

Fairy Tail 701

Chapter 701: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event, the Grand Magic Game; Part 8

{"And it looks like Team Final Fantasy is the second team to be eliminated in full!" Loli shouted enthusiastically. {"And I have to say, receiving 35 Points in their first appearance in the Grand Magic Games is quite impressive."}}

{"That's right, Loli."} Yajima added. {"But it's a little more literal in their case than most. Because not only was this Final Fantasy's first time participating in the Grand Magic Games proper, but this was even the first time they took part in the preliminaries. So, in essence, they did something that only the eight teams who made it to the main event in the very first Grand Magic Games had done. Actually, now that I think about it, Sabertooth has gained the very same honor. This year really is an extraordinary one, isn't it?"}

{"That's right! It certainly is!"} Loli shouted. {"However, as much as I'd like to talk about what the ninth team to do so means, I think we should check out the battle that's been heating up between Contestant Marin of Team Fairy Tail and Contestants Jenny and Kai of Blue Pegasus. Things are really looking bad for Marin at the moment. Will she be the first member of Team Fairy Tail to be eliminated?"}

As Loli asked his question, the majority of the screens set up around the Domus Flau changed to show Marin's battle with Jenny and Kai from different angles. And as Loli said, Marin did not look like she was in the best shape at the moment.

Covered in bruises, burns, and cuts, as well as torn clothing, Marin was breathing heavily while standing in an area of the town that looked as if it had just been demolished and holding up her two double-bladed kodachi towards Kai, who was standing in front of Jenny with several cuts and a slash in the visor of his space suit, and Jenny, who was wearing what appeared to be a suit of Pegasus inspired full-plate armor with a minigun attached to her left arm and a magic power blade extending from her right.

Going back about ten minutes to when Jenny and Kai showed themselves after Jenny eliminated Yuka with a sneak attack, they both jumped off the building they were standing on.

"Sorry, Marin." jenny said with her usual smile on her face. "But we're all competitors here. But I'll make it up to you after you get out of the infirmary later, okay?"

"Oh, you seem really confident that the two of you can beat me." Marin said, her slight scowl after her, so-called, kill was stolen turning into a playful grin. "I hope you didn't just let your mouth write a check that your butt can't cash."

'You know, when Fonzie says stuff like that, it doesn't sound so awkward.' Marin muttered internally.

["That's because he doesn't censor the saying."] Nova said from Marin's inner world.

'Wow! It's been a long time since you talked to me when I wasn't alone, Nova.' Marin replied.

["I just wanted to remind you that you should take this seriously."] Nova shot back. ["Even though I'm not saying that Yuka and Toby are weak, they're not on these two's... Well, Jenny's level. Remember, Jenny is using weapons Fonzie made. So, you need to be cautious."]

'I know.' Marin replied. 'I'm already prepared to release you if things get too hairy for my liking.'

["Good."] Nova said, nodding her head in Marin's inner world. ["Just make sure that you don't wait too long. If you're too spent, it won't matter if you release my powers or not."]

'Got it.' Marin said, focusing all her attention on her opponents from Blue Pegasus once again.

Because Marin's and Nova's conversation happened at the speed of thought, there was no lull in the conversation Marin was having with Jenny.

"Well, can you blame me?" Jenny asked while pushing a few strands of hair out of her face. "Not only am I quite talented myself, but I have some of the best weapons that can be bought in Fiore, as well."

'Fonzie might be a little upset if you only limit it to Fiore, though.' Marin thought to herself while trying not to smile at her own thoughts.

"I think you've spoken enough, Jenny." Kai said while looking at Jenny with a fawning smile through his suit's helmet. "But we have a bit of catch up to do if we want to come out on top this time."

"I know." Jenny said, rolling her eyes as she did so.

'Oh, it's clear to see that Kai now has feelings for Jenny after being so thoroughly rejected by Sun.' Marin thought to herself. 'But I doubt he knows that Jenny likes Fonzie. I wonder what he would think if he knew that both the girls he's fancied are into the same guy. There might actually be a real fight between them this time.'

[“Like that would be a real fight.”] Nova shot back. [“That little merman would get himself taken apart. Then, Alfonzo would leave him lying out in a wide-open field after taking that ridiculous suit off of him.”]

‘That’s probably true.’ Marin replied before abandoning that thought process and readying herself for the attack that she knew was coming.

Whirl! x 3

And just as she expected, Marin heard the sound of whirling coming from the three guns Jenny was equipped with. In response, Marin quickly dropped to one knee before stabbing both of Nova’s blades into the ground.

Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat! x 3

In the next instant, the sounds of all three of Jenny’s guns firing could be heard. Luckily, Marin was just in time to use her [Transformation Magic] to [Transform] the ground. As a result, a relatively sturdy wall rose from the ground in front of Marin.

Just as the wall grew high enough to cover Marin from the gunfire, the sound of the wall cracking echoed around the arena. Yet, it withstood the barrage without falling.

Now, normally, if Marin were to raise a wall like that, it would not be particularly sturdy, as her [Transformation Magic] only changed the shape of whatever it was she was transforming. Basically, a defense like the one she just made would be all show and no substance. However, Marin went the extra mile, this time. As a result...

Crumble!

"What in the...?" Kai uttered as he felt his footing giving out from underneath him.

"Kya!" Jenny yelped as she too lost her balance, causing her aim to become erratic.

... the ground under Jenny and Kai crumbled under their weight, causing them to fall into a somewhat deep sink hole.

And the reason for this turn of events was simple. Marin also used her magic to [Transform] the ground under Jenny and Kai, without affecting the surface, compressing it and adding it to the wall she erected to defend herself. So, with the ground under the two Blue Pegasus wizards hollowed out, it collapsed under their weight.

"Alright, and the next move is to---" Marin said as she started channeling her magic power into the ground through Nova once again.

"That was unexpected." Kai said, his voice carrying from the sink hole. "But not enough to defeat me."

Yet, before Marin could do what she was planning to, fill in the sink hole with the material she took from it to create the wall, Kai, after leaping off the pieces of the surface that fell along with him and Jenny, re-emerged from the sink hole, his fist drawn back, ready to break Marin's wall.

"Well, I'd rather take Jenny off the board first." Marin said, her expression turning resolute.

Bang!

And just like that, the wall in front of Kai disappeared, surprising him. Yet, with his momentum, he was unable to stop. Nor did he have the intention to. So, as soon as he was in range, he threw his fist forward. Luckily, Marin was able to pull her blades from the ground and get them up in a cross to try and defend against Kai's fist. Unfortunately, because of her hasty defense, she was unable to completely divert the force of his blow.

As a result, Marin was thrown backwards. And because of Kai's downward force, she was slammed into the ground before bouncing and rolling away from where she stood.

However, instead of following up immediately, Kai turned back to see that the sink hole he had just jumped out of had been filled up, though the surface was in a mess, as it had already fallen into the hole before Marin refilled it.

"Jenny! No!" Kai cried after seeing that Jenny was unable to make it out. He then turned back to look at Marin with new found hostility.

"Hey, don't look at me like that." Marin said as she stumbled to her feet. "Man, that really hurts... Anyway, I didn't bury her alive down there. I just trapped her. I even left holes for air to get in."

Hearing that, Kai visibly relaxed. Even so, his expression still remained solemn.

"Well, I'm sorry for jumping to conclusions." Kai said after taking a breath. "I should know that Fairy Tail wizards aren't like that. Even so, I'm afraid I still have to engage you in battle. This is for my guild, after all."

"Of course." Marin replied with a nod as she took her fighting stance.

"I knew you'd understand." Kai replied. "[Body Enhancement Magic: Full Body Enhancement]. [Requip]."

Though she could not see any difference in Kai's body after he cast his first spell, thanks to his space suit, Marin could feel his magic power circulating around his body at high-speed, undoubtedly strengthening it to a high degree. But since she was acquainted with several merfolk, that did not surprise her.

What did surprise her, however, was the fact that Kai used [Requip Magic]. And when he did, a sheathed katana appeared in his left hand.

"I don't usually use this to fight." Kai said. "Then again, most of my opponents don't use sharp weapons. So, I'll need something to stop you from damaging, or possibly destroying, my temporary sanctuary from those terrifying, bright, wide-open spaces."

"Tch!" Marin clicked her tongue in irritation. "And I was hoping to take advantage of that little phobia of yours. Sun never told us you could use a sword, though."

"*Sigh* Even though we're not meant to be together, I guess she simply could not bring herself to sell out an old friend."

In actuality, Kai's skill with a sword was so far below Sun's that she completely forgot about it.

"Anyway, that's enough talk." Kai said as he unsheathed his sword before throwing the sheath aside.
"Let us settle this."

"If you say so." Marin said as she pointed her left blade behind her. "[Transformation Magic: Blade Rush]."

Marin was then pushed forward at high speed. Yet, Kai was able to track her movements thanks to his current level of [Enhancement].

Clang!

So, it was unsurprising that Kai was able to deflect Marin's first strike as she sailed past him.

Clang!

Nor was it surprising when he was able to turn and deflect her follow up before slashing at Marin's waist horizontally.

In response, Marin bent her back, limboing under Kai's slash. At the same time, she pointed Nova's blades at Kai's chest.

"[Transformation Magic: Long Suffering]." Marin chanted.

In the next instant, at a much higher speed than when she propelled herself forward, Nova's blades extended towards Kai with the intention of tearing apart his space suit.

"Oh no!" Kai shouted, beads of sweat rolling down his forehead.

Rumble~~~~~!

"Ah!" Marin yelped as she was unable to maintain her posture.

Screech!

Yet, before Marin's blades could strike true, the ground began to rumble. And with Marin's unstable posture after limboing under Kai's last attack, she ended up losing her balance and falling onto her back. As a result, though they were not able to completely cut through the suit, Kai's space suit was damaged quite heavily. There was even a scratch across the thick visor Kai saw the world through. Luckily, the cut was not deep enough to completely pierce through. Otherwise, Kai would have been as good as eliminated.

For the next few seconds, the ground continued to rumble. Because of that, and the fact that Kai was still reeling from nearly being exposed to the outside world, Marin took a moment to pick herself up from the ground. She then made sure to get a little distance from Kai to get ready for her next attack.

Boom!

Yet, just as she readied herself to continue, thinking to ignore the rumbling, the ground where she buried Jenny exploded upwards. Dust and debris shot up into the air. On top of that, several projectiles with contrails shot up into the air, as well.

"What the...?" Marin exclaimed in shock.

"Ah! It seems Jenny was not incapacitated by the fall." Kai said in a relieved tone. "As long as she survived the fall, I knew she would be able to get out eventually. The only worry was whether she had been buried alive or not. But as you have already assuaged that fear, I put it out of my mind completely."

"Yeah, yeah, that's all well and good." Marin said, still taken aback by what she was saying. "So, you're saying Jenny did that? But weren't the weapons Fonzie made her the most powerful in her arsenal?"

'Darn it.' Marin thought to herself. 'Because my magic power was saturating the ground, paired with the fact that I was focusing on Kai, I didn't notice Jenny's magic power or how it changed. This could be really bad.'

"That's true when it comes to anti-personnel weaponry." Jenny's voice replied from the dust cloud, as if she were letting Marin know that her internal thoughts were absolutely correct about how bad things were for her. "However, when it comes to my strongest [Machina Soul], how could it be anything but..."

When Jenny reached that point, the dust obscuring her from view began to settle. When it did, she could be seen in a completely different form. Instead of her revealing dark red and black [Battle Suit], Jenny was now clad in what appeared to be full plate armor with a horse like helmet, a pair of what appeared to be feathered wings formed from metal, gauntlets and greaves that appeared to end in hooves, and thrusters on both her back, between the wings, and the bottom of her feet.

On top of that, flames were shooting out the four thrusters on Jenny's armor. And with that, Jenny was floating above the sink hole she had just been trapped in while smiling at Marin, who was completely dumbfounded by what she was seeing.

"... [Machina Soul: Magic Bomber, Christina]." Jenny said, finishing her sentence.

"Well... Crap..." Marin groaned after realizing she was not exactly equipped to fight an opponent who could call on the full power of an airship. "Well, at least she'll never be able to absorb the [Machina Soul] of the Blackbird."

"Hahaha! When Alfonzo accepts my love, that will definitely change." Jenny said confidently.

Crack!

As soon as Jenny said that, both she and Marin swore they could hear the sound of something breaking. However, when they looked around, thinking that someone might have sneaked up on them, they could not see anyone. Marin was not even picking up anything with [Magic Power Detection]. Yet, when they finally found the source of the sound, all they saw was Kai standing unsteadily while he covered the spot on his space suit directly over his heart.

'Oh, I get it.' Marin thought to herself. 'That was the sound of Kai's heart breaking, wasn't it? Well, I guess I'll get the chance to see if he'll challenge Fonzie to a fight sooner or later.'

"Kai! What's wrong?" Jenny asked, genuine concern for her guild mate in her tone. "Did someone sneak attack you? Hold on, I'll find them and eliminate them!"

With that, Jenny ascended higher into the air, the thrusters on her feet and back raising their output. At the same time, two compartments on her armor's torso, one on each side of her waist, opened, revealing a number of miniature missiles.

'So, that was how she got herself out of the hole, huh?' Marin thought to herself while watching Jenny rise.

["Now's not the time to be considering things like that! "] Nova shouted, breaking Marin out of her contemplation.

'Right, I need to get closer to Kai. Otherwise, I'll probably be within the blast radius of whatever she's about to do.'

With that thought, Marin rushed over to the currently distraught kai, who was clearly having trouble staying on his feet. Meanwhile, Jenny, who had risen to about three hundred feet above the surface, scanned the ground from her vantage point. Yet, she could not find whoever it was that attacked Kai.

In the next instant, the eyes on her horse head-shaped helmet lit up, activating the targeting system inherited from the Magic Bomber, Christina.

"Hmm? Even with the scanners, I can't find them>" Jenny muttered to herself. "Well, if I reduce this whole area to rubble, I'm sure I'll hit them. I just need to make sure that I don't hurt Kai by mistake. Tch!"

As Jenny's onboard targeting system calculated where she should fire her missiles to do the most damage without hurting Kai, she could not help clicking her tongue as she noticed Marin rushing to get close to him. Unfortunately, there was nothing she could do to stop her at the moment, as her processors were currently occupied.

"No matter." Jenny muttered to herself as she shifted her gaze away from Marin. "I'll take care of her later. For now, I have to get revenge for Kai."

It would probably be quite interesting to see what Jenny would do when she found out that it was her words that put Kai in his current condition.

"[Full Bombardment, Releasing Payload]." Jenny said as the thrusters on the tails of her missiles lit up.

Boom~~~~~!

In the next instant, Jenny's missile pods were both emptied. Then, after another moment, all the missiles found their detonation points simultaneously after winding through the air, leaving contrails to let anyone watching know their flight paths. After that, a number of explosions occurred simultaneously, reducing the buildings, streets, gardens, and any other structure within half a mile of Kai in ruins. At the same time, it shook the entire town, drawing every remaining wizard's attention to her for a moment before most of them went back to their own battles.

Meanwhile, after the explosion and the rumbling stopped, Jenny looked in Kai's direction to see if Marin had taken the chance to attack him. However, to her surprise, Kai was standing alone. On top of that, although his pain-filled expression was still present, he was standing straight while staring in a certain direction.

Following the direction of Kai's stare, Jenny eventually opened her mouth wide, as she could see Marin slowly standing up while pushing a way some debris that fell on her. Apparently, Kai had regained his senses during the explosion. He then caught Marin off guard and sent her flying into the explosions.

Yet, despite the damage she had clearly taken thanks to Kai's unexpected attack, the light in Marin's eyes was just as bright. Then, when she was once again standing stably, she raised Nova, pointed the tips of the blades at Kai and Jenny, who had descended to float behind Kai.

And this brings us to the point at which Loli drew attention to the fight.

Chapter 702: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event, the Grand Magic Game; Part 9

Standing in an utterly decimated part of a town, Marin, covered in cuts, bruises, blood, and burns, with her clothing torn in various places, stood facing two members of an allied guild, Blue Pegasus. And those two were Jenny Realight and Kai Mikawa.

Although Marin is not the most powerful S-Class wizard that could be found in Fiore, it was no secret that she should have been powerful enough to not end up in such a wretched condition while facing wizards the caliber of Jenny and Kai. Not to say they were weak. Rather, Marin is just of a higher caliber than they were.

However, the prerequisite for the above statement was that she is careful and not caught off guard. And although Marin was definitely careful, she still managed to be caught off guard. Because, despite having seen the thrusters currently attached to Jenny's back during the Battle Board event on the Grand Magic Games' third day, she failed to notice that they were part of the [Take Over] she was currently casting, [Machina Soul: Magic Bomber, Christina].

In fact, Jenny's current form was not only the reason for Marin's current condition. But it is also responsible for the entire destroyed area surrounding the trio, as she had carpet bombed the area after, wrongly, assuming that Kai had been sneak attacked. And Marin's condition was because she unexpectedly found herself engulfed by one of the explosions that caused such devastation.

'*Sigh* It's a good thing I was able to get up a dome barricade before things got too bad.' Marin thought to herself while staring down Kai and Jenny, who was floating behind Kai with her weapons ready. 'Even if it wasn't strong enough to protect me completely.'

["Yes, you can think about that later."] Nova said from Marin's inner world. ["For now, just think about winning... No, surviving this battle."]

'Yeah, you're right.' Marin replied. 'Which means now is the perfect time to use you, I guess.'

Exiting her thoughts as she raised Nova's blades, pointing them at Jenny and Kai, Marin took a deep, steady, breath.

"I never intended to look down on anyone in Fairy Tail." Jenny said while observing Marin from her slightly elevated position. "But I'm quite impressed that you managed to not be eliminated after getting caught in such an explosion."

"Oh, I'm full of surprises." Marin said while trying to smile, though she winced in pain from the attempt. "But since the two of you managed to push me so far, why don't I show you one of them?"

With that said, Marin flared her magic power to its limits.

"I don't know what she's about to do, but we have to stop her." Kai cried as he dashed forward with his katana held tightly in his hands.

Whirl!

Like Kai, Jenny was also worried by what Marin was about to do. So, she raised the minigun attached to her left gauntlet as the barrels began to spin. Unfortunately, both she and kai were too late to stop what was about to come.

"[Bend All Creation to My Will, Nova]." Marin chanted.

Even before her words ended, Marin's magic power exploded, rising to five times its normal limit. At the same time, Nova, turned into two masses of a living liquid. Marin then raised her left hand just in time

for Kai's arrival, who managed to power through the heightened magic power pressure she was releasing.

Clang!

A moment later, Kai swung his katana from overhead, aiming to cut down Marin before she could take action. Yet, his eyes widened to a comical degree, snot dripped from his nose, and his mouth fell open when Marin casually caught his blade with her bare hand.

"No, that's not her bare hand." Kai muttered after getting a good look at Marin's hand.

As Kai said, Marin's left hand was now covered in what appeared to be a multicolored, incandescent layer of... metal? Well, that was the closest thing Kai could compare the substance coating Marin's left hand to at the moment. Plus, when his sword slammed into it, it sounded like metal clanging against metal. So, there was that, too.

In reality, half of Nova's mass had been transformed into a defensive layer to protect Marin's hand from Kai's blade.

"Alright, I think it's time to finish what I started before." Marin said, her tone becoming much more solemn than usual.

"Let him go!" Jenny shouted with the barrels of her minigun spinning and their muzzles pointed at Marin and Kai.

"Nah, I don't think I will." Marin replied. "As long as I have a hold on him, you won't fire that thing at me."

Bang! *Bang!* *Clang!* *Thud!*

Then, as soon as her words ended, Nova's other half coated Marin's other hand. And even before that process was completed, Marin was swinging her right hand at Kai's left elbow, as he was still holding the hilt of his katana with both hands.

Marin's first strike caused Kai to loosen his left hand's grip. Marin then followed up by raising a knee into Kai's abdomen. At the same time, she pulled the blade of Kai's katana. And with her strength that was enhanced by her [Soul Armament's] partial unsealing, the strength of those strikes as well as the tug on the blade was much more than Kai expected. As a result, the katana was wrenched out of his hand while he doubled over in pain.

"Cough* *Cough*" While doubled over, Kai coughed up a mouthful of blood. Unfortunately, because of his helmet, all that did was obscure his vision, as the blood was splattered all over the visor.

Meanwhile, Marin quickly threw the katana in her left hand away while reaching out for Kai with her right. She then pulled him up and spun him around before forcing his arms behind his back and using him as a shield to make sure that Jenny did not start firing her minigun.

"*Sigh* I really don't like fighting like this." Marin said. "But then again, I'm not really suited for fighting up front, anyway."

Marin then peaked out from over Kai's shoulder and looked at Jenny, who was gritting her teeth in indecision.

"So, what are we gonna do now, Jenny?" Marin asked. "You know, I'd be fine with just walking away and letting you go if you just fly away right now."

"If you let Kai go, I'll do just that." Jenny said, trying to negotiate.

In response, Marin could only shake her head.

"You know, if he hadn't thrown me into that explosion, that might have been possible." Marin said in a regretful tone. "And although I'm not one to advocate for revenge, that really hurt, you know? So, his elimination from the event is a fair price to pay in my opinion."

"No, just take the shot." Kai said, interrupting the conversation between the two beautiful women he was caught between. "Even if you actually eliminate me, it's better than Fairy Tail getting even more points. They already have a big enough lead on everyone else as it is."

Before Jenny could decide, Marin turned her head in the direction of Everlue Mansion.

"*Sigh* I guess it's too late." Marin muttered quietly enough that only Kai could hear her.

"Huh? What are you talking about?" Kai asked in a confused tone.

Instead of replying, the coating wrapped around Marin's hands transformed into a large number of thin tendrils that wrapped around Kai, holding him in place. Marin then took a step back and flicked her arms upwards.

"Wahh~~~~~!" kai shouted in surprise as he was suddenly lifted into the air.

Jenny was also surprised by Marin's actions. As a result, she did not start firing immediately.

Unfortunately, because her attention was taken by Kai's current predicament, she did not notice the incoming orb of violet electricity until it was too late to do anything about it.

Zap~~~~~!

"Kya~~~~~!" Jenny screamed while the electricity coursed through her body.

At the same time, Marin, with Kai still wrapped in the tendrils made from Nova's transformation, whipped her arms downwards as hard as she could. As a result, Kai was pulled down at high speed.

Bang!

Shatter!

"No~~~~~!" kai shouted in abject horror.

An instant later, Kai slammed into the ground face first. And although he did not take much damage because of his [Full body Enhancement], it was still more than he could handle. And that was because the visor on his helmet, after already having been damaged by a stray attack, finally shattered due to the collision.

And now, as he was exposed to the air of the outside, the wide-open outdoors, Kai was terrified. So terrified, in fact, that he fell unconscious shortly after being exposed.

Yet, Marin had no intention of waiting for that to happen, as she had already released Kai from her hold. Then, she dashed towards Jenny as fast as she could, trying to make it before she recovered from the paralysis caused by the orb of electricity that hit her.

Along the way, Marin transformed Nova back into her usual weapons. Though, she did not release Nova's unsealed state. And when she was in range, Marin began to dance while swinging her weapons.

"[Transformation magic: Claws and Fangs of Violation]." Marin chanted while swinging her blades.

Clang! *Cling!* *Clang!* *Clang!* *Cling!* *Clang!* *Cling!*

At speeds faster than she showed when she used the same spell during her fight with Yuka, Marin slashed Jenny over and over. Yet, cutting off Jenny's Armor, which came from her [Take Over] was not her intention. Instead, with the added power provided by Nova's current state, she [Transformed] the plate armor into a thin, summer outfit, piece by piece.

And although that did not reduce the defensive properties of the [Take Over], as the pieces were thinner, the vibrations from Marin's strikes passed through to Jenny's body with much more ease.

Then, after about two minutes of her onslaught, Jenny's paralysis had passed. Yet, her body had been so battered by the vibrations caused by Marin's slashes that she was no longer able to stand.

Thud!

And just like that, Jenny fell to the ground, her entire body spasming. Meanwhile, Marin, still heavily injured, was standing over her and breathing heavily.

On top of that, Kai had been transported out of the arena after losing consciousness due to anxiety during Marin's string of attacks on Jenny.

"And that's... *Pant* Why you should have just... *Pant* Walked away when I gave you the chance..." Marin said through ragged breaths.

Shortly after that, Jenny's [Take Over] dispelled. Then, she was engulfed in particles of light before also being transported out of the arena.

"*Sigh* That was a lot harder than I thought it would be." Marin said to herself.

["You can think back on the battle later."] Nova advised. ["For now, you should find somewhere safe to rest. You might wanna do something about your clothes, too. Though, the audience might not be so happy if you do."]

Hearing that, Marin looked down at herself. And what she saw was her shredded battle attire barely clinging onto her body and, somehow, miraculously maintaining her dignity. It was truly the will of an anime world at work.

"Yeah, I don't want Fonzie to have to pluck out everyone's eyes if my clothes accidentally fell off." Marin replied with a smile.

Marin then picked up a piece of rubble. Then, she used her [Transformation Magic] to transform the rubble into a cloak that was long enough to cover her from her shoulders to just below her knees. Finally, after throwing the newly created cloak over her shoulders, she resealed Nova, [Transformed] her back into a pair of bracelets, and dashed off to find a place to hide and recover. All while hoping she would be ready to continue before the Grand magic Game came to an end.

Meanwhile, back on the grounds of the Everlue Mansion, Alfonzo stood between three wizards, two from Sabertooth and one from mermaid Heel, as they dashed back and forth at high speeds attacking him with powerful spells and martial arts.

Yet, with a level of ease that seemed to be frustrating his attackers to no end, Alfonzo was able to either dodge or parry all the incoming attacks. He even had enough leisure to counterattack whenever he saw an opening.

For example, a few moments ago, Alfonzo, after tilting his upper body enough to evade a hypersonic uppercut from Yoruichi, had created a [Zap Cannon] on his right palm. Then, he tried to press it against Yoruichi's abdomen before firing it in an attempt to create some space to focus a little more on Sting and Rogue.

However, thanks to Yoruichi's instincts and more than impressive speed, she was able to get out of the way of Alfonzo's spell. Because of that, the [Zap Cannon] went flying off into the distance. And as Alfonzo glanced at the spell's flight path, he could not help but smile.

"That should be enough for you to take the advantage back, right, Marin?" Alfonzo asked himself at a volume that only he could hear.

After that, Alfonzo continued to defend against the three rival wizards while they took shots at each other from time to time, as well. And that situation continued into the present. And when Alfonzo felt Jenny's and Kai's magic power signatures disappear from the arena, he smiled once again.

"Alright, this has been fun." Alfonzo said. "So, I'm in a good mood. And because of that, I think I'm gonna start taking the initiative to attack. You three are cool with that, right? Well, even if you're not, it's not gonna fuckin' change anything. So, get ready!"

With that, the violet electricity surrounding Alfonzo increased in intensity as he flared his magic power. Then, he took a step forward, vanishing from where he stood in a flash of violet light.

Chapter 703: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event, the Grand Magic Game; Part 10

After increasing the output of his [Lightning Enhancement] spell, Alfonzo, with an Eskrima stick in each hand, dashed forward. And his target was Rogue, probably the most troublesome combatant on the current battlefield.

Seeing Alfonzo's approach, Rogue took a fighting stance. At the same time, his body turned into a shadow, making him intangible. And just to test the waters, Alfonzo, arriving in front of Rogue faster than he could react, swung his right arm, the Eskrima stick aimed at Rogue's head to land a knockout blow.

Swoosh!

Yet, due to the intangibility of rogue's [Shadow Form], the Shadow Dragon Slayer was completely unharmed.

"[Shadow Dragon's claw]." Rogue chanted, reeling his hand back to counterattack as he did so.

In the next instant, Rogue threw his fist forward. When he did, he dropped his [Shadow Form] an instant before his fist would connect with Alfonzo's torso. Yet, Alfonzo seemed to be expecting such a move. So, with the Eskrima Stick in his left hand he pressed against Rogue's forearm and calmly guided the punch to his right, just under his outstretched arm.

"[White Dragon's Claw]." Sting chanted as Alfonzo countered Rogue's attack.

Just as Alfonzo's weapon came in contact with Rogue's arm, Sting gathered an orb of [White Dragon Slayer Magic] in his right palm. Then, he quickly threw it in Alfonzo's direction, aiming for his exposed left flank.

Yet, without even flinching at the incoming attack, Alfonzo grinned. He then shifted the form of the Eskrima stick in his right hand after allowing it to slip from his grasp. The Eskrima stick then changed into a sheet of metal. As it did, sigils were quickly inscribed onto its surface, as well.

"[Metal Magic: Reflection Barrier]." Alfonzo chanted.

Bang! *Swoosh!*

In the next instant, Sting's [White Dragon's Claw] struck the newly formed barrier. Then, with very little of its power lost, it was shot backwards, returning from whence it came.

"Damn..." Sting groaned as he quickly dove aside to avoid his own attack.

On a side note, although Dragon Slayer's were immune to their own element, up to a certain point, they could still be harmed by it. Especially if they are hit by their own magic power.

Bang! *Bang!*

"Gahh!" Rogue groaned in pain.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo shifted the form of his other Eskrima stick, as well, turning it into a chain with a manacle at the end. And that manacle just so happened to be wrapped around Rogue's wrist. Then, following the momentum of his parry, Alfonzo turned to his right. As he did, he lashed his right hand out, backhanding Rogue, who had yet to return to his [Shadow form], before raising his hand and catching Yoruichi's lightning clad fist in his own electric clad palm.

"Nice try." Alfonzo said as he yanked his right hand downward, causing Yoruichi to stumble forward momentarily.

Bang!

At the same time, Alfonzo yanked the slightly disoriented Rogue's arm in Yoruichi's direction.

Bang!

"Ahh~!" Yoruichi screamed after Rogue's [Shadow Dragon Slash] landed on her shoulder.

Alfonzo then followed up by kicking Yoruichi in the abdomen, sending her flying through the hole in the mansion's wall that was created when Alfonzo's [Big Bang Attack] split the [Dragon Roars] from Sting and Rogue a little while ago.

"Now, let's deal with you." Alfonzo muttered as he increased the speed of his spin, whipping Rogue around, before dispelling the chain and manacle. As a result, Rogue was sent flying.

Boom! *Crash!*

As a result of Rogue still being a bit woozy from the backfist he just received, Rogue was unable to defend himself before he slammed into the Everlue Mansion's wall, destroying it on impact and causing part of the wall to collapse on top of him.

"Rogue!" Sting shouted in atone filled with worry.

"The battle's not over yet. [Raiōken]."

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

Boom!

Before Sting could rush over to Rogue's side to make sure his partner was alright, he heard a woman's voice in his ear. Then, before he knew it, Sting felt several, nearly simultaneous, strikes land on his back and shoulders. And the last one sent him flying towards the mansion like Rogue. Also, like Rogue, Sting burst through the wall causing it to collapse on top of him.

From an outsider's perspective, it would have seemed as if Yoruichi appeared behind Sting. Then, she grew two more pairs of arms, and all three pairs of arms threw punches at high-speed into Stings back before sending him flying.

Yet, before Yoruichi could admire her work, she was forced to [Flash Step] away from her position after a barrage of electrically charged projectiles tore through the spot where she just stood.

Bang!

Despite that, as soon as Yoruichi stopped, she was forced to defend herself as she saw a fist clad in a metal gauntlet aimed at her abdomen. However, the force behind the blow sent her flying all the way to the mansion's outer wall.

"You didn't just... beat me to that spot, did you?" Yoruichi asked in an astonished tone while staring at Alfonzo, who was pulling his fist back after delivering his punch.

In response, Alfonzo only shrugged his shoulders. He then looked away from Yoruichi and turned his attention back towards the two holes in the mansion's wall.

Rattle! x 2 *Boom!* x 2

At the same time, both piles of rubble where Sting and Rogue ended up started to tremble. Then, they both exploded outward. When they did, Sting and Rogue were revealed. However, it was clear that they had seen better days, as they were both covered in cuts, bruises, and blood. Even so, they both looked at Alfonzo and Yoruichi with the determination to come out as the winners of this battle.

"Rogue." Sting said in a solemn tone.

"I understand." Rogue replied.

Then, the Twin Dragon Slayers each started amassing their elements in their hands.

'Oh, they're about to use that, huh?' Alfonzo asked himself. 'I can feel their magic power starting to synchronize.'

["You know, most people would try to stop them before they can do what they're trying to do. "] Bedlam said from Alfonzo's inner world in a clearly amused tone.

'Yeah, but what would be the fun in that?' Alfonzo asked with a grin. 'Besides, if things are worse than I expected, I still have you two, right?'

["That would just be bullying. "] Riot said in a manic tone. ["And I'm all for it. Hell, you should have used us from the very beginning. "]

'I'd rather not use you guys at all.' Alfonzo said casually while Sting and Rogue's magic power finally synchronized. 'If I do, I might scare Pain and the Akatsuki from attacking us to get Naruto. And we can't have that. I'm really looking forward to what Porlyusica could come up with if she got the chance to study the Rinnegan. I mean, she said she was almost done analyzing and finding a way to harness the power of Obito's Mangekyō.'

["it's about damn time. "] Riot grumbled. ["We took that thing from him almost a year and a half ago. But there have been no results. I think that old bag is starting to get too old for this. "]

When Riot said that, Alfonzo felt a cold chill down his spine. On top of that, he felt the shadow of a broom looming overhead. Luckily, before he could be consumed by this feeling, Sting and Rogue finally finished preparing their spell.

Sting and Rogue then both held their hands out towards Alfonzo, their fingers all pointing in his direction. In the next instant, the amassed magic power in their hands was all focused on their fingertips. Then, they fired thin, piercing rays of holy light and shadows at Alfonzo in unison.

"Well, I'll give you this, that's a pretty nasty spell." Alfonzo said as he reached his hands to the strap on his lower back. "But if you think I can't deal with that kinda shit, you're sleepin' on me, you know?"

With that, Alfonzo drew Riot and Bedlam from his back in their sealed forms. Then, with his [Soul Armaments] coated in his magic power, he began spinning them at high speed. As he did so, with great accuracy, he smashed each of the incoming beams of [Dragon Slayer Magic], while remaining completely unscathed.

"What the...?" Sting exclaimed in shock after seeing that his tandem attack with Rogue was ineffective.

"Impossible..." Rogue muttered in just as much shock.

Meanwhile, Yoruichi, after seeing Alfonzo's feat, decided that she was probably unable to defeat him. So, she [Flash Stepped] away to try and get as many points as she could for her team before Alfonzo starts roaming the battlefield.

"Well, I was wondering how long it would take for her to decide this was pointless." Alfonzo muttered to himself as he stopped swinging his tonfa. "Well, let's end this, alright? [Electromagnetism Magic: Thunder Shock Surprise]."

With that chant, Alfonzo raised Riot and Bedlam, pointing their long ends at Rogue and sting. At the same time, arcs of violet electricity gathered on their tips before forming into orbs of electricity. Then, as soon as the orbs were formed, Alfonzo fired them at the Sabertooth wizards.

"This won't work on us." Sting said as he jumped aside to dodge the incoming orbs of electricity. "It's too bad that lightning of yours is some weird purple color. Otherwise, if it were white, I could have had a snack."

Like Sting, Rogue also jumped aside to avoid the incoming attacks. However, to both Dragon Slayer's surprises, instead of just sailing past them, the electrical orbs unfolded, creating cages that trapped the two inside. On top of that, because the electricity was so bright, Rogue found himself unable to take his [Shadow Form].

Meanwhile, once the two were caught, Alfonzo slipped Riot and Bedlam into the strap on his lower back. He then turned away from the Twin Dragon Slayers.

"Well, that was fun." Alfonzo said as he raised his left hand over his shoulder. "But I've spent enough time here. And it looks like most of the strongest guys are already out. So, I gotta go help the girls wrap this up. See you after this whole thing is over. Deuces."

Snap!

After he finished speaking, Alfonzo made a show of snapping his fingers. With that, the electrical cages trapping Sting and Rogue began to shrink. And before too long...

"Argh~~~~~!" Sting screamed as he was electrocuted.

"Ahh~~~~~!" Rogue also screamed due to the electricity running through his body.

Then, before long, both Sting and Rogue were engulfed in particles of light before being transported out of the arena.

Cheer~~~~~!

Meanwhile, in the Domus Flau's stands, the audience was cheering loudly at Alfonzo's display of power, with the Fairy Tail wizards being the loudest of all.

"Damn, the Kid has really gotten strong, hasn't he?" Gildarts said with a wide smile on his face. "I can still remember when he was taking the S-Class Promotion Exam about ten or so years ago. *Sigh* How time flies."

"Yes." Makarov, who took time off from his duties with the Magic Council to join the rest of Fairy Tail, said while stroking his mustache. "I can still remember the day Macao and I brought him an Elicia back from the orphanage in Hargeon. Although I had no doubt they would be powerful in the future, especially when I remembered who their parents were, this is far beyond my expectations."

"Indeed." Ur added. "From what I can tell, if Lici and I were to fight, I'm not sure who would win anymore. Though, I get the feeling that I would be the one who ends up on the ground. Especially since she's gotten so good with her [Camouflage Magic]. I mean, the only ones who can see through it in the guild at this point are Alfonzo and Irene."

"Um... Speaking of Irene..." mavis said from her seat next to Makarov. "Where did she go?"

Hearing that, the other three all froze. Then they tried to sense Irene's magic power signature. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so. And to be honest, that kind of terrified them. Especially when you consider just how much magic power Irene had.

"Ha... Ha... Ha..." Ur laughed in a hollow manner. "I'm sure there's nothing to worry about. It's not like Irene has a track record of causing trouble, right?"

Unfortunately, not one, no even Ur, felt reassured by her question. Because, they all knew that Irene did, in fact, have a track record of causing trouble. Big trouble, in fact. Because you don't get an epitaph like "the Scarlet Despair" for being on your best behavior, after all.

"Well, I for one have no idea where she went." Ur said with a refreshing smile on her face. "So, that's what you call plausible deniability."

Hearing Ur's shameless response to the problem at hand, Makarov, Gildarts, and Mavis could only stare at her blankly. Yet, they had no way to deny her words. So, instead of thinking about it too hard, they shook their heads before returning to watching the event with full attention.

Chapter 704: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event, the Grand Magic Game; Part 11

After deciding that defeating Alfonzo would be more trouble than it was worth, Yoruichi, with the use of the [Flash Step], sped through the Shirotsume recreation looking for prey.

"Damn it, just what the hell has he been eating lately?" Yoruichi grumbled to herself while jumping from rooftop to rooftop. "Has someone been spiking his milk, or something? It's only been five years... And I've gotten a lot faster, too. But he's somehow faster than me now. And I'm not even sure if he was going all out to reach that kinda speed."

Unfortunately, before she could find anyone, while she was could complaining about how unfair Alfonzo seemed to be, Yoruichi heard the only voice participating in the Grand Magic Games that she did not want to hear at the moment.

"Hey, Yoruichi, where ya goin'?" Alfonzo asked as he approached Yoruichi at high speed. "Are we done playing already? Things were just getting fun, though."

"You know, girls don't really like overly-clingy guys." Yoruichi said while rolling her eyes as she sped up.

Unfortunately, because she had disengaged [Shunkō], Yoruichi was much slower than she was during the earlier battle.

"Well then, it's a good thing I'm not trying to holla, isn't it?" Alfonzo asked. "But I'm interested in getting those sweet, sweet things you're hiding from me."

Once again Yoruichi rolled her eyes. Though, she was a bit amused by the inuendo.

"Well, I'm not really interested in putting out." Yoruichi shot back as she stopped on a dime before changing directions to avoid an electrified, chain-link fence that materialized in front of her. "You know, I'm not really into one-time things. So, if you really want it, you're gonna have to work for it."

Hearing that, Alfonzo could not help but smile wryly. Even so, he continued to pursue Yoruichi. At the same time, every time she started moving towards the central plaza, he would do something to obstruct her path. And it did not take long for Yoruichi to notice. Unfortunately, no matter how hard she tried, she was unable to out maneuver Alfonzo to reach what he was trying to keep her from.

Meanwhile, in the central plaza, Sun and Kagura were exchanging sword strikes at high-speed. However, to Kagura's amazement and frustration, Sun had yet to unseal her [Soul Armament]. Yet, she was able to, not keep up per se, but keep Kagura at bay with just her sword skills and the circulation of her magic power to not be too bothered by Kagura's use of [Gravity Magic].

Though, because of the amplification provided by Kagura's Shikai, Sun found herself on the defense more often than not. But she did not seem to be bothered by such a fact, as evidenced by the small smile on her face. Instead, she was truly enjoying the challenge that fighting Kagura in her Shikai state brought with it.

Cling! *Clang!* *Cling!* *Cling!* *Clang!*

The force behind Kagura's slashes, with the additional gravitational force was definitely a challenge for Sun to deal with. On top of that, the additional gravity affecting the area, making Sun's movements much more laborious while simultaneously damaging the plaza and disrupting her footing, was forcing Sun to improve her swordsmanship and magic power control in real time. Otherwise, she would have been unable to defend herself against Kagura's devastating strikes for long.

Despite seeing that Sun was using her as a training aid, Kagura could not find it in herself to be angry with Sun. Instead, the frustration at her inability to finish this fight despite the power gap was mounting. In fact, Kagura almost considered releasing her Shikai and continuing the fight in her base form. But at this point, that would have just been asking to be defeated. Especially since she could see just how much Sun had grown since Minerva and Terra were defeated.

Noticing that Kagura's attention had slipped from the battle for a moment, Sun avoided a diagonal slash from Kagura by a slim margin. Then, she raised Kanade and performed a downward slash of her own, aimed at Kagura's left shoulder. And should it land, it would slash her all the way to her left hip.

Realizing the situation she was in, Kagura refocused quickly. She then raised her sword. Though, the spectators were surprised to see that she did not raise it horizontally to block Sun's strike.

"[Singularity]." Kagura chanted.

With Kagura's chant, a swirling orb of black and purple magic power formed on Archenemy's tip. At the same time, the speed of Sun's slash began to slow. Then, just before Kanade could cut into Kagura's shoulder, its blade came to a complete stop. And after only a moment, it began to rise, heading towards the tip of Kagura's blade where the [Singularity] was located.

"You know, ever since you used this technique on me back at the guild hall, I've spent a lot of time thinking about how to counter it." Sun said with a smile as her sword was forced upwards towards the gravitational [Singularity]. "And I think I might have figured it out. Wanna see?"

Suns' innocent smile, instead of making Kagura feel mocked, made her curious to know what Sun had come up with. Also, unbeknownst to her, Kagura's usually emotionless expression bloomed into a wide smile that captivated most of the audience.

Slowly, Sun's blade was raised. However, it eventually was forced to make contact with the tip of Kagura's blade. And as soon as the two blades met, a few things happened in quick succession.

First of all, Sun, being several inches shorter than Kagura, was forced onto the tips of her toes so that she did not have to release her hilt. Second, by circulating her magic power into her feet and toes, Sun pushed herself off the ground forcefully.

As a result, with the two sword tips as a pivot point, Sun found herself summersaulting over Kagura's head. Then, while she was completely inverted above Kagura's head, Sun switched the target of her magic power, channeling as much as she could into the tip of Kanade's blade to counter act the gravitational force of the [Singularity].

Ting!

And Sun managed to do so successfully. As a result, a small, metallic sound was made when Kanade and Archenemy separated. And as soon as they did, Sun flowed directly into her next move.

"[Water/Sord Compound Magic: Second Form: Water Wheel]." Sun chanted as she forcefully flipped her body forward.

Then, on the way back to the ground, Sun managed to rotate one and a half times before her feet landed on the ground again. And during her rotations, she also slashed upwards at the back of Kagura's head. Luckily, Kagura reacted quickly by leaning forward. A moment later, when she felt she was clear of the attack, she spun on her heels while slashing upwards.

"[Slice Kata]." Kagura said, naming her attack.

At the same time, Sun also landed on her feet with her back to Kagura. However, as soon as she landed, she also spun on her heels while swinging her blade horizontally.

"[Water/Sword Compound Magic: First Form: Water Surface Slash]." Sun chanted while spinning around.

*Clang~~~~~! *

The collision between the two blades made one of the loudest sounds of metal clashing that had been heard in the history of the Grand Magic Games. At the same time, a shockwave was sent outwards, sweeping much of the debris caused by the battle in the central plaza along the way.

Unfortunately, Sun found herself on the losing end of this exchange. With Kagura's Shikai enhancing her strength, she was completely overpowered and sent flying with her arms left numb and bleeding due to ruptured muscles caused by the reverberations from the collision. Even so, Sun was not deterred.

"Voice Magic: Howling Voice]." Sun screamed at the top of her voice just as she was lifted off her feet.

"Damn..." Kagura muttered as she, too, was sent flying when the shockwave from Sun's [Howling Voice] slammed into her.

Boom! x 2

A moment later, both Sun and Kagura slammed into buildings lining the plaza. And while neither should have been injured too much by slamming into, or even through, a building, circumstances were different this time around.

For one, Sun, had used up quite a bit of her magic power reserves by dealing with Kagura's Shikai in her base state. On top of that, she used up even more when she forced her blade away from Kagura's [Singularity]. Finally, she packed all of her remaining magic power into that last [Howling Voice] spell. So, when she slammed into the building, she was more or less running on fumes. Meaning, her natural magic power defenses were not enough to protect her from the collision or the building crumbling on top of her. As a result, Sun was eliminated from the Grand Magic Game event.

As for Kagura, because she was in her Shikai state, she was more than capable of handling the collision, as well as the building that fell on top of her. However, the close-range [Howling Voice] that hit her and reverberated inside her body, shaking all her internal organs as it did so, caused a lot more damage than she thought it would. Add to that the fact that a building fell on top of her, by the time she climbed out of the rubble, Kagura had obviously not been eliminated. But she was definitely in no condition to fight.

On top of that, despite the fact that she was the one who managed to not be eliminated, Kagura felt that she had lost to Sun.

Even so, the only thing she could do was use Archenemy as a crutch and hopefully find somewhere to hide until her injuries settled down enough that she could continue to participate in the event. But first, she had to find Archenemy's sheath.

Clack! *Clack!* *Clack!* *Clack!* *Clack!*

After a few moments, Kagura found her sheath. However, just as she bent over to pick it up, she heard the sound of high heels clicking against the uneven plaza floor. And although she wanted to spin around and raise her blade in the new comer's direction, her body was vehemently protesting against such an action. So, the only thing she could do was slowly turn her head towards the newcomer.

"Sigh~~~~~!" Kagura sighed in resignation when she recognized the approaching figure.

Seeing the green hair styled into a bob, the black and gold bikini, and the forest green overcoat that was approaching, Kagura knew there was nothing she could do to defend herself in her current state. Especially after seeing this woman, Brandish μ walking towards her so casually while tossing a piece of rubble in her hand.

"Well, come on." Kagura said as she struggled to raise Archenemy at Brandish.

"You know, even though I don't really like to work, I was hoping for a good fight." Brandish said. "*Sigh* I guess it was a mistake to walk around the town blind, just hoping I'd run into someone. You're actually the first wizard I've run into since the event started. And you're barely able to stand on your own."

"Well, I had quite the duel with your guild mate, Sun Seto." Kagura replied.

"Oh, I'm aware." Brandish said flatly. "I mean, I've been watching for the last few minutes, after all. Anyway, I'll just end this before moving on to find my next opponent. I'll actually try looking this time, too."

Naturally, when Brandish mentioned moving while blind or trying to look for an opponent, she was talking about searching with or without the use of [Magic Power Detection].

After speaking her piece, Brandish took a look at the piece of rubble she was tossing up and down in her hand. Then, she turned to Kagura to gauge the distance between them. After that, when she felt she had a good feel of the distance, Brandish caught the piece of stone in her hand. Then, she tossed it underhandedly, sending it high into the air with Kagura set as its landing point.

"[Command T: Expansion]." Brandish chanted.

With Brandish's chant, the fist sized piece of rubble grew in size. And by the time it stopped growing, it was around the size of a normal one-story home.

Meanwhile, Kagura tightened the grip on Archenemy's hilt. Luckily, she had yet to seal her Shikai. So, even if the chances were slim thanks to her injuries, she had a chance to come out of this. Though, she doubted she would last long even if she did.

"[Meteor Kata]." Kagura said as she drew her sword back into a thrusting stance.

Crack!

A moment later, with Archenemy coated in her magic power, Kagura thrust upwards with all of her remaining strength. And when the tip of her Zanpakuto met the falling, house-sized boulder, the sound of a crack echoed around the town. At the same time, cracks began to spread all over the boulder from the point of impact.

Seeing that, Kagura, though she did not smile, had a proud look in her eyes. Yet, she knew this was where the x790 Grand Magic Games ended for her. Because despite causing enough damage to destroy the boulder, despite her injuries, there was no way for her to avoid being buried by the rubble.

Rumble!

It seemed the judges for the event agreed with Kagura. So, just before she could be buried, she was engulfed by particles of light and transported out of the arena. Meanwhile, the rubble from the destroyed stone fell to the ground and spread over the plaza. All the while, Brandish only watched the process with a flat stare.

"Well, I guess I'll look for the next victim." Brandish said as she started walking away. "Oh, and it looks like those jerks from Sabertooth are over there. Well, I guess I'll go say hi."

Meanwhile, back in the Domus Flau...

{"And that's another two!"} Loli shouted. {"There aren't many contestants left at this point. I wonder who will be the next to fall."}

{"You're right, Loli."} Yajima added. {"From what I can tell, the only ones left are Alfonzo Marcus, Elicia Marcus Taylor, Marin Kitagawa, and Brandish μ of Fairy Tail, Yoruichi Shihouin, Rangiku Matsumoto, and Anko Mitarashi of Mermaid Heel, Rufus Lore and Orga Nanagear of Sabertooth, Bacchus Groh, Genma Shiranui, Ikkaku Madarame, and Yumichika Ayasegawa of Quattro Cerberus, and Lyon Vastia and Sherry Blendy of Lamia Scale."}

{"Four... Three... Two... Four... Two... Let's see..."} Loli mumbled to himself while counting on his fingers. {"If we carry the one there... We get... Fifteen. Wow! Out of the forty wizards who started the event, there are only fifteen left. That's less than half of the total. We're really getting down to crunch time, aren't we?"}

{"That was an astonishing show of arithmetic, Loli."} Yajima said in a sarcastic tone. {"But you're right. We're really getting down to crunch time. And I'm looking forward to seeing how things turn out in the end."}

Cheer~~~~~!

In response to Yajima's words, the crowd cheered loudly once again.

{"Me, too, Yajima. Me, too."} Loli replied, seemingly having missed Yajima's sarcasm. {"Well, since there seems to be a little lull in the action, why don't we take a look at the Scores one more time?"}

With that, an overlay of the overall scoreboard scrolled across the bottom of every screen in the Domus Flau.

{Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

1. Fairy Tail 95 Pts.

2. Mermaid Heel 62 Pts.

3. Sabertooth 50 Pts.

4. Blue Pegasus 38 Pts.

5. Final Fantasy 35 Pts.

6. Quattro Cerberus 29 Pts.

6. Lamia Scale 29 Pts.

8. Twilight Ogre 1 Pts.}

Chapter 705: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event, the Grand Magic Game; Part 12

"Hmm... From what I can tell, there are three fights going on right now." Brandish muttered to herself while surveying the battlefield with [Magic Power Detection]. "Two from Mermaid Heel Vs. Two from Quattro Cerberus, Two more from Quattro Cerberus Vs. The only two left from Sabertooth, and... Yeah, you couldn't pay me to try and get between those two speed demons. Oh, and the two remaining from

Lamia Scale are over there, huh? Oh, wait... Lici is on her way to see them. I guess that only leaves two choices for me, then."

With that, Brandish stopped in place for a moment to think. She then recognized another magic power signature. Though, this one was weaker than usual.

"Oh, Marin is still in the game, too." Brandish said as she raised her eyebrows slightly. "But it looks like she's hurt. I guess I should go check on her before anything else."

Decision made; Brandish turned towards where she could sense Marin. Then, she vanished from where she stood. However, this was not a show of Brandish's impressive speed. Instead, it was an impressive application of magic that she came up with while brainstorming with Alfonzo, Elicia, and the other ladies living in the Mansion on the Lake.

Using her specialty magic, [Command T], Brandish spread her magic power in the direction she wished to travel. Then, she used [Command T: Reduction], to shrink the space between herself and her destination. And finally, Brandish stepped across the [Reduced] space before dispelling the [Reduction] spell and letting the space return to its normal size.

After her step, Brandish found herself in the backyard of a house. From what she could tell, it was nothing special. However, she could sense Marin's magic power covering a portion of the yard. Also, there was a higher concentration of her magic power underground, as well.

"Did she hide in the cellar?" Brandish asked herself as she approached the spot where she could feel Marin's magic power.

Yet, before Brandish could reach the spot in question, the area, which was covered in grass, started shifting. When it was done, instead of a patch of grass, there were a pair of wooden doors in its place.

"Just like I thought." Brandish said with a nod.

She then stepped forward before bending down and opening the cellar doors. With the doors open, Brandish looked down into the dimly lit cellar. At the bottom of the stairs, Marin was sitting against the wall with makeshift bandages wrapped around her injuries. Even so, she smiled up at Brandish.

"Hey, Brandi..." Marin said in a weak tone. "It's good to see you."

"*Sigh* You don't look like you're having the best time, Marin." Brandish said as she walked down the steps. "Just stay still, I'll [Reduce] your injuries. Still, that won't mean your completely healed. You just won't continue to get weaker."

"Thanks, Brandi, you're the best." Marin said, her smile widening.

"Honestly, it would be better if you just retired from the event to get some real medical attention." Brandish said as she placed her hands on Marin and started to manipulate the sizes of her injuries with [Command T]. "But I know what you're gonna say. So, I won't even suggest it."

"Yup... I wanna last to the end if possible." Marin said with a resolute nod.

"I know." Brandish replied.

The two continued to chat while Brandish worked. Then, when Brandish eventually finished, she stood up and turned around.

"Alright, this should last long enough for us to finish everything up." Brandish said as she started walking up the stairs. "So, just wait here. We'll take you to the infirmary to get those injuries checked properly when we're done."

"Yes, Ma'am." Marin said while playfully saluting.

Without turning around, a small smile appeared on Brandish's face. After that, it did not take long for Brandish to exit the cellar and close the doors. And once the doors were closed, they once again [Transformed], turning into a grassy ground.

"Alright, let's get going." Brandish said as she once again used [Command T] to shrink the distance between herself and her destination. She then took a step forward, arriving at her chosen battlefield.

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

When Brandish arrived, she immediately heard the sound of weapons clashing. More pressing than that, however, was the fact that a [Fireball] was flying at her directly.

"[Command T: Reduction]." Brandish chanted as she raised her hand towards the incoming fireball.

With Brandish's chant, the [Fireball] rapidly reduced in size. Then, with little effort, Brandish, with her hand coated in her magic power, caught the miniature [Fireball] and examined it with a hint of interest.

At the same time, the fighting came to a temporary stop. Then, the wizards from the two sides leapt apart and warily looked at the newcomer.

"What did she just do?" Anko, the one who shot the [Fireball], asked while her gaze shifted between her attack and the wizard who just dealt with it.

"I'm not a hundred percent sure, but I really don't wanna fight her right now." Rangiku replied.
"Especially after seeing how easily she dealt with Jura a few days ago."

While the ladies from Mermaid Heel were looking at Brandish with cautious gazes, their opponents, Ikkaku and Yumichika of Quatro Cerberus had different reactions.

"Yes! Another strong person to fight!" Ikkaku cheered while raising himself onto his toes to start dancing happily. "I've always loved this event. The fights just keep coming."

"*Sigh* Ikkaku, at least you never change." Yumichika added.

"Hmm... Well, this is interesting." Brandish said, ignoring all the chatter from the four wizards in front of her. "But you can have it back. [Command T: Expansion]."

With her chant, Brandish flung her arm, throwing the miniaturized [Fireball] towards Anko and Rangiku. Yet, while it traveled through the air, the [Fireball] quickly returned to its original size. However, it did not stop there, as it did not stop growing until it was at least four times its original size.

"What the...?" Anko exclaimed in surprise.

"Move!" Rangiku shouted before [Flash Stepping] out of the [Fireball's] flight path.

Reacting quickly to Rangiku's shout, Anko performed the [Substitution Jutsu], changing places with a pale used to draw water from the well on the property.

Boom~~~~~!

As soon as the enormous fireball hit the pale, it exploded, engulfing the area in flames. In fact, it was so intense that even Ikkaku and Yumichika had to take some distance. However, that did not stop the newly started action, for long.

Clang!

Because as soon as Ikkaku got free of the intense heat, with Hōzukimaru in its Shikai state, he dashed towards Brandish.

"Hahaha! Fight me!" Ikkaku shouted as he thrust his Kikuchi Yari towards Brandish's shoulder. However, Brandish reacted almost lazily by reaching into her overcoat and pulling out her [Soul Armament], Hecatoncheires. Then, she parried the blade of Ikkaku's weapon.

However, Ikkaku, with an excited smile on his face, only spun the deflected weapon and slammed the butt of his spear towards Brandish's temple.

"You know, I'm not really one for proper duels." Brandish said in a bored tone as she took a step back to avoid the shaft of the spear. She then raised Hecatoncheires and tapped it against the shaft as it passed by. "[Command T: Reduction]."

"What the...?" Ikkaku exclaimed as Hōzukimaru shrunk to a size that could fit in one palm.

And if the slight wince in Ikkaku's expression was any indication, Hōzukimaru was just as confused as he was. Still, he did not have much time to be lost in his confusion.

Bang!

Clang!

Because as soon as Hōzukimaru shrunk, Brandish stepped forward. Then, with her right elbow, she struck Ikkaku in the butt of his chin. While doing so, she flipped Hecatoncheires, which was held in her right hand, into a reverse grip and blocked the kunai Anko swept at her.

Bang!

Bang! *Clatter!*

Then, with her left hand, Brandish followed up by landing a left hook on the right side of Anko's rib cage before pivoting on her front foot and lashing a roundhouse kick at both Ikkaku and Anko. And while Anko, though in pain from the body blow, was able to evade with the [Substitution Jutsu], Ikkaku took the full brunt of the kick across the side of his face. And with Brandish's body being strengthened with her magic power, he was sent flying before slamming into the ground and rolling until he hit a nearby house.

"I really don't like that little trick." Brandish grumbled while glancing at the broken flower pot Anko had just [Substituted] with.

"[Growl, Haineko]." Rangiku said, chanting her Zanpakutō's release command.

Hearing that, Brandish's attention was drawn to Rangiku. And when her eyes landed on the busty blonde, she saw the blade of Rangiku's sword breaking down into what appeared to be ash. Then, with a flick of Rangiku's wrist, the ash went flying in Ikkaku's direction.

"Damn, she's taking advantage of my hard... Um... well, I did something, I guess." Brandish muttered, too lazy to try and secure more points for her team.

Instead of trying to eliminate Ikkaku herself, she watched as Yumichika [Flash Stepped] between Ikkaku and the ash that was Rangiku's Zanpakuto, Haineko, with his left hand resting at the base of his blade. He then ran his hand along the blade as it started to glow in a white light.

"[Bloom, Fuji Kujaku]." Yumichika chanted.

In the next instant, Yumichika's Zanpakuto, Fuji Kujaku,'s blade chanted in shape, looking more like a khopesh than a katana, though, its cutting edge was on the opposite side of a traditional khopesh. On top of that, there was a hinge at the base of the blade that connected it to the hilt. And when Yumichika flicked his wrist, the blade spread into four identical, equally-spaced, blades.

"*Swoosh!* *Swoosh!* *Swoosh!* *Swoosh!*

Then, at high speed, Yumichika swung his weapon, whipping up the surrounding air, and disrupting the approaching ash.

"Come on, Ikkaku, you have to get it together quickly!" Yumichika shouted. "You know what happens if we're surrounded by Haineko."

"Uh... Just a moment." Ikkaku muttered in a daze. Clearly, Brandish's elbow strike and kick combo caused a concussion.

"You should just give up, Yumichika." Rangiku said smugly. "You can't save both of you. So, you should just escape and let him be eliminated."

"Not gonna happen, Rangiku." Yumichika shot back while continuing to try and disperse the ash.

"I feel like she forgot about me." Brandish muttered as she reached down and picked up a piece of the broken flower pot. "I guess I should remind her. [Command T: Expansion]."

As she chanted, Brandish threw the piece of the flower pot at Rangiku. However, contrary to Brandish's expectations, Rangiku had never forgotten about her. In fact, she made sure to keep her in her awareness at all times. Rather, she was hoping that Brandish would rush in to deal with her while she was paying attention to Ikkaku and Yumichika. Then, Anko would be able to sneak attack her. But...

"This isn't according to the script!" Rangiku shouted as a house-sized shard of a broken flower pot came flying in her direction.

"[Fire-Style: Fire Annihilation]." Anko chanted while performing a series of hand signs as she appeared between Rangiku and the giant, clay projectile.

A moment later, Anko took a deep breath before breathing a torrent of fire from her mouth that was big enough to engulf the entire shard. And thanks to the high temperature, the sound of clay cracking could be heard from the flames. However, before the shard could explode into shrapnel, it was incinerated by the flames.

"[Command T: Reduction]." Brandish's chant drifted into Rangiku's and Anko's ears from the other side of the torrent of flames.

In the next instant, the flames shrunk down, fitting nicely in the palm of Brandish's magic power clad hand, as she dashed forward, catching both Mermaid Heel wizards off guard. Yet, both had good enough reaction speeds to avoid her should they choose to. Unfortunately, Rangiku was determined to eliminate Ikkaku and Yumichika. So, that left Anko to deal with Brandish.

Unfortunately, because Rangiku was right behind her, that meant that using the [Substitution Jutsu] to avoid Brandish's attack was not an option. So, Anko ran through another set of hand signs.

"[Summoning Jutsu: Hidden Shadow Snake Hands]." Anko chanted as she raised her arms in Brandish's direction.

In the next instant, nearly two dozen snakes shot out from each of Anko's sleeves and stretched towards Brandish. Yet, although Brandish wore a mildly disgusted expression from seeing so many snakes together, she was more or less undeterred

"[Command T: Expansion]." Brandish chanted while raising the hand holding the miniaturized [Fire Annihilation] towards the incoming snakes.

Poof! x 44

The flames in Brandish's hands immediately expanded with her spell. They then clashed with the snakes Anko summoned. Unfortunately, there was no contest during the collision. Instead, as soon as the snakes made contact with the flames, they burst into clouds of smoke as they were unsummoned.

"Rangiku, hurry!" Anko shouted as she formed more hand signs. "I can't hold her much longer."

"I'm done." Rangiku said as she finally managed to get all the ash into position, despite Yumichika's best efforts. "[Neko Rinbu]."

"[Command T: Reduction]." Brandish chanted almost at the same time.

Swoosh! *Boom!*

With Rangiku's chant, the ash that had been spread around Yumichika and Ikkaku began to rotate around them at high speed, creating a tornado made of ash and destroying the house Ikkaku was leaning against in the process. Then, the tornado started shrinking in diameter, basically deciding the Quatro Cerberus wizards' fate in this event.

At the same time, Brandish, with the [Fire Annihilation] spell in her hand again, reached Anko before she could cast her next Jutsu. She then slammed the [Fire Annihilation] into Anko's abdomen while allowing it to return to its original size.

"Ahh~~~~~!" Anko screamed in pain before she was engulfed in light and transported out of the arena.

A moment later, lights could be seen shining in the ash tornado.

"Good, I made it in time." Rangiku said. "Argh~~~~~!"

Yet, less than a second later, Rangiku was also engulfed by the flames of the [Fire Annihilation] before being transported out of the arena.

A few moments later, the flames died out, leaving the entire area scorched.

"Well, there isn't much left to do." Brandish muttered. "I guess I'll go watch Lici fight those two from Lamia Scale."

Then, Brandish turned towards where she could sense Elicia, [Reduced] the size of the space between them, took a step forward, and disappeared from where she stood.

Chapter 706: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event, the Grand Magic Game; Part 13

Boom! *Boom!* *Crumble!* *Boom!* *Zap!*

"Looks like Fonzie and Yoruichi are having fun." Elicia said while gazing off into the distance where flashes of light, explosions, and crumbling buildings could be seen. "I guess I better hurry before they accidentally take down the ones I'm going after."

As Elicia said, she was currently making her way towards two of the few remaining wizards in the Grand Magic Games, Lyon Vastia and Sherry Blendy from Lamia Scale. As she got closer to her targets, she felt both Sun and Kagura's magic power signatures leave the arena while Brandish started moving towards Marin. So, she knew she had to hurry before she was left with nothing to do.

Meanwhile, Lyon and Sherry were also looking in the direction of the constant explosions in the distance.

"Lyon, do you know who that is?" Sherry asked with a cautious expression on her face.

"If I had to guess, it's probably Alfonzo." Lyon replied. "But I'm not sure who he's fighting. Hell, I didn't know anyone other than Jura was even capable of keeping up with that guy. But if it was Jura, there would be more rocks shooting up into the air, too. So..."

"Speaking of Jura." Sherry said. "I wonder how he's doing. I've been wishing for his, Yuka's, and Toby's safety with all my {Love}."

"Yeah, I'm sure you have." Lyon replied. "Unfortunately, until we meet up with them again, we can only hope for their safety. Now, let's get moving again. And let's try to stay away from whatever the hell is going on over there."

Saying that, Lyon looked in the direction of the explosions once again before turning around and starting to walk again. Nodding her head, Sherry followed him closely. Yet, it did not take long for the two to come to a stop again.

"Hello~!" A cheerful female voice said from above.

Taking their fighting stances as they looked up, Lyon and Sherry were met with a cheerfully smiling brown-skinned young woman wearing a black, white, and pink superhero costume lowering herself from a rooftop with her threads.

"*Sigh* Magic Seamstress." Lyon said, sounding a bit relieved.

"Oh, hi, Lici." Sherry said at the same time, though her tone was much more friendly. "I've been meaning to come visit you in Magnolia. I miss Mar'e. And I wanna shower him with {Love}."

Hearing that, Elicia could not help smiling as she touched down in front of the two Lamia Scale wizards.

"You're welcome to come visit any time, Sherry." Elicia said happily. "You should bring Ren along, too. You know you're always welcome at our home."

"I will." Sherry replied energetically.

"But we can set up a date for that later." Elicia said as she raised her hands and bent her knees. "For now, we've got something to do. So, are you two ready~?"

"I was born ready." Lyon replied while pushing his hands forward in his casting gesture. "[Ice-Make: Eagles]."

With that, a dozen eagles formed from ice materialized around Lyon. Then, with a wave of the Ice Wizard's hand, they all flapped their wings and flew towards Elicia.

Reacting calmly, Elicia did not make any excessive moves. Instead, she avoided the [Ice Eagles] with the minimum necessary movement. And when Lyon saw that Elicia was not having any trouble with those few [Ice Eagles], he repeated the cast with more magic power, resulting in another two dozen eagles circling and attacking Elicia.

In response to the extra [Ice Eagles], Elicia was forced to start making bigger moves to evade. So, she put on a display of her gymnastic and acrobatic abilities.

Bang! *Bang!* *Shatter!* *Bang!* *Shatter!*

And as she dipped, ducked, rolled, and flipped away from the attacking [Ice Eagles], Elicia either punched, kicked, or entangled them with her [Thread Magic] before slamming them into buildings and the street below her to destroy them.

However, while this was happening, neither Lyon nor Sherry were idle.

"[Doll Attack Magic: Rock Doll]." Sherry chanted while raising her hand dramatically.

"[Ice-Make: Snow Dragon]." Lyon chanted.

With the two's chants, two things happened in quick succession.

First, from the ground between Lyon and Sherry, an almost 10' tall, humanoid [Rock Doll] rose from the street. Next, a 15' long eastern dragon formed from ice appeared behind the [Rock Doll]. Then, the [Ice Dragon] flew forward and picked up the golem, letting it ride on its back.

A moment later, just as Elicia destroyed the last of the [Ice Eagles], she found the [Ice Dragon's] gaping mouth right in front of her, about to swallow her whole.

Yet, Elicia reacted easily, side flipping away. However, while she was airborne, she was forced to shoot a thread towards the nearest building before pulling herself out of the way of the [Rock Doll's] swinging arm.

"Wow! You guys have pretty good teamwork." Elicia said with a smile as she stuck herself to the side of the building she used to pull herself away. "I bet it would be even better if Yuka and Toby were here."

Elicia's genuine smile while she praised the made Sherry smile as well. However, Lyon found himself frowning slightly. The way Elicia said that, it seemed as if she were proud of their growth. But she was the same age as they were. So, why was she talking like she was an elder?

So, to make her stop looking down on them, Lyon directed the [Ice Dragon] to circle around and fly at Elicia once again.

"Come on, Sherry." Lyon said while focusing all his attention on Elicia. "If she really wants to see our teamwork, let's show her."

"Yes!" Sherry said in her usual dramatic tone. "The {Love} between members of Lamia Scale can overcome anything!"

A moment later, Elicia was forced to jump away from where she was attached to the building. Yet, she did not do so without counterattacking. That would not be in the spirit of a Fairy Tail wizard, after all.

"[Thread Magic: Loosening Spool]." Elicia chanted as she ejected threads from all over her body while making them rotate around her like a drill and vibrate at a high frequency.

Scrape!

As a result, when Elicia jumped past the [Ice Dragon] and the [Rock Doll], her spinning and vibrating threads ground them down. And while the [Rock Doll] was seriously damaged, one of its legs ground away, Lyon channeled more magic power into the [Ice Dragon], repairing the damage Elicia caused. At the same time, he took the opportunity to secure the [Rock Doll] to the [Ice Dragon's] back by freezing the two together.

And just like that, the back and forth between Elicia and the combination of the [Ice Dragon and the [Rock Doll] continued for a few minutes. However, like last time, Neither Lyon nor Sherry stayed idle, as they both created more [Ice-Make] and [Doll Attack] spells to disrupt Elicia's concentration and ability to evade.

"Okay, this is getting pretty challenging." Elicia said, the smile not leaving her face. "But I think you two might have forgotten something."

"Don't listen to her, Sherry." Lyon said quickly, not wanting Elicia's words to influence his guild mate.

"Right." Sherry said, her usual {Loving} expression replaced with one of determination. Though, there was sweat dripping down her forehead due to the exertion and amount of magic power she had used since the battle started.

A few moments later, after she was pushed into the position where the two Lamia Scale wizards wanted her to be, the [Ice Dragon] was finally able to sink its teeth into Elicia. However, when it did, both Lyon's and Sherry's expressions turned bitter in an instant.

"When fighting me, sometimes you can't trust your eyes~." Elicia's voice said from behind Lyon and Sherry.

As Elicia said, Lyon and Sherry made a mistake only trusting their eyes during this fight. Because, just as the [Ice Dragon] bit into Elicia's figure, the Elicia in front of them simply faded out of existence. Then, they heard her voice coming from behind them. Way too close for comfort, they might add.

"[Ice-Make: Floor]!" Lyon shouted as he dropped down and slammed his hands onto the floor.

Despite having never fought Elicia before, he had heard about her tactics from Gray and Ultear, who had sparred with her more times than they could count over the last fifteen years, or so. So, he knew that Elicia liked to spread a frankly staggering number of threads over the ground while engaging wither opponents before reeling them in as a surprise attack and wrapping them up in a cocoon of her [Thread Magic].

Freeze!

So, to counter one of Elicia's favorite tactics, Lyon just froze the entire street, freezing any threads that could have been spread around with it.

"Not bad." Elicia said as she, too, knelt down. "But that's not my only trick, you know?"

As she said that, Elicia wrapped her arms around Lyon's waist.

"Oh... shit..." Lyon muttered.

Bang!

Then, before Lyon could react, Elicia stood up with Lyon in her arms before bending her back and performing a perfect bridge. Or rather, a perfect German Suplex. As a result, Lyon found himself slammed head first into the frozen over ground. Yet, Elicia's attack did not stop there, though. However, the powerful blow to the head did cause all of Lyon's [Dynamic Ice-Make] spells to dispel.

Following her German Suplex, Elicia kicked off the ground, using Lyon's head as a pivot point before flipping them both up to their feet. She then, with all her physical strength, threw Lyon into the air, looping a thread around his right ankle as he ascended. Lastly, when Lyon's ascent came to an end, Elicia gripped her end of the thread with both hands. Then, she yanked it, and by extension, Lyon, down with all her might.

"Ahh!" Lyon shouted as his body was jerked back towards the ground.

Bang!

Then, before he could react, Lyon was slammed back first into the ground. At the same time, Elicia leapt into the air, summersaulting toward the downed Lyon. Then, with a full rotation, she slammed her right heel into the Ice Wizards abdomen.

Bang!

*Bwah!" Lyon groaned as all the air in his lungs was forced out before he fainted from the sudden loss of oxygen.

Meanwhile, Sherry could only watch Elicia's assault on Lyon in shock. Honestly, she was just not able to keep up with how fast the tables had turned. Not even ten seconds ago, she and Lyon had cornered Elicia, and she had been bitten by the [Ice Dragon] Lyon created. But now... Things were like this.

"So, you ready to continue?" Elicia asked, snapping Sherry out of her daze while Lyon was engulfed by particles of light under her foot.

"Of course." Sherry replied, while taking a hand to hand fighting stance. "I won't give up just because Lyon was defeated. I'll show you the power of my {Love}."

Sherry then rushed forward to fight in close quarters, because she knew there was no way Elicia would allow her to summon any of her dolls again, especially while she was so close.

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

Unfortunately, there was no way that Sherry could compare to Elicia in close quarters combat. So, in even less time than it took to deal with Lyon, Sherry was also engulfed in particles of light after Elicia avoided Sherry's overly telegraphed punch by performing a back hand spring, kicking Sherry in the chin and sending her airborne in the process.

Elicia then, once her feet were on the ground again, leapt into the air after Sherry and juggled her for a second or two with several punches and kicks, before slamming her into the ground, knocking her unconscious.

"Well, that was fun." Elicia said while clapping the dust off her hands.

["Yeah, but you might have just sentenced Lyon to hell."] Scylla said from Elicia's inner world with an amused grin on her face.

Hearing that, Elicia flinched.

"You're joking right?" Elicia asked while smiling apprehensively. "I mean, Ur wouldn't find him for extra training after he lost to me, right? I mean, she knows how strong I am, you know?"

["Well, if you had just beaten him, perhaps."] Scylla said with a shrug that Elicia felt she could hear in her tone. ["But the way you pretty much devastated him, I'm sure Ur will have something to say... In a rather physical way."]

Once again, Elicia flinched. She then raised her right hand and made a cross in front of her while she lowered her head and prayed for Lyon's safety.

"Well, I've done all I can for him at this point." Elicia said as she raised her head. "For now, let's go watch Fonzie play with Yoruichi. It should be fun."

["Part of me wants to call you heartless for blowing Lyon's suffering off like that."] Scylla said. ["But I know that was just about all you could do for him. Because there's no way in hell Ur isn't going to have a field day with this.]

And just as Elicia and Scylla expected, Ur had stood up from her seat in the Fairy Tail seating area and was making her way over to the Lamia Scale seating area with an angry, yet determined, expression on her face.

"You may not be a member of my guild, Lyon." Ur said while people quickly got out of her way along her path. "But that doesn't mean that a disciple of mine is going to look that pathetic in front of so many people. So, you'd better prepare yourself. I'll be training you from the basics again. And I'm sure Ooba Babasama won't have an issue with it. Especially since a member of her guild will be getting stronger in the process.

Meanwhile, Lyon, although he was unconscious, could not help but shudder in the sick bed he was lying in.

"Wow! Mom's really pissed off.' Ultear said while watching her mother go. "I almost feel bad for Lyon."

"Yeah." Gray said while nodding his head in agreement. "I haven't seen her this mad since the day after Alfonzo and Elicia's wedding when she was chasing Gildarts down. Before that, it was when she found out that I went along with Natsu and Happy's stupid idea to take on an S-Class Quest."

When Gray mentioned the unauthorized S-Class quest, he could not help shuddering at the memory of not only Ur's punishment where he had to train by fighting a blizzardvern who she stole an egg from. Yet, the memories of seeing Mirajane standing there when he, Natsu, Happy, and Lucy approached the place where the quest target could be found and when Erza beat him up for breaking guild rules made him shudder just as violently.

Seeing how Gray just froze up, lost in his painful memories, Ultear could only smile wryly while patting him on the shoulder. At the same time, Juvia, who had been silent, hugged Gray lovingly to bring him back to the here and now.

Chapter 707: The Grand Magic Games' Final Event; the Grand Magic Game; Part 14 (End)

Zap!

Boom!

"Seriously, can you stop?" Yoruichi asked in an exasperated tone while dodging a lightning bolt.

"If you were me, would you stop?" Alfonzo asked while chasing Yoruichi.

"That's not the point." Yoruichi muttered.

Currently, Alfonzo and Yoruichi were flashing around the recreation of Shirotsume. However, instead of moving together, Alfonzo was chasing Yoruichi. While that would have made Yoruichi happy in any other situation, right now, Alfonzo's persistence was getting annoying.

On top of that, Yoruichi could tell that Alfonzo was only playing with her. In fact, she vaguely felt that he was herding her in a certain direction. But without the ability to sense the magic power signatures of those in her surroundings, Yoruichi had no idea just how true that was.

Another thing that Yoruichi was unaware of was the fact that aside from her, there were only eight other wizards left in the event. And of those eight, four of them belonged to Team Fairy Tail. Meaning, even if Fairy Tail's remaining wizards, Alfonzo, Elicia, Marin, and Brandish all forfeited, the winner of the Grand Magic Games would not change. It would still be Fairy Tail.

Boom!

However, at that moment, Yoruichi was forced out of her thoughts when she had to quickly dodge to the side just after setting foot on another rooftop. And just as she managed to get out of the way, Alfonzo, cloaked in violet electricity, descended from directly above where she stood less than a moment ago, smashing his fist in to the roof.

Unfortunately for the building, a four-story building, Alfonzo's punch caused it to collapse on itself. Meanwhile, Yoruichi only glanced at the destruction while she continued to run.

"Man~! This is kinda liberating!" Alfonzo shouted as he came flying out of the cloud of dust and debris. "I can kind of understand why the members of my guild destroy everything they touch. Maybe I should start letting loose more often when I'm on quests."

With Alfonzo's words being broadcast to the Domus Flau, the entire audience shuddered in terror. Meanwhile, Makarov and Ur almost started crying.

"Old Man, he's joking, right?" Ur asked as she reached out and grabbed Makarov by his shoulders. "If Alfonzo starts 'letting loose,' Fairy Tail is definitely gonna be seen as a Dark Guild."

"Oh, of course, he is." Makarov said in a shaky tone, clearly not fully believing his own words. "Alfonzo's a good kid. He would never cause undo suffering and damage to his surroundings. We have to believe in him."

"Well, you could just take away his points like you do with me, right?" Gildarts asked with a shrug.

Immediately, most of Fairy Tail, who were excitedly discussing the Grand Magic Game event, stopped what they were doing and stared at Gildarts as if they saw something exotic.

"Cana, you should be happy that intelligence isn't something that depends solely on your heritage." Mirajane said while patting Cana on the shoulder.

"Yeah." Cana replied with a nod while covering her face. "Even if it was, it's clear that mine came from Mom and not Dad."

"Mom... Are you sure this is who you've decided to be with?" Ultear asked in a concerned tone. "I mean, even if he's got a lot of us already, wouldn't joining me as one of Alfonzo's wives be better? I mean, I'm really scared for any future younger siblings I might have."

"You know, Tear." Ur replied as she reached up and stroked Ultear's long hair. "For the first time ever, I'm actually considering it."

"Gildarts is right!" Natsu shouted indignantly. "How come no one ever takes Alfonzo's points away? It's unfair!"

Once again, everyone stopped their discussions. Then, they stared at Natsu just as blankly as they did with Gildarts.

"*Sigh* Fairy Tail wizards have never been the sharpest tools in the shed." Mavis said while shaking her head. "But the two of you aren't even sharp tools, are you?"

"Huh?" Gildarts and Natsu exclaimed in unison. "What do you mean? Are you calling me dumb?"

Instead of answering the two most destructive members of the guild, Mavis slowly made eye contact with them, causing them to flinch back when they saw just how blank the look in her eyes was.

"So, you suggest taking points away from Alfonzo, right?" Mavis asked slowly, trying not to speak too fast for Gildarts and Natsu to follow. "Then, let me ask you this... Who is it that makes the meals you and your guild mates trade those points for?"

In the next instant, Gildarts and Natsu froze as if they had been struck by lightning while the rest of the guild face palmed in unison. Meanwhile, Lisanna, with Miyako in her arms pulled the stunned Natsu into her arms, hugging his head against her bosom. At the same time, Miyako, who thought her father's expression was funny, poked his cheeks while giggling at her father's expense.

Gildarts, on the other hand, at least had the decency to look away after he snapped out of his shock. Or rather, he did not have the face to look Ur in her eyes. If he were her, he would start considering finding another man, too, if he had heard something so stupid in her position.

"Oh, it looks like Lici caught up to Fonzie and that bitch!" Cana shouted, drawing everyone's attention back to the Lacrima-Vision screens.

And just as Cana said, while Yoruichi was running away from Alfonzo, Elicia approached them from the side. She then started running, jumping, and swinging between buildings next to Yoruichi.

"Hey, Yoruichi." Elicia said with a little wave. "You finally got what you wanted, huh? You've got Fonzie pursuing you relentlessly. So, why don't you look happy?"

While there was a lot Yoruichi wanted to say in response to Elicia's words. Like how this was not the kind of pursuit she wanted. Or, "I thought you forgave me already. So, why does it sound like you're still holding a grudge over what happened back then?" Or even crack a joke about how it was only a matter of time before she had Alfonzo wrapped around her little finger. She couldn't bring herself to say any of that. Instead, she was completely taken by the fact that Elicia was keeping up with her. On top of that, she seemed to be doing so without much effort.

Then again, Yoruichi was not running at top speed, either. She was not using [Shunkō], after all. Even so, her top speed in her base form was nothing to sneeze at. Hell, even Laxus in his [Lightning Form], had to push himself to the limit to keep up with this speed. So, the words that came out of Yoruichi's mouth were...

"How? When? So fast?" Yoruichi asked, unable to put together a cohesive sentence.

However, Elicia only smiled in response. She then leapt to her left while Yoruichi leapt to her right to avoid an orb of electricity Alfonzo through to keep Yoruichi on her toes.

"If you wanna watch, Lici, doing it from there probably isn't the best seat... Or... Er... vantage point?" Alfonzo said. "You're kinda in the splash zone."

"Yeah, I get it." Elicia replied as she stopped on a nearby rooftop. She then waited for Alfonzo to pass by as she shot threads from her fingertips, wrapped them around his waist, then pulled herself onto his back before wrapping her arms and legs around his neck and torso. "So, I'll just watch from here. Oh, and please don't chock me with your electricity, it will mess up my hair."

"You're lucky I love you and have good control of my magic." Alfonzo muttered to himself while rolling his eyes. "*Sigh* Using the same training method that James uses really made a difference."

"Yeah, but pricking my finger on the spike when I run out of magic power really hurts." Elicia replied with a pout.

The training method Alfonzo and Elicia were referring to consisted of using magic power on the tip of a finger to balance on the point of a metal spike while using the least amount of magic power possible to stay aloft.

"Yeah, but you're supposed to stop before you--- Oh, we're here." Alfonzo started to reply before cutting himself off with a smile.

As Yoruichi thought, Alfonzo was, indeed, herding her in a certain direction. And that direction was towards the last fight going on during the Grand Magic Game, Bacchus Groh and Genma Shiranui Vs. Rufus Lore and Orga Nanagear. However, when Yoruichi saw the ongoing battle, she had no intention of interfering, as doing so would slow her down.

Swish! *Swish!* *Swish!*

Yet, before Yoruichi could move to circle around the fighting duos, Alfonzo conjured and threw three uniquely-shaped throwing knives with black blades. And while two of the blades were aimed at Yoruichi's back and the place where she intended to dodge, the third was not even close to hitting her. Nor did it hinder her ability to dodge. Instead, it was sent flying towards Bacchus.

On top of that, because of the way Yoruichi was forced to dodge, she would end up passing right between the four wizards from Quatro Cerberus and Sabertooth.

Cling! *Thunk!*

At the same time, after using his [Palm Magic] and the [Water Stream, rock Smashing Fist] to redirect Orga's [120 mm Black Lightning Cannon] before it could hit Genma, Bacchus knocked the throwing knife that was headed towards his left shoulder out of the air, causing it to be imbedded into the ground.

"Well, well, well..." Bacchus said as he looked in the direction the throwing knife came from. "It looks like we've got some more guests--- Ah... Shit..."

Wen Bacchus aw Alfonzo approaching while cloaked in his violet electricity, he smiled, looking forward to fighting him. Yet, when he saw Elicia's head poking out from over Alfonzo's right shoulder, he shuddered involuntarily, the scene of his near death experience flashing through his mind.

Meanwhile, seeing how Bacchus had lost concentration for a moment, Yoruichi, who was also headed in the same direction, decided to take the opportunity in front of her to get some points for her team.

"Shunkō]." Yoruichi chanted as white [Lightning Magic] once again radiated from her arms and back, creating a pair of white wings.

In the next instant, Yoruichi vanished in a burst of speed. Yet, at the same time, unnoticed by everyone on the battlefield, the few characters engraved into the blade of the throwing knife, which was hidden by being stuck in the ground, flashed. Then, Alfonzo and Elicia also vanished from where they were.

"Damn!" Bacchus snapped as he noticed that Yoruichi was hellbent on attacking him.

As quickly as he could, Bacchus raised his hands to try and redirect the attack that he was sure would arrive soon. And just as he expected, Yoruichi appeared out of a burst of speed with her fist reeled back

and ready to punch him square in his face. Luckily, his instincts saved him, as he was able to get his magic power clad right palm up in front of Yoruichi's fist. Or rather, they would have...

Yet, that was when something truly unexpected happened.

"I caught you~" Alfonzo said, his voice coming from between the two wizards.

Shocked by the voice that shouldn't be there, Yoruichi and Bacchus stopped. Then, they simultaneously looked down between them. When they did, they saw Alfonzo crouching while he placed his hands on their abdomens with Elicia hugging onto his back and waving at them.

"Hello~." Elicia sing-songed.

"Well, shit..." Bacchus groaned.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Zap Cannon]." Alfonzo chanted.

Zap! x 2

With Alfonzo's chant, electricity started gathering on his palms. Unfortunately for Bacchus and Yoruichi, those palms were currently in contact with their abdomens. Meaning, while the [Zap Cannons] were forming, they found themselves being electrocuted.

"Boom!* x 2

A moment later, both Bacchus and Yoruichi were blown away from where they stood by a pair of electrical orbs before slamming into and threw buildings in opposite directions. And when the buildings eventually collapsed on them, the lightning orbs exploded, as well. Unfortunately, because the lightning was so bright, neither Genma, Rufus, nor Orga knew if the two had been eliminated.

However, with the use of [Magic Power Detection], Alfonzo and Elicia were certain that they had both been eliminated. Though, if Yoruichi had not already fought Alfonzo and spent so much magic power running away from him, she would have probably survived the attack. As for Bacchus, if he had time to react, he would have been able to redirect the [Zap Cannon] before it could do any damage. Yet, that was not the case, this time.

"What the...?" Genma asked in dumbfounded amazement. "How...? How do you know that Jutsu?"

"You should ask the Hokage about that." Alfonzo replied. "Lici, take care of the lightning ogre. I'll deal with the other two."

"Okay~!" Elicia replied as she jumped off Alfonzo's back and shot a thread at a nearby building to swing towards Orga.

"My name is Orga, not ogre!" Orga shouted indignantly.

"I think he knows that. Rather than your name, I believe he was referring to your appearance." Rufus said as he raised his index and middle fingers to his temples. "[Memory-Make: Afterimage]."

With Rufus' chant, many, extremely realistic copies of himself and Orga appeared around the Sabertooth duo, which Rufus conjured by molding the memories of everyone on the battlefield. Unfortunately, tricks like these were more or less useless against members of Fairy Tail.

Bang!

As evidenced by the fact that Elicia swung in, passing through the copies before kicking Orga into the air.

Elicia then, with the use of her threads, started bouncing between the buildings. As she did so, she passed by Orga quite a few times, delivering a heavy blow every time she did, which kept him airborne. And although it was not at the same speed as Alfonzo's assault on the first day of the Grand Magic Games, it made Orga angry that the attacks were so similar. And what made him even angrier was the fact that he was unable to do anything about it, as every time he tried attacking Elicia, she used her threads to shift his position in the air. Meaning he could never get a bead on her position.

Eventually, Orga fell unconscious after taking too much damage and was transported out of the arena in a burst of light particles.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, once Orga was taken out of the picture, flared his magic power. He then released electricity in all directions, both Genma and Rufus caught in the range of his spell.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Spider Lightning]." Alfonzo chanted.

It did not take long for Genma to succumb to Alfonzo's spell. Despite the fact that he could use the [Substitution Jutsu], anything he could use to [Substitute his position at the moment was also in Alfonzo's range. So, that was wear Genma's Grand Magic Games run came to an end.

Rufus, on the other hand, raised his hands to his temples, as soon as Orga was knocked away, to cast another spell.

"[Memory-Make: Shrine of Turbulent Fangs]." Rufus chanted before quickly swiping his arm in Alfonzo's direction. He then quickly dropped to one knee and pressed his hands on the ground before he continued. "[Memory-Make: Karma of the Burning Land]."

With Rufus' two chants, a couple of things happened in quick succession. First, just as Alfonzo's lightning started to discharge, several, closely-packed, whirlwinds formed between him and Alfonzo. Yet, when they were hit by the lightning, both the lightning and the whirlwinds were dispersed.

Then, when Rufus touched the ground, flames began blazing from the ground between Rufus and Alfonzo. And as they got further away from Rufus, the intensity of the flames increased.

"So, you can cast spells as quickly as you can remember them, huh?" Alfonzo asked without even reacting to the flames that were about to engulf him. "That's actually pretty cool."

As soon as he finished speaking, Alfonzo was swallowed by the flames, causing Rufus to sigh in relief. Yet, just before he could turn to see Orga's situation, he heard a voice he did not expect to hear so soon. Especially in such good condition.

"But this fire just isn't hot enough." Alfonzo said while swinging a pair of Eskrima sticks made from a metal that absorbs flames. "I mean, seriously. Natsu farts hotter flames than these."

Raising his hands to his head once again, Rufus wanted to cast another [Memory-Make] spell. However, before he could recite his chant, his eyes widened when Alfonzo disappeared from in front of him before reappearing within arm's reach.

Zap!

"Too slow." Alfonzo said with his right fist reeled back and crackling with electricity. "Even if you can cast as fast as you can remember, you still have the same flaw as most [Molding Magic]. You have to make some kind of gesture first. And I'm more than fast enough to take advantage of that opening. Oh, and you should think twice about ever trying to scheme on me like that again, okay?"

Bang!

Alfonzo then threw a devastating right hook that landed on Rufus' jaw. At the same time, the electricity on Alfonzo's fist ravaged Rufus' body from the inside. Rufus then, while smoking from the electricity, went stiff before falling to the ground unconscious.

{"Ladies and gentlemen!"} Loli's shout could now be heard even in the arena. {"That marks the end of the Grand Magic Game event. And although I don't think we need to see it to know who the champion is, let's take a look at the final scoreboard while congratulating this year's Grand Magic Games champions, Team Fairy Tail!"}

Cheer~~~~~!~

With Loli's declaration, the overall scoreboard once again showed up on all the screens in the Domus Flau while the crowd went wild.

{Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

1. Fairy Tail 112 Pts.

2. Mermaid Heel 64 Pts.

3. Sabertooth 50 Pts.

4. Blue Pegasus 38 Pts.

5. Final Fantasy 35 Pts.

6. Quattro Cerberus 29 Pts.

6. Lamia Scale 29 Pts.

8. Twilight Ogre 1 Pts.}

Meanwhile, Both Brandish and Marin made their way to where Alfonzo and Elicia defeated the last five wizards before the town was dispelled and the arena was returned to normal.

Chapter 708: In the Domus Flau Infirmary

"It's finally over, huh?" Brandish said as she arrived next to Alfonzo and Elicia, who were standing in the area where they eliminated Bacchus, Yoruichi, Genma, Rufus, and Orga. "Well, I guess I'm glad it's over. I don't know if I wanna do it again next year, though.'

"Really?" Elicia asked while leaning her back against Alfonzo's chest. "She then continued while grabbing Alfonzo's arms and wrapping them around her waist. "You mean, you didn't have fun?"

"Not really." Brandish replied. "It was too much work."

In response, both Alfonzo and Elicia rolled their eyes while smiling at Brandish's usual behavior. A moment later, all three turned their gazes in a particular direction. At the ends of their lines of sight, a blonde woman with pink hair tips could be seen approaching. However, it was clear to see that she was not at her best.

"I'm so tired." Marin said in an exhausted tone after getting within speaking distance. "And these burns still hurt. Brandi even shrunk them down real small."

"Well, just because they're smaller doesn't mean they aren't there." Alfonzo said as he unwrapped his left arm from around Elicia's waist and beckoned Marin to his side. "Just come here and take it easy. We'll get Shizuka and Wendy to look at you when we get back to the hotel."

Nodding in response, Marin stumbled over to Alfonzo. Then, she rested her body against him while leaning her head on his chest. At the same time, Elicia started ejecting threads from her fingertips. She then started weaving them together, creating a beautiful hooded cloak with intricate embroidery.

"Here, put this on." Elicia said as she finished her work. "It will definitely be more comfortable than whatever you're wearing right now."

"Thanks, Lici." Marin replied with an awkward smile.

Thud! *Shatter!*

A moment later, Marin threw the hooded cloak Elicia made over the one she [Transformed] from rubble. Then, she released the [Transformation], and a piece of rubble fell from the bottom of the cloak she was now wearing and shattered on the ground.

"Alright, the projection is about to disappear." Alfonzo said as he started combing his fingers through Elicia's and Marin's hair. "We can go see Sun after that, okay?"

"Okay~!" Elicia and Marin replied in unison.

At the same time, Brandish nodded her head, as well. Then, after a few moments, the quartet's surroundings began to glow brightly. While that happened, all the buildings began to break down from their highest points while dispersing into motes of [Light Magic].

"By the way, just how much did the kingdom pay to use the [Hard Light Projection] magic items you made?" Marin asked curiously.

"Well, let's just say..." Alfonzo said with a smile. "I won the Grand Magic Games about eighty times from that deal alone."

Hearing that, Marin could only blink at Alfonzo in confusion for a few moments while her mind processed what she just heard. It should be known that the winning team at the Grand Magic Games received thirty million Jewels as prize money. And Alfonzo just said that he won the Grand Magic Games eighty times during the sale of the [Hard Light Projection] magic items he sold to the Kingdom of Fiore.
{A/N: 1 Jewel is approximately equal to 0.01 USD.}

"Wait! Are you saying you just made 2.4 billion Jewels?" Marin screamed at the top of her lungs.

Cheer~~~~~!

However, Marin did not come to her senses before the town finished breaking down. So, her scream was overwhelmed by the cheering from the crowd, and no one heard her.

"Don't think about it for now." Elicia said while pulling Marin into a hug. "It just means that we can relax more in the future, right?"

Marin was unable to respond, unfortunately. She was still dumbfounded by the amount of money Alfonzo mentioned in a joking tone.

{"Ladies and Gentlemen!"} Loli shouted, his voice carrying over the Domus Flau's broadcast system.
{"Give it up for Team Fairy Tail! X790's Grand Magic Games' Champions~~~~~!"}

Cheer~~~~~!

Alfonzo, Elicia, and Marin started waving to the crowd with all the cheering. Brandish, on the other hand, looked just as bored as she usually did. All the while they were making their way towards the arena's exit.

"Yeah... I'm definitely not doing this again next year." Brandish muttered, causing the other three to start laughing good-naturedly.

The cheers continued for a while after that. Meanwhile, the four Fairy Tail wizards were on their way to see Sun, who should have been transported into the infirmary. And just as they expected, before they even opened the door to the room where Sun should have been resting, they could hear her voice chirping away cheerfully.

"Well, I guess you're all good after the event, huh?" Alfonzo asked as he and the others stepped into the room.

At the same time, Alfonzo gazed around the room, as well. When he did, he saw Sun sitting on the side of her sick bed with Lunar sitting next to her. Meanwhile, Ren was sitting in front of the two mermaids while Masa stood behind her. However, he was continuously glancing at a corner of the room, where Gozaburo was lying unconscious in a heap.

Also, there was a young man, about the same age as Sun and Luner, meaning he was about twenty-three years old, sitting in a chair next to Ren. He had spiky black hair, blue eyes, as well as average height and build. And by the way he was looking at Lunar, it was easy to guess who he was.

Naturally, Alfonzo's voice drew everyone's attention, other than Gozaburo, for obvious reasons. And when Sun saw Alfonzo and the girls, her eyes lit up.

"Alfonzo!" Sun shouted as she stood up and jumped over Ren, Masa, and the young man sitting next to them, without somehow hitting her head on the ceiling, and clung to Alfonzo with her arms and legs wrapping around him.

"I guess you're feeling okay, then." Alfonzo said with a smile as he reached up to comb his fingers through Sun's hair.

"Uh huh!" Sun replied while nodding her head. "I had a lot of fun, too. Fighting Kagura again was really fun."

"But you could have really gotten hurt this time." Marin said in a scolding tone. "What made you think to fight her Shikai like that?"

"Really?" Sun asked while tilting her head cutely.

"*Sigh* Just what should we do with you?" Marin asked in an exasperated tone while reaching up to pat Sun's head.

In response, Sun only smiled brightly. Meanwhile, Ren wore her usual fond smile while Lunar looked at Sun in exasperation like Marin had. Masa, on the other hand, looked at Sun proudly. She learned swordsmanship from him, after all.

However, there was one person who was not staring at Sun like the other people who were already in the room. And that was the young man sitting in front of Lunar. Unlike the others, he was staring at Alfonzo with a starstruck expression on his face.

"Looks like you got another fan, Fonzie." Elicia said with a grin while shifting her glance between Alfonzo and the black-haired young man.

"Looks that way." Alfonzo said as his eyes fell on the young man, as well. "So, what's your name?"

"I-Uh-I-Uh-I-Uh..." The young man tried to introduce himself.

"*Sigh* Come on, Nagasumi." Lunar said, letting out an exasperated sigh. "Stop embarrassing yourself. You weren't like this when you introduced yourself to me. And I'm famous, too."

"Well, by then you had shattered all my fantasies." The young man, Nagasumi Michishio, whispered while looking away from Lunar.

"What was that?" Lunar asked in a threatening tone.

"Huh? What do you mean, Honey?" Nagasumi asked as he straightened his back while looking at Lunar with the most loving gaze he could muster. "I didn't say anything."

"Hmph! That's what I thought." Lunar said imperiously. She then turned to look at Alfonzo. "Anyway, this is my fiancé, Nagasumi Michishio. And he's a fan of yours. Especially after seeing how much you've done for the common people with your inventions."

'So, the Nagasumi in this world is just as kind as the one from the source material, huh?' Elicia thought to herself while looking Nagasumi up and down.

'I guess he's gotta have a kind heart.' Alfonzo thought to himself while smiling and nodding at Nagasumi. He then glanced at Lunar briefly. 'Because you have to be a saint to put up with the way she used to be, right? I mean, shit, I was ready to leave her ass in the rain the first time I met her in x785. And she had supposedly already changed by then.'

"It's nice to meet you, Nagasumi." Alfonzo said as he lowered Sun to the floor. He then stepped forward with his right hand extended. "Even though I can tell you already know who I am, I'll still introduce myself. I'm Alfonzo Marcus."

While Nagasumi accepted Alfonzo's handshake, Alfonzo found himself a little weirded out. Because Nagasumi was wearing that expression he wore whenever he was captivated by Masa in the anime.

["You know, this is a lot creepier when he's looking at you like that."] Bedlam said from Alfonzo's inner world, his tone making it clear he was a bit uncomfortable.

"Congratulations on meeting your hero, Nagasumi." Masa said in a smooth tone while shooting a thumbs up in Nagasumi's direction. "And I gotta say, you picked a good one."

In the next instant, Alfonzo was dumbfounded when Nagasumi turned towards Masa with the expression growing more intense. At the same time, both Alfonzo and Elicia would have sworn that they heard Nagasumi's inner thoughts at that very moment.

'Masa~~!' Alfonzo and Elicia seemed to hear from Nagasumi while he stared at Masa passionately.

"Seriously, can you stop bringing Masa around when I'm with Nagasumi." Lunar whispered to Ren. "I'm afraid he's gonna come out of the closet and break my heart into tiny little pieces every time I see him look like that."

In response, Ren only smiled at Lunar. She then turned to look at Alfonzo, Elicia, Marin, and Brandish.

"By the way, I already said this to Sun." Ren said while smiling proudly. "But let me congratulate you on your victory."

Hearing that, Alfonzo released Nagasumi's hand and turned to smile at Ren along with the rest of Team Fairy Tail. Even Brandish allowed a small smile to cross her face, too.

Boom!

A moment later, the door to the infirmary room was slammed open with force. Then, before anyone could look towards the door...

"Congratulations! We're the champions again!"

... a course of voices shouted passionately. And to no one's surprise, when Alfonzo, Elicia, Marin, Sun, Ren, Masa, Lunar, Brandish, and Nagasumi looked towards the door, they saw the members of Fairy Tail gathered outside the door with excited smiles on their faces.

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

However, before that could go on for too long, those same excited members could be seen kneeling down in the infirmary's hall way while covering quickly growing bumps on their heads. Meanwhile, the culprit behind this particular epidemic, Ur, was glaring at everyone covering their heads.

"Be quiet you morons!" Ur shouted in a stern, intense tone. "This is a hospital wing. Stop interrupting everyone else."

'She's louder than we were, though.' Everyone who had been hit in the head thought to themselves.

Meanwhile, in another room on the same hallway, Minerva had just regained consciousness. And when she did, she stared at the ceiling blankly for a while, while listening to the excitement in the hallway.

"We really lost, didn't we?" Minerva asked herself.

"You did." A deep, male voice replied to Minerva's muttering. "And I am not happy. You have seriously disappointed me, Minerva. And you know what happens when you disappoint me."

Hearing that familiar voice, Minerva could not help shuddering in fear. However, she eventually managed to turn her head in the voice's direction. And just as she expected, her father was sitting in the corner of the room and staring at her with clear anger in his expression.

Usually if Minerva found herself in a situation like this, she would only lower her head and hope for her father's anger to pass. Yet, after her last conversation with Irene, her thoughts had changed slightly.

"I know, Father." Minerva replied, still lowering her head. "And I'm sorry for disappointing you. Unfortunately, we were unable to match up with them."

With Minerva's apology and subsequent explanation of why she and her team failed to attain victory, the room fell into a tense silence. And judging from the feeling in the room, Minerva knew that her father was not happy with what she said.

"I did not ask for your excuses." Jiemma said sternly. "The fact that you lost... That Sabertooth lost... is a humiliation to me. And for that, you and those four useless boys will be punished severely. Now, get up. We're returning."

With that, Jiemma stood up and turned towards the door. However, when he reached the door, he did not hear the sound of footsteps behind him. And that caused him to stop with his eyebrows furrowed deeply.

"I gave you an order." Jiemma said without turning around.

"But Father... My injuries." Minerva said softly.

And with how deeply she was cut by Kagura, moving at this point would be bad for Minerva. However, to Jiemma, this sounded like another excuse.

"I don't have time for your excuses." Jiemma said. "I said get up and follow along."

Despite Jiemma's tone, Minerva, who was physically unable to follow his order, only remained lying in bed while looking away from her father. She already knew that there was nothing she could say to make him understand, as his words were law. But there were just some things she was unable to do.

Eventually, with anger blazing in his eyes, Jiemma turned around. He then took a few large steps towards Minerva. Then, when he was next to the sick bed, he raised his hand, preparing to slap his daughter for her supposed disobedience.

In response, though it was clear she was terrified, thanks to years of abuse at her father's hands, Minerva managed to turn her head in her father's direction and make eye contact.

And when Jiemma saw the look in his daughter's eyes, he was taken aback. However, that only lasted for a moment, as the slight confusion he felt was quickly replaced by anger.

Currently, the look in Minerva's eyes was filled with something Jiemma thought he had erased from her mind... Defiance. And Minerva's next words, though shaky as they were, caused that anger to grow exponentially.

"Father... you asked us to do something that you, yourself, are incapable of." Minerva said as her heart rate increased with every word. "Yet, when we fail at our assigned task, we are punished. I don't understand. It's quite obvious... Sabertooth is not, nor has it ever been the strongest."

By now, Jiemma's anger had reached its peak and his hand, that was raised, was now covered in the light of his magic power, giving the room a purple tint.

"Insolent child!" Jiemma roared angrily.

"It looks like you'll finally kill me with your punishments, Father." Minerva, after seeing the anger in her father's eyes, somehow calmed down as she stared back into his eyes. "Well, at least that means I won't have to put up with this anymore. I'll be able to see Mother on the other side, too. Since I'll probably end up where she did. You killed her, too, after all. My only regret is that I did not accept her offer. If I had, maybe I would grow strong enough to defeat you myself. Now, I can only wait until someone else learns of what happened here and makes you pay for your actions."

After hearing what Minerva had to say, the magic power coting Jiemma's hand began producing small explosions, as his magic power intensified due to his growing anger.

"Not only insolence." Jiemma said with anger roiling under the surface. "But you also admit to breeding thoughts of treason. Unforgiveable!"

With Jiemma's roar, he brought his hand down, intending to cripple, if not outright kill, his daughter. Meanwhile, Minerva only closed her eyes, accepting her fate.

Clap!

"Did you really mean that, Girl?" A female voice asked in a playful tone.

"Who are you?" Jiemma asked, sounding even angrier than before.

After hearing the woman's voice, Minerva knew exactly who had spoken. And after hearing her father's angry, yet confused, return question, Minerva finally opened her eyes. And when she did, she blinked in confusion at what she saw.

At the moment, Irene was holding Jiemma's wrist with one hand, having stopped him from slapping Minerva with his [Blast Magic] coated hand. Meanwhile, Jiemma, with all his might, was trying, and failing to pry Irene's grip from around his wrist. ON top of that, with Irene's exquisite magic power control, she was suppressing Jiemma's magic power, forcing it back inside of the Sabertooth guild master's body.

"I'll ask you once again, Minerva Orland." Irene said, her tone turning more serious. "Did you truly mean what you said? If so, I will lend you my aid."

Still surprised by what she was seeing, Minerva could only nod her head dumbly in response to Irene's much firmer question. In response, Irene also nodded her head. Then, with little effort, while continuing to suppress Jiemma, she dragged him out of the room, weaving through the members of Fairy Tail who were still in the hallway, while not drawing attention to herself from anyone aside from Mavis. And Mavis, as curious a person as she was, decided to follow Irene to see what was happening.

Meanwhile, Minerva remained lying in her hospital bed wondering if everything that happened was real.

"I'm gonnna have to get Rufus to check my memories to see if all that really happened." Minerva said as tears started to pool in her eyes. Then, as they fell, she continued. "I finally did it... I finally managed to get away from his tyranny."

With that, the room fell into a near silent state. The only sounds that could be heard were the quiet, yet relieved, sobs of a young woman with a new lease on life.

Chapter 709: Irene's Suggestion

"It looks like you were right, Itachi." Kisame said while running alongside Itachi through the city of Crocus. "If we had tried to take the Nine-Tails brat during the Grand Magic Games, things wouldn't have gone so well. There are a lot more powerful wizards in Fiore than we thought."

Currently, Itachi and Kisame, who just finished watching the end of the Grand Magic Games, were running through Crocus, leaving the city as quickly as they could to report what they saw to the rest of Akatsuki.

"Yes." Itachi replied stoically. "Just dealing with Alfonzo Marcus would have been bad enough. But the other members of their team were powerful in their own right. Then, there are the other wizards who participated. And although none of them are on par with Alfonzo Marcus, they were all quite strong, as well."

'If there weren't so many people present for the Grand Magic Games, I would have definitely told Pain to attack during the event.' Itachi thought to himself while running forward. 'And I have no doubt that they would have all been wiped out, too. I might have even been able to find a time to let Sasuke kill me. Then, he could implant my eyes and attain what very few Uchiha have over the generations.'

When Itachi's thoughts reached that point, an image of himself and Sasuke from when they still lived in the Village Hidden in the Leaves with the rest of their clan played in his mind. However, that only led to him remembering how he ended up destroying his overly ambitious clan with his own two hands.

'Even so.' Itachi continued to think after shaking the thoughts of peaceful times long passed out of his head. 'I'm still not convinced that Sasuke is strong enough as he is to kill me in a convincing way, despite the fact that my body is failing me. *Sigh* Perhaps another year or two will be enough. I just hope I can hold on until then.'

Unfortunately, things had changed from what Itachi had planned for. Especially since Sasuke had been learning swordsman ship and [Lightning Nature Transformation] from Saeko and Alfonzo, respectively. Add to that the fact that Sasuke had been training in the Fairy Tail training facilities for nearly two years, and his power was much greater than it would have been otherwise.

In actuality, had Sasuke run into Itachi during this trip to Crocus, he would have more than likely been able to fight him on even terms... For a while, at least. However, thanks to Itachi's experience, Itachi would have more than likely come out on top.

But that would have been enough. Thanks to Itachi's genius, he would have been able to find a way to throw the fight and die in a convincing manner, resulting in Sasuke being able to take his revenge. On top of that, Itachi would have been able to manipulate his emotions enough to cause his Sharingan to evolve into the Mangekyō Sharingan.

Then, with all his goals accomplished, he would be able to die and leave his own Mangekyō to Sasuke. And Sasuke would never have to worry about the curse of his Mangekyō, able to maintain his light without issue.

"You're right." Kisame replied with a nod. "Then, our plans to bring peace to this messed up world would never be reached."

"Yes." Itachi replied, Kisame's words pulling him out of his own thoughts. "So, I think we should wait until at least next year before attacking Magnolia to retrieve the Nine-Tails. I will recommend this to Pain, a well. Because dealing with Alfonzo Marcus alone will take many of our members efforts."

Kisame nodded in agreement with Itachi's assessment. Itachi was always the brains of their team, after all. So, he would leave the thinking and planning to Itachi. Then, when he received his orders, he would do what he did best, shred targets with his sword, Samehada and drown areas with is powerful [Water-Style Ninjutsu].

Meanwhile, just outside the city, only in the opposite direction, Irene, with her right hand still wrapped around Jiemma's wrist, casually walked forward. However, with every step she took, the two wizards moved much further than what should have been possible.

"Release me, woman!" Jiemma shouted after finally getting his bearings.

In fact, when Irene stopped his hand from falling onto Minerva and ending his traitorous daughter's life, Jiemma had fallen into a daze because of how effortlessly Irene had stopped him. Then, before he knew it, he was being dragged through the streets of Crocus. And by the time he finally found his voice, the two of them were already outside the city.

"Oh, you remembered how to speak again, huh?" Irene said playfully, a hint of sadism making its way into her tone. 'And all this time, I had been wondering how far I would get before you said something."

Hearing that, Jiemma gritted his teeth in anger. Then, he swung the arm Irene was gripping with all his might in an attempt to free himself.

Just as he did so, to Jiemma's surprise, Irene released her grip on his wrist. As a result, Jiemma almost through himself to the ground because of the lack of a counter force. However, thanks to his many years of training and experience, he was able to right himself before he embarrassed himself.

"How dare you do this to me." Jiemma said, wrath saturating his tone. "You must have a death wish to oppose me the way you have."

"Oh, I guess your daughter was in charge of information gathering for your guild, huh?" Irene asked while pressing he fur brimmed witch hat down on her head, its brim shadowing her face. "To think, you don't even know who I am. Yet, your daughter recognized me the instant she saw me. And I must say, she was suitably afraid when she did."

"And why would I, the strongest, have a reason to fear someone like you, a nobody?" Jiemma asked in a prideful tone while flaring his magic power now that it was not being suppressed anymore.

"You? The strongest? Hahahahahahaha!" Irene asked before bursting into a fit of uncontrollable laughter. "Oh my... Hahaha! I'm sorry, but that is quite the tale you have convinced yourself of. My, oh my, I must thank you. I don't believe I've laughed like that in a month, or so."

Hearing Irene's mocking words and laughter, Jiemma grit his teeth so hard that they were in danger of breaking. He then swung his right arm in Irene's direction.

Boom~~~~~!

In the next instant, a massive explosion, enough to destroy nearly half a block of Crocus' streets, engulfed Irene. The purple light from the explosion lighting up the entire area.

However, what Jiemma failed to realize, was the fact that by the time the explosion produced by his [Blast Magic] had subsided, there was no one coming to investigate the commotion, despite being not too far outside of Crocus.

"Hmph! A fitting end for someone who would disrespect me so blatantly." Jiemma said with a snort before turning around to return to the city. "And now that I've dealt with you, I'll send my foolish daughter after you. Maybe you can teach her like you said you would in the afterlife."

"You are truly ignorant."

Before Jiemma could take more than a few steps, the explosion subsided. And as soon as he could no longer feel the heat of the explosion on his back, he heard those words, causing him to widen his eyes in surprise. However, what was more surprising was the fact that he recognized the voice.

Immediately, Jiemma spun around and looked at the area he should have destroyed with astonishment. Yet, there was no sign of the destruction he was expecting to see. Instead, he saw the woman he thought he had killed standing there with a staff whose end looked like the claws of a dragon standing there with a spine-chilling smile on her face.

"You dare call yourself the strongest with power like this?" Irene asked disdainfully. "Even that old pervert, Makarov, has more power than this. And that's without taking into account the Three Great Fairy Magics."

"Impossible." Jiemma said in a tone filled with disbelief. "This can't be possible. He said I was the strongest human he had ever known... Other than his creator."

"Ah! I assume you're talking about Mard Geer Tartaros." Irene said with a nod of understanding. "Well, taking his words at face value is probably not the smartest idea. I mean, he can't even remember the names of the humans he meets. On top of that, he sees all humans as little more than ants. So, calling you the strongest was basically calling you the strongest ant. And who really pays attention to them, right?"

"How...? How do you know that?" Jiemma asked while taking a step back in shock.

"What do you mean?" Irene asked while tilting her head to the side, imitating Sun's cute gestures. "Are you talking about Mard Geer's personality? Or that you have a connection with him?"

Boom~~~~~!

Boom~~~~~!

Boom~~~~~!

Instead of replying, Jiemma rapidly swung his arms in Irene's direction, producing more and more powerful explosions with every swing. Right now, it was more important to get rid of someone who knew such a secret than figure out how they found it in the first place.

"Well, I don't mind answering those questions for you." Irene said, her voice heard clearly over the successive explosions. "To answer your first question, I guess I would have to introduce myself."

As Irene reached that point, Jiemma saw her walking through the explosions produced by his [Blast magic] while not even seeming to defend herself. And with every step Irene took, Jiemma found himself taking a step back while continuing to bombard her with powerful explosions.

Yet, what Jiemma failed to notice was the fact that despite continuously stepping backwards, he was not getting any closer to Crocus' gates.

"But more than likely, my name has been lost to the ages on Ishgar." Irene continued, completely unbothered by Jiemma's bombardment. "And though I'd rather not go into the details of my past, just

know that I've lived for a long time. And during that time, I came across a certain man. Someone who had lived about as long as I have. I even worked under him for more than two decades."

By now, Jiemma's explosions were strong enough to wipe an entire village off the map. Despite that, Irene continued to approach without even having her hat blown off, let alone sustaining any injuries. And the fact that he was so outclassed was scaring him more than anything he had experienced in his life.

"And as it just so happens, that man was the emperor of a nation on another continent." Irene continued, her smile widening as she enjoyed the growing horror in Jiemma's eyes. "To the people of that nation, this man was known as Emperor Spriggan. But on Ishgar, he went by a different name. You see, on this continent, they called him the Black Wizard, Zeref. And while working with Zeref, I've heard quite a few stories about his experiences from when he was young. Like the personalities of all of the books on his bookshelf."

Hearing that, the arm Jiemma had been constantly swinging to bombard Irene with is [Blast Magic] came to an abrupt halt as his eyes opened even wider. On top of that, the steps he was taking backwards became unsteady, as well.

"No... That's impossible." Jiemma said, his voice just as shaky as his steps. "If you know that then..."

Reaching that point, Jiemma finally stopped to take a good look at Irene.

"A tall woman with red hair... A pointy hat... That sadistic smile...." Jiemma muttered aloud. "You can't be her... She's supposed to be in the Alvarez Empire."

"Oh, it seems you finally recognized me." Irene said as she continued to draw closer to Jiemma. "But that brings me to the second point I brought up earlier. Your little connection to Mard Geer Tartaros and how I know about it. Well... Let's just say that someone I know has quite the information network."

'Honestly, I thought Alfonzo was just talking out of his backside when he told me about this.' Irene thought to herself. 'And when Elicia chimed in, I thought he had been feeding her the same crap. But looking at his expression, it seems there was more to it than that. Maybe it came from those so-called visitors that showed up last year. Some of them seemed to know more than they should, too. Hmm... I'll have to get more information out of Alfonzo and Elicia when I get the chance.'

Thud!

While Ireen was lost in her own thoughts, she continued to approach Jiemma. However, she was brought back to reality when she heard the sound of something falling to the ground. And when she looked in the sound's direction, Irene saw that it was Jiemma who had fallen.

"Scarlet Despair... Please, spare me." Jiemma said, pure, unadulterated horror in his eyes.

"Hmm... No one has called me that for a couple years." Irene said as she pushed her hat up a little. "It's rather nostalgic, you know?"

"I beg you... Please." Jiemma said, seemingly having not heard Ireen's response. "I promise, I won't harm Minerva. I'll even let her be the guild master. I'll even leave Fiore. Just don't kill me."

In actuality, Jiemma was not afraid of dying. As a wizard for so many years, he had come to terms with mortality. But dying at Iren's hands was not the same as dying in any other way... At least from what he had heard.

Because in Irene's hands, dying would only come after she was satisfied with the torture she would inflict. And according to what he knew, it would be better if he ended his own life instead. Yet, with her so close, Jiemma had no illusions that he would be able to do so in front of Irene.

"Hmm... What exactly should I do with you?" Irene asked in response to Jiemma's question, putting on a show of thinking through her options. A moment later, she clapped her hands excitedly, terrifying Jiemma even more. "How about this?"

Irene then stepped even closer to Jiemma, who was still seated on the ground. She then bent forward to look him directly in his eyes.

"I'll let you run away." Irene said, the sadism swirling in her eyes clear for anyone to see. "Then, you go and talk to your benefactor, Mard Geer. Tell him that I betrayed Zeref. And when he hears that, he'll definitely come to me for revenge."

"But why would you want me to do that?" Jiemma asked in a confused tone. Though, he did not reject. "Wouldn't that bring trouble to your guild?"

"I'm actually looking forward to such trouble." Irene replied as she stood up to her full height again. "You see, my guild mates need a challenge. And I think this would be perfect for them. Because if they can't defeat a little guild filled with Zeref's failed projects, they would have no chance when Zeref finally comes to invade Fiore, would they?"

The horror in Jiemma's eyes increased exponentially when he heard Irene's reasoning. And only one word came out of his mouth.

"Monster..."

In response, Irene only smiled. Then, she stepped past Jiemma, heading back to Crocus as she waved her hand at Jiemma, telling him he should leave. And when Jiemma saw that, he wasted no time picking himself up from the ground and running as fast as his legs would carry him, just in case Irene changed her mind.

"Well, this should save Alfonzo some effort." Irene said as she glanced over her shoulder. "He's been trying to find the Cube for years now. Now, they should come to us. And with all the defenses he's got set up around Magnolia, there shouldn't be any issues."

With that, Irene smiled once again before humming a tune as she returned to the city.

Meanwhile, from atop the city gate, Mavis watched the entire spectacle with a stern look in her eyes.

"So, that's what all that was about." Mavis thought aloud. "Alfonzo mentioned that he was having no luck finding Tartaros. So, Irene is trying to draw them to us."

Mavis then turned to look in the direction of the Sixth Sense Hotel.

"I just hope you know what you're doing, Alfonzo." Mavis said quietly. "A lot of people will be in danger if things go the way you want them to.

Chapter 710: She's Still Gildarts' Hard Counter

"So, now that we're the Grand Magic Games' champions, what are we gonna do to celebrate?" Marin asked excitedly while she, Alfonzo, Elicia, Sun, and Brandish walked through the streets of Crocus towards the Sixth Sense Hotel.

"Yes! We definitely need to celebrate!" Sun cheered excitedly, looking as good as new after getting out of the Domus Flau's infirmary. A moment later, however, she tilted her head to the side and continued. "But aren't we going to do that right now? I mean, we're gonna celebrate with the guild, right?"

In response, Marin ran a few steps forward before turning around and continuing to walk backwards. She then raised her right hand and started wagging her finger at Sun.

"No, no, no." Marin said while smiling at Sun. "Although celebrating with the guild will be fun, that's not what I'm talking about."

Marin's response only caused Sun to tilt her head to the other side, confusion evident in her expression.

"I mean, just the five of us." Marin said while smiling brightly. "We need to celebrate as Team Steel Threads!"

Clap!

With that, a proverbial light bulb lit up over Sun's head as she understood what Marin was getting at. She then straightened up and clapped her hands excitedly as she started to bounce on the tips of her toes in excitement.

"Ooh! I get it!" Sun cheered happily. Yet, after a moment, she once again tilted her head. "But what are we gonna do to celebrate with just the five of us?"

"That's what I just asked." Marin said while rolling her eyes as she turned around and slowed down enough to fall in step with the other four.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Brandish only watched this little two-man show. And while Alfonzo and Elicia both had wide smiles on their faces, Brandish cracked a small smile of her own. Because despite stating that she did not want to join in next year's Grand Magic Games, she was still proud of the fact that she had been on the team that won the championship.

"Well, I'm definitely down to celebrate." Elicia said with a slightly lustful smile on her face as she snuggled up to Alfonzo's side and started rubbing a hand on his chest.

Seeing that, Marin's and Sun's eyes lit up while Brandish blushed slightly before turning her head away.

"Well, you four can do that." Brandish muttered. "But that wouldn't really work for me, would it?"

At that moment, Elicia, Marin, and Sun all turned to look at Bradish with confused expressions. Meanwhile, Alfonzo rolled his eyes at his three wives. But he remained silent.

"Huh?" Sun intoned in confusion. "But isn't that what you wanted all along, Brandish?"

"Seriously, Brandi." Marin added. "I mean, that was the whole reason you decided to join our team in the first place, right? You even wanted to be the leader so you could be the dominant one when it happened. At least, that's what you told me and Erza when we were talking about our fet--- Mmph!"

Before Marin could finish, Brandish's hands shot out and clamped over Marin's face, muffling anymore words that could possibly come out of her mouth.

"Marin, for goodness sake, please stop." Brandish said, basically hissing, as she stole glances at Alfonzo.

In response, Alfonzo only rolled his eyes again.

"Hmm... I never would have guess that you had such a fetish, Brandish." Elicia said while tapping an index finger against her chin. "Then again, it's always the quiet ones, right? Then again, you would look pretty hot dressed as a dominatrix. Should I make you an outfit like that?"

"A dominatrix, what's that?" Sun asked curiously. "Can I dress as one, too?"

Immediately upon hearing Sun's question, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Brandish came to a sudden stop. Naturally, Marin, who's mouth Brandish was still covering, was also forced to a stop along with them. Then, an image of Sun wearing a tight leather corset, stockings, high-heeled boots, and carrying a whip with a bright smile on her face flashed through their minds.

"Yeah, I'm definitely making that happen." Elicia muttered to herself while looking Sun up and down.

"I kind of want to see that, too." Brandish muttered.

"Um... Is something wrong?" Sun asked, feeling a bit self-conscious with everyone staring at her like that.

"Well, as interesting... and kinda hot... as that image sounds, I think it's 'bout time you let Marin go, Brandish." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly as he pointed at Marin. "Otherwise, you're gonna accidentally un-alive her, you know?"

"Huh?" Brandish exclaimed in confusion.

As she did so, Brandish, along with the other two ladies, turned to look at Marin. When they did, what they saw was Marin weakly flailing her arms while her eyes had rolled up into the back of her head and her face had turned somewhat purple.

"Oh!" Brandish said as she quickly released Marin, who she had been suffocating as she accidentally covered her nose along with her mouth. "Sorry about that, Marin."

Instead of responding, Marin only breathed in greedily as she started to fall to her knees. Luckily, Alfonzo reacted quickly and caught her before pressing her body against his.

"*Pant* *Pant* thought I *Pant* was a goner." Marin said while clinging to Alfonzo as if he were a lifeline.

"*Pant* *Pant* *Pant*"

However, before anyone could respond to Marin, the sound of another person panting drifted over to the group. And when it did, all five Fairy Tail wizards stiffened momentarily. Because they were all familiar with the sound of this panting.

"OH my! *Pant* To have one's air flow cut off so violently." The blonde knight, Darkness said from nearby. "I could imagine something like that happening to me on the battlefield. *Pant* Then, once I lost consciousness, instead of killing me, my attacker would take me back to his base as a trophy of war. *Pant* After that, he would throw me into his quarters to have his way with me. *Pant* Yet, no matter what he did to me, I would not be broken, vowing to return to my home. *Pant* Still, once he got bored with me, he would pass me around to all his comrades, but my will would remain strong, no matter how many I was forced to serve. *Pant* But that wouldn't even be the worst of it. *Pant* For after they grew bored with my body, to make a bit of extra money, they would sell me off. *Pant* But because I was so thoroughly used, they would have to sell me off to a low-class brothel where..."

And just as they expected, when the shifted their gazes to the source of the panting, Darkness was standing there with her hands covering her burning red cheeks and writhing in place while spouting nonsense about what would happen if she had been asphyxiated on a battlefield. Then, after being stunned for a moment, the five exchanged glances and continued walking as if they had not seen her, continuing their trip to the Sixth Sense Hotel to celebrate with the rest of their guild mates.

"So, what should we do to celebrate as a team?" Marin asked once again while walking alongside the rest of Team Fairy Tail?

"How 'bout a trip to Balsam Village?" Alfonzo asked with a smile. "It's been a while since I've been to a hot spring, after all."

Immediately, Elicia's, Marin's, Sun's, and Brandish's eyes lit up with excitement. And while Elicia, Marin, and Sun smiled brightly at the thought of a hot spring, Brandish's expression did not change. But she was emanating an aura of contentment at the thought.

"Well, I guess that's decided." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "Now, all we have to do is book the reservations. But we can think about that once we get back to Magnolia."

"Yeah, for now, it's time to party!" Marin shouted excitedly.

"Are you gonna cook, Fonzie?" Elicia asked while staring at Alfonzo with puppy dog eyes.

Seeing that, Marin and Sun also joined in, the power of the puppy dog eyes increasing by three. Even Brandish, though she did not use the puppy dog eyes technique, stole imploring glances at Alfonzo as they walked.

Alfonzo could only look at the four women speechlessly.

'We just finished the longest event of the Grand Magic Games, right?' Alfonzo asked himself in dumbfounded amazement. 'They know I should be tired, right? Shouldn't they let me get some rest?'

["You ask that like Fairy Tail wizards care about other people."] Bedlam said in Alfonzo's inner world with a smirk on his face. ["But you already know they don't. Hell, they would be just as destructive as always if it wasn't for the points they get for completing missions without causing excessive damage. Making it even clearer that they only care about themselves."]

["Quit your bitchin'!"] Riot shouted immediately after Bedlam's voice faded. ["Lici is asking you for something. So, what reason do you have to refuse?"]

While Bedlam's statement made Alfonzo look at himself to see if he were the same, Riot's outburst pulled him right out of that introspection. Then, he decided he would just ignore the simp and go on with his day.

["Quit calling me a fuckin' simp!"] Riot shouted in response to Alfonzo's thoughts.

"Fine. I'll cook." Alfonzo replied to the stares.

"Yay~~~~~!" x 3

In response to Alfonzo's agreement, Elicia, Marin, and Sun cheered happily. Meanwhile, Brandish nodded her head with satisfaction.

["And you called him a simp."] Bedlam said in a teasing tone.

'That's not me simping. I only agreed because three of my wives asked me to. Plus, Brandish deserves a good meal after working so hard during the Games, too.'

["Uh huh."] Bedlam replied with a knowing smirk on his face. ["Whatever you have to tell yourself, buddy."]

Like that, the group continued towards the hotel, leaving Darkness standing on the street by herself, fantasizing about all the unspeakable things that could be done to her in a certain situation.

On a side note, until Darkness was able to break out of her... let's call them daydreams, that entire city block found itself with much less foot traffic than usual.

Back at the Sixth Sense Hotel, Alfonzo and the ladies were welcomed warmly. After the greeting, Alfonzo dragged Grayfia, Maria, Ai, and Miyuki into the hotel's kitchen to start preparing the victory feast. Meanwhile, Ikaruga and Mey-Rin were left to serve drinks and appetizers as Alfonzo and the other maids finished making them.

After the meal was done, everyone, including the maids sat down together to celebrate together. Though, it did take quite a bit of convincing on Alfonzo's part to get Grayfia to put down her maid duties for the evening. Luckily, Alfonzo had a trio of trump cards for situations like these.

And the names of those trump cards were Amar'e, Bianca, and Calvin. Because, there was no one in Magnolia who could refuse when all three of them were staring at them with hope and expectation in their eyes. And Grayfia was no exception.

"Well, it looks like the party is winding down." Gildarts said while swirling a glass of liquor. "*Sigh* It's about time for me to get going again. That 10-Years Quest isn't going to complete itself, you know?"

"Which one were you going to do again?" Ur, who was leaning against Gildarts arm and watching Alfonzo viciously beat up the other Fairy Tail wizards for letting the brawl that started not too long ago get out of hand and damage parts of the dining hall, asked.

"Oh, I'll be going to Desierto." Gildarts replied. "Something about a monster in the desert, or something. Apparently, this makes it hard for the Village Hidden in the Sand to get supplies delivered... I think that's what it said, at least."

"Ah! Now I remember." Ur replied with a nod. "Yeah, I don't know why their Kazekage didn't just get rid of that monster. I mean, they're supposed to be quite strong, right?"

"That's because each Kage is their village's last line of defense." Alfonzo, who had finished laying out all the troublemakers, said as he casually strolled over to Ur and Gildarts. "So, they can't leave the village so easily. You never know when an enemy force will show up."

"I guess that makes sense." Ur replied. "It's kinda like how I don't get to go on quests any more as the guild master of Fairy Tail. *Sigh* I miss roaming the world and going on adventures."

A moment later, Ur's eyes lit up as she looked at Alfonzo with hope.

"Nope." Alfonzo replied. "Not gonna happen."

"But I didn't even say anything." Ur said with a pout. "You're such a rude brat."

"You were gonna ask me to become the guild master so that you could start taking quests again." Alfonzo said while rolling his eyes. "Ur, if you want to hide your intentions, try schooling your expression first."

Ur, like a little girl, blushed after having her intentions pointed out so blatantly. Meanwhile, Gildarts could not help laughing at her expense.

"Ow~~~~!" Gildarts shouted in pain after Ur stomped his foot as hard as she physically could in retaliation.

'I'm glad she didn't decide to use any magic power when she did that.' Alfonzo thought to himself while cold sweat streamed down his back. 'Otherwise, this whole hotel could have probably come crashing down.'

"Damn... That hurts." Gildarts muttered while flexing his foot. "Anyway, it's about time I get going. I'll see you when I get back."

With that, Gildarts leaned down and planted a kiss on Ur's cheek. Then, he nodded at Alfonzo before walking towards the eastern wall.

"Gildarts, if you don't go out through the front door, I'm gonna kick your ass." Alfonzo said in a menacing tone. "After that, I'm gonna charge you for all the repairs."

"Hah! An all out fight with you don't sound so bad, Kid." Gildarts said with a smile as he continued to walk. "So, maybe I'll just---"

"Fine, you're gonna make me take out the big guns, huh?" Alfonzo asked, after seeing that his threat was having no effect. He then took a deep breath before shouting loud enough for everyone in the hotel to hear. "Lici! Gildarts is about to break through one of the hotel's walls!"

Immediately, Gildarts froze in place. He then turned back to Alfonzo, who was smirking at him, with a dumbfounded, fearful, and betrayed expression on his face.

"Kid, you..." Gildarts muttered.

"He's gonna do what?" Elicia asked as she appeared at the dining hall's entrance. "I don't think I heard you properly, Fonzie. I was all the way up on the top floor, after all. I even handed over the job of giving Mar'e a bath when I heard you."

Seeing Elicia, long buried memories resurfaced in Gildarts mind. So, when he saw Elicia gaze at him before letting that gaze fall downwards to his crotch, he began to shudder violently.

"OH, come on, Lici." Gildarts said with a smile so ugly that he was only a step away from crying. "I was just joking with the kid. Of course I wouldn't break the walls of such a nice hotel. But since I gotta get going to complete that quest, I'll see you later. There really isn't any time for jokes."

With that, Gildarts started speed walking towards the door where Elicia was standing. Elicia then stepped aside for him to pass with a smile and a wave.

"Oh, okay, be careful out there, Uncle Gildarts." Elicia said happily, causing Gildarts to stumble for a moment. "Don't forget to bring back souvenirs."

Not long later, Gildarts was outside of the city. And surprisingly, he did not destroy anything along the way. Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Elicia were grinning victoriously while Ur could only shake her head.

"*Sigh* Even after so many years, he still can't oppose you, huh, Lici?" Ur said with a small smile on her face. "Well, I'd appreciate it if you didn't do that to him anymore. Although I'm not young, I'm still able to have another child. And if you hurt one of the essential parts, that would end."

Hearing that Ur was considering having another child, Elicia's eyes lit up. She then dashed over to Ur and started bombarding her with questions. Meanwhile, Alfonzo decided that he would head up to the suite to see his children before they went to bed.