

Fairy Tail 591

Chapter 591: A Big Surprise

A few days have passed since Alfonzo and Elicia had their conversation with Cana about learning [Fairy Glitter]. Though, they had to delay their conversation for about an hour, since Amar'e would not allow any of them ignore him to have their talk. So, they could only start their conversation after Amar'e fell asleep.

After Amar'e fell asleep in Alfonzo's arms, he and Elicia explained the situation the guild was in. And Cana, upon hearing that Mavis was still alive, was thoroughly shocked. Still, she agreed to learn [Fairy Glitter] from Mavis to free her from the lacrima.

The next day, Cana went to the guild hall to meet Ur. After that, she was led to the underground chamber, where she underwent training to learn [Fairy Glitter] under Mavis' supervision.

Now, Alfonzo was lounging on the shore of his artificial island with a fishing pole stuck in the ground next to him and just relaxing.

"*Sigh* After I found out that Lici and I had been reincarnated into the world of Fairy Tail, I thought I knew exactly what I would be getting into." Alfonzo muttered to himself as he pushed a straw hat down on his head to block the sunlight from shining into his eyes. "but there is so much extra shit in this world. Not that all of it is bad though."

Reaching that point, Alfonzo could not help thinking about all the other franchises that had crossed over in this world. And with those thoughts rolling around in his head, he smiled.

"This world is really fucked up." Alfonzo muttered with a bright smile on his face. "But it's so interesting."

A moment later, a bolt of yellow lightning fell from above, landing next to the chair Alfonzo was sitting in.

"Yo, Laxus. What's up?" Alfonzo asked without even looking up to see who landed next to him.

"I just got back from my quest today." Laxus said as Alfonzo created a chair for him to sit in with his [Metal Magic]. "And I heard you had come back. So, I came to say what's up."

"Well, I'll be marrying Mira, Tear, Marin, Lucy, and Shizuka in a few days." Alfonzo replied. "so, I kinda had to come back. Otherwise, I'd be in for some shit."

"Yeah, I guess so." Laxus said as he took a seat next to Alfonzo. "Speaking of which, I wanna talk to you about something."

"Okay, go ahead." Alfonzo replied with a nod. Then, he noticed that his fishing rod was shaking. "Oh, hold that thought."

In the next instant, Alfonzo grabbed his fishing rod and started wrestling with the fish on its end." Meanwhile, Laxus waited patiently, since he needed to ask Alfonzo something.

About a minute later, Alfonzo finished reeling in the line with a large fish on the end before dropping it in the bucket he placed next to his chair.

"Sorry about that." Alfonzo said while casting his line once again. "So, what's up?"

"Well, I plan on getting married soon." Laxus said while scratching his head and smiling sheepishly. "And I was wondering if you would be my best man."

Of all the things Laxus could have asked him about, Alfonzo was definitely not expecting that. And there were a few obvious reasons. However, he did not stay shocked for long.

"Oh, you and Saya are moving along faster than I expected." Alfonzo said with a teasing smile on his face. "Either way, congratulations, Dude. But---"

"It's not just me and Saya." Laxus said as he turned away from Alfonzo's smile. "You see..."

As shocked as he was to hear that Laxus would be getting married, to hear that he would be marrying more than one woman at the same time, Alfonzo's mouth dropped open as if the screws holding it in place had gotten loose.

"I'll be marrying Chico, too." Laxus said sheepishly.

"Huh?" Alfonzo said dumbly in a confused tone. "But... You ignored her feelings for so long. Why now?"

Instead of just looking away, Laxus turned his whole body, including the chair he was sitting on, away from Alfonzo.

"It's because I didn't even recognize her feelings before." Laxus said quietly, in a tone that was completely different from the tone he usually spoke in. "Until I experienced love for myself, I couldn't even tell how other people, other than the Thunder God Tribe, felt about me."

Although he was thoroughly dumbfounded, Alfonzo could understand where Laxus was coming from. He had known Elicia for his whole life in his past life. However, until he lost the respect and admiration of everyone around him after his accident, he could not recognize her true feelings, either. And that made him feel like the world's biggest fool when he finally did.

"Okay. So, I get the fact that you'll be marrying both Saya and Chico." Alfonzo said after getting himself back together. "but why would you ask me to be your best man? What about Fried and Bickslow?"

"Well, Fried was my first choice, actually." Laxus replied, finally turning back to face Alfonzo as he did so. "But when I told him I was planning to marry Saya and Chico, he started crying... Hard. Then, he ran away and refused to be a part of the bridal party."

'Wow, does that mean he really was gay for Laxus?' Alfonzo thought to himself while listening to Laxus' explanation.

"As for Bickslow, he said he did not want that responsibility." Laxus said while smiling wryly. "He said that he wasn't suited for giving speeches in front of a crowd. He did say he had no problem being one of my groomsman, though."

"Well, I didn't expect that." Alfonzo replied while adjusting his hat. "I mean, as much as he likes to show off, I thought Bickslow would jump at the chance to give a speech. As for Fried... I really don't know what to say."

"Yeah, me neither." Laxus replied.

A moment later, both young men sighed in unison. Then, they laughed hardily.

"You know, if I were to tell my six or ten year old self that I would be asked to be your best man someday, I'm sure I would have slapped myself." Alfonzo said with a chuckle. "to think we've come this far since then, huh?"

"Well, a lot of stuff has happened since then." Laxus said with a smile. "and you're the reason I didn't end up getting myself kicked out of the guild for doing something stupid. And because of that, I even have a better relationship with Grandpa."

"I guess." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head. "Oh, speaking of Gramps. He'll be here for my wedding, right?"

"Of course." Laxus replied with a nod. "Even though you've had more than one, he would never miss any of his children's big days."

"Good." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Then, he's gonna be in for one hell of a surprise."

Hearing that, Laxus could not help but put on a confused expression. Yet, Alfonzo did not elaborate. And no matter how much Laxus asked, he could not make Alfonzo budge.

June 9, x788.

Another few days passed quickly after Alfonzo met with Laxus. And today was the day he would marry Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, Lucy, and Shizuka. So, there were a lot of people gathered at the mansion floating on the lake.

And to Alfonzo's pleasure, he did not have to do anything to prepare for today. The only thing he had to do was relax, which he did by fishing, sparring with other members of the guild, and working on a few passion projects in his workshop and the underground hangar. Then, when he was told to do so, he only had to get dressed and walk into the wedding hall.

Instead, all the preparations were taken care of by his staff of six outstanding maids. Everything except for the outfits everyone would wear, which were handled by Elicia.

Currently, all the guests were seated in the hall that would act as the wedding venue in the mansion. And like always, Makarov was seated with his old friends, Goldmine, Bob, and Ooba Babasama.

"You still have no idea what this surprise Alfonzo was talking about is, do you Maki?" Bob asked in a playful tone.

"Not at all." Makarov said in a disgruntled tone. "I've been back in Magnolia for three days. I even spent a whole day fishing with that brat, but he wouldn't say anything."

"Calm down, Makarov." Ooba said calmly. "You're already over ninety. Getting angry isn't good for your blood pressure."

Makarov only shot Ooba a dirty look before turning back on the front of the hall.

"If he's keeping it this under wraps, I'm sure it's a good surprise, though." Goldmine said with a smile.

"Yeah, but if it's too good, Maki might have a heart attack. Hahaha!" Bob said before laughing happily.

Makarov could only grumble at the way his old friends were making fun of him. However, to make it stop, he decided to change the subject.

"By the way, Goldmine, I heard that kid who disappeared a couple years ago finally came back." Makarov said.

"Oh, you're talking about Bacchus, huh?" goldmine replied with a smile. "Yeah, he came back. And he's a lot stronger than he was. He gave up drinking, too."

"Now that's something I never thought I'd hear." Bob said in a surprised tone.

"Yeah." Ooba added with a nod. "If you told me that boy had drank more alcohol in his life than water, I would have believed you."

"I know it's hard to believe, but it's true." Goldmine replied with a smile. "and the new martial art he learned that doesn't rely on alcohol is pretty impressive, as well."

"I see." Makarov replied with a nod. "Well then, I'm happy for you, Goldmine. It looks like you won't have as much trouble from your children going forward."

"I can only hope." Goldmine replied.

At that moment, Grayfia, dressed in her usual maid uniform, stepped into the hall and made her way to the center of the stage that was set up for the wedding.

"Everyone, may I please have your attention." Grayfia said, her voice echoing over every part of the hall. "The ceremony will begin momentarily, so I ask that you please be quiet."

Upon hearing that, everyone in the hall quieted down, receiving an approving nod from Grayfia.

"Then, may I ask the Master of Ceremony to please take your place on the stage?" Grayfia asked, looking towards the hall's entrance.

A moment later, the doors to the hall opened. And when everyone saw who was standing there, most of them were confused. However, those from the older generation, namely, Makarov, Bob, Goldmine, Ooba, and Retsu, wore completely dumbfounded expressions.

"No... way..." Makarov mumbled in disbelief.

"But how is this possible?" Bob asked in a confused tone.

"It can't be..." Goldmine muttered with his sunglasses slipping down his nose.

"I thought she was..." Ooba muttered.

Meanwhile, Retsu only looked down in silence. But she was thinking along the same lines as Goldmine, Bob, and Ooba. And the reason for that was simple, the one walking through the door, dressed in a ceremonial white dress, was Mavis Vermilion. The long, thought to be dead, First Fairy Tail Guild Master.

Makarov's thoughts were a little different, though. As the Third Master of the Fairy Tail guild, he knew that Mavis was alive in the lacrima. However, he never thought he would see her walking around so freely.

In fact, this was only possible because Cana accepted learning [Fairy Glitter]. Because as Mavis said, it had to be used on her projection while in the presence of the lacrima her body was encased in.

And learning [Fairy Glitter] did not take Cana very long. It did not even take her a day. So, as soon as she learned it, she reported to Ur, who called Alfonzo, Elicia, Gildarts, Irene, and Brandish, the ones who knew Mavis was encased in the lacrima, to her office and told them that everything was ready.

After that, it was just a matter of getting the Elrics and Izumi to set up a [Human Transmutation Circle], freeing Mavis from the lacrima, and performing the [Human Transmutation] with Mavis in the circle.

Then, after a short negotiation with Ankhseram, which consisted of Mavis agreeing to never tamper with the flow of life and death ever again, she was freed from her curse once the Philosopher's Stone Alfonzo provided was sacrificed.

Once she was free to live her life again, the first thing Mavis did was ask Alfonzo if it would be okay for her to act as the priest when Alfonzo married the five ladies. And Alfonzo had no reason to decline. So, that's how the current situation came about.

On top of that, Elicia was ecstatic at the opportunity to make all kinds of clothes for the adorable Mavis, as well.

"Ladies and gentlemen." Mavis said with a bright smile as she stood in the center of the stage. "Today, we have gathered to witness the union between Alfonzo Marcus, Ultear Milkovich, Mirajane Strauss, Marin Kitagawa, Lucy Heartfilia, and Shizuka Marikawa. Now, please join me in welcoming those who have come to accompany them on this happy day."

With that, the doors to the hall were opened and the bridal party, which was rather large, as each bride had a Maid or Matron of Honor and a Bridesmaid, and enough Groomsmen to accompany them all, entered in their beautiful dresses and tuxedos. After that, the wedding and reception went on without a hitch.

Chapter 592: Shizuka's First Time (R-18)

After the ceremony where Alfonzo married Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, Lucy, and Shizuka, the reception took place in the mansion's garden. And like always, Alfonzo sang for his wives. However, instead of singing during their first dances, he sang for all of them at once, since five songs would have been a little too much.

Other than that, everything happened in a similar fashion to all his other weddings. However, after a certain point, neither he nor the brides were the main focus of the guests. Instead, that privilege fell to Mavis, who most people thought was dead.

"First Master, how is this possible?" Makarov, who had been waiting for a chance to speak to Mavis since she appeared in the hall, asked in a tone filled with disbelief.

"It's a long story, Maki." Mavis replied with a smile. "But you can thank a few of your children for that. They made this possible with some outside of the box thinking."

Though Makarov was unsatisfied with that explanation, after taking a look around at all the other guests, he understood that now was not the time to ask. Still, he could not help but steal a glance at the one he thought was the most likely to have his hand in this whole situation, Alfonzo.

Despite what Makarov thought, Alfonzo actually did very little when it came to reviving Mavis. Though, his Philosopher's Stone was a key part of it, as well. Either way, even if Makarov asked him about it, he would not be taking credit for it.

As for Alfonzo, he was currently in the middle of the dance floor having a good time dancing and singing with a big smile on his face and his son in his arms.

"It looks like Mar'e is having fun." Elicia said with a smile on her face.

"Yeah. Little Man loves being at the center of everything, doesn't he?" Alfonzo asked as he watched Amar'e hold onto his dreads tightly while making sounds that sounded as if he were singing along with the music.

"Well, he is your son." Elicia replied while rolling her eyes. "And who doesn't know how much you love being in the lime light."

"I have no idea what you could possibly be talking about, my dear wife." Alfonzo, looking as innocent as he possibly could, replied.

Rolling her eyes once again, Elicia eventually laughed happily, shortly followed by Alfonzo. A moment later, she looked to the main table.

"It's too bad your new brides don't seem to like dancing very much." Elicia said with a smile.

"I actually don't think that's the case." Alfonzo replied. "I know for a fact that Mira is saving her energy for tonight. She is really in a hurry to give Amar'e a little brother or sister, you know?"

"Then what about the others?" Elicia asked.

"I'm pretty sure she somehow managed to convince them to go along with whatever she has planned." Alfonzo said. "I'm not sure how, though."

At that moment, the music playing changed into a slow song. So, with Amar'e between them, Alfonzo and Elicia planned to have a nice slow dance, as well. However, before they could, Irene, wearing a rather revealing dress that showed off a large portion of her breasts and cleavage approached the couple.

"May I cut in?" Irene asked with a smile.

Shrugging her shoulders in reply, Elicia took Amar'e from Alfonzo's arms and took some distance.

"It's fine with me." Elicia replied. "I'll just dance with my Mar'e."

With Elicia backing off, Irene stepped a little closer to Alfonzo. Then, she wrapped her arms around his neck. At the same time, Alfonzo placed his hands on Irene's waist.

"So, what's up?" Alfonzo asked as he started leading the dance to the rhythm of the music.

"Do you have any more Philosopher's Stones, Alfonzo?" Irene asked after hesitating for a moment.

Having not expected a question like that, Alfonzo raised an eyebrow.

"For what?" Alfonzo asked in a slightly confused tone.

"For Zeref." Irene replied. "Although he's definitely our enemy, does he really have to be? I mean, the only reason he wants the Fairy Heart is so that he can end his own life, right?"

Alfonzo actually did not know how to respond to that. Although Zeref's greatest wish was to end his cursed existence at some point, Alfonzo was pretty sure that had changed over the centuries. For example, the reason Zeref wanted the [Fairy Heart] in the anime and manga was so that he could return time to before he lost everything. But Alfonzo was not supposed to know that.

"If that's really all he wants, I have no problem with it." Alfonzo replied in a hesitant tone. "I do have one more Philosopher's Stone, after all. But are you sure that's all he wants? I mean, what if there's more to it?"

"Well, the fact that you don't trust Zeref makes perfect sense." Irene replied with a smile. "And in fact, I'm not sure exactly what he wants to achieve either. But if he could bring his life to an end, I think he might give all of that up."

'I'm not so sure about that.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

"We'll see." Alfonzo said in a very non-committal tone, that Irene picked up on easily.

Not long after that, the song ended, and Irene separated from Alfonzo. A moment after that, Erza approached.

"Are you aiming for my mother, as well, Alfonzo?" Erza asked with a smile as she wrapped her arms around Alfonzo's neck like her mother had just done.

"No, she only wanted to talk to me about something." Alfonzo replied as he wrapped his arms around Erza's waist.

"That's a pity." Erza replied, greatly surprising Alfonzo. "She deserves a good man after all she's been through. And I can't think of a man better than you."

Even worse than when he was talking to Irene, Alfonzo had no idea how to respond. So, instead of continuing the topic, he blatantly changed it.

Eventually, the reception came to an end. And at the end of the evening, after everyone returned to their own homes or lodgings, Alfonzo made his way up to his bedroom. And when he opened the door, he found Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, Lucy, and Shizuka, all still wearing their wedding dresses, lined up at the foot of his bed.

===R-18===

"Good, you're finally here." Mirajane said in an excited tone. "And I'm sure you already know this, but you'd better not use the anti-pregnancy sigil with me."

"Yeah, I know." Alfonzo replied with a strained smile. "You've been telling me about that for a while now."

"Well, I'm not ready for kids yet." Ultear said. "So, you don't have to worry about me."

"Me neither." Marin added. "Maybe in a few years. But definitely not now."

"Same here." Lucy said while shaking her head.

"I want a baby, though." Shizuka said, looking unsure if that was okay or not.

"If you want one, then I'll try my best to give you one." Alfonzo replied.

"Really?" Shizuka exclaimed happily. "Yay!"

As the oldest of all his women, Alfonzo expected Shizuka to want a baby. She would be turning thirty next year, after all.

"Good." Mirajane said with a smile. "then what are we waiting for?"

With that, Ultear, Marin, Lucy, and Shizuka nodded along with Mirajane. Then, Ultear, Mirajane, and Marin started undressing Shizuka. Meanwhile, Lucy made her way over to Alfonzo, who was still standing in front of the door, to start undressing him, as well.

"Since this is Shizuka's first time, we decided to let her go first." Lucy said as she took Alfonzo's jacket from him and tossed it to the side. "So, we'll get the two of you out of your clothes first."

From there, Lucy untied Alfonzo's tie, unbuttoned his vest and shirt, and pulled down his pants, tossing them all to the side, next to his jacket, as she did so. However, she did not stop there. And by the time she was finished, Alfonzo was standing in front of the door wearing nothing but a pair of socks.

On the other side of the room, Ultear, Mirajane, and Marin also succeeded in undressing Shizuka, stripping her down to just a sheer pair of white, lace stockings. And to Alfonzo's surprise, after seeing her bare breasts for the first time, they did not sag at all, despite their size. Instead, it looked like they were defying gravity.

On top of that, Shizuka was not shy at all. Instead, she stood with her arms spread welcomingly while smiling brightly.

Responding to Shizuka's welcoming gesture, Alfonzo began walking towards her. However, as soon as he took his first step, he felt a small hand wrap around his manhood. Looking down, he saw Lucy, who was walking beside him, smiling up at him while skillfully stroking his dick.

"Don't mind me." Lucy said playfully. "I'm just making sure you're ready when the time comes."

Smiling back at Lucy, Alfonzo turned his attention back to Shizuka and continued walking forward. All the while, Lucy stroked his dick with firm, yet gentle, hand movements. Eventually, Alfonzo arrived in front of Shizuka. And when he did, the first thing he did was wrap his arms around her waist and swept her off her feet before pulling her into a deep kiss.

Meanwhile, the other four ladies, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Lucy began taking off their own wedding gowns while watching the intimacy between the two.

"This is going to be fun to watch." Mirajane said as she stripped down to just her panties.

"Yeah, watching those tits bounce around is going to be a sight to see." Marin said excitedly.

"I know, right?" Ultear added. "Even though Erza's are bigger..."

"They don't jiggle quite like Shizuka's." Lucy said, finishing Ultear's sentence.

After having his fill of Shizuka's lips, Alfonzo put her back on the floor. However, just as he intended to have her sit on the bed, she grabbed his hands. Then, in one motion, Shizuka switched their positions, making Alfonzo sit on the foot of the bed instead.

"Didn't I tell you?" Shizuka said with an uncharacteristically seductive smile as she straddled Alfonzo's lap. "After we got married, I would make you feel really good, remember? And as a nurse, I know the human body very well."

With that said, Shizuka pressed her massive, soft breasts onto Alfonzo's face. Then, she swayed her body side to side, rubbing her breasts and nipples all over his face.

Eventually, Alfonzo freed his hand and grabbed those luscious breasts. Then, he pulled his head back slightly before diving forward and wrapping his lips around her puffy, erect right nipple.

"Mmm~~~!" Shizuka moaned while lightly leaning her head backwards and wrapping her hands around the back of Alfonzo's head.

Meanwhile, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Lucy looked on in wonder.

"You know, I'm not really into women." Ultear muttered while watching Alfonzo and Shizuka without blinking. "I mean, when we get together to have fun, I do play with you girls. But that's just to keep everyone in the mood."

"Yeah, I know what you mean." Marin replied with a similar expression to Ultear's on her face.

"But I'm kinda jealous of Alfonzo right now." Ultear continued as she started running her hands up and down her body.

In response, Mirajane, Marin, and Lucy all nodded in agreement. Meanwhile, Alfonzo, with Shizuka's right nipple still in his mouth, ran his left hand around to Shizuka's back. Then, he slowly slid the tips of his fingers down her spine, causing her to shiver. Eventually, he reached her ass and gave it a tight squeeze.

"Ahn~!" Shizuka moaned as she jumped slightly from the stimulation.

However, before Alfonzo could reach even further down to the forbidden spring between her legs, Shizuka freed her nipple from Alfonzo's mouth. Then, she stepped back, standing in front of him. After another seductive smile, she placed her hands on Alfonzo's thighs and gently pushed them open.

Looking at Shizuka, who had to lean forward to move his legs, Alfonzo was curious to know what she would do next. And she did not take long to satisfy his curiosity.

While bending forward at the waist, Shizuka used her left hand to hold Alfonzo's dick upright. Then, she opened her mouth wide. A moment later, the head of Alfonzo's dick was engulfed by Shizuka's full, pink lips. However, she did not stop there. Instead, she kept lowering her head further and further, all the while, she caressed every inch of Alfonzo's dick with her tongue, eventually removing her hand, as well.

"Oh~, Shit~." Alfonzo said while moaning in pleasure.

By the time Shizuka finally came to a stop, Alfonzo had leaned back with his toes curled. On top of that, Shizuka's nose was pressed against his pelvis.

"O.M.G!" Marin exclaimed loudly.

"She swallowed the whole thing in one go!" Lucy added in a similarly surprised tone.

"This is her first time, right?" Mirajane asked dumbfoundedly.

"There's no way..." Ultear muttered in response.

A few moments later, after holding that position for a while and sticking out her tongue to lick Alfonzo's balls a few times, Shizuka slowly raised her head. As she did, more and more of Alfonzo's dick was revealed. ON top of that, it was dripping with saliva, shining under the dim lights of the bedroom.

"What the... fuck?" Alfonzo, who was still reeling from the pleasure, muttered quietly.

"A long time ago, when Rika and I were bored, she wanted to see if I had a gag reflex." Shizuka said with a smile. "And as it turned out, I didn't."

After saying that, Shizuka dropped on to her knees. Then, she wrapped her large breasts around Alfonzo's dick, making sure to put pressure on the spots that she thought would give him the most pleasure. Then, she craned her head forward and once again put the head of his dick into her mouth.

Slurp! *Slurp!* *Slurp!*

Then, with great vigor, Shizuka started sucking and bobbing her head up and down. At the same time, she used her hands to move her breasts in tandem with her head movements.

"Oh... my... fucking... God." Alfonzo groaned as he raised his hand and grabbed a handful of Shizuka's long, blonde hair.

By this point, the four women watching Shizuka's performance, that might put some inexperienced courtesans to shame, could not help touching and pleasuring not only themselves, but each other.

"Damn... She's good." Mirajane said with a lustful glint in her eyes.

"Yeah, if it weren't for my [Transformation Magic], I wouldn't be able to do anything like that." Marin added while pinching Mirajane's nipples and rubbing her own clit.

Ultear and Lucy, on the other hand, could only watch on with rapt attention.

About ten minutes later, Alfonzo could no longer hold back. However, he was not about to cum. Instead, he was ready to get to the real thing. So, he reached his hands under Shizuka's arms and pulled her up. Then, once both he and she were standing, he picked her up by her waist and spun around before tossing her onto the bed.

"Kya!" Shizuka yelped playfully.

Immediately after Shizuka landed, face up, on the bed, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Lucy sprang into action, dashing onto the bed, as well. First to arrive, Mirajane positioned herself above Shizuka's head. Then, she gently lifted Shizuka's head and placed it on her thighs.

Shortly after Mirajane, Ultear and Marin arrived on Shizuka's left and right sides, respectively. At the same time, Mirajane reached down and grabbed Shizuka's breasts from above.

"Ah! What's going on?" Shizuka yelled in confusion.

Before anyone could reply to Shizuka's question, both Ultear and Marin leaned down and started sucking on Shizuka's nipples vigorously while Mirajane groped her massive breasts.

"Huh? Mmm~~~!" Shizuka moaned, though she was still confused. "What are you... Ahn~~! Doing?"

Meanwhile, Lucy could only pout at the fact that she acted slower than the others. However, she quickly turned around, facing Alfonzo, who was slowly climbing onto the bed with an amused expression on his face. Then, she dove forward, face first, and wrapped her lips around Alfonzo's dick while her hands gently massaged his balls.

"If you're trying to get me warmed up, Lucy." Alfonzo said as he combed his fingers through Lucy's hair. "I think you're a little too late for that."

Slurp! *Slurp!* *Pop!*

"No, I just wanted something to do while everyone else was busy." Lucy replied with a slight blush on her cheeks.

Smiling in response, Alfonzo clenched his fingers that were moving through Lucy's hair. Then, with just enough force, he pulled her up and kissed her deeply. All the while, he continued crawling closer and closer to Shizuka.

Once Alfonzo was close enough, Shizuka, who could see him through the gap between her breasts, subconsciously opened her legs. At the same time, Alfonzo, using his free hand, and Lucy pushed them open even wider.

Then, with her free hand, Lucy guided Alfonzo's dick towards Shizuka's dripping wet pussy without breaking her kiss with Alfonzo.

"Ahn~~~~!" Shizuka moaned once again as Alfonzo slowly pushed into her.

Meanwhile, Ultear, Mirajane, and Marin continued playing with Shizuka's breasts to take her mind off the pain she was undoubtedly feeling.

As Alfonzo's dick reached the last proof of Shizuka's chastity, he finally broke his kiss with Lucy. Then, while looking past Ultear and Marin's heads, he made eye contact with Shizuka, who, although it was obvious was feeling pain, was smiling at him lovingly.

Smiling back in return, Alfonzo pulled his waist back slightly. Then, he pushed through her hymen in one go.

"Ahh!" Shizuka yelped in pain as her body lit up with green magic power. A moment later, although a little blood leaked out of her lower lips, Shizuka smiled once again as she continued. "Okay, I healed myself. So, you can go ahead."

Nodding once again, Alfonzo wrapped his hands around Shizuka's hips. Then, he started pumping his waist back and forth slowly, at first. However, as time went by, his movement speed increased. And with the increase, Shizuka, who started out only mewling at Alfonzo's movements, was screaming at the top of her lungs by the time Alfonzo really got going.

At the same time, Lucy, who had no way to participate in the ongoing fun, was leaning against the headboard plunging her right middle and ring fingers in and out of her pussy while watching everyone enviously.

'Shizuka's so lucky.' Lucy thought to herself while watching everyone focus on Shizuka. 'I wish that were me.'

While watching and daydreaming about trading places with Shizuka, Lucy sped up her hand movements to match Alfonzo's pace.

Meanwhile, Shizuka had already cum once. Unfortunately, Alfonzo was already reaching his limit thanks to Shizuka's foreplay from earlier. And once he realized that, he sped up even further. Then, after trembling a few times, he shot his load into Shizuka's depths. All without activating the anti-pregnancy sigil.

"Ahh~~~~~!" Shizuka screamed once she felt the warm sensation splashing inside of her.

For the next minute or so, Shizuka convulsed violently from the powerful orgasm she just experienced. Meanwhile, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, and Lucy quickly gathered around Alfonzo, ready for their own turns, as Alfonzo slowly pulled his dick out of Shizuka.

At the same time, Alfonzo thought it was a pity that Ultear, Mirajane, and Marin were also so enamored with Shizuka's breasts.

'*Sigh* I didn't get to see Shizuka's titties bouncing around.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'And I was really looking forward to seeing that while I hit that. Oh well, there's always the next round, I guess.'

Chapter 593: The Reappearance of an Old Enemy

After the wedding, Alfonzo, along with Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, Lucy, and Shizuka, headed to the villa on Akane Beach for their honeymoon. During that time, they did nothing special. Other than relaxing, having fun, and working to get Mirajane and Shizuka pregnant, that is.

After a week spent on Akane Beach, the group of six returned to Magnolia to return to their normal lives. And Alfonzo decided to do something he had not done in a while, take a quest. Hearing that, there were a lot of people who wanted to take the quest with him. However, he only decided to bring Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca, making it a sort of couples get away.

"So, what quest are we taking?" Elicia asked as the group of four stood in front of one of the quest boards on the guild hall's first floor.

"I'm not sure." Alfonzo replied while looking through the quests. "But it will definitely be an S-Class quest. Maybe even a Ten Years Quest."

"But if we take a Ten Years Quest, will Bisca be able to come with us?" Alzack asked while looking at his wife in worry.

This was not Alzack doubting his wife's capabilities. Instead, it was because she was only an A-Class wizard, and he was unsure if A-Class wizards were allowed to tag along on Ten Years Quests.

"Don't worry about that." Alfonzo replied while waving off Alzack's question. "I'll talk to Ur about it. But I'm sure she won't have an issue as long as Lici and I are there."

In response, both Alzack and Bisca nodded in agreement.

"Either way, I'm kind of excited." Bisca said with a smile while hugging Alzack's arm. "I've never been on a quest with the two of you. So, this should be a great opportunity to learn something."

Smiling at Bisca's excitement, Alfonzo and Elicia continued looking through the available quests for something suitable for a team of four.

At that moment, the elevator door opened. Through it, Ur, carrying a stack of papers, quest sheets, walked into the guild's first floor. When she saw the group of four gathered around the quest board, she could not help but be curious to know what they were up to. And since she was on her way there already, she decided to ask about it.

"Hey, what are you kids up to?" Ur asked as she opened the panel to load the quest sheets into the quest board the four were looking at.

"Oh, perfect timing, Ur." Alfonzo said after Ur drew his attention away from the quest he was reading. "We were going to take a quest together. And we were wondering if it would be okay to take Bisca along with us if we decided on a Ten Years Quest."

Since they were standing around the quest board, Ur expected that they might be taking a quest together. However, the fact that they were considering a Ten Years quest was outside of her expectations.

"Well, as long as Alfonzo and Lici are there, I don't see why not." Ur replied just as Alfonzo expected. "But I'm expecting you to make sure that Bisca stays safe. She's on a short list of people to be eligible for this year's S-Class Promotion Exam."

"Ooh! And if we succeed, this should be a great push for her to actually get that candidate spot, right?" Elicia asked excitedly.

"That's right." Ur replied with a nod.

"In that case, we definitely can't fail the quest." Alzack said in a determined tone.

"And as it turns out, I think I found the one." Alfonzo said as he pointed at the panel.

The quest Alfonzo found was to slay a monster that appears in a certain tower on one of the islands in Fiore's territorial waters and find an item called "Old Document 01" while they're at it. The thing is, however, that the tower only appears at night. On top of that, it's only visible to those with enough magic power.

"That's weird." Bisca said with a frown. "And kinda creepy, too."

"And the name of the monster... The Reaper..." Alzack added in an uncertain tone.

Elicia, on the other hand, was thinking something totally different. The setting for this quest sounded a lot like a game she had played in her past life. Though it was the third game in the franchise, it was the first one she played, after it was recommended to her by Alfonzo.

"Fonzie... This sounds like..." Elicia whispered into Alfonzo's ear.

"I know... That's why it caught my attention." Alfonzo replied in a whisper of his own.

Seeing that the four were looking over the quest, Ur was curious to know which one it was. So, she walked around to the other side of the quest board. When she saw which one it was, she did not know what to say.

"Are you sure about this, kids?" Ur asked. "over the years, a lot of people have tried this one. But no one has ever seen the tower referred to in the quest. And some of them were really strong, too."

"Well, there's no harm in trying, right?" Alfonzo asked as he pressed the screen to eject the quest sheet. "If worse comes to worst, we won't find the tower. And if that's the case, we'll just come back and try again."

"If that's what you think." Ur replied with a shrug. "Then, do what you want."

Receiving four nods in reply, Ur turned around and headed back to the elevator to return to her office. Meanwhile, Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca left the guild hall to prepare for the quest.

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

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"I wish I'd thought about this before I left for the honey moon." Alfonzo grumbled as he steered the boat towards the group's destination. "I just fucking got back from Akane Beach two days ago. And I drove right fucking back to get the damn boat. Even worse, I'll have to drive back from Akane Beach again when we get back."

Listening to Alfonzo grumble endlessly, Elicia wanted to laugh. However, she could understand why he was so frustrated. So, she only patted his back soothingly. Meanwhile, Alzack and Bisca were sitting together on the deck and having a few drinks while enjoying the sun.

"Anyway, do you really think this is Tartarus from Persona 3?" Elicia asked once there was a break in Alfonzo's muttering.

In response, Alfonzo took a deep breath to calm himself down.

"*Sigh* Well, if The Reaper and the Old Document aren't enough proof, the fact that the requester's name is Takeharu Kirijo should be." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Plus, the name of the island we're headed to is Tatsumi Port Island. And I really don't think there is any more proof than that."

"*Sigh* I guess you're right." Elicia replied. "I just didn't want it to be the same. The Reaper is always really hard in every Persona game."

"Yeah, but we're not just a bunch of high school kids, either." Alfonzo replied with a confident smile. "We're much stronger than they are, remember."

"I know." Elicia replied with a smile of her own. "I guess it's just PTSD from all the times I had to run away like a chicken with its head cut off whenever I heard the sound of clanking chains back then."

Smiling wryly because he knew the feeling, Alfonzo looked at the sea chart to make sure they were still on course, as well as to see how far away they were. And according to what he saw, they would arrive on Tatsumi Port Island just before sunset if nothing went wrong.

"You gotta be fucking kidding me!" Alfonzo shouted in an aggrieved tone.

And of course, something went wrong, as Alfonzo was forced to levitate the ship out of the water because of a huge magic power signature that shot up at the ship from below the surface.

"What the fuck?" Alfonzo shouted as he moved the ship with his [Metal Magic]. "I didn't even say anything. There's no way in hell I raised a flag!"

"Hehehe! Finally, it wasn't me who raised the flag." Elicia cheered excitedly.

"Is now really the time to be talking about flags!" Alzack, who heard Alfonzo and Elicia's shouting from the deck, shouted in an irritated tone. "We were just attacked by a sea serpent."

At the same time, Bisca [Requipped] her magic assault rifle into her hands and immediately started shooting at the sea serpent Alzack mentioned.

Following the direction where Bisca was shooting, Alfonzo and Elicia saw a long, hundred foot long, serpentine magical beast with blue scales, three pairs of fins on its sides, a fin on its tail, long whiskers on its nose, and a horn growing from the middle of its forehead that just leapt out of the water.

"God damn it!" Alfonzo shouted as he maneuvered Sixth Sense through the air. "can't anybody tell the fucking difference between a sea serpent and a fucking Leviathan anymore?"

That's right, like the beast Alfonzo and Elicia faced back when they first met Sun, and the same type of magical beast that took Alfonzo's left arm once before, they were facing a Leviathan, an S-Class aquatic magical beast.

"That's not the important part.!" Elicia shouted as her hands began glowing with a gold light. "[Mend the Seams of Reality, Scylla]. For now, all we have to do is kill it."

In the next instant, with her hands glowing gold, Elicia jumped out of Sixth Sense's wheel house,. When she landed on the deck, her hands were covered in golden dragon scales. Then, once she lifted her hands in the Leviathan's direction, she made her next move.

"[Basting Stitch]." Elicia chanted as nearly all the scales on her hands shot out towards the Leviathan.

A moment later, the scales, having transformed into needles while threaded with Elicia's [Thread Magic], pierced through the leviathan's fins on its sides and tail. Then, as if they penetrated a piece of fabric behind the beast, they sank into the air. As a result, the Leviathan was held in place, not being allowed to return to the ocean.

Roar~~~~~!

Suspended in the air, the Leviathan roared in confusion, anger, and desperation. However, no matter how hard it struggled, it was unable to break the threads and needles holding it in place.

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

With their target no longer moving, Bisca, now using her sniper rifle, Last Kiss, unloaded shell after shell into the Leviathan's head, cracking and splintering scales with every shot landed. She even managed to blind one of its eyes with her first shot.

"[Guns Magic: Lightning Storm Shot]." Alzack chanted as he fired his two pistols simultaneously.

It should be noted that Alzack was not using Ebony and Ivory, the pistols Alfonzo made for him long ago. Instead, he was using a pair of pistols without much in the way of adornments that were created when his [Soul Armament], which he received after being promoted to S-Class, went through its first shift. Unfortunately, he has yet to hear the names of his [Armament Spirits]. However, like Alfonzo, his [Soul Armament] also seemed to have two [Armament Spirits], as well.

With the [Tornado Shot] and [Lightning Shot] bullets he had loaded in his pistols, the two [Guns Magic] spell combined mid-air once he fired. As a result, the Leviathan was engulfed in a violently spinning vortex of lightning.

Roar~~~~~!

This time the Leviathan's roar was one filled with pain. Despite that, at this rate, it would take all day to wear down its incredible vitality. At least, until Alfonzo involved himself in the fight.

"I fucking hate these things." Alfonzo said as he set Sixth Sense back onto the surface of the ocean. "I don't wanna deal with this thing any longer than I have to. [Run Wild with Destruction on your Fingertips. Usher in Pandemonium with Creation in Your Hands, Riot, Bedlam]."

In the next instant, Alfonzo's tonfa melted into lumps of liquid metal that quickly covered his hands and forearms. At the same time, he floated out of the wheel house before flying in front of the Leviathan. Then, while looking it in its eyes, he raised both of his arms with his fingers pointing at the beast.

A moment later, arcs of violet electricity began bouncing between Alfonzo's arms. And when the Leviathan saw this phenomenon, its angry roars ceased, replaced by frightened whimpers.

"Sorry, mother fucker." Alfonzo said as he created a conical piece of metal above his raised arms. "If you had just left my ship alone, we could have both minded our own fucking business. But you just had to start some shit. [Electromagnetism Magic: Rail Cannon]."

Then, Alfonzo loosened his control over the piece of metal, allowing it to fall into the electrical currents jumping between his arms.

Boom~~~~~!

As soon as the metal piece made contact with the electrical current, it was shot forward at nearly ten times the speed of sound, piercing the Leviathan from head to tail in less than an instant, killing it immediately.

However, Alfonzo, not one to make the same mistake twice, flashed below the Leviathan's neck. When he reappeared, a spinning circular saw was attached to his right forearm. Then, he swung his arm upwards, sending the saw blade flying at five times the speed of sound.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Supersonic Dismemberment]." Alfonzo chanted just as the saw blade left his arm.

In the next instant, the Leviathan's head fell off the rest of its body. However, thanks to the heat produced by Alfonzo's attack, it did not bleed, at all. And the only proof of Alfonzo's last two attacks were the orange streaks of superheated air that slowly dissipated as the air cooled.

"Alright, let's get going." Alfonzo said as he flew back to Sixth Sense while dispelling Riot and Bedlam's release states. "That didn't take too long. So, we might still be able to make it to Tatsumi Port Island by sundown."

Chapter 594: The Dark Hour

Not long after slaying the Leviathan, the Sixth sense docked at the port on the east side of Tatsumi Port Island. Although the people at the port were surprised to see such an exquisite ship made of metal, as metal ships were uncommon on Earth Land, what really surprised them was the massive aquatic magical beast that was towed behind it.

"What is that?" A woman standing on the port and enjoying the view of the sea asked in a panicked tone while pointing at the Leviathan's corpse.

"It's a sea serpent." A man shouted in surprise after seeing the Leviathan's corpse. "Did the people on that boat actually kill a sea serpent on their way here?"

"You're only half-right." A man wearing a sleek business suit said while adjusting his black framed glasses. "Though it is a kind of sea serpent. That's a Leviathan. An S-Class aquatic magical beast. They are among the most dangerous monsters in the seas."

That caused everyone within earshot to be surprised. And quickly, the news spread around the port, causing the population to go into a frenzy.

"Finally, someone who can recognize a Leviathan at first sight." Alfonzo said as he led the other three in disembarking from Sixth sense. "I never thought I'd see the day."

In response, Alzack, who had also misidentified the Leviathan as a sea serpent lowered his head with an embarrassed blush on his face. Meanwhile, Bisca, with a bright smile on her face, consoled him, thinking her husband was really cute when he was embarrassed.

"Be nice, Fonzie." Elicia said with a smile as she swatted at Alfonzo's arm. "You're embarrassing Alzack."

Smiling in reply, Alfonzo glanced at Alzack with a teasing glint in his eyes.

Seeing the look in Alfonzo's eyes, Alzack pouted.

"Stop teasing me, Alfonzo." Alzack said as he turned his head away. "I don't have as much time to spend in the library as you do. I need to work on my accuracy."

Though he had a lot to say about that, Alfonzo decided to let Alzack save his pride. Then, he turned his head towards the man in the suit, who was approaching the group.

"Excuse me, would you be interested in selling that Leviathan's corpse?" The man asked in an expectant tone. "Oh, please excuse my manners. I'm Shuji Ikutsuki, I work for the Kirijo Group. Oh, but you can just call me Shuji. I know my last name can be hard to pronounce. And that Leviathan's scales and skin would be great materials for defensive equipment."

The man, Shuji Ikutsuki, was a relatively tall, clean-shaven, middle-aged man with facial features that made him appear quite friendly. On top of that, his brown, shoulder-length hair was slicked back and styled very neatly.

Hearing the name, Shuji Ikutsuki, Alfonzo and Elicia slightly narrowed their eyes. However, they did not show any other emotions on their faces.

The reason for Alfonzo's and Elicia's narrowed eyes was simple. In Persona 3, Shuji Ikutsuki was first introduced as an ally to the main characters' organization. However, in the latter half of the game, he showed his true colors, betraying the main characters.

However, since they were not supposed to know about Shuji's true colors, Alfonzo and Elicia kept their calm.

"That depends." Alfonzo said, slipping into his businessman persona. "How much can the Kirijo Group offer for such a top-class magic beast corpse?"

Seeing Alfonzo's shift in aura, Shuji immediately realized that Alfonso was no simple young man. So, he began choosing his words more carefully.

"Unfortunately, I don't have the authority to decide that." Shuji replied while shaking his head. "But I'm sure our chairman would be happy to discuss the specifics with you."

"Your chairman? Are you talking about Takeharu Kirijo?" Elicia asked while tilting her head.

"That's right." Shuji said with a nod. "I assume you came from the mainland, right? I'm actually surprised you know of him. He's not very famous on the mainland, after all."

"Well, we actually came here to meet Mr. Kirijo." Alzack said in a solemn tone.

"That's right, we're wizards from Fairy Tail." Bisca added. "We're here to complete his quest."

Hearing that, Shuji narrowed his eyes for an instant. However, his expression reverted to normal quite quickly. So, no one, other than Alfonzo and Elicia, who were wary of him from the moment they heard his name, noticed.

"Well, if that's the case, allow me to take you to the Kirijo Group's headquarters." Shuji said with a friendly smile. "There, you can discuss both the details of the Ten Years Quest and sale of the Leviathan's corpse with Mr. Kirijo."

Waving off Shuji's suggestion, Alfonzo spoke his own idea, instead.

"It's already pretty late." Alfonzo said. "On top of that, we've been sailing all day. So, we'd like to get a good night's rest. How about this? You can lead us to a hotel. Then, you can tell Mr. Kirijo that we've arrived. And we'll meet with him tomorrow, if his schedule allows it."

Nodding in response, Shuji made a half turn while gesturing towards the city behind him.

"If that's the case, I'll show you to Tatsumi Port Island's best hotel." Shuji said with a smile on his face. "Then, I'll let Mr. Kirijo know of your arrival. I'm sure he would be happy to free up time in his schedule for you."

Receiving nods from the four Fairy Tail wizards, Shuji then began walking towards the port's exit.

"And don't worry about anyone stealing the Leviathan's corpse, I'll make sure there are some guards assigned to protect it."

"If there's anyone capable of taking it, then they can have it." Alfonzo said with a smile.

Rumble!

As he said that, the ground rumbled, as if something heavy had been driven into it.

In actuality, Alfonzo had used his [Metal Magic] to disconnect the chains he used to tow the Leviathan from Sixth Sense's stern. Then, he forced the ends of the chains into the ground, anchoring the Leviathan in place. On top of that, the anchors were dug rather deeply into the ground, making them exceptionally difficult to pull out.

Not long later, Shuji had shown Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca to the finest hotel on the island, a hotel owned and operated by the Kirijo Group. Then, after they received their room keys, he left, taking out an iPhone to make a call as he walked out of the hotel. Meanwhile, the wizards from Fairy Tail decided to have dinner in the hotel's dining hall before heading to their room for the knight.

"So, do you think there's a Dark Hour on this island?" Elicia asked. "That's the only reason I can think that the tower mentioned in the quest has never been seen by anyone whose come to complete this quest."

Currently, Alfonzo and Elicia, after taking a bath and getting rid of the feeling of sea salt clinging to their skin, were cuddling in the room's king-sized bed. So, with nothing to do, they began discussing things they should have no knowledge of about this quest.

"The Dark Hour, huh?" Alfonzo muttered absent-mindedly. "The unseen extra hour that only appears at midnight. Honestly, I'm not sure. I mean, we've been living in this world for more than fifteen years now. But we've never experienced anything like that."

"That could just be because we were transmogrified into coffins, couldn't it?" Elicia asked, pointing out the game's setting.

"That's true." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "but if that's the case, then we made this trip for nothing, as we'd probably just get turned into coffins when midnight hit, anyway."

"*Sigh* I know." Elicia replied as she snuggled even closer to Alfonzo. "I hope that's not the case, though. I'm curious to know how far into the storyline we are. I mean, it's already June. So, the first two Zodiac Shadows should have already been taken care of, right?"

"The first three, actually." Alfonzo corrected. "I think the one in June happens on the eighth, right?"

"I don't remember, it's been a long time since I played it." Elicia replied. "But if you're right, Akihiko, Mitsuru, and Fuuka should all be part of the team, right? I wonder what they'll be like in this world. And are Persona's a kind of magic? If so, what kind?"

"Who knows." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "But We'll probably find out when we meet the Head of the Kirijo Group tomorrow."

Nodding in response, Elicia did not continue the topic any further. Instead, she closed her eyes and wrapped her arms around Alfonzo tightly with a smile on her face.

"Good night, Fonzie." Elicia said sweetly. "Let's finish this quest fast, okay? I miss Mar'e already."

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied with a smile as he combed his fingers through Elicia's hair. "I wanna spend a few days with him before I have to go back to the Leaf Village. I wanna be there for the end of the Chunin Exam, after all. Those kids would be crushed if I wasn't there to see them compete."

Hearing that, without opening her eyes, Elicia frowned.

"I wanna see it, too." Elicia muttered. "The Konoha Crush was one of the most exciting parts of the Naruto series."

"Well, since it's the Chunin Exam finals, maybe Hiruzen will loosen the restrictions a little." Alfonzo said before kissing Elicia on the forehead. "If so, I might be able to bring a few more people with me when I go back."

"If he does, we should bring Mar'e and Grayfia with us." Elicia said with a smile. "We'll need someone to take care of Mar'e while we deal with the Sound and Sand shinobi, after all."

"You know, most parents wouldn't even consider bringing their infant child into a place they know is gonna turn into a warzone." Alfonzo said in a helpless tone.

"But I want Mar'e to see how strong and cool his mommy is." Elicia said excitedly. "Besides, if we bring Grayfia, who is basically an S-Class wizard without the title, he'll be fine."

Like that, the two continued to chat until just before midnight, when they started falling asleep. However, as soon as the clock struck midnight, everything on the island changed.

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As the day changed, every light on Tatsumi Port Island went out. On top of that, the atmosphere covering the island became much darker. Naturally, Alfonzo and Elicia, who were on the verge of falling asleep, felt the change, causing them both to snap their eyes open.

"Is this...?" Elicia asked in a surprised tone.

"The Dark Hour." Alfonzo said, answering Elicia's question. "And I think it only affects this island. I doubt it even has an effect on the rest of the world."

"That's so strange." Elicia muttered. "does that mean we're moving around in stopped time?"

"That's what it looks like." Alfonzo replied. "We should get up and see what's going on on the rest of the island."

Nodding in response, Elicia separated herself from Alfonzo's embrace. Then, she climbed out of bed and quickly put on her battle attire. Naturally, Alfonzo did the same.

Then, when they were both dressed, they moved to the room's door, expanded their [Magic Power Detection], and carefully opened the door.

"That's weird, I can't feel any of the other guests." Elicia muttered as she poked her head out of the door. "The only person I can feel in the hotel is Alzack. And he's still in the room across the hall."

"Yeah, I noticed that, too." Alfonzo said quietly. "come on, let's go see how he's doing."

With that, Alfonzo and Elicia stepped out into the hallway. And they saw what appeared to be puddles of blood dotting the floors when they looked up and down the hallway. That sight added an extra level of desolation to the dark atmosphere.

Deciding to ignore the puddles of blood, Alfonzo and Elicia approached Alzack's and Bisca's room. When they arrived outside the door, before they could even knock, the door was flung open. And Alzack, in a panicked state, rushed out, running into Alfonzo in the process.

"What?" Alzack shouted in surprise as he pointed his pistols at the obstruction. However, when he realized it was Alfonzo, he quickly lowered his guns. "Alfonzo, Lici, I'm glad it's you! Bisca! Bisca, she..."

"Calm down, Alzack." Alfonzo said sternly. "Tell us what happened calmly."

"That's right." Elicia added. "What ever happened to Bisca, we won't be able to do anything about it until we know what's happened. So, just tell us calmly."

Hearing how calm Alfonzo and Elicia were, Alzack took a few deep breaths. Then, after he was able to calm himself down a little, he gestured for the two to enter his room.

When the trio entered Alzack's room, the first thing they saw was a black coffin exuding a red aura lying on top of the bed. The next thing they noticed were all the clothes scattered around the room. And although the situation was a rather serious one, Alfonzo and Elicia could not help but smirk while turning their gazes to Alzack.

Knowing exactly what his two longtime friends were thinking, Alzack blushed slightly. However, he was too worried about his wife to worry about that. So, he looked at them solemnly.

"Bisca and I were... busy with something." Alzack said in an awkward tone. "And just as we were about to finish, Bisca turned into... that."

'Damn, I hope Alzack didn't turn impotent from the shock.' Alfonzo thought to himself while looking at Alzack with pity.

"The question is, why did this happen?" Elicia asked. Though she was thinking the same as Alfonzo, she managed to get her question out with little change in her expression. "The three of us are fine. So, what's the difference?"

While Alfonzo and Elicia were familiar with the phenomenon going on, thanks to playing Persona 3 in their past lives, they had no idea what it meant in this world. So, they both stopped to think of what the issue was, and why they were unaffected by the Dark Hour.

After a few minutes of silence, Alfonzo had an idea. And although it sounded crazy to him, it was the only thing he could think of.

"I have an idea." Alfonzo said solemnly. "It's the thing the three of us have in common, but Bisca doesn't."

"That we're S-Class wizards?" Elicia asked in a serious tone.

"Although that's true, that's not what I'm talking about." Alfonzo replied.

In that instant, Alzack raised his head with a look of realization on his face.

"It's because we have [Soul Armaments]." Alzack said.

"Yeah, that's what I was thinking, too." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Honestly, I don't know why that would make a difference, but it's the only thing I could think of."

In actuality, Alfonzo had an idea about that. In Persona 3, the only people who could move around during the Dark Hour were the people who gained the potential to wield a Persona, which was the power of one's soul, to be vague about it. And a [Soul Armament] did exactly the same thing for wizards.

And with that line of thinking, Alfonzo believed that people wielding Zanpakuto, such as Kaguya Mikazuchi and Retsu Unohana, would be able to operate during the Dark Hour, as well.

"I think this has something to do with the reason none of the wizards who took this quest in the past could see or even find the tower mentioned on the quest sheet, too." Alfonzo continued.

"If that's the case, what are we gonna do?" Alzack asked in an anxious tone. "Bisca doesn't have a [soul Armament]. And that means she'll be in this state until we get her off the island or things go back to normal."

"On top of that, she won't be able to participate in this quest, either." Elicia added.

"Well, we should be able to do something about that... probably." Alfonzo said as he drew his tonfa from the strap on his lower back. "[run Wild with Destruction on Your fingertips. Usher in Pandemonium with Creation in Your Hands. Riot, Bedlam]."

Once again, Alfonzo was covered in liquid metal. Then, he raised his right hand to chest level. A moment later, a metallic necklace appeared in his hand. Fixed on the necklace, was a bullet shaped pendant. This pendant was a [Soul Armament Embryo].

"Here, try putting this on that coffin that Bisca turned into." Alfonzo said as he extended the [Soul Armament Embryo] to Alzack. "I don't know if this will work while she's in that state, but hopefully it will reverse the transformation."

Nodding solemnly, Alzack accepted the necklace. Then, once his hands were empty, Alfonzo turned around and started walking towards the door to leave.

"Alfonzo?" Alzack asked in surprise. "Where are you going?"

"Well, if it works, Bisca's gonna be as naked as the day she was born. And unless you wanted me to see her like that, I thought I should leave. But if you did, I gotta say, I'm not really into that. Your wife is your wife, Alzack. And I'm not into sharing my friends' wives."

Immediately, Alzack began to blush in embarrassment. Though, not because he was implied to be into swinging. Instead, it was because he thought about what he and Bisca were doing before everything changed.

"Got it." Alzack replied while nodding his head frantically. "I'll come get you if it works."

Nodding his head, Alfonzo, closely followed by Elicia, left Alzack's and Bisca's room. Meanwhile, Alzack carefully placed the [soul Armament Embryo] on top of the coffin, where he expected Bisca's chest to be. Then, he waited.

Meanwhile, at the Kirijo Group's headquarters, in the chairman's office, Shuji, a middle-aged man, and a beautiful, teenaged girl were watching the image of Alfonzo and Elicia exiting Alzack's room through a remote viewing lacrima. And they were surprised to see the two of them glance at the lacrima that was monitoring the hall just before they re-entered their hotel room.

"It looks like we've found someone who can handle the Dark Hour." The man sitting at the large desk in the office, said in a calm, yet relieved tone. "Finally, we'll have some information about what lies beyond the tower's lobby."

"Only if they survive and return to report about it." The teenaged girl said in a somewhat cold tone with her arms crossed in front of her chest.

Chapter 595: Takeharu and Mitsuru Kirijo

After Alfonzo handed the [Soul Armament Embryo] to Alzack and left his room, Alzack placed it on the coffin Bisca turned into. Then, there was nothing to do but wait. However, with his [magic Power Detection] active, Alzack noticed that inside the coffin, Bisca's magic power began circulating on its own. And as luck would have it, it also circulated through the [Soul Armament Embryo].

Unfortunately, Alzack was aware that there was no possibility for the [Soul Armament Embryo] to go through its first shift in a short time. IN Alzack's experience, he knew it would take at least three months. And that was only if Bisca was exceptionally talented.

Alfonzo and Elicia also knew this. However, they were not betting on Bisca causing the first shift so quickly. Instead, they were hoping it would awaken her potential. The potential to wield a Persona, that is. Even if they had no intention of diving into this field of magic.

Just having the potential would be enough to let Bisca break out of her transmogrified state and act during the Dark Hour. And that would be enough for them.

"Come on, Bisca." Alzack muttered as he sat on the edge of the bed and watched over the coffin where his wife slept. "I miss you already."

Like that, twenty minutes passed. As time went by, the speed at which Bisca's magic power flowed increased. And finally, the red aura emitted from the coffin began to expand, covering the entire bed.

Seeing this, Alzack did not know what was going on. So, he stood up from the bed and watched carefully. The thought of going to get Alfonzo and Elicia had run through his mind, though. But after remembering what Alfonzo said, he held down that impulse.

After another five minutes, during which, the glow of the red aura intensified, the red light finally exploded outwards. A moment later, it all collapsed in on itself. And when it finally died out, Bisca, still in the position she was in when the Dark Hour began, reappeared on the bed.

"Ahh! Harder! Alzack fu--- Huh?" Bisca, still gripped in the throes of passion, screamed until she realized she was feeling much more... empty than she thought she should. "Alzack, what hap---"

"Bisca!" Alzack cried as he threw himself towards his wife. "I'm glad you're okay!"

Being wrapped in a hug was not unexpected, considering what she was doing with Alzack only a moment before... to her at least. However, the fact that Alzack was fully clothed with tears forming in his eyes, completely confused Bisca. She was so confused, in fact, that she still had yet to notice the change in atmosphere in the room.

"Alzack, what's going on?" Bisca asked, completely confused by the turn of events.

Not wasting any time, Alzack explained everything that he knew. Then, he held Bisca by the hand and looked deeply into Bisca's eyes.

"Let's go tell Alfonzo and Lici that everything is fine." Alzack said in a tone that suggested that a weight had been lifted from his shoulders.

In response, Bisca looked down at the bullet-shaped pendant hanging around her neck. Then, she smiled brightly at finally having her own [Soul Armament]. However, she did not move to get out of bed. Instead, she gripped Alzack's hand tightly. Then, she pulled him on top of herself and kissed him passionately.

At first, Alzack was surprised. A moment later, however, he was sucked into Bisca's pace. Then, after a few more moments, he regained his senses and pulled away from her.

"Bisca, we really should let them know." Alzack said, completely understanding Bisca's excitement.

At least, Alzack thought he understood his wife's excitement. And he was partially correct. Bisca was truly excited about receiving a [Soul Armament]. However, she was even more excited to take advantage of the extra hour provided by the Dark Hour. And she wanted to put it to use before it was too late.

"Don't worry, we'll naturally tell them soon." Bisca said, putting on a seductive smile as she did so. "But first, I think we should celebrate. Celebrate the fact that I got a [Soul Armament] and was freed from that coffin."

Then, without waiting for a reply, Bisca pulled Alzack down again while simultaneously removing all his clothing.

As it turns out, like Mirajane, Bisca was also looking forward to having a child. And the extra hour they would get while on Tatsumi Port Island would help her in her endeavors.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Elicia, who had spread out their [Magic Power Detection] to its limits to monitor the situation on the island, immediately noticed when Bisca returned to normal. However, just as they were about to get up and check on her, they noticed that she and Alzack were sticking extremely close to one another.

"Well, I guess we know what they're doing." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly.

"If they can do that right away, then it probably means that everything is fine." Elicia replied. Then, she turned towards Alfonzo with a seductive smile of her own on her face. "So, why don't we try for another one? I'm sure Mar'e would like having more siblings, right?"

Then, like Bisca had done, Elicia initiated a passionate round of love making.

Needless to say, the Dark Hour had long been over by the time the two couples finished their baby making activities.

The next morning, the four Fairy Tail wizards woke up later than usual. As it turns out, operating during the Dark Hour puts a much greater strain on a person's stamina than any other type of all-nighter. So, when they all eventually gathered in the hotel's dining room, they all looked a little more sluggish than usual.

"So, Bisca, how are you feeling after last night?" Elicia asked shortly after the waiter served everyone breakfast. "There are no lingering effects from turning into a coffin, are there?"

When Elicia asked her first question, both Alzack and Bisca's faces were tinted red, thinking she knew that they had immediately started having sex instead of reporting that Bisca was fine. However, when she continued, they realized that she was just concerned with Bisca's well-being. Still, it confirmed that she knew that Bisca had returned to normal before the end of the Dark Hour.

"Uh... Oh... Um... Yeah... I'm fine." Bisca stuttered out. "There are no problems. But I'm more tired than usual."

Not knowing that her tiredness was caused by the Dark Hour, Bisca blushed even harder, thinking that she had just told on herself.

"Yeah, me, too." Elicia replied. "I think that change in atmosphere last night had something to do with it."

Nodding her head frantically, Bisca was happy to agree with Elicia's statement.

"*Cough* Anyway, we're gonna meet with the chairman of the Kirijo Group today, right?" Alzack asked, trying to change the subject as quickly as possible.

"Hopefully." Alfonzo replied while giving Alzack and Bisca a knowing smile. "If he can open up time for us in his schedule, than we will."

Nodding in reply, Alzack dug into his breakfast and continued to eat. Meanwhile, the group chatted about what they knew about the Dark Hour. Though, it was admittedly not much. The only things the four could say with certainty were the facts that time was stopped during the Dark Hour and that stamina consumption was increased.

Around the time the quartet was finished eating, the man they met yesterday, Shuji entered the dining room. Then, after looking around for a moment, he started approaching the table where the Fairy Tail wizards were sitting.

Good morning." Shuji said with a friendly smile on his face. "I hope you enjoyed your stay last night."

"I'm sure you already know how our night went." Alfonzo said indifferently. "After all, you watched us go from one room to another during that weird time when time stopped, right?"

Hearing that, Elicia wore an indifferent expression like Alfonzo. Alzack and Bisca, on the other hand, were surprised. Because of everything that happened, they did not pay attention to their surroundings too much, even if they had their [Magic Power Detection] active the whole time.

Shuji managed to keep his composure after Alfonzo's statement. He already knew that Alfonzo and Elicia had noticed the surveillance lacrima, after all. However, that did not stop him from being surprised at Alfonzo's directness.

"My apologies." Shuji said while bowing politely. "Those surveillance lacrima are set up in most areas of the island. Otherwise, we would not be able to find those who have the potential to act during the Dark Hour."

"Sure." Alfonzo replied impassively. "Anyway, since you're here, I guess the time of our meeting with Mr. Kirijo has been decided, correct?"

Thinking their attitude after finding out they were being spied on was normal, Shuji did not pay it much mind. Little did he know, however, that Alfonzo and Elicia were just using this as an excuse to show the disdain they felt for his character from the game.

"That's right." Shuji replied with a nod. "If it's alright with you, Mr. Kirijo is willing to meet you right now. This issue is more important than anything else on his schedule, after all."

Nodding in response, the group of four stood up from the table. Just before they left, Alfonzo dropped a stack of Jewels on the table as a tip. Then, they left the hotel.

After leaving the hotel, it only took the group fifteen minutes to arrive at the Kirijo Group's headquarters, where they immediately headed up to the building's top floor, where Takeharu Kirijo's office was located.

Knock! *Knock!*

"Mr. Kirijo, I've brought the wizards from Fairy Tail." Shuji said after knocking on the door to the office.

"Come in." The deep voice of a man replied from the other side of the door.

Taking that as a cue, Shuji turned the doorknob and pushed the door open before gesturing for Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca to enter.

Upon entering the office, the group of four saw two people, the middle-aged man and the teenaged girl who were observing them through the surveillance system last night.

The man sitting behind the desk was an impressive looking man wearing a three-piece suit with a grey jacket and slacks, a black vest, a white collared shirt, and a red tie. He had black hair that was neatly parted on the left and starting to grey, an eyepatch covering his right eye, and a grey left eye.

The girl standing next to the man was beautiful, tall, and wore a stern expression with her arms crossed in front of her chest. Wearing a thin, sleeveless, white turtleneck, black pants, and white boots, she had long, waist-length dark red hair with bangs that covered the left side of her face and a lock that hung over her left shoulder and rested on her chest. Meanwhile, her brown eyes watched the guests like a hawk.

"Welcome." The man, Takeharu Kirijo, said as he stood up from behind his desk. "I'd like to thank you for accepting my quest. It's been ten years, yet no one has been able to solve it."

As he spoke, Takeharu reached his hand out across his desk to shake hands with the one he assumed to be the leader of the party, Alfonzo. Naturally, Alfonzo reciprocated, shaking Takeharu's hand firmly.

"Well, as members of Fairy Tail, it's kinda what we do." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "And we'll definitely complete your quest, as well."

"Good." Takeharu replied with a nod. "I like your confidence. But I expected nothing less from the Master of Metal, Alfonzo Marcus."

After naming Alfonzo with his epitaph, Takeharu turned his attention to Elicia, who was just as famous, if not more, thanks to being the owner of the Taylor Shop, rather than her skill as a wizard.

"And this must be your first wife, Elicia Marcus Taylor, if I'm not mistaken." Takeharu said as he extended his hand towards Elicia for a handshake, as well.

Unfortunately, Elicia was not paying attention to Takeharu at all. Instead, her eyes were fixed on the teenaged girl. And they were sparkling. To anyone who knew her, they would know exactly what was going through her mind at this time.

Not receiving a handshake, Takeharu lowered his hand awkwardly. Then, he followed Elicia's line of sight, and his eyes landed on the girl, his daughter, Mitsuru Kirijo.

"*Sigh* Sorry about that." Alfonzo said while shaking his head tiredly. "When Lici sees someone she wants to make clothes for, she sometimes... No, usually loses track of everything else. And the person she sets her eyes on usually ends up with quite a few custom outfits at no charge."

Hearing that, Takeharu was dumbfounded. A moment later, however, he smiled helplessly, his smile looking a lot like the one Alfonzo was wearing.

"Well then, I guess my daughter is quite lucky." Takeharu said. "Oh, and allow me to introduce you to my daughter, Mitsuru."

With that, the girl, Mitsuru, did her best to ignore Elicia's passionate stare that made her feel a bit uncomfortable, yet excited to possibly get free custom clothes from the owner of the Taylor Shop, and took a step forward before placing her right hand on her chest.

"It's my pleasure to meet you." Mitsuru said elegantly. "As my father said, I am Mitsuru Kirijo. And I will be working with you during this quest."

While Alfonzo and Elicia were expecting to work with Mitsuru in some capacity, Alzack and Bisca were taken aback. This was a Ten Years Quest, after all. And although Mitsuru was not completely lacking magic power, the amount they could feel from her was quite low for a quest of this level.

"I know you must be confused by my daughter's declaration, but please, let's have a seat so I can explain everything to you." Takeharu said as he gestured towards a pair of couches on either side of a glass coffee table.

Chapter 596: The Operation Begins

After the introductions, Takeharu led the wizards from Fairy Tail and his daughter, Mitsuru, to take seats on the previously mentioned couches. Shuji, on the other hand, stood behind the couch where the Kirijo father and daughter sat.

"Allow me to tell you a little more about the quest you've accepted." Takeharu said in a solemn tone.

"Yeah, considering it has been uncompleted for ten years, I'm pretty sure you have a lot to say." Alfonzo, acting as the group's leader, replied.

"That's right." Takeharu replied with a nod. "Before anything else, let me talk about that strange period you experienced last night. We call it the Dark Hour."

With that, Takeharu went on to explain about time stopping during the Dark Hour, normal people transmogrifying into coffins, and, perhaps the most important part of this quest, the tower that only appears during the Dark Hour. However, he was not done with just that.

"Then, there are the special magic beasts that show up only during the Dark Hour, as well." Takeharu said, nearing the end of his explanation. "We call them Shadows, and they are created from the negativity, or darkness, in people's hearts. And from what we know, normal weapons and magic do not work on them."

"So, that's why no one had ever seen the tower mentioned on the quest sheet before, huh?" Bisca asked.

"And what's up with those magic beasts?" Alzack asked in a confused tone. "What do you mean normal weapons and magic don't work on them?"

"Well, that's a bit inaccurate." Takeharu said. "We don't actually know if normal weapons work on them. Since normal people are stuck in their coffins during the Dark Hour."

"In other words, you have no idea what their weaknesses are?" Elicia asked while tilting her head in curiosity.

"That's not completely correct, either." Takeharu replied as he gave Shuji a signal. "We do know one thing that can hurt them."

With that, Shuji picked up a briefcase that was placed behind the couch where Takeharu and Mitsuru sat. Then, he handed it to Takeharu, who placed it on the coffee table between the two couches.

"With these, we've found a way to combat the Shadows." Takeharu said as he opened the briefcase.

Inside the case, there was a silver pistol. However, when the four wizards saw it, they all wore strange expression, though Alfonzo's and Elicia's were faked. Takeharu had just said that normal weapons did not work on Shadows, after all.

"Seriously? A gun?" Alfonzo asked in a tone of feigned disappointment.

"*Chuckle* I know what it looks like." Takeharu replied in an amused tone. "but I assure you, this is no normal pistol. Please, take a look for yourself."

With that, Takeharu gestured towards the pistol. And Alfonzo wasted no time picking it up. He wanted to see what it was made of, after all.

'Hmm... It's made from the same alloy used in the construction of asauchi.' Alfonzo muttered to himself internally. 'On top of that, the sigils carved into it have a limited effect of manifesting an [Armament Spirit] or something similar. The only question is, how do people give birth to Personas, which are basically Zanpakuto or [Armament Spirits]. Do they have to confront their inner selves like in P4 and P5?'

After his initial check of the pistol in his hands, Alfonzo slipped into his own thoughts, forgetting where he was. Luckily, Elicia knew him well enough to see what had happened. So, she nudged him with her elbow to bring him back to the here and now.

"Ah! Sorry about that." Alfonzo exclaimed with a slightly embarrassed expression on his face. "I was just surprised how similar this thing was to some of the stuff I've come across in the past."

"That makes sense." Takeharu replied with a nod. "I've heard that you have a good relationship with the former master of Mermaid Heel, Retsu Unohana. So, it doesn't surprise me that you've seen something similar."

'Now I get it.' Alfonzo said to himself while nodding internally. 'These things are probably made from failed technology they managed to reverse engineer from where Master Unohana came from. I wanna call it Soul Society, but I'm not sure if that's right.'

At that point, Alfonzo passed the pistol to the rest of his party. And they all felt something familiar coming from the pistol, as well. However, until Takeharu mentioned it, they could not figure out what that feeling was.

"So, it's just like our [Soul Armaments], huh?" Alzack asked curiously.

"[Soul Armaments]?" Takeharu asked in a confused tone.

Not only Takeharu, but Shuji and Mitsuru also wore expressions that made it clear they had no idea what Alzack was talking about.

"It's actually the reason we can move during what you call 'the Dark Hour'." Elicia said as she lifted the wristband holding the golden, dragon motif sewing needles on her left wrist. "Fonzie made these to imitate the Zanpakuto Master Unohana wields."

"I see." Takeharu replied with a nod while his visible eye focused on the wristband.

Mitsuru was also focused on the wristband as well.

"Would it be possible for us to buy some of those?" Mitsuru asked.

In response, Alfonzo shook his head.

"Sorry, but I can't do that." Alfonzo replied. "[Soul Armaments] are one of our guild's trump cards."

"I see." Mitsuru replied in a disappointed tone.

With that, Mitsuru lowered her head. She wanted to ask if she could join the guild to get one. But she realized that was not the right thing to say. Even if she was anxious to destroy the Shadows and the tower, she would not let that desire blind her. Since she did not have the desire to be a wizard in the true sense, joining the guild would be a bad idea.

Able to see through Mitsuru's thoughts, Alfonzo smiled.

"That wouldn't have worked, even if you were willing to join our guild." Alfonzo said. "These are only given out to newly promoted S-Class wizards. And with the amount of magic power I can feel coming from you, it would take a long time for you to reach that point."

"Anyway, what did you mean you would be working with us during this quest?" Elicia asked, trying to change the subject after seeing that Mitsuru seemed a little demoralized.

"Yes, allow me to explain." Takeharu said with a nod. "Mitsuru has awakened the ability to use what we call a 'Persona'. The power to manifest one's true self to assist them in battle. And each Persona is unique, having its own set of powers and abilities."

"So, they really are like [Armament Spirits]." Bisca muttered in interest. Then, she turned her attention back to the pistol she was holding. "But where does this come in?"

"That is what we use to bring out our Personas during battle." Mitsuru replied. "It's called an Evoker."

Hearing that, Alfonzo and Elicia could tell that Alzack and Bisca expected Mitsuru to point the pistol at an enemy and fire like any other gun, despite the fact that there was no ammunition in the pistol. So, they were really looking forward to seeing their reactions when they saw how the Evoker was actually used.

"Back to the topic, Mitsuru will not be climbing the tower with you." Takeharu said. "Instead, she'll be on the ground floor, where we know that Shadows do not spawn. From there, she will guide you, as her Persona gives her some limited mapping abilities in the tower."

Hearing that, Alfonzo and Elicia exchanged glances while thinking the same thing.

'If she's gonna be leading us, that means Fuuka isn't part of S.E.E.S. yet.' The couple thought simultaneously. 'But if it's already mid-June, why isn't she part of the team already? Wait, does this mean we're in a prequel arc?'

"Why don't you just give us the map ahead of time so we can study it?" Alzack asked with a slight frown on his face.

"*Sigh* It's because the floors of Tartarus change every time the Dark Hour comes." Takeharu replied while shaking his head. "So, even if we gave you a map to study, it wouldn't help at all."

Alzack and Bisca were dumbfounded when they heard that. Naturally, Alfonzo and Elicia faked similar expressions.

"So, where does this tower actually show up?" Alfonzo asked, trying to move the conversation forward. "I think it would be better for us to get there before the Dark Hour starts. That way, we'll have more time to move around in the tower."

"Agreed." Takeharu replied with a nod. "It transforms from the only secondary learning institution located on this island, Gekkokan High School."

Everything they've experienced ever since they landed on this island has done nothing less than shock Alzack and Bisca. Despite that, it never felt like they would get used to it.

"This place is so weird." Bisca muttered.

"Yeah, what makes an island have so many abnormal things on it?" Alzack asked.

In response, the Kirijo father and daughter remained silent. And had Alzack and Bisca been paying attention, they would have noticed a flicker of guilt in their eyes. Unfortunately, they were too focused on all the weird things they had experienced since they arrived on Tatsumi Port Island.

"So, is there anything else we should know?" Alfonzo asked after glancing at his overwhelmed friends for a moment.

"No, that's all the information I can give you." Takeharu replied. "If I knew anything else, I would tell you, though."

Hearing that, Alfonzo narrowed his eyes. However, he did not say anything in the end.

"If that's everything, then let's go." Elicia said excitedly as she stood up from the couch. "We've got a long time until Midnight."

Then, without giving anyone the time to react, Elicia ran around the coffee table, grabbed Mitsuru by the arm, pulled her up from her seat on the couch, and started dragging her towards the office's door.

"Huh? Hey! Wait!" Mitsuru shouted in a confused tone as she struggled to get out of Elicia's grip. "Let go! I can walk by myself!"

"We're gonna have so much fun." Elicia said, not paying any mind to Mitsuru's struggle. "So, what's your favorite style of clothing? What's your favorite color to wear? Do you like..."

Elicia quickly dragged Mitsuru out of the office, leaving Alfonzo, Alzack, and Bisca smiling wryly while Takeharu and Shuji could only look on in dumbfounded amazement. Then, the two middle-aged men turned their gazes towards the three Fairy Tail wizards as the sounds of Mitsuru struggling while Elicia bombarded her with questions echoed through the corridors of the Kirijo Group HQ.

"Don't worry, she'll be fine." Alfonzo said while scratching the back of his head. "Lici's just going to take her somewhere where she can take your daughter's measurements and design a few outfits for her.... Whether she wants to or not..."

The dumbfounded expressions on Takeharu and Shuji's faces remained after Alfonzo's explanation. And to be honest, he could not really blame them. So, he just stood up and got ready to leave, as well.

"Well, I guess we'll get going." Alfonzo said. "We shouldn't have any problem finding the school you mentioned. So, we won't need a guide."

Then, without giving the two a chance to reply, Alfonzo gestured for Alzack and Bisca to follow him. Then, the two left the Kirijo Group's headquarters and headed back to their hotel. However, when they got there, Elicia was nowhere to be seen.

Instead, because she did not want any accidents to happen while Elicia was taking her measurements, Mitsuru strongly refused going back to the hotel where the others stayed. So, she led Elicia to the villa where she lived with her father, when she was not at school, as she stayed in a dorm Gekkokan High School. In fact, she should have been at school right now. But since this was so important, she asked for a day of leave.

Like that, time passed quickly. After disappearing with Mitsuru, Elicia did not return to the hotel. However, Alfonzo and the others were not worried. They figured that Elicia had gotten carried away with making clothes for Mitsuru, which was correct. But ever since the day she made herself and Alfonzo late for their first B-Class quest, she never let her passion get in the way of her job again. So, they knew they would see her at Gekkokan High School before midnight.

Ten minutes before midnight, Alfonzo, Alzack, and Bisca had gathered outside the front gate of Gekkokan High School.

"I thought Lici would be here by now." Bisca muttered as she looked at the clock tower in the town.

"Don't worry, she'll be here on time." Alfonzo said with a smile. "IN fact, she's on her way here now. And she's with Mitsuru."

Vroom!

As if waiting for Alfonzo to say that, the sound of an engine could be heard fast approaching. Then, after a few seconds, the vehicle could be seen. And it was a white motorcycle with two people riding atop it.

"Well, I wasn't expecting that." Alzack muttered. "I thought only Master Unohana was the only lady on Ishgar who was into motorcycles."

Eventually, the white motorcycle, that looked like a Honda CBR 1000RR pulled up next to the trio. Then Mitsuru, who was driving, and Elicia, who was hugging Mitsuru's waist took off their helmets.

"See, I told you we wouldn't be late." Elicia said with a smile as she climbed down from Mitsuru's motorcycle.

"We would have been here even earlier if you had just listened to me." Mitsuru replied in a disgruntle tone.

"But then you wouldn't have had that riding suit, would you?" Elicia asked with a cheeky smile on her face.

As Elicia said, instead of the sleeveless turtleneck and white pants she was wearing earlier in the day, Mitsuru was now wearing a black, leather motorcycle riding suit with red and white accents, which made her look incredibly sexy.

"Yes, I would have." Mitsuru replied as she swung her leg from over the motorcycle's seat. "Because you had already given it to me. But you forced me to wear it, even though it was already time for us to leave."

In response, Elicia smiled innocently while whistling a tune as she clung onto Alfonzo's arm. This only caused Mitsuru, who was strict with herself and others, to glare at her. Meanwhile, Bisca leaned close to Alzack and whispered into his ear.

"Should I ask Lici to make me an outfit like that?" Bisca asked in a seductive tone.

"Huh? But you don't have a--- Oh~~~~!" Alzack replied before he understood what Bisca was getting at. Then, he nodded his head vigorously with a lecherous smile on his face.

Like that, the group continued to wait for midnight. Then, when it finally arrived, the atmosphere on the island changed once again. However, an even bigger change started on the other side of the Gekkokan High School's gate.

Chapter 597: Tartarus

As soon as the clock struck midnight, the atmosphere on the island turned dark once again, and all the lights went out. However, that was to be expected after what the Fairy Tail wizards experienced the night before. What was completely unexpected, however, was the changes the school in front of them was undergoing.

As the atmosphere of the Dark Hour enveloped the school, its entire structure began to change. Then, in a truly physics defying display, the school began to grow as it took on a sinister feel and shot miles up into the sky.

"What... the... hell?" Alzack muttered in an astonished tone as he looked up and watched the tower grow continuously.

"How is that even possible?" Bisca asked in an equally amazed tone.

"That is the tower mentioned on the quest sheet." Mitsuru said in a solemn tone. "We call it Tartarus."

Tartarus had a dark, gothic architectural design. And with its unreal height, it blocked part of the sight of the moon, which was tinted green because of the Dark Hour. However, with its height, it was hard to take in its full grandeur. But the large doors that acted as its entrance were enough to let them know just how colossal the structure was.

"Well, let's go inside." Alfonzo said firmly. "We're burning day--- Dark Hour light?" Alfonzo said, correcting himself in a questioning tone. "And I need to be done with this quest by the twenty-fifth."

Alfonzo's little slip of the tongue was enough to break the tension, causing Alzack, Bisca, and Mitsuru to look at him weirdly. Meanwhile, Elicia just smiled before hopping up to kiss him on the cheek.

"Fonzie, you're so cute sometimes." Elicia said as she held Alfonzo's hand. Then, she looked towards the other three while her expression turned solemn. "but Fonzie's right, standing out here won't get the job done, right?"

Nodding solemnly, Alzack and Bisca followed closely when Alfonzo and Elicia took the lead to enter Tartarus. Meanwhile, Mitsuru, who had seen Tartarus an innumerable amount of times over the past few years, was surprised by the way the group of four wizards entered somewhere so dangerous without hesitation.

"I guess guild wizards are just different." Mitsuru muttered to herself as she pushed her motorcycle and followed the Fairy Tail wizards inside. "**Sigh* Maybe we should have called them before that accident happened and Aragaki left us."

Entering the first floor of the group of five found themselves in a large, circular entrance hall. In the center of the hall, there was a long flight of stairs leading up to a pair of double doors. However, if you were to look beneath those stairs, you would see there was nothing supporting them, despite how high they climbed.

To the left of the stairs, there was what appeared to be a large grandfather clock. However, this clock seemed to be made entirely of a metal resembling bronze. On top of that, the hands were not moving. But on second thought, that made sense, considering that time was stopped during the Dark Hour.

To the right of the stairs was a strange construct with four short pillars jutting up from the four cardinal directions. In the center of these short pillars was a circular platform that looked as if it was waiting to be activated.

"This place is huge." Alzack muttered while looking around. "And how the hell are those stairs not falling down?"

"I don't know." Bisca replied with her eyes focused on the clock. "I'm more curious to know what that is. Why is there a clock in a place that exists only during stopped time?"

"We've yet to find a purpose for that clock." Mitsuru replied as she pushed her motorcycle to the right side of the stairs. Then, she pointed towards the circular platform surrounded by the short pillars. "But we do know what that is."

Hearing that, the four Fairy Tail wizards turned their attention in the same direction, waiting for Mitsuru's explanation.

"It's a teleporter." Mitsuru continued. "It's how you get back down from the higher floors, since there are no stairs leading down. At least, that's what we've surmised, since the stairs you use to climb up seem to disappear once you get to the next floor."

"Well, as long as we have a way down, we'll manage." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "Anyway, is there anything else we should know before we get going Miss Kirijo?"

"Unfortunately, we don't have any more information than that." Mitsuru replied while shaking her head. "None of the exploration teams have ever made it higher than the second floor in the past."

"Oh, this is going to be wonderful." Alzack said in a dry tone.

"Don't be so negative, hon." Bisca said with a smile. "We're going to see something that no one has ever seen before, right?"

"*Sigh* I guess." Alzack replied.

"Well then, if you're ready to go, I'll get started, then." Mitsuru said as she lifted the backseat of her motorcycle.

A moment later, Mitsuru pulled an Evoker Pistol from the motorcycle's storage space. Then, she placed the muzzle on the side of her head, looking as though she were about to commit suicide. And just as Alfonzo and Elicia thought, the expressions Alzack and Bisca wore when they saw that were priceless.

"[Penthesilea]." Mitsuru said as she pulled the trigger of the Evoker Pistol.

In the next instant, the pistol's recoil forced Mitsuru's hand away from her head. At the same time, her head jerked to the left, as if she had been shot. However, there was no wound or blood splatter. Instead, Mitsuru was covered in a cloak of blue magic power while incandescent blue butterflies circled around her.

A moment later, the transparent figure of a woman wearing a mask that covered the entirety of her face, and a blue, nobleman's pants suit with black high heels and white gloves appeared floating behind Mitsuru. In the female figure's right hand, she held a dagger with a triangular blade while a rapier was held in her left.

"Whoa!" Alzack exclaimed in surprise.

"This is my [Persona], Penthesilea." Mitsuru said, gesturing towards the figure floating behind her. "She'll help me guide you through the tower."

With that, Mitsuru once again reached into her motorcycle's storage compartment. Then, she pulled out a small case. In that case, there were five small magic items.

"Everyone, please put one of these in your ear." Mitsuru said as she extended the case forward. "These will allow us to communicate within the tower."

"Can't we just use our iPhones?" Bisca asked as she took out her iPhone. "Don't tell me you don't have one. Have they not spread in popularity all the way out here? But I saw that Ikutsuki guy with one earlier today."

"No, I have one as well." Mitsuru replied while shaking her head. "But the Dark Hour has a strange effect on communication devices. iPhones, and even normal communication lacrima don't work during the Dark Hour."

"Really?" Bisca asked as she glanced at the iPhone's connection. "Wow! It's true! That's the first time I've ever seen my iPhone without a connection."

Shaking his head with a smile, Alfonzo was the first to take one of the communication devices Mitsuru offered. Elicia followed him shortly afterwards. Then, Alzack and Bisca each took one, as well. Finally, Mitsuru put the last remaining magic item into her ear.

"Alright then, let's get moving." Alfonzo said once his communication device was in his ear securely. "We shouldn't have much time until the Dark Hour ends. So we should try and make as much progress as we can."

Receiving nods in return, Alfonzo led the group of wizards up the stairs.

"I'll keep you all posted about your progress when clearing each floor." Mitsuru said solemnly.

"Got it." Alfonzo replied as he waved over his shoulder.

A few minutes later, Alfonzo reached the top of the stairs. When he did, he paused for a moment to look back at his party. Then, when he once again received nods from all of them, he placed his hand on the doors and pushed.

As soon as the doors opened, the wizards of Fairy Tail could not see anything on the other side. This did not stop them from walking through it, though.

In the next instant, after a brief period of weightlessness, the group found themselves in a new location. And just as Mitsuru said, when they looked back, the stairs they used to arrive here were no longer present.

{"Can everyone hear me?"} Mitsuru asked through the communications devices. "You're currently on the second floor. Currently, the only thing I can see on the map Penthesilea created is the room you are

in. Please move forward and I will let you know when the stairs are nearby or when you've completed the floor, if you'd rather check every nook and cranny."

"Got it." Alfonzo replied.

"By the way, one of the quest objectives was to put down a monster called the Reaper." Elicia said as she started walking along with Alfonzo. "Any idea where we can find it?"

{"That's the thing..."} Mitsuru said hesitantly. {"It has no fixed location. From what we can tell, it will only appear when people have stayed on a floor for too long. But since we've only been able to send people up to the floor you are on, we don't have many points of reference."}

"I see." Elicia replied with a nod.

"We'll just have to figure it out as we go." Alfonzo said with a shrug of his shoulders. "Until then, we'll just worry about finding the Old Document first."

Once again, Alfonzo received nods from the rest of his party.

With that, the Tartarus exploration began in earnest.

Entering the next room, the group saw a rectangular room with pillars on either side of the entrance they just came through. There were also passages leading out of the sides of the room. However, they would not be able to go forward, as there was a wall blocking the path.

ON top of that, there was a slime-like creature scooting around in front of the aforementioned wall.

"Is that a shadow?" Bisca asked in curiosity. "It looks like one of those weak slimes you see in caves."

{"Don't let its appearance fool you."} Mitsuru replied over the comms. {"Although it only looks like there's one in front of you. When it notices you, it may divide into several. I'd suggest sneaking up to it and striking it from behind. Although it will still divide into more than one Shadow, they'll all be stunned for a short while."}

By the time Mitsuru finished speaking, Alfonzo had already raised his right hand. On top of that, it was sparking with violet electricity. Plus, there was a chunk of metal floating above his outstretched index finger.

"Well, we can sneak attack it from here." Alfonzo said with a smile. "Besides, I'm curious to know just how strong the structures in the tower are."

{"Huh? What are you talking about?"} Mitsuru asked in a confused tone.

"Brace for impact." Alfonzo said as the chunk of metal fell onto his fingertip. "[Electromagnetism Magic: Railgun]."

Boom! *Boom!*

In the next instant, a sonic boom deafened the surroundings. On top of that, an orange streak of superheated air drew a line from the tip of Alfonzo's finger to where the Shadow once stood.

That's right, once stood. Instead of dividing into multiple Shadows, it simply evaporated, leaving nothing behind.

At the bottom of the wall where the Shadow died, there was a crater with a hole the size of the piece of Metal Alfonzo fired. On top of that, the crater was filled with spiderweb cracks.

{"What was that!?"} Mitsuru exclaimed over the comms. {"The whole tower just shook."}

"Hmm? It did a lot less damage than I expected." Alfonzo said as he approached the crater his attack created. "I wonder what this tower is made of."

As he reached the crater, Alfonzo knelt in front of it. Then, he touched the wall and seeped his magic power into it.

{"That was from one of your attacks?"} Mitsuru asked in shock. {"Just what did you do?"}

"We'll tell you about it later." Elicia said with a giggle. "For now, we've gotta find the Old Document."

{"Right."} Mitsuru said, trying to calm herself down.

"There's no metal elements in the wall." Alfonzo said while shaking his head as he stood up. "Oh well, I guess I'm not gonna get any new metals to add to my arsenal."

"That's not important right now." Alzack said. "Let's just get going. I don't wanna be stuck in here when the Dark Hour ends. Who knows what will happen to us if that happens."

Nodding in reply, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Bisca did not want to find out, either. But Alfonzo and Elicia were less worried about that than Alzack or Bisca. Since, it seemed like anyone who had the ability to fight the Shadows did not have to worry about that. Because no matter how long you spent exploring Tartarus in the game, the Dark Hour never ended while you were in there.

Though, that could be just a game mechanic, so they decided they would be exploring at a brisk pace. And hopefully, Mitsuru would let them know when they needed to get out before it was too late.

Chapter 598: The Guardian on the Fifth Floor

The exploration of Tartarus continued with little issue. Not only Alfonzo, but everyone in the party was able to kill the Shadows they came across in a single hit. And this fact made the Fairy Tail wizards wonder why this quest had gone uncompleted for so long. Until they remembered the harsh requirements to even see the tower, that is.

However, during their exploration, they did not kill all the Shadows preemptively. Instead, they would let themselves be discovered from time to time. And that was at Mitsuru's request. Apparently, on top

of mapping, her Persona, Penthesilea, allowed her to record information about the Shadows encountered, as well.

{ "This should be the last room before the stairs leading to the third floor." } Mitsuru said through the communication devices. { "But there's a pretty big Shadow in that room." }

"Oh, a big one?" Elicia asked with a smile. "I wonder if we'll see any new ones when this one spreads out."

"We'll just have to wait and see." Alfonzo replied. "Until now, we've only seen four types of Shadows. What were they called again?"

{ "Cowardly Maya, Merciless Maya, Muttering Tiara, and Magic Hand." } Mitsuru replied.

"That... Persona... of yours is amazing." Alzack said in a genuinely impressed tone. "It can even tell you the name of each Shadow. Having something like that would be nice for the monsters in the rest of the world."

"Yeah, I kinda want one, too." Bisca added with a nod.

The four Shadows mentioned, the cowardly Maya, a black slime-like creature with a blue mask on top, the Merciless Maya, a black slime-like creature with crudely formed arms and a redeye mask on top, the Muttering Tiara, a strange, floating creature that somewhat resembled a crown, and the Magic hand, a creature that looked like a white glove with a green head protruding from where the wrist should be, were the only monsters the party faced. Despite that, they had various means of attack.

All the Shadows mentioned above would attack by slamming their bodies into their opponents. They also had Skills for attacking at a distance, as well. Though, they seemed more like the [Curses] used by [Etherious] than conventional magic.

For example, the Cowardly Maya used ice-based attacks from a distance, while the Merciless Maya used fire-based attacks. The Muttering Tiara also used fire-based attacks. On top of that, they had the ability to increase a target's defense. Though, that was not too apparent thanks to the Fairy Tail wizards' fire power. And finally, the Magic Hands had the ability to put their foes into a confused state. Though, that was rather ineffective, as well, thanks to the overwhelming difference in magic power.

"Well, let's see what we get this time." Alfonzo said as he boldly walked towards the Shadow crawling across the floor.

As soon as Alfonzo reached a certain distance, the Shadow noticed him. Then, it split into five, more distinct Shadows, a Merciless Maya and four Cowardly Mayas.

"Alright, we should already know their weaknesses by now." Alfonzo said after seeing the enemies.
"Let's just get rid of them quickly."

With that, Alzack was the first to act, loading [Fire Ball] bullets into his pistols. Then, he fired a single shot at two of the Cowardly Mayas, obliterating them in one hit each. Following that, Bisca loaded an [Icicle] shell into her magic shotgun and targeted the Merciless maya, also finishing it off in one shot.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Elicia dashed into close range to deal with the remaining Cowardly Maya. Creating a short sword with his [Metal Magic], Alfonzo dashed past one of the Cowardly Maya, slashing

through its mask effortlessly, causing it to disperse into a black fog. At the same time, Elicia lashed out at the other cowardly Maya with her threads, slicing it into pieces, just as easily.

"You know, when I found out we were accepting a Ten Years Quest, I thought it would be harder." Bisca said as she [Requipped] her magic shotgun back into her storage space.

"Well, if you had come here without us, you would have spent each night in a coffin." Elicia said playfully. "Then, you would have never even made it inside."

"You mean if she had come here without Alfonzo, right?" Alzack replied playfully. "You didn't really do anything, did you , Lici?"

In response, Elicia puffed out her chest shamelessly.

"Fonzie's accomplishments are my accomplishments." Elicia said without a hint of embarrassment. "Just like all my accomplishments are his, too."

While Bisca was slightly embarrassed at Elicia's point, she felt better when Alzack shot back on her behalf. However, after hearing just how shameless Elicia could be, the Connell couple could only shake their heads in defeat. Alfonzo, on the other hand, only watched everyone with a smile.

"Anyway, let's make our way up to the next floor." Alfonzo said, bringing this unproductive conversation to an end. "I'm not sure how much more time we have, but it feels like we've spent at least ten minutes on this floor. And if you add that to the fifteen minutes we spent admiring the tower, we should only have about thirty-five minutes until the Dark Hour ends."

Although Alfonzo thought that time flowed differently in the tower, he did not want to push his luck. Getting stuck in Tartarus until the next Dark Hour was not something he was looking forward to.

Receiving nods from the others, Alfonzo led the group into the next room and up the stairs. Like that, the team steamrolled through the next two floors. Spending about ten minutes on each floor. However, when they reached the fifth floor, things seemed different. Although the architectural style did not change, the first thing they saw was a long flight of stairs leading upwards. Then, after looking around for a bit, they noticed a circular platform with four short pillars surrounding it to the right of the stairs.

"This looks a lot like that thing we saw on the first floor." Bisca said as she approached the platform with curiosity. "I wonder if they're connected."

As soon as Bisca drew near enough to touch the strange construct, the platform at its center lit up in a soft glow, as if it had been activated. At the same time, back on the first floor, the platform to the right of the stairs also lit up.

{"I think it's a way for us to travel between floors."} Mitsuru said after seeing the platform on the first floor activate. {"But unlike the one on the second floor, this one might be able to send us both ways."}

As Mitsuru mentioned, the team found a similar platform on the second floor. However, it did not have any of the protruding pillars. And when they tested its function, meaning Alfonzo, who was both the strongest and the fastest member of the team, tested its function, he was sent back to the first floor. However, he was not capable of going back up. So, he had to run up the stairs and hurry back to the rest of the team.

"Well, I'll try it out again." Alfonzo said, already knowing the function of the device. "If it's still only one-way, it won't take me long to get back up here with Miss Kirijo guiding me along the way."

Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca nodded in agreement. However, Elicia also knew that would be unnecessary. So, Alfonzo stepped onto the platform alone and activated it.

Then, just as he expected, Alfonzo found himself back on the first floor. However, unlike last time, the platform was still lit up.

"So, can you go back up?" Mitsuru, who was waiting for Alfonzo to appear, asked in a curious tone.

"Yeah, it looks like it." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "but I can only go up to the fifth floor. If I wanted to go to the second, third, or fourth, I would have to run back up."

"I see." Mitsuru replied while raising her right hand to her chin in a pondering manner. "That will be useful when we start exploring the tower ourselves after finding more Persona Users."

In response, Alfonzo only shrugged his shoulders.

"Well then, I'll head back up." Alfonzo said. "I don't think we'll be going any higher tonight, though. It would suck if we got stuck in here because there were no more transporter platforms on the next floor."

"That's probably for the best." Mitsuru replied with a nod. "We don't know what happens to people who don't leave before the Dark Hour ends. And I'd rather not find out."

Nodding in agreement, Alfonzo activated the platform once again. Then, he reappeared on the fifth floor. However, instead of reappearing at the platform, he appeared in the spot where he and the others appeared after climbing the stairs.

"Oh, you're back." Alzack said after turning back at the sound of footsteps and seeing Alfonzo approaching. "Did you have to run all the way up? No, that was too fast, even for you."

"Nah... I used the teleporter to come back up." Alfonzo replied nonchalantly.

"Oh, I thought you'd show up at the same place where you left." Bisca said in a surprised tone.

"Yeah, me, too." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "Anyway, let's see what's up these stairs. After exploring this floor, we'll call it a night."

"Sounds good to me." Elicia said cheerfully as she took the lead in heading up the stairs.

With the other three following her, Elicia eventually reached the top of the stairs after about two minutes. When she did, the first thing she saw was a huge, black bird with a yellow mask on its head, a puffy collar like those worn by court jesters, and three-toed talons flapping its wings and flying around a large, square-shaped area that seemed like some kind of arena.

"That one is a lot stronger than everything we've fought until now." Alzack said as he drew his pistols.

{"Indeed."} Mitsuru replied. {"It's also the only Shadow I can feel on this floor. So, it must be a Guardian of some sort. From what Penthesilea is telling me, it's called, Venus Eagle."}

"Got it." Alfonzo replied. "Well, let's get rid of this thing and finish exploring the rest of the floor."

The others nodded in agreement. Then, they all stepped onto the arena-like square area.

Screech!

As soon as the Fairy Tail wizards stepped into the arena, the Venus Eagle noticed their presence. Then, it let out an ear-piercing screech before flapping its wings in their direction.

"Dodge!" Alfonzo shouted as he flashed to the side.

Not only Alfonzo, but Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca each reacted quickly, as well. In the next instant, the floor where they had just been standing was gouged out with a lot of force. On top of that, they could all feel that the air had been disturbed, as well.

"A [Wind Curse], huh?" Alzack asked rhetorically as he aimed his pistols at the Venus Eagle. "Well, let's see how you deal with fire."

Bang!

In the next instant, Alzack pulled the triggers of his pistols simultaneously, firing a pair of [Fire Ball Shots] at the Venus Eagle. To his surprise, however, it flapped its wings once again, sending [Wind Blades] at the fire balls and dispersing them.

"Seriously?" Alzack asked in a surprised tone.

At the same time, Alfonzo appeared beneath the Venus Eagle before leaping straight upwards with a pair of short swords in his hands. Then, he slashed its under belly in a cross-shape.

Screech!

The Venus eagle screeched in pain due to the wounds it received. Despite that, Alfonzo was unable to cut through it in one shot.

'What's going on?' Alfonzo thought to himself as he vanished from beneath the Venus Eagle in a flash of violet light. 'This thing wasn't that strong in the game. Or do these Guardians scale to the strength of the people challenging it in this world. Does that mean that even if we defeat it, S.E.E.S. will have to fight it when they start climbing in the future?'

Unfortunately, Alfonzo had no time to consider the answer to that question, as the Venus Eagle flapped its wings and dove at the point where Alfonzo reappeared.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Spark Cannon]." Alfonzo chanted as he raised an arm in the Venus Eagle's direction.

Zap!

In the next instant, a violet orb of electricity was fired towards the Venus Eagle. And because it was so fast, the bird did not have the time to avoid. Despite that, the lightning based attack did little in the way of damage, as the Venus Eagle continued charging forward.

'Damn, what was this things weakness again?' Alfonzo wondered to himself as he once again flashed away from the Venus Eagle's attack. 'It's been so long since I played P3, I just can't remember.'

Bang! *Bang!* *bang!* *Bang!*

Screech~~~~~!

Luckily, Alfonzo did not need to think about that for too long. The moment after he dodged away from the Venus Eagle's dive, Bisca, with her automatic rifle in hand, sprayed a stream of bullets at it. As a result, it screeched much louder than it had when Alfonzo cut it, and fell to the floor.

Seeing that, Alfonzo's eyes lit up. Then, he turned to Alzack and shouted.

"Switch to regular bullets! It's weak to piercing attacks!"

Alzack did not really need Alfonzo to tell him that. However, he still nodded his head and switched to normal magic bullets. Then, like Bisca, he started unloading into the downed Venus Eagle.

At the same time, Elicia, who had been relatively quiet, connected her threads to the needles wrapped around her wrist. Then, she flung them all at the downed Venus Eagle, as well. And when they, along with all the bullets, pierced into the bird, it continued to screech in pain.

However, the Venus Eagle eventually got its wits about it once again. And despite all the wounds, it managed to fly into the air once again.

"Damn, how is that thing not dead yet?" Alzack grumbled.

"Oh, it won't be that way for long." Alfonzo said as he flashed to a point above the Venus Eagle. "Brace for impact."

"*Sigh* Not again..." Bisca muttered as she lowered her center of gravity.

At the same time, Alfonzo created a spinning circular saw on the back of his right hand. Then, he channeled a current of electricity around his arm. Finally, he swung his arm down at the Venus Eagle, shooting the saw at its neck.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Supersonic Dismemberment]." Alfonzo chanted.

Boom!

In the next instant, after a deafening sonic boom, the Venus Eagle dispersed into black fog and Tartarus began to shake simultaneously.

"Do you have to make such a big mess every time?" Elicia asked with a smile as she approached Alfonzo, who had just landed on the floor. "There's got to be a way to kill things without making the whole tower shake like it's gonna collapse, right?"

"Probably." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "But what's the fun in that?"

In response, Elicia only rolled her eyes as she hugged Alfonzo's arm.

"Anyway, we don't have much time left." Alzack said as he and Bisca approached. "Let's see what this floor has left to offer."

With that, the group walked past the arena area, which led to another long flight of stairs. They eventually reached a landing. Walking past the landing would lead to the next floor. However, if they went to the left, they would enter another room. And that's exactly what they did.

"Oh, there are more treasure chests." Bisca said. "And one of them is like those special ones we found earlier that we couldn't open."

As Bisca said, while climbing the lower floors, the group came across several treasure chests. However, they did not hold anything valuable. Most of them only had some low-level crafting materials or medicines. Though, there was a type of medicine among them that could replenish magic power. Alfonzo decided to take that back to Porlyusica for further study.

Then, there were a few chests that the group could not open. From what Penthesilea told Mitsuru, they would need items known as Twilight Fragments to open those particular chest. But since they did not have any, they just left them alone.

"If that's the case, then it looks like we're done for the night." Alzack said. "Just in time, too. I'm really starting to get tired."

"Yeah, me, too." Bisca added as she leaned into Alzack's arms. "I wanna get some sleep."

"Then, let's go." Alfonzo said with a smile. "We don't have much time left, anyway."

With that, the group headed back down the long flights of stairs and gathered on the teleporter. Then, they reappeared on the first floor after activating it. After that, they took Mitsuru and left the tower. Then, after only a few minutes, the Dark Hour ended and Tartarus disappeared as if it never existed, replaced by Gekkokan High School.

Chapter 599: Impressions

After leaving Tartarus, while Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca headed back to their hotel, Mitsuru returned to the Kirijo Group's headquarters to report to her father, Takeharu. Though, if being completely honest, she wished she could just go back to her dorm room and fall asleep.

Even though she did not engage in battle during the Tartarus exploration, keeping her Persona summoned for so long was just as tiring. Still, because she had a duty to complete, she trudged onward with steady steps.

"Welcome back, Mitsuru." Takeharu said as soon as Mitsuru entered his office at the Kirijo Group's headquarters. "How did things go? Were the wizards of Fairy Tail able to explore safely?"

"Yes, Father." Mitsuru replied calmly while standing in front of her father's desk. "Everything went well. Much better than I expected."

Hearing that, Takeharu's visible eye opened wide in surprise. Then a relieved expression appeared on his face.

"Tell me what happened." Takeharu ordered.

Nodding in response, Mitsuru began explaining the exploration process from beginning to end, from her perspective. Although she was not present to see everything, based on what she heard over the comms, everything on the first five floors of Tartarus was too weak to pose a threat to the group of wizards.

"Wait, you're telling me that in only one hour, they managed to climb to the fifth floor?" Takeharu asked in an astonished tone.

"Correct." Mitsuru replied with a nod. "Had time permitted, they would have likely gone even further. Understandably, even they were not willing to see what happened to anyone who stayed past the hour mark."

"Indeed." Takeharu nodded. "That is completely understandable. *Sigh* But that Guardian you mentioned on the fifth floor worries me. We can only hope that once it's been defeated, it won't come back."

"I don't have much hope for that." Mitsuru replied. "All the other Shadows return the following night, if our explorations from the past are any indication."

"*Sigh* I know." Takeharu replied in a tired tone. "At this rate, I don't know when we'll be able to make up for my father's mistakes from the past."

In response to that, Mitsuru simply remained silent. She knew that trying to console her father would be a fool's errand.

"Anyway..." Takeharu said while shaking his head to rid himself of the negative thoughts. "What was your impression of the wizards from Fairy Tail?"

"Strong, confident, and fearless." Mitsuru replied. "Their strength is self-explanatory. On two separate occasions, the entire tower shook from a single attack. As S-Class wizards, they have built up their confidence over more than just a few years, so it cannot be called arrogance. And they must be fearless to walk into such a dangerous location while able to joke so freely with each other."

Takeharu nodded in response to Mitsuru's first to assessments. Strong and confident were expected. They were S-Class wizards, after all. But for her to call them fearless, he doubted that quite a bit.

Actually, that question was more of a test for his daughter, the next head of the Kirijo Group, than anything else. As the leader of the group, she needed to be able to read people accurately.

"I can agree with you calling them strong and confident." Takeharu said solemnly after a few moments of silence. "But to call them fearless, I have to disagree. Fearlessness usually leads to recklessness. And the reckless often die early in a profession as dangerous as wizarding."

"Then how else would you explain it?" Mitsuru asked with a slight frown. "Over the comms, I heard them joking and poking fun at each other constantly. Then there was all the flirting. They seemed like young lovers out on a stroll."

Hearing that, Takeharu could not help but chuckle at Mitsuru's expression of discomfort.

"If I'm not mistaken, that's just their way of controlling the tension." Takeharu replied. "You're aware that if the tension were to get too high, it would be detrimental, right?"

Mitsuru nodded.

"So, they joke to keep the tension at a suitable level." Takeharu continued. Then, his expression turned into a grin. "As for all the flirting, might my daughter be jealous? Have one of those young men caught your eye?"

Mitsuru deadpanned immediately at her father's joke. However, he was not finished with his teasing.

"I don't know much about that Alzack Connell, but Alfonzo Marcus is an excellent choice for a husband. He does have quite a few wives, though. But from what the rumors say, he treats them all quite well."

Having heard enough, Mitsuru turned around, breaking eye contact with Takeharu and making him chuckle once again.

"If you have no more instructions for me, I'll head back to the dorm." Mitsuru said coldly. "I still have to go to school tomorrow. So, please excuse me."

Despite mentioning any other instructions, Mitsuru started walking away before Takeharu could reply, causing him to chuckle for a third time.

Bang!

Interrupting Takeharu's chuckling, Mitsuru slammed the door behind her on the way out. Naturally, that caused Takeharu to return to his normal stoic expression.

"*Sigh* Have I been putting too much pressure on her?" Takeharu asked himself. "She's still young. Yet, she's unable to take a little teasing from her father. *Sigh* Still, I don't think I'd mind if she fell for that young man, Alfonzo Marcus. A marriage alliance between the Kirijo Group and Sixth Sense Holdings would be great for us."

Despite not living on the mainland, Takeharu was able to do what many of the companies on the mainland were unable to do. And that was figure out that Alfonzo was actually the majority shareholder of Sixth Sense Holdings.

Although many people were aware that Alfonzo was connected to Sixth Sense Holdings somehow, considering how many of the products that he patented that Sixth Sense Holdings sells. No one was expecting someone who not only invents, but also does wizarding as his main occupation, would have the time to manage a business.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Elicia, after cleaning up, were lying in bed, discussing the exploration, as well.

"So, what do you think about Tartarus?" Alfonzo asked.

"It's about what I expected." Elicia replied with a smile. "Well, except for that Venus Eagle. That was a lot stronger than I thought it would be."

"Yeah, after seeing it disperse Alzack's [Fire Ball Shots], I thought it just got lucky." Alfonzo said while nodding solemnly. "But after I couldn't cut it apart with my first attack, I knew something was up."

"Yeah, there's no way S.E.E.S. would have been able to beat that thing." Elicia agreed. "But why was it so much stronger than it should have been compared to the rest of the Shadows we faced up to that point."

"I think it had something to do with us." Alfonzo said. "I think it scaled to those fighting it."

"But that's not how it was in the game." Elicia said with a frown.

"This isn't a game." Alfonzo said seriously. "Hell, I'm not even sure what kind of world this is. I mean, sure, we're on Earth Land, but there's a lot of shit that shouldn't be. The fucking Tailed Beasts from Naruto are even Etherious here."

Elicia had no way to retort to that. Instead, she hugged Alfonzo tightly.

"I know." Elicia muttered into Alfonzo's chest. "I just get so excited whenever I see stuff from my favorite media in this world. *Sigh* I'll give up on taking Mar'e to see the Chunin Exams, too. It's just too dangerous."

Hearing that, Alfonzo sighed in relief.

"I thought we would have ended up getting into a big fight over that when I eventually told you no." Alfonzo said as he started combing his fingers through Elicia's hair. "But since you realized it on your own, I'm glad."

"Hmph!" Elicia snorted as she buried her face even deeper in Alfonzo's chest. "I'm not dumb, you know."

["That's debatable."] Scylla retorted from Elicia's inner world.

"I know that." Alfonzo replied. "But you don't always think things through, you know?"

["That's not."] Scylla retorted again.

'Shut up, Scylla!' Elicia shouted internally.

"I still think we should bring Grayfia with us, though." Elicia said. "You'll be bringing Miyuki with you, right?"

"It's more like she won't let me leave her behind." Alfonzo replied while smiling wryly. "According to her, unless I'm out on a quest, as a personal maid, she must come with me everywhere I go. What makes it even worse, Grayfia agrees with her."

"Well, Ikaruga is the same way with me." Elicia said with a shrug. "So, I understand what you mean."

Then, both Alfonzo and Elicia sighed in unison. After that, they laughed in unison as well.

"But like I was saying, we should bring Grayfia with us." Elicia said seriously. "When the Konoha Crush starts for real, things are going to get pretty dangerous. So, just in case we can't protect her for whatever reason, Grayfia will be there to help Miyuki."

Alfonzo nodded in agreement with Elicia's idea. Scylla, on the other hand was dumbfounded.

["Did you just... think ahead?"] Scylla asked in an astonished tone.

In response, Elicia only rolled her eyes. Then, her expression turned excited again.

"But back to the Tartarus exploration." Elicia said excitedly. "We actually got to do an All-Out Attack! That was so awesome."

In response, Alfonzo only smiled as he listened to Elicia gush about all the similarities between Tartarus in the game and reality. Like that, the night passed peacefully.

The next morning, Mitsuru made her way to school like she did most mornings. However, unlike most mornings, someone was waiting for her at the gate to Gekkokan High School.

"Akihiko, what are you doing here?" Mitsuru asked when she noticed the young man leaning against the wall to the right of the gate.

Akihiko, or Akihiko Sanada, was a tall young man with an athletic build, short silver hair, and grey eyes wearing Gekkokan High School's school uniform and a bandage over his left eye.

"Hey, Mitsuru." Akihiko replied casually as he stood up straight. "You weren't here yesterday, so I wanted to know if something happened. Maybe with Tartarus."

"*Sigh* Why are your instincts so sharp only when it comes to stuff like this?" Mitsuru asked as she continued walking through the school gate. "but yes, you're right. There were some developments on that side."

"Ha! I knew it." Akihiko replied excitedly. "Tell me about it."

"Be patient, Akihiko." Mitsuru said, remaining calm. "I'll tell you about it back at the dorm."

"Fine..." Akihiko said, sounding a bit disappointed. "But you better tell me everything."

"Yes, I know." Mitsuru said without looking back.

Meanwhile, a pair of brown eyes watched Mitsuru and Akihiko walk away from nearby.

"What kind of secrets are you and the Kirijo Group hiding, Mitsuru Kirijo?" The owner of those eyes, a pretty young woman with neck-length light brown hair and a slim, yet curvaceous figure, muttered to herself while watching Mitsuru like a hawk. "I will find out the truth about what happened back then."

The atmosphere around the young woman was somewhat dark. Yet, it was also a bit uncertain. The incident she was talking about happened almost ten years ago. So, she knew that Mitsuru more than

likely had nothing to do with it. However, as the only person from the Kirijo Group that she had access to, she could only put the blame on Mitsuru.

"Hey, Yuka-Tan!" A young man with dark greyish-black hair, grey eyes, and a small goatee shouted, pulling the young woman out of her musings. "Why are you just standing there?"

Looking in the direction of the shout, the young woman frowned. Then, she started walking towards the school building

"I thought I told you not to call me that, Stupei." the young woman said in an annoyed tone.

"Aww! Don't be like that, Yuka-Tan." the young man said as he caught up with the young woman. "We've been classmates since middle school. We're basically best friends at this point, right?"

"Uh... No." The young woman replied sharply. Though, she did not speed up to get away from the young man she was talking to.

"You're so cold, Yuka-Tan." the young man said, grabbing his chest over his heart theatrically as he did so. "Anyway, did you do the homework for Mr. Ono's class? If so, do you think I could copy it? Pretty please?"

"Jeez, Stupei, you really are stupid." The young woman replied. Then, she reached into her school bag and pulled out a notebook. "Just give it back before his class starts."

"Yuka-Tan! You're the best!" The young man exclaimed as he grabbed the notebook excitedly.

With that, another day at Gekkokan High School went on like any other.

Chapter 600: Tartarus Reload

About fifteen minutes before the next Dark Hour began, Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca, after a day of rest, approached Gekkokan High School on foot. When they arrived, just as they expected, they saw Mitsuru waiting outside the gates, sitting atop her motorcycle. What they did not expect, however, was that there would be a silver-haired young man standing next to her.

"Fonzie! Fonzie! It's Akihiko!" Elicia whispered excitedly into Alfonzo's ear.

Hearing Elicia's excitement, Alfonzo only shook his head. Then, he thought about why he might be here.

'I guess he's awakened his Persona, too.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'I wouldn't be surprised if he comes here a lot to train. Especially since he's quite the training addict. He's still weaker than Mitsuru, though.'

By Alfonzo's estimates, neither Mitsuru or Akihiko should have any issue fighting up to the fifth floor at this point. However, with the amount of magic power they have, they would never be able to climb all the way up in one go.

And now that they know there is not another teleportation platform on the third or fourth floor, they probably won't climb any higher than the second for quite some time.

"Who's that guy?" Alzack asked curiously while examining Akihiko. "Do you think he works with the Kirijo Group?"

"No clue." Bisca replied. "But since he's with Mitsuru, they definitely know each other. And since he's out here so late, he probably has the potential Mister Kirijo was talking about, at the very least."

In response, Alzack nodded his head. Then, he looked to Alfonzo and Elicia, who did not seem to mind the presence of someone new.

"What do you guys think?" Alzack asked.

"I agree with Bisca." Elicia replied cheerfully.

"Doesn't really matter who he is." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "As long as he doesn't get in the way, he's too weak to affect our quest."

In reality, Alfonzo did not care if Akihiko got in the way or not. If Mitsuru wanted them to bring him with them, he would agree. They were more than strong enough to keep him safe, after all.

"Fonzie, be nice." Elicia said with a pout.

In response, Alfonzo only smiled. However, he did not take his words back.

"You're here." Mitsuru said as soon as the group of Fairy Tail wizards were in speaking range. "Allow me to introduce you to a member of my team. This is Akihiko Sanada. He's a Persona user, as well."

"Oh, I was right." Bisca said with a smile. "Is he going to help you with the remote scouting, Mitsuru?"

"Nah... I don't have an ability like that." Akihiko replied while shaking his head. "I'm more suited to fighting on the front lines."

"Oh..." Bisca replied in an understanding tone.

"I guess Mitsuru's Persona is a little unique in that regard, huh?" Elicia asked.

"Yes." Mitsuru replied. "Not that I've seen very many, the only Persona with that kind of ability I've ever seen is Penthesilea."

"By the way, I've wondered about something since I first saw you summon your Persona." Alzack said in a curious tone.

"And what might that be?" Mitsuru asked.

"Can you use your Persona at any time of the day?" Alzack asked. "Or can you only use it during the Dark Hour?"

"We can use them at any time." Mitsuru replied. "Though they are less effective and use more magic power. But it is possible."

"I see." Alzack replied with a nod, having somewhat expected that answer.

"I think training to erase that weakness would be a good idea." Alfonzo said. "The world is dangerous with magical beasts, dark wizards, and all sorts of other threats running around. It's better to be able to protect yourselves."

"I agree." Mitsuru replied. "I've actually been working with the Kirijo Group to develop a comprehensive training plan."

"Even without my Persona, I can protect myself." Akihiko said as he took a standard, southpaw boxing stance. "I've been training my body and my fighting skill since long before I awakened the power of persona."

When Akihiko took his fighting stance, he subconsciously started circulating his magic power all around his body. And when the wizards of Fairy Tail felt it with their [Magic Power detections], they were impressed at the speed he was able to circulate it.

"Oh, not bad." Alfonzo said with an appreciative nod. "You should be able to strengthen your body quite a bit with magic power control that good."

"Huh?" Akihiko replied in confusion.

In response, Mitsuru sighed audibly. Then, she looked at Akihiko in exasperation and slight envy.

"Akihiko has never trained his magic power control before." Mitsuru said, her feelings evident from her tone. "His magic power control is completely instinctual."

Hearing that, Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca looked at Akihiko with impressed expressions. In response, Akihiko looked a little bashful as he scratched his cheek, not knowing what to say.

"He's pretty good." Alfonzo said with a nod. "About as good as I was when I was eleven or twelve."

While Alfonzo was giving genuine praise, since at the age of eleven, he was already a B-Class wizard, his choice of words left a lot to be desired. As a result, Akihiko could not help but frown. And Elicia, who saw that, could only smile wryly.

"I know what Fonzie said sounds like he's belittling you, Aki." Elicia said with a smile. "but me and Fonzie were B-Class wizards at eleven and A-Class at twelve. So, it's a pretty big compliment. Especially since you're magic power reserves are only at the peak of C-Class at the very most."

That caused not only Mitsuru, but Akihiko to open their eyes in surprise. Since they were a few years younger than Alfonzo and Elicia, they had not been as exposed to their accomplishments as those from the same age range and older.

"Wait! Aki?" Akihiko said, finally reacting to Elicia's term of address.

"Yeah, it's cuter, isn't it?" Elicia asked with a smile.

As a matter of fact, Elicia already knew that a former member of Mitsuru's team usually calls Akihiko that. So, she was just trying her luck and seeing if he would get upset. But it seemed like he was okay with it. Though, he was a little confused at first.

"Call me whatever you want." Akihiko replied with a shrug.

A moment later, however, Akihiko smiled daringly at Alfonzo before taking his fighting stance again.

"Are you really that strong?" Akihiko asked excitedly. "Then, how about having a fight with me. You know, a friendly spar."

Hearing that, the illusion of Akihiko's hair turning pink and spiking up while flames shot out of his mouth with every word appeared before the Fairy Tail wizards eyes, causing them all to smile. At the same time, they were all surprised that Akihiko seemed to be unaware of Alfonzo's strength, at all.

"Knock it off, Akihiko." Mitsuru said sternly. "Now is not the time for that."

"*Sigh* I guess you're right." Akihiko said as he lowered his hands with a disappointed expression on his face. Then, he looked at Alfonzo with some expectations in his eyes. "but I definitely wanna spar with you before you leave Tatsumi Port Island."

"We'll see." Alfonzo replied noncommittally.

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Just then, the atmosphere on the island changed and Tartarus started growing from where the school once stood. And as soon as it finished, the group made their way inside. Then, like last time, Mitsuru set up next to the stairs on the first floor and summoned Penthesisilea.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca made their way towards the teleporter, intending to head straight to the fifth floor. Before they activated it, however, Alfonzo stopped them. Then, he looked towards Akihiko.

"Hey, mind doing me a favor real quick?" Alfonzo asked.

"Sure." Akihiko replied casually. "What do you need me to do?"

"See if you can activate this." Alfonzo said while pointing at the teleporter.

"Okay." Akihiko replied with a nod before walking over to the teleporter.

At the same time, Alfonzo led the rest of his group to back away a few steps. Then, Akihiko stood on the teleporter. However, it did not light up, meaning it could not be activated.

"Doesn't look like it." Akihiko said with a shrug. "I guess I'll have to climb up the old fashioned way. But that'll be better for my training, anyway."

'That's weird.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'I know this isn't the same as the game, but even people who had never been inside of Tartarus could use this to go to the highest floor the party had been to. So, why isn't it working for him.'

While Alfonzo was deep in thought, Akihiko lifted a foot to step off the teleporter.

'Oh, I think I get it.' Alfonzo said to himself.

"Hold on a sec." Alfonzo said, stopping Akihiko from getting off the teleporter.

Confused, Akihiko stopped in his tracks. Then, he watched as Alfonzo approached the teleporter. And when Alfonzo stepped on beside him, Akihiko's eyes widened when it lit up like it was ready to be activated.

"So, if someone new comes with someone who's already climbed to the next check point, they can come with them." Alfonzo said while looking down at the glowing teleporter platform.

"Then, can I come with you?" Akihiko asked hopefully.

"Absolutely not!" Mitsuru exclaimed sternly.

"Aww, come on, Mitsuru." Akihiko said. "Going higher would be great for my training."

"I said no." Mitsuru said without budging.

Knowing it would be impossible to change Mitsuru's mind, on top of not wanting to make her angry, as she could be quite scary when angered, Akihiko backed off. Though, he pouted quite visibly to show his discontent. Then, without another word, he stepped off the teleporter.

At the same time, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca joined Alfonzo on the teleporter platform. While they watched Mitsuru scold Akihiko, Alfonzo activated the teleporter, sending the group up to the fifth floor.

At that moment, Tartarus shook. And had anyone been outside to witness it, they would have noticed that the entire tower grew in height. Though, no one would have been able to say what changes this would bring.

However, because of the change to the tower, it took a few minutes for the wizards of Fairy Tail to appear on the fifth floor. On top of that, Mitsuru began to panic, as she had completely lost track of them after the shaking began.

Luckily, that did not last for long. Not to mention, the wizards of Fairy Tail did not feel anything at all. They did not even realized how long they had been off the grid. And when Mitsuru explained it to them, they were all confused.

"What's going on?" Alfonzo asked with a frown.

Meanwhile, Elicia, Alzack, and Bisca looked at him with worry. Even so, they were not frightened. They were only waiting for the leader of their party to give them instructions. Before Alfonzo could come to a conclusion, however, they all noticed a magic power signature appear in the arena area.

"Did the Guardian Shadow just respawn?" Bisca asked.

"No, that's different than what we fought yesterday." Alzack replied.

"{"Mister Connel is right."} Mitsuru's voice sounded over the comms. {"That Shadow is called, Ruthless Ice Raven."}

"Well, I guess we should go take a look." Alfonzo said, feeling a little uneasy about this.

Receiving three nods in return, Alfonzo led the rest of the team up the stairs. When they reached the top of the stairs, they saw a large raven with blue and red feathers holding an ice blue lantern in its talons while it flew around the battle arena.

"It really is different." Bisca muttered. "Do the Guardians change every time we enter?"

"We won't know that until we come back tomorrow." Elicia said. For now, let's just get rid of this thing."

The other three nodded in response. Then, they all stepped onto the arena.

As soon as the group entered the arena, the Ruthless Ice Raven was alerted. Then, the lantern it carried lit up, followed by a ringing sound. After that, four chunks of ice appeared above the party. However, that was nowhere near enough to do any damage.

"[Guns Magic: Firestorm Shot]." Alzack and Bisca chanted simultaneously as the party dodged the falling chunks of ice.

Bang! *Bang!* *Bang!*

In the next instant, Alzack pulled the triggers of his pistols while Bisca fired her magic shotgun. Then, three spiraling torrents of flames were fired towards the Ruthless Ice Raven. And as they got closer, the three fire twisters combined, completely engulfing the Guardian Shadow.

Caw~~~~~!

The Ruthless Ice Raven let out a pain-filled cry as it was hurt by the flames. And when the flames dispersed, it looked dazed as it lay on the floor while twitching every so often.

"Now!" Elicia shouted excitedly. "[Thread Magic: Thread Slicer]."

While Alzack and Bisca's flames were rampaging, Elicia had sent out her threads to cover the entire area. Then, with her shout, she jerked her hands backwards. As a result, all the threads spread around the arena converged towards where the Ruthless Ice Raven was downed.

Swish!

Poof!

With little resistance, the threads tore through the Ruthless Ice Raven, turning it into a puff of black smoke.

"Is it over already?" Alzack asked in a tone filled with disbelief.

"Usually that would be like chanting a revival spell, Alzack." Bisca said while poking Alzack on the cheek.

"Oh, you're right." Alzack replied with a smile.

"But since I can't feel any magic power signatures on this floor, I think it really is over." Alfonzo said as he stretched his [Magic Power Detection] to encapsulate the entire fifth floor.

'This is so weird.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'Why did the Guardian change?'

Unfortunately, Alfonzo and Elicia had no way of knowing what was going on. They died well before Persona 3 Reload was released in their old world. So, from this point forward, everything about the tower, from the number of floors to the Guardians, to the enemies they would face will be different from what they know.