing gas if you're wrong."

Immediately, the other three men turned their gazes towards Warrod.

"That was a joke." Warrod said in a good natured tone. "Hahaha!"

"Just ignore this fool." Wolfheim said in an annoyed tone. "Let's just get going."

Receiving nods in response, Draculus, Wolfheim, and Warrod left the room. Meanwhile, God Serena continued to watch the projection for a bit longer.

'Emperor Spriggan asked me to get a measure of this kid's strength.' God Serena thought to himself while staring at the projection. 'And he said I should get rid of him if I think he'll be a problem in the future.'

As God Serena's thoughts reached that point, his arrogant expression turned into a vicious smile. Then, he turned on his heels and followed after his colleagues.

#### Chapter 463: Blatant Disrespect

Half an hour after he entered the waiting room, Alfonzo, who had been resting peacefully, heard the sound of knocking coming from the door. And with the sound, he slowly opened his eyes. At the same time, the door was opened, and a male voice spoke.

"Alfonzo Marcus, the Council has gathered in the meeting room and awaits your arrival." The male voice, a Rune Knight, said as he opened the door.

Without a word, Alfonzo stood from the couch and stepped towards the door. Then, once he stepped through it, he silently followed the Rune Knight to his destination.

'I'm surprised they didn't send Lahar or Mest to escort me this time.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

[ "Maybe they didn't want you to be too comfortable with your escort." ] Bedlam surmised. [ "You know, to see how you react in a situation like this." ]

[ "What the hell are you talking about?" ] Riot asked in an annoyed tone. [ "He's only following some nobody down the hall. What kinda reaction could he have?" ]

'Take it easy, Riot.' Alfonzo said without changing his facial expression. 'Bedlam's not wrong. Being alone in unfamiliar territory while not knowing anyone around you can be stressful, or so I hear.'

Instead of replying, Riot simply grunted in annoyance.

'Anyway, this is the first time I've felt so many strong magic power signatures in one place before.' Alfonzo said mentally. 'But not a single one of them is stronger than Gildarts.'

["Yeah, and if he wasn't a walking natural disaster, he would have been added to the Ten Wizard Saints a long time ago."] Bedlam added. ["But he can't be bothered enough to not destroy everything he touches."]

'More important than that...' Alfonzo continued. 'I feel a bunch of familiar magic power signatures, too. And the one that stands out among them the most is Master Unohana's.'

["Yeah, that woman is at least as strong as Gramps."] Riot said. ["And that's just her base power. Just imagine what she would be like if she used her [Bankai]."]

["Yeah, the landscape of Ishgar's most powerful wizards would look a whole lot different."] Bedlam added. ["She's definitely stronger than Gildarts when going all out. And Gildarts is definitely stronger than that traitor if he goes all out."]

'She probably doesn't wanna give away too much about her power while she's on our continent, though.' Alfonzo mused. 'Unfortunately, because of the [Soul Armaments], everyone in Fairy Tail, and probably most of Ishgar know that her power would multiply if she used her [Shikai]. They still don't know about her [Bankai], though. So, she still has some level of secrecy.'

"We have arrived." The Rune Knight said as he stopped in front of a set of double doors.

Receiving a nod in response, the Rune Knight pushed the door open and gestured for Alfonzo to enter.

Following the gesture, Alfonzo stepped into the meeting hall. And as he did, he let his eyes scan all the familiar and unfamiliar faces. And when he recognized God Serena, his eyes widened slightly. Though, there was no other visible change in his expression.

'So, he did come.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'Good. Now I can put that traitor in his place. Even though his [Historia] was the one that fought Gildarts in the canon, I'm pretty sure I read a tweet or something that said that Gildarts would have been stronger than God Serena even if he had been at his full strength. He just wouldn't have been able to one shot him.'

[ "Yeah, and thanks to the gravity chambers and the Automail you made for him, Gildarts should be nearly one and a half times as strong as he was at the end of the base series. " ] Bedlam said with a devious smile on his face. [ "And since you can keep up with Gildarts for as long as you have magic power left... " ]

[ "Things aren't gonna end well for that arrogant, traitorous cock sucker if things go the way you want them to. " ] Riot said, picking up from where Bedlam left off.

Then, Alfonzo and his [Armament Spirits] all chuckled sinisterly. Though, Alfonzo's was kept internal.

At that moment, Alfonzo arrived in the center of the meeting room with all eyes on him. Then, he took a deep breath to settle his emotions.

'Oh, Ur and Shizuka aren't in here.' Alfonzo thought as he exhaled his breath. 'Well, I guess that makes sense. Neither of them is a member of the Magic Council, after all.'

"Alfonzo Marcus here to answer the Council's summons." Alfonzo said in a sonorous voice with his back straight.

"Thank you for making the trip, Alfonzo." Gran Doma, the chairman of the Magic Council replied in an even tone. "We know the trip from Akane Beach is not a short one."

Nodding in response, Alfonzo waited for the Magic Council's side to continue.

"Now, I'm sure you are curious to know why we summoned you here." Gran Doma continued. "And the reason is simple, we wish to celebrate the strength you have shown over the years."

Reaching that point, Gran Doma listed all the feats Alfonzo had accomplished since his career as a wizard began. And considering the fact that Alfonzo was only a month and three weeks shy of his twenty-first birthday, the list was quite long.

"And most recently, you even defeated Jura Neekis, the eighth seat of the Ten Wizard Saints in frontal combat, a fact Jura admitted to himself." Gran Doma continued. "And the only way we could think to celebrate the strength of body, magic, and mind you have shown, is to appoint you, Alfonzo Marcus, to the position of one of Ishgar's ten most powerful wizards, the Ten Wizard Saints."

As Gran Doma made his announcement, the gathered Councilors began to applaud. Meanwhile, Alfonzo only took in the Councilors' reactions.

'So, they really did it, huh?' Alfonzo mused without changing his expression. 'Well, I kind of expected this. But I wasn't a hundred percent sure. But since it happened, and that guy is here, I'll try to provoke him into accepting my challenge.'

Before Alfonzo could put his plan into motion, however, an arrogant male voice cut through the applause.

"I don't agree with this." God Serena said, surprising most of those present.

Meanwhile, the other three Gods of Ishgar only looked him with an expression that said: "As expected."

"You have an issue with this appointment, God Serena?" Gran Doma asked, also expecting God Serena's objection.

"That's right." God Serena replied in a self-important tone. "Although Jura Neekis, the eighth seat of the Saints says that he was defeated by this kid, no one was present to witness it."

Putting more emphasis on "eighth seat," everyone in attendance was able to hear the disdain God Serena held for Jura's position.

In fact, God Serena held contempt for every wizard on Ishgar who held a position lower than the Four Gods of Ishgar. And he never kept that fact a secret.

"Then, are you suggesting that we take back the appointment?" Makarov asked, clearly annoyed that one of his favorite children's accomplishments were being dismissed so casually.

"Perhaps." God Serena replied while glancing at Makarov out of the corner of his eye.

'I'll let you live a while longer, Old Man.' God Serena thought, annoyed that someone of Makarov's station was questioning him. 'But when Emperor Spriggan comes for what he wants, I'll make sure to personally take your head and present it in front of His Majesty.'

"I only believe in what I've seen with my own eyes, after all." God Serena continued after returning his gaze back to Alfonzo. Though, it was clear that he was not making eye contact with the younger wizard.

'Yo, this mother fucker isn't even looking me in the eye while shitting on everything I've done.' Alfonzo muttered to himself internally. 'And because of that, I'm gonna fuck him up on principal.'

"Then what do you suggest?" Ritsu, who was also a member of the Magic Council, asked in a gentle tone with a gentle smile.

As Ritsu was not a member of the Ten Wizard Saints, God Serena did not even deem her worthy of a glance.

"I suggest that his power and potential be tested." God Serena replied. "And I suggest that I be the one to test it."

Hearing that, most of the councilors in attendance opened their eyes wide in shock. The exceptions being the other three Gods of Ishgar, and everyone who knew Alfonzo personally and had witnessed his full power.

On top of that, all those who knew Alfonzo could tell that he was boiling in rage just under the surface. As such a proud person, there was no way he would not be.

'If he's anything like a member of the Fairy Tail I know...' Warrod thought to himself. '... there's no way he'll take an insult like this lying down.'

Meanwhile, the tension in the air was so thick that it could be cut with a knife. Eventually, however, the tense silence was broken.

"And what do you think of this proposal, Alfonzo Marcus?" Gran Doma asked.

Immediately, all eyes in the room fell on Alfonzo, whose eyes were narrowed as he stared at God Serena. And with their attention focused on him, all the other members of the council could also see that Alfonzo had been enraged, as well.

'Something tells me he's under orders to test me.' Alfonzo said to himself. Though, the anger he was feeling was genuine. 'And you know what? I like it. Now I have the perfect justification to kick his ass.'

Despite those thoughts, Alfonzo scoffed at Gran Doma's question.

"This is ridiculous." Alfonzo replied disdainfully. "You all called me here without telling me why. Then, you declare me a member of the Ten Wizard Saints. Then, just because one person, who claims he can't be bothered with the business of the Magic Council, questions that decision, I need to be tested? What a joke. You think I need your title to prove my strength? Hmph! You know what? You can keep your title. ""

Immediately, a number of the Councilors grew irritated over Alfonzo's words. However, those that knew him narrowed their eyes.

'This isn't like him.' Makarov thought to himself. 'For all the years I've known him, I've never seen him be so blatantly disrespectful in a public setting, no matter how angry he was. So, I can only wonder... what's he up to?'

While Ritsu was thinking the same thing, her sight did not linger on Alfonzo for long. Instead, it shifted back to God Serena. And when it did, she was just in time to see him frown minutely.

'So, this was all an act to fight Alfonzo.' Ritsu thought to herself. 'But why? What would he get out of this? If he were to win, it would be expected from the number one of the Ten Wizard Saints. But if he were to lose, his reputation would be ruined.'

A moment later, Ritsu narrowed her eyes as a realization hit her.

'There was a time when a rumor was circulating around the continent that had Alfonzo's mother been alive, she would have been able to defeat God Serena. Does he perhaps want to take out his frustration from those times on her son?'

Though Ritsu's thoughts could not have been further from the truth, the rumor she mentioned was true. However, it did not last long. Because comparing the living and the dead was pointless in a strength-based society like the wizarding world of Ishgar.

"Just as I thought." God Serena said, trying to keep the annoyance out of his tone. Then, he continued in a tone filled with provocation. "He wasn't ready for a responsibility like this."

"Think what you want." Alfonzo replied dismissively. "But why should I even care? On top of that, if I accept, I'm the only one with something to lose. Yet, you can challenge me with nothing but your worthless reputation on the line. And let's be real, someone like you, who looks at everyone with your nose pointed at the sky, couldn't care less what anyone else thought of you, right?"

Expecting Alfonzo to take the bait, God Sereena, along with all the other members of the Magic Council were taken aback when Alfonzo returned his own words of provocation.

"So, unless you plan to put your title as the number one of the Ten Wizard Saints on the line while 'testing' me, don't bother insulting me any further. I've been away from home for two and a half months and I miss my wife, fiancées, and girlfriends. And I wanna go home."

Once again, the members of the Magic council were taken aback. At the same time, God Serena was brimming with anger at the blatant disrespect. Meanwhile, Makarov finally understood what Alfonzo was after.

'Now that I think about it, Ur told me something about Alfonzo saying something about challenging God Serena for his title.' Makarov mused. 'I think it was around the time of that trial last year. To think, he was serious, though.'

"Who do you think you are?" God Serena bellow angrily. "You should be grateful that someone such as I, am willing to test your strength and potential."

"Like I already said, I don't need anyone's affirmation to know that I'm among the strong." Alfonzo replied. "So, if you don't intend on meeting me halfway, I have no use for the title you, oh so graciously, wish to bestow on me after 'testing my strength and potential.'

With that, God Serena could no longer bear Alfonzo's insolence. As a result, he let his magic power wash over the entire meeting room. And while most of the members of the Council were finding it hard to breath under the pressure, there were a few who were completely unaffected by God Serena's power.

And those who were unbothered, excluding Makarov and Ritsu, were surprised to see that Alfonzo was among their number.

"Or maybe, you don't have the confidence to beat a kid like me, huh, 'God' Serena?" Alfonzo asked in a mocking tone while adding extra emphasis to the word, God.

"I've had enough of your mockery!" God Serena shouted angrily. "I will accept your challenge. And you will see the difference between someone like you and I. And by the end, the result will be that you will no longer be considered for a position among the continent's strongest."

Then, while spreading his arms wide as he stood from his seat, God Serena continued in a tone that was clearly seeking to draw everyone's attention.

"And while I'm at it, I will beat the concept of showing humility in front of your betters into you!"

While most of the Council's gazes were drawn to god Serena during his last statement, and God Serena was never actually looking directly at Alfonzo in the first place, that only left a few, namely, Makarov, Gran Doma, Ritsu, Draculus, Wolfheim, and Warrod, to see the expression on Alfonzo's face.

And when they did, the four who were unfamiliar with Alfonzo's personality were thoroughly confused. Meanwhile, Makarov and Ritsu, who had each spent some time around the young man, wore expressions that said: "As expected."

And the reason for those reactions was simple. Currently, Alfonzo's angry expression had been replaced by a vicious smile. A smile that promised both pain and humiliation to god Serena.

#### Chapter 464: Alfonzo Vs. God Serena; Part 1

"Why is this taking so long?" Ur asked impatiently while she and Shizuka sat in the room they watched Alfonzo from. "They're only adding him to the list of Wizard Saints."

"Huh?" Shizuka exclaimed in surprise. "Fonzie is gonna be a Wizard Saint? Why didn't you tell the guild?"

After hearing Shizuka's excited exclamation, Ur turned her head in the ditzy nurse's direction. And when she did, she was just in time to see Shizuka bouncing towards her with an excited smile on her face.

'Seriously, what do you have to eat to get tits like those?' Ur asked herself in an envious tone.

"Because we wanted to keep the news as a surprise for Alfonzo." Ur replied with a wry smile as Shizuka gripped her hands and continued to bounce up and down. "And if I had told the guild, someone would have found a way to let him know. Especially Marin, Sun, and Lucy, who went to visit him on Akane Beach."

Hearing that, Shizuka pouted.

"I wish I had gone with them, too." Shizuka said in a pitiful tone. "I wanna go to the beach, too."

"Well, we can go back to Akane Beach with Alfonzo after all this is over, if you like." Ur said with a smile.  
"The trip back will be shorter that way, too."

Immediately, Shizuka's expression brightened. Then, she pulled Ur into a hug. However, Ur found herself even more irritated by Shizuka's breasts because of it.

'Damn it, this girl is gonna smother me to death.' Ur said as she placed her hands on Shizuka's chest to push herself free. 'But God damn... These things really are soft.'

At the same time, Alfonzo had returned to his waiting room while Jura, using his [Earth Magic], prepared the arena for the duel between Alfonzo and God Serena. This time, however, he was not alone. Instead, he was accompanied by Makarov and Ritsu.

"Are you sure about this, my boy?" Makarov asked while looking at Alfonzo with concern. "I know you're strong, but God Serena is one of the strongest wizards in Ishgar."

"First of all, stop adding God to his name." Alfonzo replied casually. "And second, so is Gildarts. And I can break even with him for a long time if I don't clash with his magic directly."

"Alfonzo is right, Old Pervert." Ritsu said while smiling gently. "On top of that, Gildarts is even stronger than God... Excuse me, Serena. And not by an inconsequential amount."

"I know." Makarov replied while shaking his head. "I'm just worried for my most talented child."

"There's no need to worry, Gramps." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "I've been training and fighting ever since I was six and nine respectively. But I bet that pompous asshole can't even remember the last time he was in a battle of this level."

"Besides, what you should be more concerned about is why Serena was so insistent on fighting with Alfonzo." Ritsu added.

Hearing that, Makarov turned his attention to Ritsu.

"What do you mean?" Makarov asked with an eyebrow raised.

"So, you noticed, too, Master Unohana?" Alfonzo asked while smiling at Ritsu. "For a moment, I thought it was just me."

'Actually, I'm pretty sure he's doing this on Zeref's orders.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'The only question is, does Zeref know about the [Soul Armaments]? Or is he trying to see if I'll be an issue in the future. It's probably the latter. I mean, there's no way he can know about everything going on from Alakitasia, right?'

["You're probably right."] Bedlam replied. ["Since there's probably a good chance that someone using a [Zanpakuto] or one of us could kill him."]

["Yeah, but we should be happy he doesn't."] Riot added. ["Because if he did, he wouldn't have sent that cock sucker to catch the ass kicking of a lifetime, like he did."]

While Alfonzo carried on his conversation with his [Armament Spirits], Ritsu watched him as if she knew what he was doing. Meanwhile, Makarov, who did not notice anything wrong with God Serena's behavior, looked at them both skeptically.

"\*Sigh\* I guess you don't get it, Gramps." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "But why the hell was Serena even here today? Especially since he has made it quite clear that he has no interest in governing the wizards of Ishgar."

"And considering how dismissive he is of anyone below the Four Gods of Ishgar," Ritsu added, supplementing Alfonzo's explanation, "it makes even less sense for him to be here for the birth of a new Wizard Saint."

"However, the fact that he completely disregards anyone not among the Ten Wizard Saints would makes perfect sense as to why he thinks I needed to be tested." Alfonzo continued. "Though, that was more than likely just a ploy. Either way, I'm certain he has no idea what I'm capable of."

Like that, Alfonzo and Ritsu continued to list everything they found suspicious about God Serena's actions. Meanwhile, Makarov's expression became more and more grave as they spoke. However,

before Makarov could comment on what he heard, the door to the waiting room was opened from the outside.

"The arena for your duel is ready, Alfonzo." Jura said in a peaceful tone as he entered the room.  
"Everyone is on their way there as we speak."

"Good." Alfonzo said as he stood up from the couch. "I've got a lollipop and an ass whoopin' for that son of a bitch..."

As Alfonzo reached that point, he plunged his hands into his pockets. Then, in with a feigned expression of confusion, he continued.

"Huh? Where did it go?" Alfonzo asked as he turned his pockets inside out. "Aww... Damn... It looks like I'm all outta lollipops."

In response to Alfonzo's antics, Ritsu continued to smile gently while Makarov smiled wryly. Even Jura let a small smile creep onto his face as the group of four made their way out of the waiting room.

Meanwhile, in the stadium Jura created for the duel, Draculus, Wolfheim, Warrod, and God Serena were seated in a viewing box created specifically for the Four Gods of Ishgar, at God Serena's insistence.

"Was it really necessary to provoke that young man the way you did, God Serena?" Draculus asked in an even tone. "Although the thought of testing him was appropriate to see where he would be ranked, calling into question his credentials was..."

"he's only a kid." God Serena said, cutting off Draculus' speech. "More than likely, his feats were exaggerated. I mean, it's not like he's got talent like mine."

While all three of the older men in the viewing room were used to God Serena's personality, they still shook their head in disappointment at what he said.

"Oi! I honestly don't even know why you're here today." Wolfheim said in an annoyed tone. "You said you wanted nothing to do with Magic Council business. Yet, you're here interfering."

"As the strongest person on the continent, my opinion always matters." God Serena said arrogantly. Then, he narrowed his eyes at Wolfheim. "Or would you like to disagree, Number Three?"

Immediately, Wolfheim's anger spiked at God Serena's term of address. As a result, his magic power exploded, putting pressure on everyone in the stadium. And things only got worse when God Serena also flared his own magic power in retaliation, unhappy that he was being challenged.

"Now, now." Warrod said, trying to calm his colleagues. "There's no need for a pissing contest like this, is there? And if you insist, we can go to the top of the stadium and do it there. In fact, I wouldn't mind that, I have to go pee, too."

Immediately, all the magic power pressure was stopped when Draculus, Wolfheim, and God Serena stared at Warrod incredulously.

"That was just a joke." Warrod said with a smile. "Hahaha! But seriously, I really do think I have to go to the bathroom."

With that, the incredulous stares continued.

"Hahaha! That was a joke, too." Warrod said after another hardy laugh.

"God Serena, please make your way into the combat area." Gran Doma's voice, empowered by magic, rang out over the stadium at that moment. "Alfonzo Marcus has arrived."

"Hmph! I have more important things to do than bicker with the lot of you." God Serena said as he stood up and left the room.

Meanwhile, the other three could only watch him leave.

"I can't wait for the day that someone takes that fool down a peg. Oi!" Wolfheim said once God Serena was gone.

"Indeed." Draculus replied. "As a man with so much power, a little humility would do him some good."

Wolfheim and Warrod nodded in response.

'I'm not sure why, but I get the feeling that day is coming much sooner than the anyone thinks.' Warrod said to himself. 'Even if it probably won't happen today. But at the same time, I think that young man, Alfonzo Marcus, will surprise us greatly. But that's what Fairy Tail has always been about, doing the impossible. Like finding out if fairies do indeed have tails.'

About a minute later, God Serena arrived in the stadium. And when he did, he saw Alfonzo waiting for him with his arms crossed.

"Are you ready to learn the meaning of humility, Kid?" God Serena asked arrogantly.

"Sorry, but you're not qualified to teach me about humility." Alfonzo replied nonchalantly. "Besides, I already know what it means. And for a fee, I'd be willing to teach you all about it. And the price will be your spot as the number one among the Ten Wizard Saints."

Gritting his teeth and clenching his fists in response, God Serena still refused to look Alfonzo in the eyes.

'\*Sigh\* It's too bad I can't kill him here and now.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'I mean, I don't have any proof that he's a traitor, after all.'

["Yeah, if you did, you'd be deemed a criminal."] Bedlam replied.

["Not if it's an accident, though."] Riot said with a malicious grin. ["And accidents do happen, right?"]

Considering Riot's proposal for a few moments, Alfonzo eventually shook his head.

'No, that would only be a momentary humiliation for him.' Alfonzo replied mentally. 'And I want this ass whoopin' to stick with him for a while.'

"If the two of you are ready, you may begin." Gran Doma said from the stands.

"Just to show you how out classed you are, I'll let you have the first move, Kid." God Serena said with his arms spread flamboyantly.

\*Bang!\*

\*Boom!\*

In the next instant, God Serena was sent flying from where he stood and slammed into the wall separating the crowd from the fighting arena. And when he collided with the wall, an indent in the shape of his body was formed with spiderweb cracks extending from the indent.

Immediately upon seeing God Serena imbedded into the wall, the crowd fell silent. Then, they all turned their attention to Alfonzo, who was standing in the spot where Serena started the battle with his right fist extended.

["Thirty kicks in the blink of an eye, not bad."] Bedlam said while the stadium was mired in silence. ["I can only imagine how fast you'll be when you add your[Lightning Enhancement] on top of your [Shave]."]

["Hurry up!"] Riot shouted excitedly. ["Hit him again! Beating up a traitor like that feels fucking amazing!"]

"How dare you!?" God Serena shouted as he pulled himself out of the wall. "You dare strike me, God Serena? It appears you truly do not know your place! Now, allow me to show you where you--- Urgh!"

Once again, Alfonzo vanished using [Shave]. Then, he reappeared in midair to God Serena's left with his right leg whipping towards the back of God Serena's head. And when his kick landed a split-second later, God Serena was sent flying forward before slamming into the ground and tumbling along the surface.

"Incredible." Draculus, who was watching the duel from the special viewing room with Wolfheim and Warrod, said in an impressed tone after seeing God Serena unable to defend himself from Alfonzo's first two attacks. "And that boy has not even used his magic yet."

"Oi! And God Serena is one of the physically most powerful wizards I've ever seen." Wolfheim said with his eyes opened wide in surprise. "How does such a young man gain strength like that?'

"Perhaps we can ask him once the duel is over." Warrod said while smiling brightly. "But that may take a while, though."

And just as Warrod said, God Serena was picking himself up from the ground as he spoke. And the expression on his face made it quite clear that he was greatly angered.

"Ha!" God Serena said as he stood to his feet. "If that's all you can do, then this won't take long. It would seem your magical prowess is so lacking that you only use physical strength."

"Hmph! Why use magic when you can get the job done with a little good ol' fashioned elbow grease?" Alfonzo replied in a mocking tone. "And it's obvious that I don't need magic to..."

Reaching that point, Alfonzo used [Shave] once again to reappear in front of God Serena with his right foot flying up towards the Dragon Slayer's chin. Then, upon impact, God Serena was shot up into the air. And before he could come down, he was struck from behind by a powerful right hook aimed at his left kidney. Then, before he could regain his balance, he was struck in the head by a left roundhouse, then a knee strike to the sternum.

Like that, God Serena was juggled in midair for the next ten seconds or so, before an axe kick was slammed into the top of his head, sending him rocketing down towards the ground.

\*Boom!\*

When God Serena made contact with the ground, a dust cloud was kicked up as the reinforced arena floor Jura created was damaged severely.

A moment later, Alfonzo appeared outside of the dust cloud with his arms crossed.

"... fuck you up." Alfonzo said, finishing his earlier sentence.

## Chapter 465: Alfonzo Vs. God Serena; Part 2

After Alfonzo slammed God Serena into the ground, the stadium where their duel was taking place fell into a deathly silence. No one in attendance expected Alfonzo to be beating God Serena so one-sidedly at this point in the fight. Before anyone could start to murmur about the way the duel was going, however, the dust cloud was dispersed when God Serena flared his magic power.

With the dust no longer obscuring the spectators' vision, they were even more surprised to see God Serena's current state.

Currently, God Surena's clothes were tore in several places, his hair was disheveled, and there were bruises covering his face. On top of that, his eyes were blood shot while he stared at Alfonzo with a murderous glint in his eyes.

"Oh, now you're actually looking at me, huh?" Alfonzo asked in a mocking tone. "I guess it only took a little ass kicking to get you to act right. \*Sigh\* And that proves it, Mama was right, again."

"You'll pay for that." God Serena said in an eerily calm tone, the exact opposite of the facial expression he was wearing. "I'll show you just what kind of mistake you've made by defying me. [Lightning Dragon's Claw]."

With his chant, God Serena's right hand was covered in sparking electricity. Then, he swiped it at Alfonzo, who had yet to move.

'Hmm... He's definitely stronger than Laxus.' Alfonzo thought to himself as his left hand was covered in sparking, violet electricity. 'But his control over lightning is much worse.'

In the next instant, Alfonzo swept his left hand at the incoming claw-shaped lightning, causing God Serena to smile viciously. However, to not only God Serena's surprise, but to the surprise of most of the spectators, Alfonzo was completely unharmed by God Serena's spell. Though, he was pushed back quite the distance.

"You really should have done your research before starting this fight, Serena." Alfonzo said casually as he took control of God Serena's spell. "With my mastery over [Electromagnetism Magic], electricity and lightning based spells are pretty useless."

As he continued, Alfonzo reformed God Serena's spell into a ball while the color changed from dark blue to violet. Then, he began tossing it between his hands as if it were just a normal ball.

"Then again, since I'm apparently so far beneath your notice, I guess that was pretty much impossible." Alfonzo added as he threw the ball of lightning high into the sky where it detonated into a large, violet-colored firework.

Meanwhile, God Serena glared at the sparks of lightning in the sky with his teeth gritted. Then, he slowly lowered his head to look at Alfonzo again.

"Even if I did underestimate you a bit, and lightning won't be able to hurt you..." God Serena said as he flared his magic power once again. "What can you do against the power of eight dragons wielded by the man blessed by the Dragon Gods? [Cavern Dragon's Earth Collapse]!"

With God Serena's shouted chant, he dropped to one knee. Then, he slammed his hands onto the ground. In the next instant, the ground began to shake. At the same time, a number of rocks, ranging from fist-sized to pieces the size of boulders were thrown in Alfonzo's direction.

In response, Alfonzo simply shook his head. Then, he began to levitate off the ground. Meanwhile, A number of metal chunks, made from relatively soft metal, materialized around him.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Railgun Gatling]." Alfonzo chanted as his entire body was covered in flowing currents of violet electricity.

In the next instant, Alfonzo slammed his hands and feet into the chunks of metal that surrounded him. And with each chunk of metal he struck, a projectile was shot off at hypersonic speed, accompanied by the breaking of the sound barrier. And before each piece of rubble could get too close, it would be destroyed by the projectiles Alfonzo fired off. And due to the soft metal Alfonzo used, the projectiles were destroyed on impact, as well.

"Impossible!" God Serena shouted.

"Not really." Alfonzo replied from just to the right of God Serena with his arms and legs covered in adamantite gauntlets and greaves. "You've just never seen it before."

\*Bang!\*

A moment later, Alfonzo swung his left fist at the back of God Serena's head, causing him to pitch forward. Then, Alfonzo followed up by sweeping God Serena's legs out from under him, causing him to fall face first onto the ground. And once God Serena was on the ground, Alfonzo leapt upwards at high speed. Then, he flipped around and kicked off the air before rocketing down towards God Serena's back with his right foot extended for an axe kick.

"[Diamond Form]." God Serena chanted as his body was covered in a diamond armor.

"The thing most people don't know about diamond is..." Alfonzo said as he brought his foot down forcefully.

\*Bang!\*

\*Shatter!\*

"Argh!" God Serena shouted in pain as the diamond armor on his back shattered.

"... if you hit it with enough blunt force, from the right angle, it shatters quite easily." Alfonzo continued after pushing himself off God Serena's back, adding extra damage on top of the force that transferred through the shattered diamond armor.

As soon as Alfonzo landed on the uneven ground caused by God Serena's [Cavern Dragon Slayer Magic], God Serena slammed his hands down, forcing himself up to his feet. Then, his right hand was engulfed in searing flames.

"[Purgatory Dragon's Blazing Inferno]." God Serena chanted as he thrust his hand forward, ejecting a steam of blazing hot flames from his palm.

"Oh, this is nothing new to me, Serena." Alfonzo said as he materialized a large amount of orichalcum Sand between himself and God Serena's spell. "Natsu does the same thing.... All the time. He usually breathes his flames, though. [Metal Magic: Metal Sand Wave]."

With his chant, Alfonzo swung his arm towards God Serna. At the same time, the orichalcum sand rushed forward to smother the fire breath. Unsurprisingly, the orichalcum dust melted quite quickly. Still, that did not stop Alfonzo from using it to wrap around the stream of fire, eventually smothering it.

"Argh! Damn you!" God Serena bellowed in anger. "I've had enough! Now, I'll show you why I'm called the Man Blessed by the Dragon Gods and how I got the moniker, Eight-Dragon God Serena! [Dragon God's Fang]!"

In the next instant, the ground began to rumble. A moment later, eight massive dragon shaped magical constructs broke through the surface of the arena, surrounding Alfonzo. And from what all the spectators could tell, they each had the power of one of the elements God Serena could control thanks to his eight Dragon Lacrima.

"Is he out of his mind?" Wolfheim shouted from his seat in the special viewing room. "He could end up killing that boy."

"Indeed, this is a bit much for a duel." Draculus replied after taking a sip from a glass of milk. "Perhaps it's time we stepped in and put a stop to this."

Nodding in response, Wolfheim prepared to stand from his seat.

"Just a moment." Warrod said while never taking his eyes off the duel. "That young man seems rather calm, despite the situation. Perhaps we should wait to see what he has up his sleeves."

Hearing that, Draculus and Wolfheim came to a sudden stop. Then, they looked down at Alfonzo, who was looking around at all the dragons with interest. However, they could not see any signs of fear in his expression.

"Well, this is different." Alfonzo muttered as he took in the sight of the eight dragons surrounding him.

'Not that there was a whole lot to see from him in the canon, but I'm pretty sure he never used a spell like this one.' Alfonzo thought to himself, really wishing he had been able to read 100 Years Quest before he passed away in his past life. 'Because I'm pretty sure they found a way to bring him back in the second series. I mean, from what I read about it online, it was all about the dragons and Dragon Slayers on another continent.'

"That's right!" God serena shouted ecstatically. "This is the kind of power you could never obtain. Now, beg me for your life! And if I'm satisfied, I might leave you---."

"Hey, could you keep it down?" Alfonzo asked with a frown. "I was thinking about something over here. And you messed up my train of thought."

"You dare mock me, even now?" God Serena asked angrily. Then, while raising his arms theatrically, he continued. "Very well, then I shall show you no mercy

With that, all the dragons opened their mouths wide and began gathering magic power between their jaws.

'Is this guy stupid?' Alfonzo asked himself as he pulled Riot and Bedlam from the strap on his lower back. 'Outputting this much [Dragon Slayer Magic] is the reason Acnologia showed up on Tenrou Island. And I don't have the magic items needed to cast [Fairy Sphere] with me. Not to mention the time needed to set them up. Fuck it, I guess play time is over. I'll have to finish this quick and pray that Acnologia doesn't show up and nuke the Magic Council after I'm gone.'

"[Run Wild with Destruction on your Fingertips. Usher in Pandemonium with Creation in Your Hands. Riot, Bedlam]." Alfonzo chanted as he spread his arms to either side.

In the next instant, Riot and Bedlam liquified before covering Alfonzo's arms in their colors. Then, Alfonzo was covered in a red glow that emitted an extremely high temperature.

On top of that, the entire stadium, other than Makarov and Ritsu, were thoroughly flabbergasted by Alfonzo's incredible increase in magic power. Even God Serena, stumbled backwards after feeling Alfonzo's magic power surpass his own.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Super Flare]." Alfonzo chanted just as the eight dragons finished gathering their magic power.

Before the dragons could fire their breath attacks, however, the red glow surrounding Alfonzo exploded in all directions. As a result, all the dragons, other than the Purgatory Dragon were destroyed.

As for the Purgatory Dragon, it fired its breath attack unhindered, melting the arena where it struck. However, before it was even fired, Alfonzo, with [Shave] in combination with [Lightning Enhancement]

had already moved away from where he stood. Then, he reappeared under the Purgatory Dragon's torso with his right arm extended upwards.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Special Beam Cannon]." Alfonzo chanted as waves from the entire EM spectrum, other than gamma radiation, began spiraling at the tips of his right index and middle finger.

A moment later, before God Serena could order the dragon to move, Alfonzo fired a spiraling beam that pierced straight through the dragon shaped magical construct, dispersing it a moment later.

Then, once the dragon had disappeared, Alfonzo turned his attention back to God Serena.

"So, got anything else to show me?" Alfonzo asked while tilting his head with mock curiosity in his expression.

"Impossible!" God Serena shouted while pointing his right index finger at Alfonzo. "This is impossible! How could someone on Ishgar be more powerful than me? I refuse to believe this. This must be some kind of trickery! An illusion! It must be an illusion!"

Hearing God Serena's outburst, the crowd was immediately brought out of their dazes. Then, they looked at God Serena with uncertain expressions.

"Nope." Alfonzo replied as he manifested a bow staff in his hands. He then continued while flourishing the staff masterfully. "And I'll show you that this is as real as it gets. [Electromagnetism Magic: Flash Impact]."

With Alfonzo's chant, a pair of electrified metal rails appeared on either side of Alfonzo. And just like with his [flash Point] spell, Alfonzo was fired off at extreme speeds. However, thanks to the extra power provided with Riot and Bedlam in their released state, Alfonzo was fired off at nearly fifteen times the speed of sound instead of the normal six to eight times.

On top of that, to keep up with the increase in speed, Alfonzo kept his [Lightning Enhancement] at its maximum without overclocking it.

In less than a hundredth of a second, Alfonzo flashed past God Serena seventy times. And with each pass, he slammed the bow staff he created into him. As a result, by the time he was done, God Serena lay on the ground, barely conscious, with his eyes swollen shut, more than eighty-five broken bones, and covered in copious amounts of his own blood.

Seeing God Serena lying on the ground, unmoving, the entire stadium fell silent once again. Meanwhile, Alfonzo casually dispelled his [Soul Armament] release, causing his arms to return to normal while Riot and Bedlam reappeared in his hands in their tonfa form.

Then, Alfonzo put the tonfa back in the strap on his lower back before stretching his arms over his head.

"Ah~~~~!" Alfonzo sighed while stretching. "I feel so much better now. Phew! Bottling up all that negativity really isn't good for you. But now that it's out of my system, I feel great."

Alfonzo's carefree utterance was enough to break the crowd out of their stupors. Then, they began loudly discussing the duel in disbelieving tones. Eventually, all the discussions came to a stop when Gran Doma's voice echoed over the entire arena.

"Winner of the duel... Alfonzo Marcus." Gran Doma said, amplifying his voice with his magic power. "And per the terms decided before the duel, Alfonzo will now take the title as the first seat of the Ten Wizard Saints."

"Yeah, about that..." Alfonzo said before the crowd could begin cheering for his accomplishment.

Hearing Alfonzo's voice, everyone looked at him with confusion in their gazes. Alfonzo, on the other hand, looked at God Serena with a mocking smile on his face.

"He wouldn't..." Makarov muttered, having a good idea what Alfonzo would do next.

"You can keep your position, Serena." Alfonzo said in a condescending tone. "A title like that means nothing to me. Like I said, I don't need a grandiose title like that to prove my strength."

Hearing that, the entire crowd was taken aback.

"But since you seem to like it so much, you can have it to validate your existence." Alfonzo continued. "And as for the position among the Ten Wizard Saints, I decline. In fact, I would have declined much earlier if this guy hadn't jumped out, you know. I mean, seriously, I'm just not cut out for the paperwork that comes with the position."

\*Cough!\* \*Cough!\*

Hearing that, God Serena coughed up a mouthful of blood before fainting due to anger.

By now, the entire stadium had fallen so silent that you would be able to hear a pin drop.

"Anyway, like I said before, I've been away from home for more than two months. And I miss it." Alfonzo continued with a smile. "So, I'm going home. It was nice to meet you all, though."

With that said, Alfonzo began to levitate. Then, when he was above the highest part of the stadium, he flew towards the Magic Council building to see Ur and Shizuka. Meanwhile, Makarov, Jura, and Ritsu also stood up from their seats to follow him.

"Someone." Draculus said with magic power amplifying his voice. Get medical attention to the arena for Serena, immediately."

That was enough to snap the rest of the stadium out of their stupors for good as they began to contact the medical personnel on standby. Though, they never expected they would be calling it for God Serena when the duel began.

Meanwhile, Warrod sat calmly in the viewing room while Draculus and Wolfheim left.

'Perhaps I should take a trip back to the guild to see this generation of Fairy Tail.' Warrod thought to himself with a smile on his face.

Chapter 466: Heading Back to Fiore

"Seriously, this is taking way too long." Ur, who, along with Shizuka, had not been invited to see the proceedings in the meeting room or the following duel, was completely out of patience by now. "I don't give a damn if I'm not allowed into the meeting room, I'm going in there to see what the hell is going on."

With that, Ur stood up from her seat on the couch. Then, under Shizuka's curious gaze, she walked to the door of their waiting room. A moment later, she was standing in front of the door with her right hand gripping the doorknob tightly.

\*Bang!\*

Then, without hesitation, she turned the doorknob and flung the door open hard enough that it slammed into the adjoining wall. Amazingly, however, she did not damage either the wall or the door in the slightest.

After that, without paying attention to what was in front of her, Ur walked through the open door. However, before she could take more than a step, she bumped into something, completely halting her forward momentum.

"The hell?" Ur asked in surprise. And when she looked to see what was blocking the path, she scowled, her annoyance even more apparent. "It took you long enough. How long does it take to confer a title on someone?"

Hearing Ur grumbling, Alfonzo, the one who blocked her path out of the room, could only smile wryly while lowering the hand he was about to knock on the door with.

"Anyway, what are you waiting for?" Ur asked as she returned to her seat. "Come in and show me that fancy cloak."

Smiling wryly, Alfonzo, followed by Makarov, Jura, and Ritsu, made his way into the waiting room. However, before he could take more than two steps into the room, Shizuka, filled with positive energy, slammed into him and wrapped her arms around his waist.

"Congratulations, Fonzie!" Shizuka cheered as she looked up Alfonzo with a big smile on her face. "How does it feel to be one of the Wizard Saints?"

In response, Alfonzo, Makarov, and Jura smiled wryly at Shizuka's question. Meanwhile, Ritsu maintained her usual, gentle smile. Ur, on the other hand, quickly noticed the others' wry smiles.

"What happened?" Ur asked with her eyes narrowed. "And now that I take a second to look, you're not wearing the Wizard Saint's cloak."

Hearing that, Shizuka put on a shocked expression. Then, she, with her hands on Alfonzo's waist, took a step back and inspected Alfonzo's body. A moment later, she tilted her head in confusion.

"Where's your cloak, Fonzie?" Shizuka asked.

"We can talk about that on Sixth Sense." Alfonzo replied while still smiling wryly. "For now, you two should go gather your stuff. I have a bad feeling about staying here any longer. I'll tell you about it while we're on the water."

With strange expressions on their faces, Ur and Shizuka only stared at Alfonzo blankly. A moment later, however, after some urging from Alfonzo, the two rushed out of the room and headed to the hotel where they had been staying for the last couple of days.

About an hour later, Alfonzo, Makarov, Ur, Jura, Ritsu, and Shizuka were gathered at the Magic Council's port. Then, after Alfonzo loaded Ur's Z3 into Sixth Sense's cargo hold, the group of six waited for the green light to set sail. And after receiving permission to set sail, they quickly left Era.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Open Seas.

"So, why was it so important for us to get out of Era so quickly?" Ur asked in an annoyed, yet concerned, tone.

Currently, Alfonzo, Makarov, Ur, Jura, and Ritsu were gathered in Sixth Sense's wheel house. And in response to Ur's question, Makarov, Jura, and Ritsu turned their attention to Alfonzo, as well. Meanwhile, Shizuka was below deck rifling through her luggage for the swimsuit she brought with her, intending to spend her time on the ship sun bathing.

On a side note, when Shizuka heard that Alfonzo would be coming to Era from Akane Beach, she had already decided that she would go back with Alfonzo and spend some time on the beach before returning to Magnolia with him. Though, she didn't think to tell anyone her plans ahead of time.

"\*Sigh\* Well, I'm sure you guessed it, but I didn't become one of the Wizard Saints." Alfonzo said, replying to Ur's question. Then, after receiving a nod in response, he continued. "When I was invited into the meeting room, I was somewhat expecting the invitation, though. However, as soon as my

appointment was announced, that dickhead, Serena jumped up and started talking about how I needed to be tested while bringing my abilities into question."

Hearing that God Serena was present in the meeting room, Ur widened her eyes. However, she did not find it all that surprising, either. There were a few magic power signatures that were stronger than her. However, she did not recognize any of them. So, she had no idea that one of them was God Serena.

From there, Alfonzo went on to tell Ur about her back and forth with God Serena that led to the duel.

"So, you really did it, huh?" Ur muttered. "You really challenged him for his number one spot among the Wizard Saints."

"Yeah, I did." Alfonzo replied with a shrug and a smile.

"And how did the duel go?" Ur asked curiously. "Since you're not hurt, I assume it wasn't so bad."

"Oh, it was great." Alfonzo replied with a wide smile. "I kicked his ass."

Hearing that, Ur's eyes opened wide in surprise. Even Makarov, Jura, and Ritsu showed disbelieving expressions at just how easily Alfonzo handled God Serena during the duel.

"How is that possible?" Ur asked absent-mindedly.

"Well, like I told Gramps, that douche bag is weaker than Gildarts. And I can break even with Gildarts for quite a while as long as I don't clash directly with is [Crash Magic]." Alfonzo replied.

After Alfonzo's explanation, it took Ur nearly a minute before she was able to process what she heard. But when she did, she looked at Alfonzo quizzically.

"If you beat him, then why aren't you a Wizard Saint?" Ur asked once her brain finished rebooting.

"He told the Council that he didn't need the title to prove his strength." Makarov said while shaking his head. "And after seeing the way he fought today, I can't disagree."

"That's right." Alfonzo replied with a smug smile. "And to add insult to injury, I told the douche bag that he could keep his position."

"And that made him angry enough to cough up blood before fainting out of anger." Ritsu added while covering her smile with the sleeve of her kimono.

Once again, Ur was left dumbfounded. However, instead of thinking about it too hard, she shook it off. Then, she looked at Alfonzo again.

"Although that story was... unexpected... you still haven't told us why you rushed us out of Era." Ur said in a solemn tone.

"Oh, now that you mention it." Alfonzo replied. "It's because of how much power Serena output during that fight."

"What do you mean?" Ritsu asked curiously.

"Well, I'm sure you all know that Fairy Tail was attacked on Tenrou island a couple years ago." Alfonzo replied.

In response, Jura and Ritsu nodded. Meanwhile, Makarov and Ur continued to stare at Alfonzo.

"Well, the reason for that was the amount of [Dragon Slayer Magic] Laxus and the others had to use to fend off Grimoire Heart.

Immediately, Makarov, Ur, Jura, and Ritsu's eyes opened wide while they flashed with realization.

"So, you think Acnologia may show up because of God... \*Cough\* Serena's magic?" Makarov asked, correcting himself along the way.

"Honestly, I'm not sure." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head gently. "But having the big, black, fuck-off dragon show up unannounced just once is enough to make me haul ass if I think it's possible for a second time."

"\*Sigh\* I can't even argue with that logic." Makarov said in a tired tone.

Ur, Jura, and Ritsu nodded in response. Though, Ur's expression was a little awkward after remembering how she acted after Fairy Tail survived Acnologia's last attack.

Before the conversation could continue any further. Shizuka, wearing a purple bikini, that seemed to be holding onto her explosive curves for dear life, and carrying a bottle of sun tan oil skipped out onto the deck from the cabin. Then, once she was standing in the middle of the deck, she looked around. After not seeing anyone, she stopped to think with her head tilted cutely.

Then, with a proverbial light bulb over her head, she looked up toward the wheel house. And when she caught sight of Alfonzo, who was steering the ship, she smiled as she began waving vigorously.

Needless to say, when Alfonzo, Makarov, and even Jura, saw Shizuka's breasts bouncing along with her movements, they were mesmerized. Though, Alfonzo and Jura were able to come back to their senses quickly enough. On the other hand, Makarov's eyes widened as his mouth hung open and his nostrils flared excitedly.

\*Smack!\* x 2

\*Bang!\*

Then, after seeing Makarov's unsightly appearance, both Ur and Ritsu slapped him upside the head simultaneously. And because of the force they put into their slaps, Makarov was sent flying forward before slamming into the wall in front of him, face first.

"Hey, Alfonzo!" Shizuka shouted from the deck. "Can you help me put on sun tan oil?"

Hearing that, Makarov, while rubbing his red nose, glared back at Alfonzo with envy and bloody tears forming in his eyes.

In response to Makarov's glare, Alfonzo shot him a winning smile.

"Hey, Gramps, would you mind steering the ship for a while?" Alfonzo asked in a happy tone. "I need to help out one of my guild mates."

Then, without waiting for a reply, Alfonzo released the steering wheel and made his way out of the wheel house. Meanwhile, Makarov could only stare at the wheel house door blankly.

"Just give it up, Old Man." Ur said while holding back a laugh. "You'll never be as popular with the ladies as you imagined yourself to be."

"Master Ur is right." Ritsu replied. "Maybe if you acted more like a human than a dog in heat, when you see beautiful women, you would have better luck with the ladies. Though, I fear it is far too late to correct your dubious reputation.'

Makarov then shifted his blank gaze from the wheel house door to Ur and Ritsu. Then, once he came back to his senses, he gritted his teeth in frustration. However, he did accept Alfonzo's request and started steering the ship shortly afterward.

Jura, on the other hand, could only look at Makarov with a modicum of pity. Though, he had no intention of defending him.

A few minutes later on the deck, Alfonzo, now wearing a pair of black shorts with a Fairy Tail emblem stitched into the left leg, a white, unbuttoned, button down shirt, and a pair of white boat shoes, dragged a pair of deck chairs towards Shizuka, while carrying a couple of large towels over his shoulders.

Then, once Alfonzo arrived next to Shizuka, he set up the deck chairs, with the backs leaned all the way down, before spreading the towels over them. Once all that was done, he patted the towel on the chair closest to Shizuka, while smiling brightly at her.

Excitedly, Shizuka bounced over to the chair and handed Alfonzo the tanning oil. Then, without thinking, she began to untie her bikini top. However, before she could finish, Alfonzo frantically told her to turn around, since she was facing the wheel house.

"Damn it, Kid..." Makarov grumbled. "Why did you stop her."

Naturally, Makarov received a pair of scolding glares for his utterance. Glares that he completely ignored in favor of staring at Shizuka's plump backside.

After untying her bikini top, Shizuka laid down on the deck chair with her arms folded under her chin and her legs swinging happily. At that moment, Alfonzo glanced back at Makarov with a malicious smile on his face before mouthing a few words.

'You can watch this as payback for voting me in as a Wizard Saint.' Alfonzo mouthed. 'But you should know, you'll never, in your life, be able to touch.'

Able to read Alfonzo's lips, Makarov's eyes opened wide. Meanwhile, Ritsu covered her mouth with her kimono sleeve to hide her smile while Jura only shook his head before leaving the wheel house to find a place to meditate. Ur, on the other hand, wore a nervous expression.

'There's no way he knows I voted for him, too, right?' Ur thought to herself.

As soon as that thought passed through Ur's head, Alfonzo smiled at her with the same smile he just gave Makarov.

'Damn it, he knows.' Ur muttered internally after seeing that smile. 'And there's no way he won't get back at me, too. And the worst thing is... I don't know how I would be able to stop him when he does.'

At the same time, Ritsu had a rather bold idea to get under Makarov's skin.

"I think I'd like to sun bathe for a while, as well." Ritsu said as she turned towards the wheel house's door. "I wonder if Alfonzo would mind helping me apply sun tan oil, too."

Immediately, Makarov's expression fell. Then, he stared at Ritsu as she left the wheel house with disbelief swirling in his eyes.

"Ahn~~~~~!"

At that moment, a loud moan rang out over the deck, pulling Makarov and Ur from their thoughts. Looking in the moan's direction, they saw Shizuka squirming as Alfonzo rubbed the sun tan oil into her lower back.

The next few minutes in the wheel house passed in awkward silence. Because of all the moaning from Shizuka and the malicious smiles Makarov and Ur received from Alfonzo, neither of them knew what to say. So, when Ritsu finally arrived on the deck, both Makarov's and Ur's gazes were drawn to her.

"Alfonzo, would you mind helping me apply some sun tan oil, as well?" Ritsu asked just as Alfonzo finished with Shizuka, leaving her lying on her stomach with a sloppy smile on her face.

Like Makarov, Alfonzo was completely dumbfounded by Ritsu's request. However, he had no intention to refuse. Ritsu was one of the hotter characters in Bleach, after all.

"If, you're sure." Alfonzo said as he gestured towards the free deck chair. "I'd be happy to help."

With her gentle smile widening, Ritsu looked back over her shoulder, making eye contact with Makarov. And when she did, Makarov almost coughed up a mouthful of blood at the glint of mockery in Ritsu's eyes.

'She's trying to tell me that I will never be able to experience anything like this, isn't she?' Makarov asked himself with bloody tears pooling in his eyes.

Meanwhile, Ur was simply in awe at Alfonzo's luck with the ladies. Though, she was under no illusion that Ritsu was romantically interested in Alfonzo.

After briefly glancing at Makarov, Ritsu turned back towards Alfonzo. Then, she began to untie the sash around her waist. Once it was untied, she began to slowly lower the kimono from her shoulders, revealing a white, high-collared, one-piece swimsuit with camellia flowers dotting the front that did not reveal any cleavage.

However, Alfonzo was quite curious to see the back. And the reason for that was simple, from just below Ritsu's breasts and around her hips, he could see thin straps wrapping around to her back. On top of that, he had a sneaking suspicion that there would be quite a bit of side boob visible, as well.

'The rumor about her boobs being as big as Tsunade's was false. Still, they're fucking perfect.' Alfonzo thought while admiring Ritsu's swimsuit-clad figure.

Noticing Alfonzo's gaze, Ritsu felt a measure of pride. For a woman of her age, who was from the same generation as Makarov, to gain the attention of such a young man was a definite confidence boost for her.

Then, after deciding that Alfonzo had watched for long enough while making Makarov green with envy after seeing her back, Ritsu stepped towards the deck chair and lay face-down atop it.

Naturally, that gave Alfonzo a view of the back of Ritsu's suit, as well. And he saw exactly what he was expecting to see.

While the fabric covering Ritsu's butt was rather conservative, not showing off any of her butt cheeks, her back was nearly completely exposed, with the exception of a thin strap that ran across it from side to side. Also, the straps at the top of her suit wrapped around the back of her neck, as well.

After admiring Ritsu's fair-skinned back for a little longer, Alfonzo eventually picked up the bottle of sun tan oil and poured some into his hands. Then, after rubbing his hands to warm the oil, he placed his hands on Ritsu's shoulder blades. And as soon as he began rubbing the oil into her skin, she had a sudden thought.

'This might have been a really bad idea.' Ritsu thought to herself as her hands flew up to stifle a moan. 'I really didn't think through all the possible consequences when I thought to taunt that old pervert.'

A few minutes later, Alfonzo was done applying sun tan oil to Ritsu. Then, she stood up quickly, picked up her kimono, and speed walked back into the cabin. And when she showed herself again, she kept a noticeable distance from Alfonzo.

'That boy's hands are dangerous.' Ritsu thought to herself. 'Even I almost lost myself under his touch. But as long as he can't touch mee, there is no issue.'

#### Chapter 467: Withdrawal

"Damn... Tear has never bought anything this nice for me." Ur said as she, Alfonzo, Makarov, Jura, Ritsu, and Shizuka sat in the living room of Alfonzo and Elicia's beachside villa.

"You say that, but you live in the second best residence in Magnolia." Alfonzo replied with a cheeky smile.

In response, Ur could only roll her eyes.

"Even so, I must admit, this is a beautiful home." Ritsu said with a gentle smile.

"Thank you." Alfonzo replied politely. "Tear really picked a great place, didn't she?"

"Fonzie! Fonzie! Let's go to the beach!" Shizuka shouted excitedly while bouncing in the seat next to Alfonzo. "I wanna go swimming, and build a sand castle, and walk on the beach, and..."

While Shizuka continued to gush about all the things she wanted to do, the others only looked at her with smiles.

"It's amazing how someone can be so innocent in this world we live in." Makarov said while wearing a grandfatherly smile.

"Indeed." Jura added. "It truly is a miraculous thing."

"Yeah, Even Lici didn't stay so innocent." Alfonzo said with a smile. "Then again, seeing the things we see on quests makes that really hard, doesn't it?"

"That's right." Ur said with a nod. "Still, she lived through that zombie apocalypse in Takanosu. So, it wouldn't be surprising if she lost her innocence."

"It's probably because Alfonzo and Elicia were there." Makarov said. "If I had to guess, some of those they saved never had to see how humans can get under intense stress."

"Yeah." Shizuka replied with a nod of her own, surprising everyone that she could still follow the conversation, despite the fact that it seemed like she was lost in her own world. "Fonzie and Lici kept us all safe. It was really nice!"

As she shouted the last part of her sentence, Shizuka leaned over and hugged Alfonzo tightly with a big smile on her face.

Naturally, this caused Makarov's eyes to snap in the direction of Shizuka's breasts, which changed shape under the pressure of her hug. However, just as Ur and Ritsu swept their arms in his direction, Makarov ducked his head on instinct.

"Damn... Is he starting to adapt already?" Ur asked in an astonished tone.

"Despite all his other short comings, he was the premier wizard of his generation." Ritsu said.

In response, Makarov could only look at Ur and Ritsu with an offended expression. However, he could not bring himself to retort. Mainly because he thought doing so would make them redouble their efforts.

"\*Cough\* Anyway, how long to you plan to stay here, Alfonzo?" Makarov asked, blatantly changing the subject.

"Only a couple days." Alfonzo replied while smiling wryly. Then, he shifted his gaze to Shizuka, who was still hugging him tightly. "I get the feeling it will be impossible to leave before she gets her fill of the beach."

"Well, I don't mind." Ur replied with a shrug. "I didn't plan to be back in Magnolia for the next few days, anyway. And with things the way they ended up, I won't have to drive as far, either. On top of that, I'll have someone to make half the drive for me."

"Oh, you're gonna let Shizuka drive?" Alfonzo asked curiously.

Hearing that, Shizuka's eyes lit up.

"I always wanted to drive one of the new magic vehicles." Shizuka said excitedly. "But I couldn't afford one. And Rika and the others won't let me drive theirs."

Consciously ignoring Shizuka's enthusiasm, Ur stared into Alfonzo's eyes.

"I was talking about you, Kid." Ur said sternly. "Especially since you don't have a vehicle to get back on your own. And I know you don't wanna take the train. Hell, after driving for so long, I couldn't take the train, either."

"Oh, that's what you meant." Alfonzo said nonchalantly. "Well, sorry to disappoint you, but I do have a magic vehicle here. And I'll be driving that back."

"Huh?" Ur exclaimed in confusion. "But didn't Tear and Juvia bring the car you took to Lamia Scale back a while ago?"

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied while looking at Ur with a strange expression on his face. "But I don't see the problem."

"Ur, did you forget?" Makarov asked with a smile. "Alfonzo built those magic vehicles himself, remember?"

"Of course I know that." Ur replied sharply. A moment later, Ur realized what Makarov was getting at. "Damn it, you built a new one while you were here, before going to Era, didn't you?"

"That's right." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Wanna see it?"

With that, Alfonzo stood up, with Shizuka still clinging to him, and started walking towards the villa's front door. A moment later, Makarov, Ur, Jura, and Ritsu followed, curious to see Alfonzo's latest creation.

A couple of minutes later, the group of six were standing in front of a metal shed that was set up on the driveway, just in front of Ur's Z3. Then, after separating from Shizuka, Alfonzo stepped forward and pulled the doors to the shed open.

When the doors to the shed were opened, a sportbike resembling the Aprilia RSV4 in a black and violet color scheme became visible. And the fact that it was not a car surprised the others greatly.

However, what surprised everyone even more was the fact that Ritsu was the first one to step forward. And when she did, she ran her hands across the surface of the bike very carefully.

"It's beautiful." Ritsu said gently.

"Well, I wasn't expecting that." Alfonzo said blankly.

Alfonzo was brought out of his daze a moment later, however, when Shizuka stepped forward and grabbed Alfonzo's arm.

"Fonzie, can you take me for a ride?" Shizuka asked with her eyes sparkling.

"Sure." Alfonzo replied with a shrug while occasionally glancing down at his arm, which disappeared between the valley of Shizuka's breasts.

"I would like you to teach me how to ride this vehicle, as well." Ritsu requested. "And once I have grown comfortable with it, I would like to purchase one for myself."

"No problem." Alfonzo replied. "But we can talk about all that tomorrow. "The last few days have really tired me out. So, I wanna go to bed."

Though Shizuka pouted in response, everyone nodded in understanding. Then, they all returned to the villa to get some rest.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Magnolia.

March 20, x786.

After arriving in Akane Beach, Jura was the first to leave and return to his guild. After a nice breakfast the next day, Jura bid the others farewell and asked Alfonzo to apologize to Ultear for him. Naturally, Alfonzo agreed to do so while shaking the Lamia Scale ace's hand. However, he warned him that he would probably have a pretty intense match with Ultear when they next met.

After that, Alfonzo spent the rest of the day, and the next day, playing with Shizuka on the beach, teaching Ritsu how to ride a motorcycle, and taking the three ladies for a ride on said motorcycle.

Also, during that time, it was reported in the newspaper that God Serena, after getting injured and being hospitalized, disappeared from the hospital one night. On top of that, no one knew where he disappeared to. It was never mentioned what caused his injuries, though.

On top of that, Alfonzo was sure that after seeing the headline, "Strongest Wizard on Ishgar Disappears after being Injured," God Serena was absolutely livid while making his way to the Alvarez Empire on the Alakitasia continent.

Another thing Alfonzo noticed was the fact that his invitation to join the Ten Wizard Saints was not announced in the news, either. However, he assumed that it was to maintain the organization's prestige. Especially since he declined the request... after beating God Serena senseless.

And lastly, there was no report of Era being wiped off the map, making Alfonzo's worries useless. However, he did not feel an ounce of embarrassment over the way he reacted.

Finally, on the morning of the twentieth, after having another great breakfast, Alfonzo, Makarov, Ur, and Shizuka brought Ritsu to the train station, as she intended to return to the Mermaid Heel HQ by train. But she did promise to make a trip to Magnolia to pick up the motorcycle she discussed buying from Alfonzo in the near future.

Then, once all the goodbyes were exchanged, Alfonzo, Makarov, Ur, and Shizuka made their way back to Magnolia. While Makarov rode shotgun in Ur's Z3, Shizuka hugged Alfonzo from the backseat of the RSV4 as they returned.

Several hours after Alfonzo, Makarov, Ur, and Shizuka left Akane Beach, Elicia was seated at the kitchen table in the mansion on Lake Sciliora with her head resting on the table top. On top of that, she looked to be in a very foul mood.

"Hey, do any of you know what's wrong with Lici?" Lucy asked while she and the other residents of the mansion watched Elicia from the kitchen's entrance.

"It's probably withdrawal." Ultear replied.

"Yeah, it's been almost three months since the last time she saw Alfonzo---" Mirajane said, trying to add to the explanation.

"Fonzie~~~~!" Elicia shouted as she began flailing her arms. "Where are you~~~~? I miss you so much~~~~!"

"Yup, definitely withdrawal." Cana said before chugging down half a pint of scotch. "\*Sigh\* She really needs to get better control of herself."

Hearing that, the other six ladies stared at Cana blankly.

"What?" Cana asked while tilting her head in confusion.

Instead of continuing that conversation, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy turned their attention back to Elicia.

"I can understand how she feels, though." Erza said in an empathetic tone. "It's been just as long since the last time I saw him, too."

"Yeah, me, too." Mirajane added. "But I know this is the longest time Lici has ever been separated from Alfonzo. So, I'm sure it's hitting her harder than the rest of us."

"\*Sigh\* Maybe we should have tried harder to convince everyone to come with us when we went to Akane Beach." Sun said, her tone filled with guilt.

"There was nothing we could do about that, Sun." Marin said, pulling Sun into a hug as she spoke. "I mean, other than Lucy and Lici, everyone else was out on quests."

"Uh... I was here, though." Ultear said while raising her hand.

"And you had just spent two months alone with him." Marin shot back sharply. "So, you don't get to be a part of this conversation."

"Okay..." Ultear said as she lowered her hand, feeling intimidated by the glares she received from all the other girls.

"Anyway." Erza said while still watching Elicia. "It's been a while since I've had a good strawberry shortcake, too. I mean, after having Alfonzo's so often, no other strawberry shortcake can compare."

\*Clatter!\*

With that, the other girls also began thinking about Alfonzo's cooking. However, they did not have the time to think about it for long. And the reason for that was simple. Elicia had stood up from the kitchen table with such force that the chair she was sitting on tipped over.

"Lici, is something wrong?" Sun asked in a concerned tone.

Instead of replying, however, Elicia turned her head towards the mansion's front door. Then, after tilting her head for a moment, she nodded to herself. A moment later, she sprinted out of the kitchen, towards the front door.

"That was weird." Cana muttered; her pint stopped just before reaching her lips.

"What's even weirder is the fact that you stopped mid drink." Lucy said in a teasing tone. "But seriously, that was quite abrupt."

"Why don't you say that again, Lucy?" Cana asked as she lunged at Lucy playfully.

In response, Lucy quickly ducked behind Erza, who after Elicia ran away, closed her eyes and spread her [Magic Power Detection]. A moment later, like Elicia, Erza also ran away from the kitchen, towards the front door.

Naturally, Erza's actions caused all the other girls to look at her in confusion. However, they decided to follow her, if only to see what was going on.

\*Vroom~~~~!\*

A moment later, the sound of an extremely loud engine could be heard drawing closer to the mansion. And when they heard that sound, Marin, Sun, and Lucy's eyes opened wide before they sped up.

A few moments later, Cana, Ultear, and Mirajane caught up with Erza, Marin, Sun, and Lucy, who were standing outside the mansion's front door. Then, like the other four, they watched Elicia fly through the air towards a two-wheeled magic vehicle with two riders.

A moment later, they watched as the magic vehicle turned sharply and skidded to a stop. Then, the person riding in front, straightened his back and supported the magic vehicle with his right foot as he took off the safety helmet he was wearing.

Then, with a big smile, the rider, Alfonzo tossed the helmet to the side and spread his arms wide, just in time to catch the excited Elicia.

"Fonzie!" Elicia shouted happily after kissing Alfonzo all over his face while sitting on the part of the magic vehicle that coincided with a normal motorcycle's gas tank. "Welcome home! I missed you so much!"

Meanwhile, Shizuka, who was riding behind Alfonzo, struggled to take off her own helmet, bringing an early end to the touching reunion as she squealed in a panic.

"Fonzie!" Shizuka squealed. "Help! My head is stuck! I can't get it off!"

Naturally, Shizuka's squeals drew everyone's attention to herself. And without exception, no one present could help smiling wryly at her.

#### Chapter 468: Alvarez Empire's Plans

A few days have passed since God Serena disappeared from his hospital room. Then, after his disappearance, he sent a message conveying his failed assignment to the continent west of Ishgar, Alakitasia. More specifically, to the ruler of the empire controlling the entire continent, the Alvarez Empire.

And because of the message, Zeref, who is known as Emperor Spriggan in the Alvarez Empire, called his elite wizards to meet in the imperial castle's meeting room. And while waiting for the eleven of his twelve elites who were currently in Vistarion, the capital city of the Alvarez Empire, to arrive in the meeting room, Zeref once again read the message he received from God Serena.

'This young man, Alfonzo Marcus, would appear to be a greater threat than I expected.' Zeref said to himself while continuing to read the report. 'Though Serena is far from the strongest of the Spriggan 12, he is not weak by any means. And although Serena did not go into great detail about his defeat, I have no doubt that he was soundly defeated.'

"\*Sigh\* If it wasn't for his petty pride, I would have more detail about the fight." Zeref said while laying the report down on the table in front of him. "I would also have a better idea of what caused the spike in power he mentioned in his report."

Shaking his head to rid himself of those thoughts, Zeref once again picked up the report and began reading it from the beginning.

Meanwhile, as Zeref continued to comb through the report, the first of the expected attendees entered the room.

"Greetings, Your Majesty." A bespectacled man of average height, with messy blue hair, uneven bangs that hang over his forehead, and a ponytail that hangs over his shoulder, down to his chest, on the right side wearing a high collared blue robe with silver trim that is held closed by a silver sash, a white dress shirt underneath with a dark blue tie, dark blue pants, and black boots, said as he saluted Zeref after entering the meeting room.

"Have a seat, Invel." Zeref replied casually without looking up from the report.

"Yes, Your Majesty." Invel replied before taking a seat.

Invel, or Invel Yura, a member of the Alvarez Empire's elite wizards, the Spriggan 12, as well as the Empire's Chief of staff, then moved quickly to take his designated seat.

Not long after Invel, the other members of the Spriggan 12, an old man with shoulder-length, wavy silver hair, an extremely voluptuous woman with scarlet hair and brown eyes, a young blond man with orange eyes, an extremely tall man whose only visible defining feature was his black eyes, a man with dark brown hair and black eyes, a bare-chested, dark skinned man with large, dark brown hair, a young mint-green haired woman wearing little more than a bikini and an overcoat, a golden blonde woman with brown eyes, a tall, black-haired man with a receding hairline, and finally, an effeminate young man with long eyelashes and long purple hair, entered the room one by one.

As soon as the last of the Spriggan 12 entered the room, Zeref raised his head from the report.

"I'm glad to see that all of you could make it on such short notice." Zeref said while smiling lightly.

"For what reason have you summoned us, Your Majesty?" The scarlet-haired woman, Irene Belserion, asked while adjusting the white fur lined witch's hat atop her head.

"Watch your tone, Scarlet Disaster." Invel said sternly while adjusting his glasses. "Do not forget, you are speaking to the emperor."

Glancing dismissively at Invel for a moment, Irene smiled as she returned her gaze to Zeref.

"I believe Irene is not the only one who wishes to know why you've gathered us, Your Majesty." The old, silver-haired man, August, the leader of the Spriggan 12 said.

Taking a moment to scan the faces of the other members of the Spriggan 12, Zeref could see the curiosity in their eyes. Though, he could also see that they were all confident they could deal with any order Zeref gave them. Well, everyone other than the mint-green haired woman, who looked as if she would rather be somewhere else. Though, she still held the same level of confidence in her eyes as the others. So, he decided that he would not keep them waiting any longer.

"Not long ago, I received a report from Serena." Zeref said as he pushed the report he had been reading forward. "And it would seem he has been defeated while carrying out my last order for him."

As soon as Zeref removed his hand from the report, August waved the staff he was carrying, causing the report to float over to him. Then, once it was floating in front of him, he tapped the end of his staff on the paper. A moment later, eleven copies of the report were created before they landed in front of each member of the Spriggan twelve. At the same time, the original copy floated back to where Zeref left it.

Nodding in response, Zeref once again picked up the report.

"Of course he failed his task." the golden blonde woman, Dimaria Yesta, said in a cynical tone with her eyes half-closed. "He made such a big deal about being the strongest wizard on Ishgar, and look what happened."

"That's not the important thing here." Zeref said. "The more important thing is that this Alfonzo Marcus may become an issue when we are ready to attack Fairy Tail."

Hearing that, all those reading the report raised their head to gaze at their emperor.

"So, what do you want us to do about him?" The mint-green-haired woman, Brandish μ, asked in a tone that suggested the issue was too troublesome.

"If you would like, I could go over to Ishgar and take care of him." Irene said in a confident tone while exuding just as much confidence from her smile. "I mean, he's barely more than a child. If I can find him quickly, I could be back in less than a month."

"While that is a viable option, I would like to know what caused his spike in power during the duel he had with Serena." Zeref replied. "And if possible, I would like to see if it could be implemented into our forces."

Hearing that, the meeting room fell into silence as the Spriggan 12 mulled over Zeref's words. Then, after about a minute, August was the one to break the silence.

"I would assume you intend to have someone infiltrate Fairy Tail, then?" August asked while running his fingers through his beard.

"More specifically, I would like someone to infiltrate that young man's inner circle." Zeref replied. "The closer they can get to the target, the easier it will be to get information about what we're looking to find out."

"I see." August replied with a nod. "The question is... Who is suitable to do so?"

In response to August's question, the rest of the Spriggan 12 began scanning the faces of everyone present. Eventually, all eyes in the room fell onto Brandish.

"Seriously?" Brandish asked in a tone that made her discontent obvious.

"Well, it says here in this report that he is a young man in his early twenties." The effeminate, Blue-haired man, Neinhart said while looking down at his copy of the report. "And you are the closest in age."

"But this is going to be so troublesome." Brandish said in a frustrated tone. Then, she looked towards Dimaria. "Why don't you send Mari? She's in her twenties, too. I'm sure she could fit in just fine."

"Sorry, Randi." Dimaria said with a smile. "But I already have a mission. In fact, I had to put it on hold to respond to His Majesty's summons."

Hearing that, Brandish frowned. Then, she turned her attention to the other members with young appearances. However, like Dimaria, they all had prior obligations.

"This may be the first time I've ever been upset that I wasn't currently on a mission." Brandish muttered as she lowered her head.

"Well then, that's settled." Zeref said. Then, he turned to Irene. "And Irene, I would like you to go with Brandish on this mission. Since this Alfonzo can overpower Serena, it would be dangerous for Brandish, who is on par with Serena in terms of power, should her identity be discovered."

"It would be much faster if you just let me capture that young man and bring him back to Vistarion." Irene said with a shrug.

Hearing that, Brandish began nodding her head vigorously, completely in agreement with Irene's plan.

"But if those are your orders, I guess I'll follow them." Irene continued with a smile after seeing Brandish's reaction.

In response, Brandish could only look at Irene as if she had been betrayed. Unfortunately, since the emperor had made his decision, there was nothing she could do about it.

Eventually, the meeting ended, and the Spriggan 12 left to return to their duties. The only exceptions being Irene and Brandish, who had to prepare for their mission in Fiore.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Magnolia.

"Damn the Magic Council." Alfonzo muttered while checking through the material delivery he just received. "Because of that shit show with the Ten Wizard Saints, I barely get to spend ten days at home after being away for so long."

Like Alfonzo said, in a few days, he would have to leave Magnolia again. And this time, he would be travelling to Quatro Cerberus' guild hall.

"And I'll have to deal with that drunk fucker, Bacchus, too." Alfonzo grumbled as he continued to work.

"You don't have to worry about Bacchus, Fonzie." Elicia, who was sitting with Alfonzo while he inventoried the delivery, said in a grim tone. "One way or another, I'll get him to stop with his delusions."

Hearing Elicia's tone, Alfonzo looked up from his check list. And when he made eye contact with her, he almost felt bad for Bacchus. However, when he remembered all the times he wanted to kill Bacchus for the things he has said, Alfonzo shrugged it off and returned to work.

"Anyway, I guess I'll leave him to you." Alfonzo said. "But if he starts poppin' shit in front of me, I'm gonna put that little mother fucker in his place. The relationship with Quatro Cerberus be damned."

"I won't let it come to that." Elicia replied. "If anyone's gonna ruin the relationship between our guilds, it will be me."

With that, the pair fell into silence with a rather dark aura floating between them.

"Anyway, did Juvia come to you about the issue she was having with her [Water Body]?" Alfonzo asked after calming down.

"Uh... Yeah, she did." Elicia replied. "But I've never heard of a material like the one she wanted. Not to say it doesn't exist. I just have to do some research about it."

"Yeah, I guess that makes sense." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "I mean, finding something you can add to water without lowering its purity sounds as much like a wild goose chase as you can get. But this is a world of magic, so anything is possible, I guess."

Nodding in response, Alfonzo checked off the last item on his inventory list. Then, after stretching for a moment, he made eye contact with Elicia.

"Well, I guess I've put it off for long enough." Alfonzo said, his tone quickly turning solemn as he continued. "I really need to talk to that Ikaruga chick."

"Yeah." Elicia replied with a nod and a smile. "But she really seems to be a woman of her word, Fonzie. I mean, she's followed every order I've given to the letter since she got here."

"I actually don't doubt that." Alfonzo replied with a small smile making it onto his face. "It's when you're not around that has me worried. Because she definitely can't follow you everywhere, you know."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Elicia replied with a nod. Then, she seemingly spoke to an empty area. "Well, we both already know you're there, Ikaruga. So, just show yourself."

A moment later, Ikaruga, with her long katana strapped across her lower back, appeared while kneeling in front of Elicia.

"Yes, Mistress Elicia." Ikaruga replied with her head bowed.

"Well, she's all yours, Fonzie." Elicia said with a shrug before turning around and walking into the mansion. "Just let me know what you think when you're done. Oh, and Ikaruga, you should answer all of Fonzie's questions honestly. Otherwise, we won't waste any time shipping you back to prison."

"Yes, Mistress Elicia, I understand." Ikaruga replied, keeping her head lowered until Elicia entered the house.

Once Elicia was inside, Ikaruga stood to her feet and turned her gaze towards Alfonzo. And despite the fact that he and Elicia had destroyed her old guild, Death's Head Caucus, she showed no signs of anger or wanting to get revenge. Instead, she looked at Alfonzo as if she would dedicate her life to him, as well.

#### Chapter 469: Accepting a Maid

"I understand you have questions for me, Master Alfonzo." Ikaruga said before Alfonzo had the chance to speak. "Please, ask your questions, I will answer them all to the best of my ability."

"\*Sigh\* Honestly, I just don't understand." Alfonzo said. "How could you have no hostility for Lici and I? Especially after we were the ones who destroyed your guild in the past."

Hearing Alfonzo's main concern, Ikaruga could understand Alfonzo's worries. Especially since she had been raised by Death's Head Caucus. Though, she was sure Alfonzo did not know that.

"Honestly, I can understand your misgivings." Ikaruga said politely. "However, even though I was raised by Death's Head Caucus, I never felt any attachment to the guild."

Unlike what Ikaruga thought, Alfonzo knew she was a founding member of Death's Head Caucus from reading the wiki in his past life. However, he thought she simply created it with a few like-minded individuals. So, when he heard she was raised by the guild, he raised an eyebrow in interest.

"Originally, Death's Head Caucus, before it was founded as a guild, was an assassin training organization." Ikaruga explained. "And after realizing that it could make more money by accepting assassination requests, rather than just raising assassins, the organization's model changed. And I just so happened to be a newly graduated assassin when that happened. So, I stayed with Death's Head Caucus.

Reaching that point, Ikaruga took a breath while maintaining eye contact with Alfonzo.

"However, the concept of loyalty was never instilled in any of those from the training organization." Ikaruga continued. "Instead, we were only cultivated to be loyal to our employer, and only for as long as we were on the mission. As assassins, we only lived for the next kill and the accompanying payout."

"I see." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "If that's the case, then I'm even less convinced that you're not likely to betray Lici. And that is something that I will not allow. I mean, who's to say that someone won't approach you with the right price in the future?"

As he spoke, Alfonzo narrowed his eyes as they glinted dangerously. At the same time, his magic power started leaking, putting pressure on the entire front yard of the mansion. On top of that, it alerted everyone in the mansion.

On top of alerting everyone in the mansion, Alfonzo's magic power pressure forced Ikaruga back down to one knee. And she was under no illusion that she would be able to remain conscious if he raised his pressure much higher.

"On top of that, as Lici's follower, it puts you in a position to hurt the people I love." Alfonzo continued in a frigid tone. "So, you'd better give me a damn good reason why I shouldn't send your ass back to prison."

Though it was difficult, Ikaruga raised her head slowly. Then, she did her best to look Alfonzo in his eyes. And when she saw the resolution to protect in his eyes, her respect for him rose.

"It's because... of the... kindness... Mistress Elicia... Showed When... She saved me..." Ikaruga struggled to say.

Hearing that, Alfonzo reduced the pressure he was exuding to allow Ikaruga to continue more smoothly.

"In the past, there was never anyone who would save me, had I been injured that severely on a mission." Ikaruga continued after taking a deep breath. "Back when I was a member of Death's Head

Caucus, even the other two members of Trinity Raven, Vidaldus and Fukuro would have written me off as a casualty and left me to bleed out."

Knowing the personalities of Vidaldus and Fukuro thanks to his meta knowledge, Alfonzo could not help but agree. Vidaldus was a psychopath who enjoyed killing and had no issue forcing a woman to be with him with the use of his magic. Meanwhile, Fukuro had such a twisted sense of justice that Alfonzo had no doubt that he would have considered Ikaruga a sinner of some sort for failing her mission.

"But Mistress Elicia, despite the fact that I was an enemy, pulled me out of the Tower of Heaven before it was destroyed." Ikaruga continued. "And for the first time, I felt what it was like to have someone assist me for a reason other than the payout."

Once again, Alfonzo narrowed his eyes. There was no way Ikaruga did not know that Elicia saved her for the bounty.

"I know what you are thinking, Master Alfonzo." Ikaruga replied solemnly. "Yes, I know that Mistress Elicia pulled me out of there for the bounty. However, she could have received my bounty had she brought back my corpse, as well."

Nodding his head, Alfonzo slightly relaxed once again.

"I've never had anyone show such concern for my life before." Ikaruga said. "And the fact that she showed such care for one who had taken as many lives as I have, I must admit, I was moved."

Hearing that, Alfonzo completely reeled in his magic power. Then, he looked up to the sky.

"\*Sigh\* I see." Alfonzo said in a tired tone. "Well then, I only have one more question."

With Alfonzo retracting his pressure completely, Ikaruga stumbled up to her feet. Then, she looked at Alfonzo, waiting for his question with a solemn expression on her face.

"You're not gonna turn into one of Lici's weirdo admirers, are you?" Alfonzo asked. "I mean, Between Darkness'... hobbies... And the drunk fucker and Karen Lilica's attempts to get Lici to break up with me, I really don't have the patience to deal with anymore."

In response, Ikaruga smiled brightly, thinking Alfonzo's tired expression was kind of cute. However, she did not take long to answer his question.

"No, you have nothing to worry about in that regard." Ikaruga replied. "Though I do admire Mistress Elicia for her kind actions towards me, I have no interest in her romantically. And I am proud to say that I do not have any sexual preferences like Darkness."

Hearing that, Alfonzo breathed a sigh of relief.

"I'm more likely to try and become your mistress, Master Alfonzo." Ikaruga continued. "That way, I would be able to serve you, together with Mistress Elicia."

Immediately, Alfonzo's head snapped in Ikaruga's direction with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

Not only Alfonzo, everyone in the mansion, namely, Elicia, Cana, Erza, and Marin, who were attracted when Alfonzo flared his magic power not long ago, tumbled out of the front door of the mansion.

Eventually, Alfonzo and the ladies regained their senses.

"Ikaruga... You...?" Elicia asked in a dumbfounded tone.

"Seriously? Another one?" Cana asked in an exasperated tone.

"This is just like that one novel." Marin said excitedly.

"Indeed." Erza added. "A maid fighting to gain her master's affection was the theme of the last novel we read."

"Now is not the time for that!" Cana shouted. Then, she turned her glare towards Alfonzo. "Isn't eight enough, Fonzie."

In response, Alfonzo could only look away while smiling sheepishly.

'If there's a chance to get Brandish, I'm not giving that up.' Alfonzo thought to himself while he was unable to make eye contact. 'Plus, I'm still working on Shizuka. I know she already knows about that. Then there's Saeko, and I know what the way she looks at me means.'

"\*Cough\* Anyway, I agree to hire you as a maid." Alfonzo said, blatantly changing the subject. "And we'll be hiring a few more, as well. So, I'll also put you in charge of training them to defend themselves on the off chance that someone is able to break past all the security I have set up around the mansion."

"Understood." Ikaruga said with a bow. Then, she turned towards the ladies who had picked themselves up from the front door step by now. "Also, I hope you all now know why eavesdropping is so unbecoming."

At that moment, Elicia, Cana, Erza, and Marin all wore surprised expressions.

"So, you only said that because you knew we were listening?" Elicia asked curiously.

"That's not a very funny joke." Cana said before taking a swig from her flask.

Erza and Marin, on the other hand, looked disappointed that their new novel was not coming to life in front of their eyes.

Eventually, after talking for a little while longer, Alfonzo and the girls decided to go back inside the mansion. At the same time, Ikaruga decided to call it a night, as well. So, she turned away from the mansion, prepared to make her way back to the hotel she had been staying at since she arrived in Magnolia. Before she left, however, she coincidentally made eye contact with Alfonzo... and winked.

Noticing Ikaruga's wink, Alfonzo watched her leave in a daze.

'She was just kidding about that, right?' Alfonzo asked himself.

"Fonzie, what's wrong?" Marin, the last one to enter the mansion, asked when she noticed that Alfonzo was not following her.

"Nothing." Alfonzo replied while shaking those thoughts out of his head.

A moment later, Alfonzo turned around and entered the mansion while deciding that he had not seen Ikaruga's wink.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Quattro Cerberus Headquarters.

March 31, x786.

\*Sigh\* Ten days definitely wasn't enough time." Alfonzo muttered as he drove the Escalade towards a large building built several miles away from Karakura Town. "I swear, if I get pulled into some shit after this job is over, I'm gonna just level whatever it is that keeps me from going home."

"Come on, Fonzie." Elicia said with a smile as she reached over and grasped Alfonzo's right hand. "It's not that bad. At least you got to spend time with everyone, right?"

"\*Sigh\* Almost Everyone." Alfonzo replied while pouting. "Still, I wanna sleep in my own bed for more than a few days at a time. On top of that, because of the shit with the Magic Council and that asshole god Serena, I didn't even get to see Alzack and Bисса to congratulate them."

"You mean give them a hard time for skipping so many steps, right?" Elicia asked with a smile.

"Same difference." Alfonzo replied with a shrug and a smile of his own. A moment later, however, his expression changed back to a pout. "I didn't get to see Rika, either. And I know she's gonna be all pouty because she didn't get her new weapon after completing all her A-Class quests perfectly."

Currently, Alfonzo, Elicia, Marin, and Ikaruga were on their way to Quatro Cerberus' guild hall to install the training chambers Goldmine commissioned. While Marin was sleeping in the backseat, having fallen asleep while reading her newest novel, Ikaruga was calmly watching the scenery through the back window.

And like Alfonzo said, by the time he got back to Magnolia after the whole mess with the Magic Council, Alzack and Bисса had taken Saeko, Kohta, and Rika on an A-Class quest. And while it was mainly to get Saeko and Kohta some experience, Ur asked Alzack and Bисса to bring Rika along so that property damage would be kept to a minimum.

"Oh, whatever." Elicia replied while rolling her eyes. "You would have been able to catch them if you had come straight home after docking in Akane Beach."

In response, Alfonzo turned towards Elicia with a blank gaze.

"So, are you saying you would have been able to handle Shizuka's abandoned puppy look if you were in the same situation as I was?" Alfonzo asked in a dry tone.

Instead of replying, Elicia simply looked away, watching the scenery pass by the passenger window.

"I thought so." Alfonzo said.

With that, the inside of the Escalade fell silent. While Elicia continued to watch the scenery and Alfonzo focused on the road, Ikaruga smiled at the interaction between her new employers.

ON a side note, Ikaruga came along on this trip in her role as a maid. This trip being a sort of test of her abilities. Meaning, she would be taking care of all Alfonzo, Elicia, and Marin's needs during their stay at Quatro Cerberus.

Eventually, while the Escalade continued to move forward, Elicia's expression turned into a frown after it passed a sign that let travelers know the Quatro Cerberus guild hall was only a mile away.

"Hey, Fonzie, it wouldn't be bad if we just turned around and went home, would it?" Elicia asked with a disgruntled expression on her face.

Glancing over at Elicia, Alfonzo could only shake his head.

"You already know the answer to that question, Lici." Alfonzo replied.

"\*Sigh\* I know~~~." Elicia whined. "But I really don't wanna deal with Bacchus."

"Well, you were the one who said you wanted to put an end to this, once and for all." Alfonzo said. "So, do what you came here to do."

"\*Sigh\* I know, I know." Elicia replied while leaning her head back against her seat's headrest.

"Mistress Elicia, would you like me to deal with this Bacchus for you?" Ikaruga asked in a pleasant tone. Though, her meaning did not escape either Alfonzo or Elicia's notice.

"No, you can't kill him, Ikaruga." Alfonzo replied after Elicia spent too much time considering Ikaruga's offer. "Anyway, we're almost there. Let's just get ready to do what we have to do."

With that, Alfonzo parked the Escalade in front of the Quattro Cerberus guild hall. Then, after waking Marin, the group of four made their way inside.

#### Chapter 470: A Youthful Welcome

Standing outside the large building, Alfonzo, Elicia, Marin, and Ikaruga took a moment to look at the sign hanging over the front door.

"\*Sigh\* We're here." Alfonzo muttered.

"Yup." Marin replied while nodding her head. "So... Why are we just standing here?"

As Marin asked her question, she turned her head right and left while grinning at Alfonzo and Elicia.

"Because we don't even wanna be here at all." Elicia replied in a gloomy tone. "By the way, why did you wanna come with us, again, Marin?"

"Oh, because I haven't been to Karakura in almost a year and a half." Marin replied with a smile. "You see, because of the quest last time, I didn't get to explore or go shopping. So, I'm gonna make up for that little regret."

And the real reason?" Alfonzo asked while turning his head towards Marin.

"I wanna see one of you beat up Bacchus." Marin replied, her smile widening as she did so.

"Yeah, that's what I thought." Alfonzo replied while turning his head back to the sign hanging above the door. "By the way, even though most guild halls look like bars, doesn't this place look more like a bar than a guild hall from the outside?"

As Alfonzo mentioned, the Quattro Cerberus guild hall, though the building was rather large, was not a particularly grandiose building. Instead, it was a simple, wide, stone, two-story building with a pair of wooden, double doors, a sign that read: "Quattro Cerberus," with the guild mark settled between the words, and a number of rectangular windows.

Looking through those windows, the quartet could see a number of round tables, a quest board, and a bar that stretched across nearly half of the building centered on the back wall. Also, there were a pair of doors on either side of the bar. Of which, one presumably led to the kitchen while the other led to the building's second floor.

"Yeah, now that you mention it, it kinda looks like the Yellow Flag." Elicia replied.

"Yeah, I was thinking the same thing." Alfonzo replied with a nod.

"The Yellow Flag?" Marin asked in curiosity while shifting her gaze back and forth between Alfonzo and Elicia. "What's that?"

Not only Marin, but Ikaruga was looking at her employers with curiosity, as well.

"Oh, it's an old bar we heard about on a quest a long time ago." Alfonzo replied as he reached out his arm and started combing his fingers through Marin's hair. "According to what we heard, it was a place where criminals used to hang out. However, a lot of fights happened there, and it was often damaged or destroyed."

"Yeah, and the way the people we heard about it from described it, it was exactly like this building." Elicia added with a smile. "They even told us about this one chick named Revy who used [Guns Magic] and always owed the owner money because of how much damage she did to the bar."

"Ah! Now I remember." Ikaruga exclaimed after hearing Alfonzo and Elicia's explanation. "You're talking about that little bar on the island of Roanapur, off the coast of Pergrande. It's run by a knight that defected during a war over thirty years ago. In fact, while I was still a member of Death's Head Caucus, I bought information from the owner of that bar for an assassination. I even met that woman named Revy. And I must say, she was quite the magic gunner. Though, she was quite vulgar and violent."

Hearing Ikaruga's story, Alfonzo and Elicia looked at her with disbelief. Originally, they were just comparing Quatro Cerberus' guild hall to the Yellow Flag bar from the Black Lagoon anime in their past lives. But now, they come to find out that Black Lagoon was a part of this world, too.

'Seriously, what's up with this world?' Alfonzo and Elicia asked themselves simultaneously.

"Well, considering the way all the members of Quatro Cerberus act, it doesn't surprise me that their guild hall looks like a shady criminal bar somewhere in the world." Marin said while shaking her head. "Well, everyone other than Master Goldmine and that one guy, Might Guy."

Hearing Marin mention Might Guy, Elicia's eyes lit up. Like Alfonzo, Elicia was also a fan of the Noble Blue Beast of the Hidden Leaf in her past life. And although Guy was present at her and Alfonzo's wedding last year, he was too preoccupied with training for Elicia to speak with him.

"Anyway, we should just go inside." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "Just standing out here won't make this trip any easier."

"Fine~~~." Elicia whined.

With that, the quartet stepped forward. And just as Alfonzo was going to push the doors open, they were flung open from the inside.

"Alfonzo, my friend, you've arrived!" a man in his early twenties with bushy eyebrows and a bowl cut wearing a green jumpsuit and a dark green flak jacket said excitedly just after the doors were flung open. "But why have you just been standing out there? That's no way to burn your youth!"

"Well, speak of the devil." Marin said with a smile. "We were just talking about you, Guy. How are you?"

Hearing a familiar voice, the bushy-eyebrowed man, Might Guy, looked towards the voice. Then, when he saw Marin, he made a nice guy pose while giving her a thumbs up.

"I'm great, Marin." Guy said energetically. At the same time, his teeth seemingly sparkled. "I'm still burning my youth as brightly as ever."

"Uh... Glad to hear it." Marin replied awkwardly.

"Anyway, it's good to see you again, Guy." Alfonzo said with a smile. "And I'm sure you remember, this is my wife, Lici. And that's Ikaruga, our new maid."

"Ah, yes, Elicia." Guy replied with a smile "Your wedding, as well as your home were truly beautiful. I've yet to see many more youthful displays in my life. And Miss Ikaruga, it's nice to meet you, as well."

In response, Elicia also smiled awkwardly. Meanwhile, Ikaruga only bowed her head politely.

"Anyway, we can talk more inside, Guy." Alfonzo said. "I still need to talk to Master Goldmine about the specifics of the training chamber installations."

Hearing that, Guy's eyes lit up in excitement. Then, he turned to the side and ushered the four guests inside.

"Yes, please come in." Guy said excitedly. "I've been looking forward to your arrival ever since we left Magnolia back in September."

With that, Alfonzo, Elicia, Marin, and Ikaruga entered the guild hall. And when they did, Guy shut the doors to the guild hall before leading them to Goldmine. Meanwhile, the other members of Quattro Cerberus watched the newcomers move through the guild hall. However, there were three tables that seemed to be a little more interested in them than the rest.

"So, he's the guy who is going to upgrade the village, huh?" A relatively tall man, standing at 5'11", with shoulder-length brown hair and eyes wearing a dark blue body suit, a dark green flak jacket, bandages wrapped around his ankles and feet, and a pair of sandals, while holding a Senbon between his lips, said while watching the group of four Fairy Tail wizards walk through the guild hall. "He seems pretty strong. Maybe even as strong as Lord Third."

"They're quite strong." A bald man with red markings on the outer edge of each eye wearing a black kimono with a katana on his hip, said while watching Alfonzo, Elicia, and the others. "I should be able to get a good fight out of them."

"Indeed." The man sitting at the same table as the bald man, a man of average height with jaw-length, straight, black hair, purple eyes, feathers connected to his eyelashes and eyebrow on the right side of his face, and shiny skin wearing a black, short sleeved kimono with an orange cloth wrapped around his neck and a tight, long orange sleeve on his right arm, said with a nod. Then, he continued as he adjusted the position of the sheathed katana on his left hip. "And they are rather attractive on top of that. They might actually be worth getting to know."

"I really wanna fight them." The bald man said as he stood up from his seat. "Just the thought of fighting them makes me want to do my happy dance."

While the bald man began to dance, there was a group of men at another table who also watched the four Fairy Tail wizards more intently than the rest.

"So, he actually brought her with him." Bacchus, the ace of Quattro Cerberus, asked while his eyes were focused on Elicia. Then, with a grin, he continued. "Truly, her overflowing love for me must have made Elicia insist on coming here. Don't worry, Elicia, I will one day free you from that man's control. Then, you can be happy with the man you truly love."

As Bacchus finished speaking to himself, he picked up his wine gourd before chugging down nearly half its contents. At the same time, the five men sitting at the table with Bacchus began cheering loudly.

"Bacchus! Your soul will always be wild!" The five men shouted excitedly.

Meanwhile, Elicia slumped her shoulders after hearing Bacchus' friends cheering for him.

"Are you sure you don't want me to take care of him, Mistress Elicia?" Ikaruga asked in a whisper.

And once again, Elicia thought about Ikaruga's proposal for a little too long.

"No, Ikaruga, Lici can deal with this herself." Alfonzo said. "That's the reason she asked to come here, remember?"

"Fonzie's right, Ikaruga." Elicia said after taking a deep breath and putting on a resolute expression. "I need to put an end to this myself."

While Ikaruga nodded in understanding as she shot a glare in Bacchus direction, Marin took hold of Alfonzo's arm while looking up at him in worry.

"Fonzie, are you sure it's okay to let Lici deal with this?" Marin asked in a concerned tone. "I mean, you know how... intense... she can get when she gets ticked off, right?"

"\*Sigh\* I know, Marin." Alfonzo said in a solemn tone. "But she's much less likely to kill him than I am. She might leave a few mental scars, though."

"She's only less likely to kill him than you, though." Marin said, the worry in her tone becoming more intense. "But she's still likely to kill him if he goes overboard."

In response, Alfonzo only shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, if he dies, then he dies." Alfonzo said uncaringly. "There's nothing I can do about that."

Expecting an answer like that, Marin could only sigh in exasperation.

Meanwhile, Guy, who was leading the group of four towards Goldmine's office, was sweating profusely due to the dark auras Alfonzo, Elicia, and Ikaruga were releasing.

"Ah, you've arrived, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Mairin." Goldmine, who had just stepped through the door to the right of the bar, said. "How was the trip? No issues, I hope."

Goldmine's voice caused Alfonzo, Elicia, and Ikaruga to put away their dark auras, causing Marin and Guy to sigh in relief.

"Master Goldmine." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "The trip was just fine."

"Master Goldmine, it's good to see you again." Elicia said with a smile.

"Hi, Master Goldmine." Marin said while waving energetically.

"Oh, and you brought another guest with you." Goldmine said with a smile after receiving the three greetings. "And who might you--- Ikaruga of Trinity Raven... Why are you here?"

"\*Sigh\* I would have thought Gramps would have told you about that." Alfonzo said in an exasperated tone. "He had her released early in the hopes that Lici could reform her."

"\*Sigh\* That's definitely something Makarov would do." Goldmine replied. "He's always believed that people deserve second chances if they show the desire to change."

A moment later, Goldmine's expression became much more solemn as he looked at Elicia.

"I cancelled my plan to send Bacchus on a long term quest because of your request, Elicia." Goldmine said. "So, I pray you don't make me regret my decision to trust you to handle the issue between the three of you by taking things too far."

"I'll do my best not to hurt him too bad if I can't get through to him with words alone." Elicia replied in an equally solemn tone. "But if he goes too far while insulting Fonzie..."

Elicia's words trailed off as she reached that point and lowered her head with a sinister smile on her face.

"\*Sigh\* You know what, as long as he's not dead or crippled, do what you want." Goldmine said while shaking his head. "Because I'm certain he's gonna say something he shouldn't."

"Wow! You gave up so easy." Marin exclaimed in surprise. "Aren't you afraid of your ace being hospitalized for a long time?"

"\*Sigh\* I'll admit, I would rather he not be." Goldmine replied. "But this has been going on for too long. And it really does need to end."

"You know if you made him stop drinking, this could have ended a long time ago." Marin said.

"Yes, I know." Goldmine replied with a nod. "Unfortunately, without his alcohol, his combat effectiveness drops significantly. So, I was unable to do that after he became an S-Class wizard. Besides, he's never done anything to harm the guild, so I didn't see a reason to correct it."

"\*Sigh\* You're definitely Gramps friend." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "You just let bad behavior go unpunished until something really bad happens. At least Bacchus is only an idiot and not a little dictator like Laxus."

In response, Goldmine could only smile wryly. Then he turned to Guy, who had remained silent for a while.

"Anyway, Guy, why don't you entertain our guests. Meanwhile, I'll go up to my office with Alfonzo to discuss the details of the training chamber installations." Goldmine said.

"Yes, Master Goldmine." Guys aid while raising his right thumb. "I'll make sure to give a the most youthful reception."