

Fairy Tail 731

Chapter 731: Fairy Tail Vs. Akatsuki; Part 7: Some Things Never Change

"Come on, isn't this far enough yet?" Ur asked in an irritated tone.

Instead of responding, the one Ur pursued, Kisame, only smirked. Ever since he had created distance from Ur while bouncing off the ice shards from Ur's [Ice-Make: Geyser] and riding the waters created from his [Exploding Water Colliding Wave Jutsu], he had been enjoying the frustration he could see on her face.

"Fine." Ur said with a huff as she stopped the ice platform she was using to glide across the water's surface. "I've decided that we're far enough away."

A moment later, Ur took a step forward on the ice platform. Then, she slowly lowered herself to one knee. Meanwhile, Kisame, who had been smirking triumphantly at her, looked on in confusion when he saw the actions she was taking.

"[Absolute Zero]." Ur chanted while dipping the tips of the fingers on her right hand into the water.

Freeze!

Splash!

At the same time, Ur flared her magic power to its limit, the sheer amount surprising Kisame. Then, in the next instant, all the water froze over in an instant.

Luckily for Kisame, because his instincts were honed to a razor's edge, he acted quickly. A split-second after Ur flared her magic power, he pulled his sword off his back and slammed it onto the surface of the water with all his might.

As a result, the reaction force from such a powerful blow sent Kisame flying straight up into the air while simultaneously causing the water to splash up nearly ten feet.

Yet, before Kisame could do anything else, all the water in his field of vision was frozen over. Not only that, however, a bone-chilling cold seeped into his body, the low temperature even overpowering the temperature resistance wizards gained by circulating their magic power through their bodies.

"What in the hell?" Kisame asked while in midair while speeding up the circulation of his magic power to the limit of what his body could handle. "Who just freezes over a small sea's worth of water in an instant."

"Come on, try to keep up." Ur replied playfully. "I do. Weren't you watching?"

Hearing Ur's response, Kisame's eyebrows started to twitch as he turned towards Ur to retort. However, the words got caught in his throat when he saw she was once again standing with her hands in her casting gesture.

"[Ice-Make: Rose Garden]." Ur chanted as she slammed her hands down on the frozen body of water.

Shatter!

In the next instant, half a dozen roses made of ice surged up from the ice directly below Kisame. As they grew, the stems elongated. All the while, sharp thorns grew from the stems as they tried to ensnare the rogue Hidden Mist Shinobi.

"Hmph!" Kisame snorted while watching the ice roses approach.

Shatter! *Shatter!* *Shatter!* *Shatter!* *Shatter!*

Kisame then started swinging his sword at high speed. With each blow he landed on the ice roses, they shattered into ice dust.

"Damn that sword." Ur groaned as she watched her spell be destroyed with ease. "I really hate fighting people with magic power absorption."

Ur's irritation was understandable. In normal circumstances, no matter how powerful Kisame's swordsmanship was, he would have no chance of shattering Ur's [Rose Garden] spell. Especially when the roses were created from the ice made from her [Absolute Zero] spell.

Yet, with Samehada's ability to drain the magic power infused into the ice, doing so was not much of an issue. Though, continuously swinging his sword in such cold weather was taking its toll on Kisame's stamina and magic power reserves.

Eventually, Kisame managed to land on the ice. Though, his landing was far from graceful. However, because of all his strikes that landed on the ice roses, his speed was slowed enough that he did not sustain any injuries upon landing.

Crack!

The fact that he drove Samehada into the ice when he landed helped, as well.

"Fine, I guess fighting with magic isn't gonna end this any time soon." Ur said as she reached down to her thighs and unraveled a pair of thin, long whips. "I guess it's time to see how well we work together. Now, [Freeze Everything from the Earth to the Sky, Artemisia]."

As Ur chanted her release command, her magic power skyrocketed. At the same time, the whips in her hands transformed from normal looking black whips into a pair of long ice-blue whips with what appeared to be rose thorns protruding from them.

"Just how many of those strange weapons do these people have?" Kisame asked as he watched Ur's [Soul Armament] Unsealing.

However, before he could ponder on the relationship between the swords he saw Sun and Kagura wield during the Grand Magic Games and the whips in Ur's hands, Ur dashed forward, her speed much higher than anything he had seen from her up to this point.

Taking his hands off Samehada's hilt, Kisame ran through a series of hand signs while Ur approached. Then, as he made his last hand sign, he slammed his hand down on the space just behind Samehada's blade.

"[Water-Style: Five Feeding Sharks]." Kisame chanted.

Normally, the fact that all the water from his [Exploding Water Colliding Wave] had been frozen would make casting a Jutsu like this impossible. However, with Samehada's ability to absorb the magic power in the ice, a small pool of water was created around it. AS a result, despite the fact that the water was freezing cold and left a bit of frostbite on Kisame's hands when he touched it, the Jutsu's casting was unaffected.

In the next moment, all the water that had been melted surged up around Kisame and Samehada. Then, it rushed towards Ur before separating and taking the form of five Great White Armored Sharks.

"That's not gonna work." Ur muttered as she continued rushing forward.

Shatter! *Shatter!* *Shatter!* *Shatter!* *Shatter!*

Not long later, Ur was in range of the approaching water sharks. She then swung the whip in her left hand, freezing the first of the five sharks. Then, with a quick flick, she brought the same whip back and smashed the frozen construct in to shards.

And with both of her hands blurring into motion, the other four sharks were taken care of just as quickly. Even so, Ur was forced to slow down slightly while dealing with Kisame's Jutsu.

Meanwhile, Kisame gripped Samehada's hilt. Then, he used it's other ability, the ability to pass some of the magic power it absorbed onto its wielder. However, that was not all. The magic power transferred also had a healing effect. Meaning, the several cuts and bruises Kisame received from dealing with Ur's previous attacks, as well as the frostbite on his hands quickly healed, leaving him in the same condition as when the fight started, minus the tears in his cloud patterned cloak.

"Great, he heals, too." Ur groaned once again. "Maybe I should have let the girls fight him. Fighting the puppet-guy would have been much easier."

Despite her grumbling, Ur did not slow down. And she eventually reached a range where her whips would be affective against the greatsword wielder.

Clang!

Flicking the whip in her right hand, its tip was sent flying straight at Kisame's chest. However, with little movement, Kisame used the flat of Samehada's blade to block it. Kisame then slightly turned his blade before pushing the straightened whip to the side.

However, Ur was not so easily countered. With another flick of her wrist, the whip moved before wrapping around Samehada's strange, scale-like blade.

"You're underestimating me." Kisame said in the calmest tone he could muster.

Then, using his immense physical strength, Kisame yanked his blade across his body. As a result, Ur, with her whip still wrapped around Samehada's blade, was forcefully pulled towards Kisame.

Then, while Ur hurdled towards him, Kisame stopped his swing before swinging Samehada back on the same path. And if Ur did not do anything, Samehada would shred her abdomen to pieces of blood and gore.

With little time to react, Ur did not have the time to make a witty remark. Instead, she flicked her left wrist causing the whip in that hand to dart downwards.

Smack!

In the blink of an eye, the whip slapped against the ice. Then, with another flick of Ur's wrist, combined with the rebound force from hitting the ice, the whip shot up even faster.

Clang!

Finally, before Kisame's blade could tear into Ur, the whip struck it from below. As a result, Samehada's blade was forced upwards, the blade missing Ur by mere inches. Because of that, both Kisame's arms and Ur's right arm were forced upwards, as well.

Unfortunately for Kisame, Ur still had a weapon in her left hand. So, with another quick flick of her left wrist, Ur redirected the tip of Artemisia's left whip towards Kisame's chest.

Meanwhile, Kisame's eyes widened in surprise at just how fast Ur turned the situation around. Even so, his years spent in life and death battles caused him to react quickly.

Yanking his hands down with all his might, putting a serious amount of stress on his shoulders, elbows, and wrists, Kisame was able to get his hilt down to intercept Ur's knockout blow just in time.

Even so, that was within Ur's calculation, evidenced by the fact that she flicked her left wrist once again just before the tip of her whip struck the hilt in the space between Kisame's hands.

"Damn it." Kisame muttered as he watched in frustration as the whip curled around Samehada's hilt.

"I think it's time we got rid of this nuisance." Ur said as she landed right in front of Kisame.

In the next instant, Ur threw a powerful kick at the rogue shinobi, which Kisame raised his knee to block.

"Urgh!" Kisame grunted in pain, having not expected Ur's kick to be so heavy.

Yet, Kisame managed to hold his ground, not being forced back across the ice.

Unfortunately, whether he was forced back or not, Ur's next move was already decided.

"Ahh~~~~!" Ur roared as she pushed off with her one foot planted on the ground while the one pushed against Kisame's knee simultaneously.

At the same time, Ur, with both of her whips wrapped around Samehada, pulled back with both of her arms with all her might while spinning her body. Then, to Kisame's horror, Samehada was ripped from his hands before Ur flicked her wrists once again and sent the almost sentient greatsword flying off into the distance.

Unfortunately, with Kisame losing his weapon, that more or less marked the end of the fight. And although he was skilled in hand-to-hand combat, with Ur's boosts granted by Artemisia's release, the fact that Kisame could no longer absorb the magic power in her spells, and the cold of the environment, Kisame could not stand up to Ur's onslaught for long.

In the end, Kisame was beaten, battered, and bruised with his limbs frozen together, barely conscious.

"Damn... sitting behind a desk for so long has really made me rusty." Ur muttered while looking down at Kisame. She then shook her head and looked around at the frozen wasteland she created only a couple of miles outside of Magnolia. *"*Sigh** And as soon as I come back, I destroy a huge part of magnolia's countryside."

A moment later, she shrugged off the guilt.

"Oh well, Master Mavis can deal with that." Ur said with a smile. "As for the ice, I'll get Romeo and Natsu to deal with it. Natsu likes burning things and Romeo is practicing [Fire God Slayer Magic] so, this will be good for him. And if he gets tired, he can even eat Natsu's fire to replenish himself."

Nodding in satisfaction at her brilliant idea, Ur resealed Artemisia, returning the whips to a pair of normal black leather whips. Then, she flicked her wrists, causing one of the whips to wrap around her thigh while the other wrapped around the ice surrounding Kisame's legs. Then, after making sure the prisoner was secure, she started walking back to magnolia, dragging Kisame along behind her.

However, Ur deliberately did not touch Samehada to try and recover it. Instead, she left it stuck in the ice, not caring if it absorbed its magic power. If it did, it would make the clean up that much easier. On top of that, she had heard that Samehada chose its own wielder, and if someone it did not approve of tried to touch it, it would act to remove their hand from its hilt.

Sneeze!

Meanwhile, Mavis, who was monitoring as many of the ongoing battles as she could from her office through the use of [Magic Power Detection], suddenly sneezed, causing Irene to raise an eyebrow in surprise.

"You're not getting sick, are you?" Irene asked as she slowly scooted away from Mavis' desk. "Because as a dragon for four hundred years, I never once got sick. And I don't want to catch your cold now that I'm human."

"No, no, I'm not getting sick." Mavis said while waving her hand dismissively. "But I get the feeling that something annoying is coming my way soon."

"Yeah, I can understand that." Irene replied with an understanding nod. "You're definitely gonna see some complaints from the Magic Council after today. Especially when they see the patch of frozen land a couple miles out. It looks like Ur really cut loose now that she's no longer stuck behind that desk."

Hearing what Irene said, combined with the amused smile the redhead was wearing, caused a tick mark to form on Mavis' forehead.

"It hasn't even been a whole month yet." Mavis said as she covered her face with her hands. "And she's right back to her old ways. This is probably even worse than what she did to the Worth Woodsea."

"Oh, I checked that out a year, or so, ago." Irene said in an impressed tone. "You know, most of that part of the woods is still frozen. And she's a lot stronger than she was back then. I bet this one will last even longer."

"Ugh~~~~!"

Bang!

In response, Mavis could only groan while letting her head fall to her desk.

"I'm gonna take all her points away for this." Mavis said, her voice slightly distorted with her face pressed against the desk.

Chapter 732: Fairy Tail Vs. Akatsuki; Part 8: An Otherworldly Power

After releasing Riot and Bedlam, Alfonzo cranked up the output of his [Lightning Enhancement] spell to the new limit that he could handle. Then, with the eyes of the four Paths of Pain focused on him, he vanished from sight, his speed so great that even the incredible ocular prowess of the Rinnegan could not track his movements.

In the next instant, all four Paths of Pain fell lifelessly to the ground, each with a different injury that incapacitated the corpse puppets. First, the Azura Path, who could transform its body and create all sorts of weapons, was completely dismantled and heavily electrocuted. Next, the Preta Path, there was a fist sized hole in its torso where its heart would be. Lastly, both the Human and Animal Paths were decapitated. Though, it was clear their heads were ripped off rather than sliced off with a blade.

An instant later, Alfonzo appeared outside of the Paths of Pain's encirclement walking towards the direction where he sensed Nagato's presence.

"*Sigh* I thought I could handle that without releasing the two of you." Alfonzo said as he continued to walk. "But getting around their shared vision was harder than I thought."

["I don't know why you didn't use us from the very beginning."] Riot snarled. ["Instead, you just wasted time playing with those puppets."]

"Yeah, yeah, I know." Alfonzo replied. "I could have dealt with all of them in under a minute if I had used you two from the beginning. But if I had done that, the others wouldn't have been able to blow off steam."

["And dealing with all those destructive women would have been a hassle if they didn't get to stretch their legs."] Bedlam added. ["Could you imagine how much more damage they would have caused on quests if they didn't get all that pent up aggression out of their system?"]

"Especially Mira." Alfonzo continued. "That dick rider attacked the pace where our baby girl was taking a nap. And since I was going to handle him, I needed to let her do something. Otherwise, the She-Devil would have made a huge mess of whatever town her next quest took place in."

["And?"] Riot asked, clearly unconcerned with the consequences of such an action.

"Well, if Ur or Gramps were still the guild master, I probably wouldn't have cared." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "But Master Mavis basically saved me from becoming the next guild master. So, I'd rather not have the girls causing her any more trouble than necessary."

Reaching that point, Alfonzo turned to look in the direction where Ur faced off against Kisame. Then, he smiled wryly.

"But what Ur does has nothing to do with me." Alfonzo added with yet another shrug. "She's a grown woman, she can deal with her own fuck ups."

Riot and Bedlam only nodded in response to that.

["Anyway, you should get going."] Riot said impatiently. ["Lici's still fighting Konan. We should go help her."]

["Simp."] Bedlam said casually before ignoring Riot's snarling response.

"Well, I guess I'll go see how Lici's doing." Alfonzo said casually. "They're on the way, anyway. Besides, it's not like Konan could really hurt Lici. And I doubt she'd have the time to set up that big Paper Bomb move she used in the anime. Plus, if Lici uses her first mission reward, this should be a cake walk."

["It's almost been two years since she got that ability."] Bedlam said with a hint of both amusement and interest in his tone. ["But she's never had to use it in a real fight yet, has she? This might be fun to see."]

["Ha! And that blue-haired broad will never even be able to see what hit her."] Riot said excitedly. ["And that's why Lici is the best!"]

While Alfonzo only smiled and shook his head at Riot's shout, Bedlam rolled his eyes, trying his best to not blurt out his favorite descriptor of Riot again. Then, in order to not miss Elicia when she finally dealt with Konan, he picked up the pace.

Meanwhile, Elicia and Konan had stopped moving towards Nagato's hiding place. Instead, they were weaving between each other's attacks with expert precision.

"[Paper-Style: Dance of the Shikigami]." Konan chanted after running through a string of hand signs.

In the next instant, Konan's entire body and clothing lost their color, turning into sheets of paper. Then, the innumerable number of sheets of paper dispersed. As they did, they began folding themselves into new shapes.

A moment later, Elicia found herself standing amidst a number of paper butterflies, paper spears, and other objects made from paper. On top of that, there were several clones of Konan standing and floating in the array.

"There's no way her body can break down into this many sheets of paper." Elicia grumbled as she turned her head back and forth to take in everything surrounding her. "I mean, she's shorter than I am, she looks like she can't way more than a hundred pounds, and she's so slender. She barely has any boobs or butt, at all. Where did all the mass come from?"

If Elicia had been paying attention, she would have felt a wave of irritation radiating from all the paper constructs after she made that comment about Konan having no... assets. But she was too caught up in figuring out where all the paper that made the paper constructs that were surrounding her to notice.

["Is this really the time to be thinking about that? "] Scylla asked in an exasperated tone. ["Instead, you should think about how to get out of this without your outfit being ruined, right? "]

Immediately, Elicia's annoyed expression disappeared. Instead, her eyes narrowed, and she lowered her posture, looking like she was finally taking this fight seriously.

"That's right." Elicia said solemnly. "Although this isn't the outfit I was gonna wear for Mar'e's party, it's one of my better pieces of work over the last month. I needed them to think we were really having the party and not waiting for the Akatsuki to show up, after all."

[" *Sigh* And now you're giving the game away. "] Scylla said, sounding even more exasperated with Elicia's tendency to speak before thinking than usual. ["Then again, I guess it doesn't matter. Akatsuki won't exist after today, anyway. "]

While Scylla was commenting on Elicia's usual habit, all the paper constructs began to shiver. Then, one of the paper clones, while regaining its color, stepped forward with a worried expression on her face.

"What did you mean by that?" Konan asked sharply, though the light trembling in her voice made it clear that she was shaken by the implications of Elicia's words.

"Oops!" Elicia mumbled, though her expression did not change. "I forgot that was supposed to be a secret."

"Answer me!" Konan ordered.

"No, I don't think I will." Elicia replied.

"Then, I'll just force the information I want out of you." Konan shot back.

With that said, Konan waved her hand in Elicia's direction. Then, all the paper constructs started to move. First, it was the countless number of butterflies that swarmed her. And all though they had no offensive capabilities, they did block Elicia's line of sight.

After that, a number of spears, shuriken, and kunai made of paper were launched at Elicia. Yet, Elicia did not move to dodge. Instead, a large amount of thread was ejected from all over her body. Then, she started to spin in place at high-speed.

"[Thread Magic: Loosening Spool]." Elicia chanted calmly.

Shred!

Over the next three or four seconds, all of the paper Konan sent to attack Elicia, along with the butterflies meant to disorient her, were shredded by Elicia's threads. Yet, Elicia was not done with just that.

"[Thread Magic: Lashing Threads]." Elicia chanted.

Coming out of her spin, Elicia moved gracefully as she put her practice with Capoeira on full display. And with every strike, she either knocked down a paper construct with her body and threads. Or she would wrap her extended threads around constructs and tear them apart.

Meanwhile, Konan continued to expend magic power to keep the size of the encirclement constant. However, it was clear to anyone watching that she was expending much more magic power than Elicia was. So, in a battle of attrition like this one, she would run out of steam before the Fairy Tail wizard did.

'Defeating her is not my top priority.' Konan thought to herself with her eyebrows furrowed. 'I need to get to Nagato and get him out of here before the other Fairy Tail wizards find him, or he does something to shorten his lifespan even further.'

"[Thread Magic: Sticky Thread Shot]." Elicia chanted as she swung her arms in Konan's direction.

Reacting quickly, Konan was pulled out of her thoughts just in time to barely dodge a fist-sized ball of thread.

Thwack!

A moment later, however, she heard the sound of the thread ball striking something. When she looked back, she saw a large rock with cracks all over its surface. On top of that, the ball had spread out into what looked like a spider web. Even more than that, the threads were sticking to the rock, instead of sliding off and falling to the ground.

"A spell like that would have even been able to incapacitate me." Konan muttered as she turned back to Elicia with more caution in her gaze. "Though, not for long. I still would have been able to slip between the gaps in the threads with my [Dance of the Shikigami. Still, I'm not sure I would have had enough time to do so. I have to be more careful."

"Tch! Her instincts are too sharp." Elicia said while clicking her tongue in annoyance. "I guess I'm really gonna have to use that."

["You should have used it from the start."] Scylla replied while rolling her eyes. ["If you had, this would have been over after the first time you kicked her."]

"Yeah, I know." Elicia replied. "But that power doesn't really belong in this world. So, I didn't wanna use it."

["That's never stopped you when you went to other worlds, though."] Scylla shot back.

"Whatever... It's time to end this." Elicia said with a pout.

In the next instant, though, only Elicia could see it, her hands and arms, starting from her fingertips, slowly turned black. The complete blackening of her skin only stopping when it reached her elbows. Then, the same happened to her feet and legs, stopping at her knees.

On top of that, the colorful threads that were extending from those parts of Elicia's body also took on a blackened hue. And with that, Elicia's onslaught on the paper constructs intensified. And if one were paying attention to Konan's expression, every time the blackened threads or parts of Elicia's body struck her constructs, she would twitch minutely.

'What's going on?' Konan asked herself in confusion. 'Why does it hurt every time she hits my paper? On top of that, my head is starting to throb, too.'

To answer Konan's question, it was previously mentioned that Alfonzo and Elicia welcomed guests from another world last year after Amar'e's second birthday party. And that's not to say another world within this universe, as these guests did not come from Edolas.

However, what was not mentioned was that Alfonzo and Elicia also had the ability to travel to different worlds. {A/N: Check out my other fic, Songs in the Void: A Multiversal Score, for more details.} And during one of those trips, Elicia was granted a new ability, one that did not belong to this world, as she said.

And this ability, known as [Armament Haki], allowed the user to coat their bodies in their spiritual energy to harden it, like wearing a suit of armor, increasing the power of their strikes and defenses. And in this world, and a few others, it had an added effect of corrupting an opponent's energy with the user's spiritual energy, thus the reason for Konan's growing headache.

Not understanding the reason for the pain she was feeling, Konan did realize that it had something to do with Elicia. So, instead of continuing to send her constructs to clash with Elicia directly, she used them more as a distraction so that she could aim for more precise strikes.

Unfortunately for Konan, Elicia was waiting for just that. As soon as the pressure on her lightened, Elicia burst forward, dancing between the paper constructs while striking those that she could not dodge past.

Seeing Elicia rushing towards her, Konan's eyes widened slightly. Then, like what happened when she avoided Elicia's first sneak attack, a pair of paper wings sprouted from her back. She then flapped them hard, sending herself into the sky, intending to keep her distance.

"Not this time." Elicia said as she cast more [Sticky Thread Shots].

To Konan's credit, with acrobatic, aerial maneuvers, she avoided nearly all of Elicia's threads. However, she was caught off guard when one of the shots unraveled midair, entangling her right wing.

Even so, she reacted quickly, discarding the wing before creating another one as she fell. Still, that short distraction was enough for Elicia.

"This is the end." Elicia said, appearing above Konan while her new wing formed.

Bang!

Boom!

Then, with her [Armament Haki] clad right foot, Elicia brought down a powerful axe kick, that when it landed, disrupted Konan's magic power, enabling her to be hit without turning into sheets of paper.

As a result, Konan was sent hurdling towards the ground. Upon impact, a crater was created below her, and a small dust cloud was kicked up, as well.

At the same time, Elicia, fired a number of [Sticky Thread Shots] into the dust cloud, dispersing it, to make sure that Konan could not slip away. She then dispelled her [Armament Haki] while using her threads to lower herself to the ground.

When Elicia landed at the edge of the crater, she could see that Konan had not lost consciousness. Though, she was completely unable to move, as she was covered from head to toe in Elicia's sticky Threads. Luckily, Elicia's ability to manipulate her threads made it so that she did not have to worry about suffocating under the large number of threads.

"Not bad, Lici."

Hearing that voice, Konan's expression was filled with fear. Meanwhile, Elicia's brightened considerably. Elicia then turned around and threw herself at the source of the voice.

And just as she expected, Alfonzo was there to catch her before spinning a few times to bleed off the momentum of her leap.

"I know you're excited after using it in a real fight, Lici." Alfonzo said before Elicia could undoubtedly ask what he thought about her use of [Armament Haki]. "But we need to bring this little attack to an end. I wanna go see if Amar'e, Bianca, and Calvin are okay after that loud noise."

Hearing that, Elicia's excited expression turned solemn once again. Then, she nodded her head as she jumped off of Alfonzo. At the same time, Alfonzo materialized a set of anti-magic restraints directly onto Konan's wrists and ankles.

Then, Elicia manipulated her threads, unsticking Konan from the bottom of the crater. Then, she shot another set of threads to connect to the cocoon she just made so that she could drag Konan along as she and Alfonzo made their way to Nagato's hiding spot.

Chapter 733: Fairy Tail Vs. Akatsuki; Part 9: The End of the Attack... This Was a Bit Anti-Climactic, Wasn't It?

"You really are one of us, aren't you?"

While returning to the place where all the fighting started, Ur heard those words coming from above. When she looked up, she saw Mirajane, who was still in her [Satan Soul Take Over] floating above her with a smile on her face.

"*Sigh* I'm expecting to hear that at least three dozen more times." Ur replied as Mirajane lowered herself to the ground. "*Sigh* And I don't even know how many points I'm gonna lose for this, either."

"Yeah, I bet Master Mavis isn't gonna b happy." Mirajane said while shaking her head as she reverted back to her base form.

"By the way, did you really need to unseal Bael to deal with the guy you were fighting?" Ur, having sensed Mirajane's short spike in power during her fight, asked curiously.

"Not really." Mirajane said while smiling sheepishly. She then started scratching the back of her head as she continued. "But he said something he shouldn't have. And well... I got a teensy, tiny bit angry. So, I might have kinda atomized him..."

'That guy must have made a threat against Bianca, huh?' Ur thought to herself. 'Well, I can't really blame her. I'm a mother, too. Even though Tear is an adult now, if anyone were to threaten her in front of me, I'd probably freeze every drop of blood in their veins.'

"I completely understand." Ur said with a nod. "As a mother, there was really no other way that could have ended, after all."

"Exactly." Mirajane said, her sheepish smile turning proud thanks to Ur's words. "I would do anything to keep my little girl safe."

Continuing to make their way across the plains, Ur nodded her head as she and Mirajane continued to chat.

'By the way, isn't it about time for Tear to give me a grandchild to spoil?' Ur asked herself while listening to Mirajane gush over Bianca. 'I think I need to sit down and have a long talk with her. And if that doesn't work, I could probably convince Alfonzo to convince her.'

At the same time, Ultear, who wanted to join everyone in fighting Akatsuki but was excluded from the operation by Mavis since her mother was there, shivered. She then, looked around the mansion's

backyard from the seat at the table where she and the others were sitting while waiting for everyone to return.

"Tear, is something wrong?" Cana asked curiously while pouring a drink for Ultear.

"I... I'm not sure." Ultear replied warily. "For a second, I felt like I was being plotted against. But there shouldn't be anyone around who would do such a thing after the others left to take care of the enemies."

"That's weird." Lucy, who was sitting across from Cana and Ultear said with a small frown on her face.
"Maybe it's that guy from the Oración Seis, Brain, plotting his revenge from prison."

"That could be it." Ultear said in an unsure tone. "Since he couldn't beat Mom, he's probably thinking of taking me hostage to get to her."

"Too bad for him, you're like, totes stronger than Ur was back then." Marin chimed in with a smile.

Smiling in return, Ultear picked up the drink that Cana poured. However, just before she took a sip, Shizuka and Rika led Amar'e and Bianca outside while Shizuka carried Calvin in her arms.

When Ultear's eyes landed on the children, she smiled happily at first. However, the memory of something from the past popped up in her head a moment later. Then, the smile turned into an expression filled with uncertainty.

'I know where that feeling is coming from, now.' Ultear thought to herself. 'Mom's probably thinking about having grandchildren again. I always get the same uncomfortable feeling whenever she brings it up. *Sigh* But if she only knew. I'm terrified of the kids being born with as much magic power as I was and getting sick because of it.'

[<*Sigh* I've been listening to you have this same back and forth with yourself ever since you found out that Lici was pregnant."] Kinsi, Ultear's [Armament Spirit] that took the form of an ice phoenix, said in an exasperated tone. ["I wanted to let you figure it out on your own, but I've grown tired of all this."]

'What are you talking about, Kinsi?' Ultear asked, the confusion she was feeling showing up on her face.

[<*Sigh* You weren't this slow-witted when you were a child."] Kinsi replied, her exasperation growing quickly. ["You always thought that Gray and your mother were the only ones affected by Fairy Tail's cumulatively low IQ. But it would seem that you were affected, as well."]

'Just get to the point, Kinsi.' Ultear ordered in annoyance.

[<*Sigh* Fine."] Kinsi said while shaking its head. ["The only reason there was a problem with your high amount of magic power was because there was no one who knew how to deal with it in Iceberg when you were born. But now, you're guild mates with the best doctor on Fiore, though Master Tsunade would probably disagree with that statement, and you're married to the best magic item craftsman in the world. Is there really anything to worry about?"]

In the next instant, Ultear froze completely. A sound bomb with the words, "Is there really anything to worry about?" exploding repeatedly in her head.

Meanwhile, although she was unaware, the other ladies sitting at the table, Cana, Marin, Lucy, and Brandish, were watching Ultear's facial expressions change rapidly while she spoke with Kinsi. However, when they saw her freeze with a shocked expression on her face, they all grew worried.

"Tear, is something wrong?" Marin asked quickly when Ultear stopped moving for a few seconds.

"Did you figure out who might be targeting you?" Lucy asked as she reached for her Celestial Key pouch.
"Do we need to get moving so we can stop them before they can do any harm?"

"I don't think that's it, Lucy." Cana said as she examined Ultear's expression. "She's not pale or angry. So, it's probably not that. Maybe she's just caught off guard by how good the alcohol is. This is from Fonzie's stash. He let me open it for the occasion. So, it's really good, you know?"

"How long did it take you to get him to agree to that?" Brandish asked in her usual, flat, bored tone.
Though, there was a bit of curiosity in her gaze.

"Almost an entire year." Cana replied as she picked up her own glass and took a sip. "Honestly, I never thought he would."

Bang!

"Kya~~~~~! No~~~~~!"

As soon as Cana reached that point, Ultear finally snapped out of the daze that was caused by Kinsi's analysis. When she did, she let her body slump forward, her head slamming into the table and causing a loud noise.

That sudden bang made all the ladies at the table jump. Especially Cana, who was holding her glass to her lips. Unfortunately, when that happened, Cana accidentally poured most of the contents of the glass all over herself, and thus the scream from a moment ago.

"Ultear, are you okay?" Lucy asked in a worried tone.

"What happened?" Marin asked, sounding just as worried.

"She better be!" Cana growled. "Because if she's not, I'm gonna feel a little bad for kicking her ass after making me spill my drink."

Hearing that, Marin, Lucy, and Brandish turned to look at Cana blankly while Shizuka and Rika hurried their steps to check on Ultear. Meanwhile, Amar'e and Bianca, who found Ultear's actions funny, laughed as they ran to keep up with Shizuka and Rika.

"He... Hehehe... Hahaha... Ahahahahaha!" Ultear, starting with a snort, began to giggle then laugh before her laughter turned uproarious. "Stupid! I was so stupid! Why didn't I think of that before. It was so simple! Ahahahahaha!"

Ultear sudden bout of laughter made the other ladies even more worried. Yet, Amar'e and Bianca hurried their steps to get closer to Ultear, who they thought must be having fun based on how she was laughing.

Feeling the children climbing all over her, Ultear finally raised her head. Then, she hugged them both tightly and started to tickle them while laughing along.

Meanwhile, the other ladies, minus Cana, breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that Ultear was fine. Cana, on the other hand, stared at Ultear with wrath in her eyes. However, she knew she could not make a move with Amar'e and Bianca in Ultear's arms.

'Oh, I'm gonna get you back for this, Tear.' Cana thought to herself while glaring at Ultear, who did not seem to notice at all. 'It took me forever to get Fonzie to agree to let me open that bottle. And you made me waste so much of it. Just you wait, my revenge will be something you've never seen before.'

At the same time, Alfonzo and Elicia, with Konan in tow, approached the place where Nagato was hiding. When they did, they were impressed by what they saw.

"If I didn't know any better, I would think this was a real tree." Elicia said as she looked Nagato's hiding place up and down.

As Elicia said, Nagato appeared to be hiding inside a rather large tree. On top of that, because it was on the outskirts of the forest East of Magnolia, it did not even look out of place, as it blended in well with all the other trees.

"Yeah, it's rather well made." Alfonzo said with a nod. "This chick is pretty good at what she does."

"Seriously, it's hard to believe it's made of paper." Elicia added with a nod of her own.

Konan, on the other hand, was completely dumbfounded by how easily the hiding place she had created with her [Paper-Style Ninjutsu] was seen through.

In fact, in normal circumstances, Alfonzo and Elicia would not have been able to see through the tree Konan made. But there were two reasons they were able to do so. First, they both were expecting something like that, having seen something similar in the Naruto anime. And second, Alfonzo had found Nagato's hiding place when he released Riot and Bedlam and followed the magic power connecting the Paths of Pain to their origin.

Had it not been for those reasons, they would not have even known, despite having lived near the forest for most of their lives.

"Anyway, there's no point standing around like this." Alfonzo said as he stepped forward. "Why don't we go in and say hi. I'm just dying to meet the son of a bitch who tried to kill my kids."

Zap!

With that, Alfonzo took another step forward. Then, in the next instant, Alfonzo's right leg was engulfed in arcs of violet electricity before he threw a devastating kick at the artificial tree's trunk.

Boom!

The moment Alfonzo's kick connected; a thunderclap sounded around the area. At the same time, all the animals, mammals, birds, and insects all scattered while the entire tree, hardened as it was, broke down into individual sheets of paper that flew away before fluttering in the gale that was kicked up by the force of Alfonzo's kick.

"Knock, knock, mother fucker!" Alfonzo shouted among the commotion his kick created. "I noticed we had some new neighbors. So, I came to say hi. Maybe even borrow some sugar if you could spare some."

Hearing that, Elicia could not help giggling. Though, she never took her eyes off the mess that Alfonzo had caused. Meanwhile, Konan, after seeing how easily one of her strongest paper constructs had been destroyed, could only gape in dumbfounded amazement with her eyes and mouth open wide.

Unfortunately, there was no response to Alfonzo's declaration. Not that Nagato, who had been hiding inside the artificial tree did not want to. Rather, he could not respond. The force behind Alfonzo's kick, which had caused a gale, also sent Nagato flying, eight-legged walking contraption, and all. And while everyone's ears were ringing from the thunderclap, he slammed into a tree behind him.

And because of his body, weakened from years of having a pair of Rinnegan that did not belong to him implanted into his eye sockets, Nagato fell unconscious as soon as he slammed into the tree. Luckily, he was not too injured from the collision. Though, the same could not be said about his walking contraption.

"Oh... Uh... Oops." Alfonzo muttered sheepishly. "I... Uh... Didn't mean to kick it that hard? I actually did want to talk to him, you know. Wanted to know why he thought destroying my house with everyone in it was such a good idea."

"It's okay, Fonzie, I understand." Elicia, giggling slightly, said in a comforting tone as she patted Alfonzo on the back with her free hand. "I probably would have over did it, as well. But he probably wouldn't

have survived my greeting. Since, I was thinking of shredding the entire tree with my [Thread Slicer]. I would have probably minced him, too, though, since I'm so angry that he tried to kill Mar'e."

Konan could only shudder in terror upon hearing Elicia's casual statement. She then realized how lucky shew as to be alive after being pursued by Elicia earlier.

Lucky for Konan, Elicia already knew that Konan usually tried to be Nagato's voice of reason, a voice that was often ignored. So, she held no grudge with the blue-haired kunoichi, who was not even a criminal, having never had a bounty posted for her, unlike Pain and the other members of the Akatsuki.

"Oh well." Alfonzo said, shrugging off his sheepishness. "Let's just take this guy to Porlyusica. She'd probably love to study the Rinnegan after all the fun she had with the Sharingan. Besides, if we don't get those things out of that guy soon, he'll probably die before we can question him about his stupidity."

"Yeah, and I wanna have a nice, long, talk with him, too." Elicia said with a sweet smile that did not reach her eyes.

"Wait! What?" Konan exclaimed in panic. "So, you were only after his eyes? I should have known."

"Not really." Alfonzo replied with another shrug as he started walking towards Nagato. He then slapped anti-magic restraints on the unconscious redhead as he continued. "Honestly, if he had left well-enough alone, I wouldn't have even bothered with the dumb mother fucker. But he did something he shouldn't have."

"Besides, they weren't even his to begin with." Elicia added with a shrug of her own. "Why do you think they were killing him like this?"

Hearing that, Konan did not even know what to say. She could only open and close her mouth like a fish out of water as she processed what she just heard.

"I mean, seriously?" Alfonzo said after picking up Nagato and slinging his unconscious body over his shoulder. "Have you ever heard of anyone else who naturally awakened special eyes being killed by them? That only happens when they're not natural."

'Just look at Kakashi.' Alfonzo thought to himself as the image of a spiky, white-haired man with a perpetually bored expression, carrying a little orange book popped up in his mind. 'He can't even turn that Sharingan of his off. And if he fights seriously for more than half an hour, he passes out from magic power exhaustion.'

Not wanting to reveal one of the Village Hidden in the Leaves' secrets, Alfonzo kept that thought to himself. Then, along with Elicia, he walked deeper into the forest, intending to drop Nagato off at Porlyusica's so she could remove the Rinnegan and heal him enough so that he could be questioned. As for Konan, she would be taken to the guild hall, along with the other members of Akatsuki who were captured alive until the guild decided how to deal with them.

Chapter 734: Understanding Just How Outclassed They Were

"Well, it looks like it's over." Irene said with a smile as she placed her wine glass on the coffee table in Mavis' office. "They didn't cause as much damage as I thought, either. Just a few craters. Nothing that can't be taken care of easily enough."

Reaching that point, Irene glanced at Mavis, who was sprawled over her desk with her arms spread out. Then, she glanced outside of the guild hall, her smile widening slightly.

"Well, for the most part, anyway." Irene continued, completely unbothered by Mavis' dead fish expression. "Anyway, shouldn't we get going? Those kids should be back with the prisoners they captured soon, right?"

"Ugh... Why was I so happy to be guild master again?" Mavis asked in a tired tone. "There are gonna be complaints from Magnolia, Fiore, and the Magic Council for this. Even worse, it was caused by a former guild master. Couldn't she show a little restraint?"

"To be fair, Ur did save the town from being flooded, though." Irene said as she stood up.

"I acknowledge the truth in that statement." Mavis said as she pushed herself off the desk. "But she's strong enough that she had any number of ways to deal with that issue. Instead, she chose the one that would give me, the guild master, the most problems with the authorities."

"Well, there's no point complaining for now." Irene said as she started walking towards the elevator.
"Come on, let's go."

Sighing once again, Mavis pushed herself away from her desk before standing up and walking towards Irene. As she approached, Irene couldn't help but notice that Mavis, after being free of Ankhseram's Curse, had grown a few inches, now standing at 5'4", rather than her previous 5'2". Also, her figure had become more feminine, as well. Though, her chest was still flat as ever.

Not long later, Mavis entered the elevator. Then, Irene pressed the button for the second basement level of the guild hall, which was where the prison was. After that, it only took a few minutes before Gildarts, along with Kakuzu to arrive.

While Gildarts was smiling casually as he entered the prison, Kakuzu, upon seeing both Irene and Mavis, widened his eyes. Though, that was more so for Mavis than Irene. While the power rolling off of Irene was breath taking, he was old enough to have heard the news about Mavis' death nearly a century ago. But to see her standing in front of him, looking very alive, was more than he was ready for.

'I had heard news that she had come back to life.' Kakuzu thought to himself. 'But I never really believed it. I didn't know what the deal was, but people don't come back to life. But now, I'm not so sure my experience can be counted on anymore. First, I run into this orange-haired idiot and have four of my five hearts destroyed with one move. Then, I see that monster treating Pain like a little kid. And now, I'm seeing people come back to life. Seriously, I'm too old for this shit.'

"I'm the first one to make it, huh?" Gildarts said while looking around the prison. "Well, I didn't have to fight at all. So, I guess that makes sense."

"And that's a good thing for Magnolia." Mavis said while rolling her eyes. "If you had fought, you probably would have destroyed half the town."

'And killed me in the process.' Kakuzu added in his heart.

"Probably." Gildarts replied unrepentantly. He then jabbed his thumb in Kakuzu's direction as he continued. "Good thing it didn't come to that, though. Catching this guy should finally get me some points, right?"

"It will indeed." Mavis replied with a nod.

"Too bad it will be a while before you can use any of those points, though." Irene said while smiling mischievously. "And you have your dear Ur to thank for that. She's the one who gave Alfonzo work to do for the rest of the year, remember?"

"Oh, right..." Gildarts replied, his tone making his disappointment clear. "*Sigh* By the time he's got time to cook for the guild again, I'll have probably lost all those points again, huh?"

"If your track record is anything to go by." Mavis said with a nod. "By the way, where is that girl you brought back last month? I haven't seen her around the guild hall recently."

"Oh, she spends most of her time running around Magnolia with Naruto." Gildarts said with a grin. "Those two are a real pair of pranksters. They really keep the townsfolk on their toes."

Mavis and Irene, although they were aware that Naruto and Fū spent a lot of time together, were completely in the dark about what they did when they were together. So, the blank looks they sent Gildarts' way were not unexpected. Yet, after only a moment, they both shrugged it off as if they could not be bothered.

"Well, we haven't received any complaints from the citizens of the town about property damage." Mavis said while shaking her head. "So, I guess they are fine to do what they want."

"Yes." Irene added with a nod. "It's clear to see the difference between those who were raised by Fairy Tail and those who were brought in later, isn't it?"

"It is." Mavis added with a nod of her own. "At least we won't have to remodel the town again for someone who just can't be bothered enough to walk around the buildings on his way to a certain location."

Naturally, Gildarts knew the ladies were talking about him. However, there was nothing he could say in his defense. Meanwhile, Kakuzu, who had heard rumors about Gildarts over the years could only stare at the former Fairy Tail ace with a dumbfounded look in his pupilless eyes.

Noticing the gaze he was receiving from Kakuzu, Gildarts, who could not complain to the women in front of him, put on an indignant expression. Yet, just when he opened his mouth to address Kakuzu's look, three more people, two women and a man, entered the underground prison.

"Don't even bother trying to defend yourself." One of the women, Ur, said as she stepped out of the elevator with Mirajane while dragging Kisame behind her. "The Gildarts Shift literally has your name in it. There's no denying that it was made for you, and you alone."

Immediately shutting his mouth, Gildarts turned to look at Ur with a smile on his face.

"Ur, welcome back." Gildarts said in a sugary-sweet, loving tone. "How was it to be out on the front lines again?"

Rolling her eyes at Gildarts' obvious attempt to change the subject, Ur could not stop the smile that crept onto her face.

"It felt just like the old times." Ur said happily. She then glanced back at Kisame, who's arms and legs had been thawed before looking back at Gildarts with a bashful smile. "It looks like I've really been out

of practice, though. If I had been out taking quests this whole time, I would have been able to take this guy down in half the time."

"You would have probably still frozen that much of the landscape, though." Mavis cut in before Gildarts could reply. "From what I saw in the reports of your missions, you have a habit of doing stuff like this, don't you, Ur?"

"She's right, you know?" Irene said with a grin. "Although he Worth Woodsea is the only instance of things like this that anyone ever talks about, almost every quest you've ever completed ended up with something being frozen. These two events are the only ones on such a scale, though."

Instead of replying, Ur looked away with a sheepish smile while trying, and failing, to whistle an inoffensive tune. Meanwhile, Mavis and Irene shifted their gazes to Mirajane, who was standing next to Ur with her usual, pleasant, smile on her face.

"I'm surprised by you, though, Mira." Mavis said. "You know, I expected a much more drawn out end to the one you were fighting. Especially after the attack on the mansion."

"Honestly, so was I." Mirajane said without changing her expression. "I had every intention of torturing him and everyone I could get my hands on to death. Although they weren't the ones who attacked the place where Bianca was sleeping, they were all guilty by association."

Hearing the way Mirajane mentioned torture with such a pleasant smile on her face caused both Kakuzu and Kisame to shudder involuntarily.

'Powerful mothers are scary.' Kakuzu and Kisame thought at the same time.

"But when I saw the lifeless look in that bomb guy's eyes after I ripped off and disintegrated his hands, I just lost the desire to do so." Mirajane continued, her smile widening slightly after noticing Kakuzu's and Kisame's reactions to her previous words.

Like that, the five Fairy Tail wizards continue to chat. Meanwhile, Gildarts and Ur put Kakuzu and Kisame into two of the cells on either side of the corridor.

"Oh, looks like I got some neighbors." A man with a deep voice said from the only other occupied cell in the prison. "Well, at least you guys are in for a treat. These guys treat their prisoners much better than we did in Alvarez."

Hearing that, Kakuzu and Kisame turn to look at Jacob, who Elicia captured a while ago while he was investigating Irene and Brandish, former members of the Alvarez Empire's Spriggan 12, after they stop reporting when they were assigned to investigate Alfonzo after his defeat of God Serena.

"Oh, almost forgot you were still here, Jacob." Irene said with a smile. "I thought you would have killed yourself or something."

"Hmph! Don't talk to me, traitor." Jacob said rudely before turning away.

Tap!

"It seems you've forgotten just who I am, Jacob." Irene said as she materialized Belserion in her hand and tapped the butt of her stave on the floor. "I think I should give you a little reminder."

In the next instant, a complex magic circle appeared around Jacob, who was sitting on the floor of his cell with anti-magic bracelets and anklets around his limbs. Then, a column of light shot up to the ceiling of the cell, completely engulfing the Alvarez Assassin in light.

"Argh~~~~~!" Jacob screamed in agony, making both Kakuzu and Kisame shudder.

"Remember this, Jacob." Irene said, loud enough to be heard over Jacob's screaming without losing her smile. "I was called 'the Scarlet Despair for a reason."

A few seconds passed in this manner, with everyone, other than Jacob, for obvious reasons, remaining silent. Then, just as Jacob's screams started to sound hoarse, Mavis patted Irene on her lower back.

"That's enough, Irene." Mavis said while shaking her head. "Legal Guild's don't torture prisoners."

"Very well." Irene replied, clearly just waiting for Mavis to stop her. Though, she would not deny the enjoyment she received from letting her sadistic side out for a few moments. "I suppose you're right. I'll let him off... this time."

With that, Irene dematerialized Belserion. At the same time, the magic circle surrounding Jacob vanished while the light column also dissipated.

Meanwhile, Kakuzu and Kisame looked at Irene with horror in their gazes.

As former members of Hidden Villages, though Kakuzu came from a minor one, they were both fairly adept at information gathering. On top of that, they had been working with Zetsu, who had the best information network on Earth Land for a long time. So, they knew that Zeriff's empire, the Alvarez Empire was on a higher level than most of what Ishgar could bring to bear in a conflict. On top of that, they had heard the name, "the Scarlet Despair," on more than one occasion. Even Pain, with all the power granted to him by the Rinnegan would steer clear of her.

And now, after getting the chance to match a face to the name, both Kakuzu and Kisame had given up any thoughts of escape.

'What's up with this guild?' Kakuzu thought to himself. 'First there's that monster who destroys everything. Then, there's the young man who could fight Pain and make it look easy. And now, this demon in the guise of a beautiful woman is part of the guild, too? Damn you, Pain! You never paid me anywhere near enough to take on people like this.'

Kisame, on the other hand, did not even know what to think. The reason he joined the Akatsuki was because he believed in pain's dream of ending all conflict on the continent, as foolish as that dream may have been. But now, after seeing the strength of the Fairy Tail guild, he wondered, even if they had not attacked the guild, would they have been able to succeed?

'Of course we wouldn't have.' Kisame thought to himself. 'None of us are dumb enough to think that we weren't in the wrong in our methods. We also expected strong opposition from the rest of the continent. But with the power of Pain, we were sure we would be able to handle anything. It would seem we've all grown arrogant over the years, haven't we?'

Like that, more time passed. Eventually, Erza, Sun, and Saeko also arrived. However, since they had killed Sasori during their confrontation, they did not have a prisoner, either.

"Well, it looks like everyone's here." Mavis said with a smile. "GOOD Job, Everyone. You've protected both the guild and the town from the attack of seven S-Class threats. I'm proud of all of you."

Hearing Mavis' praise, the other Fairy Tail wizards all smiled. However, it did not take too long for Erza to realize that there were some people missing.

"By the way, where are Alfonzo, Elicia, and Sasuke?" Erza asked curiously. "Surely, they are done with tier battles, as well."

"Oh, them?" Mavis said with a happy smile while her ahoge bounced from side to side. "They're all at Porlyusica's house getting their prisoners some medical attention. Don't worry, they should be back before too long."

"I understand." Erza replied with a nod.

"Anyway, let's get back to the mansion." Sun said energetically. "We still need to finishing setting up for tomorrow's party."

In response, everyone nodded their heads. Then, without another word to their prisoners, they all left the floor before heading to the Mansion on the Lake. Though, not all of them would be helping with the party's preparations. None of them wanted to miss the feast that Alfonzo would undoubtedly prepare for the victory celebration.

Chapter 735: Reunion of Teacher and Students

The next two days pass quickly. During that time, Alfonzo cooked a feast to celebrate the victory Fairy Tail gained over the Akatsuki. The following day, the guests attending Amar'e's birthday party arrived, and they had a great time enjoying the games and attractions set up on the island, the food prepared by Sixth Sense Restaurant and Lounge, and having a few drinks with friends and allies.

The next day, Alfonzo, Elicia, Mavis, and Irene made their way towards the forest east of Magnolia to check on the three prisoners who were not currently locked up in the guild hall's prison. Namely, Itachi, Nagato, and Konan.

Though, Konan should have probably been locked up in the prison, considering the fact that she was not heavily injured during her fight with Elicia. In order to keep Nagato stable after he woke up, she was allowed to stay with him.

"Ugh... Where am I?" Nagato, who just woke up from unconsciousness after Alfonzo's rather excited knock on the place he was hiding, asked in a groggy tone as he opened his eyes.

Yet, instead of getting a response, Konan, who was sitting next to his bed side, pounced on him and hugged him tightly.

"Huh? Konan?" Nagato asked in a confused tone. "What's wrong? What happened to me?"

"I'm glad you're okay." Konan said quietly while burying her face in Nagato's chest. "When I saw how hard you slammed into that tree as your walker was destroyed, I thought I'd lost you."

Hearing Konan's words, Nagato's memory of the battle from a couple of days ago were quickly jogged. When he finally finished replaying everything that happened that day from his perspective, he could not help but smile helplessly. He had been knocked unconscious by Alfonzo without even seeing him with his own eyes.

A moment later, however, Nagato's thoughts were interrupted by the voice of an old lady... A grumpy old lady that seemed to hate humans.

"Stop being so dramatic, girl." Porlyusica, who entered the room while making her rounds on her two patients, said in an annoyed tone. "He was never in danger of losing his life. If it had been anyone other than Alfonzo had done it, though, things might have been different."

Hearing that unfamiliar voice, Nagato, who was still trying to piece together what happened, turned to look in Porlyusica's direction. When he did, he immediately planned to attack her so that he could extract some information from her. So, he raised his hand and pointed its palm at her.

Bang!

Yet, even faster than Nagato could react, he felt a swift, sharp strike to his head, causing him to pull his outstretched hand back to cover the spot where he was hit. However, to his absolute bafflement, he did not feel as though he had been injured. Though, the pain he was experiencing was immense.

"Don't bother, Boy." Porlyusica said bluntly while looking at Nagato with even more annoyance in her gaze. "Even if you weren't wearing those anti-magic bracelets, you don't have the powers those fancy eyes granted you anymore."

Turning to look at Porlyusica again, Nagato did not immediately react to what she said. Instead, he looked at the broom that was not in her hand a moment ago with confusion. But it did not take too long for him to finally register her words.

"What?" Nagato asked in a dumfounded tone.

"Well, to be more honest, you don't have those fancy eyes anymore." Porlyusica continued. "But that's just semantics at this point."

While Nagato was not surprised that he was wearing anti-magic bracelets, as that was common when a wizard or shinobi was captured. The fact that he did not have the Rinnegan's powers anymore thoroughly confused him. However, when he heard that he did not have the Rinnegan anymore, he had a full-blown panic attack.

"No, how is that possible?" Nagato shouted in a frantic tone. "You would dare deprive a god of his eyes? What blasphemy is this?"

Bang!

"Stop shouting!" Porlyusica shouted back as she once again hit Nagato in the head with her broom. She then turned to glare at Konan, who was looking at the whole situation with a surprised gaze. "Was he the one you were getting the medicine for, girl?"

Still in a state of shock, Konan could only nod her head blankly in response to Porlyusica's question.

Bang!

In the next instant, faster than even Konan, who was more or less healthy, could react, she, too, was hit in the head by Porlyusica's broom, joining Nagato with a hand covering her head.

"Why didn't you tell me he was this bad when I told you I would stop giving you medicine?" Porlyusica asked angrily. "This is why I hate humans."

"But you said---" Konan started to say, trying to defend herself.

Bang!

"I'm sorry." Konan replied with her head lowered and her hands covering a forming bump on her head.

"Wait!" Nagato shouted once again, just seeming to realize something.

Bang!

"I said stop shouting." Porlyusica said in a much sterner tone. "Humans never learn anything. That's why I hate them."

After saying her piece, Porlyusica reached into one of her pockets. Then, she pulled out a medicine bottle before tossing it to Konan. After seeing that Konan caught the bottle easily, she turned around and left the room.

"I'll be back in a few minutes." Porlyusica said without looking back. "By the time I get back, you had better have fed him some of those pills and explained the situation to him."

"Yes ma'am." Konan replied while lowering her head once again.

Then, without a response, Porlyusica left the room. Nagato, on the other hand, turned to look at Konan with confusion.

"Konan, if my eyes were removed, why can I see?" Nagato asked, still sounding a bit frantic.

Hearing the panic in Nagato's tone, Konan could only sigh audibly. She then, before explaining anything, stood up, walked over to the sink, where there was a small cupboard hanging above it and took a glass. Then, after filling the glass and pouring out two of the pills in the bottle Porlyusica gave her, she handed both to Nagato.

"Take these." Konan said as Nagato took the glass and pills from her. "Meanwhile, I'll explain everything that happened after you were knocked unconscious."

While Nagato swallowed the pills with a few sips of water, Konan starts recounting what she heard from Alfonzo and Elicia while they were on the way to Porlyusica's house after the battle. And what she heard was shocking to say the least.

First of all, the Rinnegan Nagato was so proud of and declared himself a god for, were not even his. In fact, they belonged to a legendary shinobi from a past era named Madara Uchiha. To make things even worse, Madara, through Obito and Zetsu had been using him as a pawn to complete Madara's Eye of the Moon Plan, which would result in the entire world being placed in a [Genjutsu].

This [Genjutsu], the [Infinite Tsukuyomi] would place everyone into a dream where they lived in their ideal world, ending all conflict on Earth land. And although this plan would achieve the goal that Nagato was fighting for, to end all wars, it would completely strip away the people's free will.

Even worse than that, Nagato would have ended up as a sacrificial pawn, giving up his life to revive Madara with the Rinnegan, just so that Madara could reclaim his original pair of eyes to complete his plan. In the end, Nagato would not even be able to see the world without war he dreamed of.

After telling that story, Konan told Nagato what happened after they arrived at Porlyusica's house.

The first thing Konan saw after arriving at Porlyusica's house was Porlyusica treating Itachi, who had contracted some kind of almost incurable lung disease. Meanwhile, Sasuke, Itachi's younger brother was watching Porlyusica work while sitting on tenterhooks.

Seeing that Porlyusica was busy, Alfonzo brought Nagato into the room they were in now. Then, after Porlyusica was finished tending to Itachi for the moment, she diagnosed Nagato's condition. Meanwhile, Alfonzo explained that the Rinnegan was too much for Nagato's body to bear because they were not his own eyes and the magic power drain was slowly killing him.

Agreeing with Alfonzo's assessment, Porlyusica decisively removed Nagato's eyes before leaving him to rest.

The next day, while Alfonzo and the others were attending Amar'e's birthday party, Porlyusica made a pair of eyes that could replace the ones she took from Nagato. And although they did not have all the abilities of the Rinnegan, or any of the other bloodline eyes that could be found in shinobi clans, they were better than any eyes that humans could be born with.

As for the Rinnegan, Porlyusica took them so that she could study them, as she found them interesting.

"After that, today came and you woke up." Konan said, bringing her recounting of events to an end.

Nagato did not reply immediately. Instead, he just stared at Konan with a blank expression. Clearly, he was struggling to process everything he had just heard. And the things that hit him the hardest were the facts that the Rinnegan were not his and that he had been manipulated for most of his life.

"This can't be real." Nagato muttered. "Then, does that mean I was never a god? Also, does that mean that my parents were killed for this Madara's ambition?"

"More than likely." The voice of an older man said from the room's doorway.

Snapping their heads in the direction of the voice, both Konan and Nagato were surprised to see Jiraiya standing there with a solemn expression on his face.

"Sensei..." Konan and Nagato muttered in a daze when they saw the tall figure of the man who taught them how to be shinobi after he found them at the end of the Second Great Ninja War.

"Long time, no see." Jiraiya said, trying to smile at his former students. "I have to say, when I taught you all back then, I never thought things would end up like this. Maybe, I put too much pressure on you by entrusting my dream to end war on your shoulders."

"No, it's not your fault!" Nagato cried. "Honestly, that's what all three of us wanted back then. But when Hanzo forced me to kill Yahiko, everything changed. I got desperate... Desperate to see Yahiko's dream become a reality."

In fact, neither Nagato nor Konan really had the dream of ending war in the world. Instead, they had the dream of supporting Yahiko, whose body later became Nagato's Deva Path of Pain, to fulfill his dream to end war.

"*Sigh* Yes... It was a tragedy what happened to Yahiko." Jiraiya said while clinching his fist in grief.
"And it's all that damned Danzō's fault."

Hearing that, both Konan and Nagato lowered their head in anger.

"But at least he's been taken care of." Jiraiya said, trying his best to smile through the grief. "He tried to put his hands on things that did not belong to him one too many times. And during the last attempt, he finally met his end."

Konan and Nagato exchanged glances upon hearing that. Then, they both turned back to look at Jiraiya, who was still trying his best to smile.

"We heard about that." Nagato said, a curious glint in his eyes. "But there wasn't much information to be found about the authenticity of that event."

"You can thank my Sensei for that." Jiraiya said while smiling wryly. "And if it were up to him, Danzō would have never lost his life in the first place. But Sensei knew that the Village Hidden in the Leaves could not afford to offend the ones Danzō provoked. Or rather, the force they belonged to."

"What force?" Konan asked curiously.

"*Sigh* Fairy Tail." Jiraiya said while shaking his head before showing the guild mark on his palm. "Just like you, he found out just how powerful Fairy Tail's ace was after trying to kidnap him and his wife, who was pregnant at the time."

"Alfonzo Marcus..." Nagato muttered, a shudder of fear accompanying his words.

Glancing at Nagato, who was clearly scared by what he encountered during his fight with Alfonzo, Konan eventually turned her attention back to Jiraiya.

"Then, I guess we owe him our gratitude." Konan said softly. "Instead, we attacked his home and family."

"Fuckin' right you do." Another male voice said from behind Jiraiya.

Immediately, Jiraiya, Konan, and Nagato turned to see the owner of the voice, Alfonzo coming towards the room with Elicia, Mavis, and Irene accompanying him.

"But you can think about that later." Mavis said while smiling cheerfully as she entered the room.
"Instead, the real question is, just what should we do with you? Capturing a group of such notorious terrorists would really bolster the guild's reputation."

Seeing the cheerful smile on Mavis' face, not to mention the sadistic one on Irene's, made not only Konan and Nagato start to sweat nervously, but even Jiraiya, who was about as soft-hearted when it came to dealing with the people he was close to as his sensei, Hiruzen Sarutobi, couldn't help but worry about what would happen to his former students.

Chapter 736: Mavis' Plan for the Akatsuki

"So, you have two choices after doing what you did a few days ago." Mavis said in a cheerful, upbeat tone.

Hearing what Mavis said, Nagato and Konan exchanged glances, carrying out a conversation without exchanging words. However, that did not last very long, as Mavis had no intention of letting them think for too long.

"The first option, which is the most obvious, is that we'll turn you over to the Magic Council." Mavis continued. "Though, since you haven't done much, I doubt you'll be imprisoned for too long. I mean, they'll probably pity you for doing something as stupid as attacking the home of the strongest member of the Ten Wizard Saints."

Nagato and Konan's eyes widened to a comical degree when they heard that. They then both snapped their heads up and to the side to look at Alfonzo, who was standing to Mavis' right with shock in their eyes.

Alfonzo, on the other hand, only waved at them with a wide smile on his face.

"He... He's one of the Gods of Ishgar?" Nagato asked, stumbling to ask his question.

"Yup! You better fuckin' believe it!" Alfonzo said playfully. "It's not really well-known outside of certain circles, though."

"If that trial didn't happen, every faction on the continent would have probably already known, though." Elicia added with a smile. "Good thing the council is made up of former guild masters now, huh?"

"I doubt Gramps would agree, though." Alfonzo said with a shrug.

"That's enough, Alfonzo, Elicia." Mavis said gently. "You two can talk about maki's suffering later. For now, we have business to discuss."

"Kay~~~~!" Elicia said cheerfully.

Alfonzo, on the other hand, only shrugged his shoulders. Yet, Mavis did not immediately get back to talking about the matter at hand. Instead, she lowered her head and began rubbing her chin with a contemplative expression on her face.

"Actually, don't you think now would be a good time for Maki to retire?" Mavis asked, sounding as if she were talking to herself, rather than the rest of those present in the room. "I mean, he's over ninety already. Ninety-four, I think. That's definitely old enough for retirement, isn't it?"

Mavis' utterance drew all the attention to where she was going with this. And though they did not say anything, the interest shining in the eyes of the Fairy Tail wizards, namely, Alfonzo, Elicia, Irene, and Jiraiya, could not be hidden.

"Ur's still young, though." Mavis continued. "I think she should be his replacement. We still need two members on the Council, after all. But the question is, if Maki retires, he'll probably be taken off the Ten Wizard Saint's roster. And I doubt they'd let us get another wizard into their ranks with Alfonzo already sitting at number one..."

While Mavis continued to mutter her considerations, Alfonzo, Elicia, Irene, and Jiraiya began to shudder. At the same time, they felt a pang of sympathy for Ur, who was currently at home drinking away her sorrows after Mavis not only took away all her points but put her in a deficit of the same amount.

"Hey, Fonzie." Elicia whispered while leaning close to Alfonzo, who was looking at Mavis with a stream of cold sweat dripping down his back. "I know we never planned to do so, but I think it would be a bad idea to piss off Master mavis."

"Yeah..." Alfonzo replied somberly as he nodded his head. "I almost feel bad for Ur. She's already got to deal with everyone looking at her funny for not being able to trade in her points. And now, there's a good chance she's gonna be the newest member of the Magic Council."

Elicia nodded her head in return as she turned back to look at the plotting guild master.

Like Ur, Jiraiya was also shivering in fear after hearing Mavis' mutters. Irene, on the other hand, was shuddering for a different reason. Her shudder was one of pure ecstasy. The sadistic revenge Mavis had planned for Ur was breath taking, and she loved every second of what was going on.

"Um... You said there were two options for us, right?" Nagato said, sounding a little confused at how deeply Mavis fell into her thoughts after telling everyone it was time to get back on track. "So, are you gonna tell us what the second one is."

Hearing that, Mavis immediately snapped out of her thoughts. Then, she looked around at all the people in the room, noting that Alfonzo, Elicia, and Jiraiya all looked a bit scared while Irene looked as if she was ready to climax. Nagato and Konan, on the other hand, were thoroughly confused at the moment.

"Right." Mavis said, her usual smile coming back. "I can think about that later. Let's get back to the matter at hand."

Cough!

Mavis then coughed into her hand, giving herself a moment to get her thoughts in order. Then, she looked at Nagato and Konan with a serious expression, causing the two shinobi to straighten their backs instinctively.

"The other option is that you can work for us." Mavis said in a solemn tone. She then raised a hand before either Nagato or Konan could ask her any questions. "What I mean by that is that you can go back to the Village Hidden in the Rain and turn its shinobi force into a Fairy Tail Branch Guild."

Not only Nagato and Konan, but even Alfonzo, Elicia, and Jiraiya were dumbfounded by what they heard. Meanwhile, Irene was completely lost in her own sadistic fantasies.

"Master Mavis are you serious about that?" Jiraiya asked in an almost frantic tone.

Despite the questioning tone, anyone looking at Jiraiya could see that he was over the moon at that suggestion. As previously mentioned, Jiraiya could be rather lenient when it comes to those he holds dear. Though, he is nowhere as bad as Hiruzen, as he is willing to act when he deems there is no hope for his friends to turn back to the right path.

Alfonzo and Elicia, after giving it some thought, felt that it was a great idea. Especially when you consider just how skilled Konan was. Though, in either of them could remember how good Nagato was without his Rinnegan. But if you could get Kakuzu to turn over a new leaf, as well, then they would have a pretty solid foundation.

As for Kisame, he was quite loyal to Pain, or rather Nagato. So, there was a good chance that he would be willing to join the branch guild, as well. The only problem was...

"And that's why Master Mavis is the greatest Strategist Fairy Tail has ever seen." Alfonzo said with a smile. "Neither Konan nor Kakuzu has an active bounty. So, making them legal wizards should be no issue. As for Nagato, Pain has a bounty, but Nagato himself doesn't. And no one knows what the real you looks like, right?"

As he asked his last question, Alfonzo turned his attention to Nagato, who started to shudder in fear once again after meeting eyes with Alfonzo, who completely overwhelmed him.

"Ri-Right." Nagato replied. "I've never shown my true face since the day I killed Hanzo. Not even most of the shinobi in the Village Hidden in the Rain know exactly who I am."

Clap! *Clap!* *Clap!*

"That's good." Elicia said cheerfully while clapping her hands happily. "Because I'd hate to have to put the two of you in prison. Even though you've done a lot of bad things, in the end, you were being manipulated. And although I think you should still pay for your crimes, it would be better to have you atone then waste away in a jail cell."

"That was exactly what I was thinking." Mavis said, giving both Alfonzo and Elicia a nod of appreciation. It's nice to have members of the guild whose brains aren't made of muscle, too."

In response, both Alfonzo and Elicia smiled at Mavis' praise. At the same time, the happiness in Jiraiya's eyes and expression could not be hidden any worse if he tried. Irene, on the other hand... Well... she had checked out quite some time ago.

As for Nagato and Konan, they once again exchanged glances, carrying on a conversation that only they knew the contents of.

"Well?" Mavis asked, the anticipation in her tone palpable.

"We'll accept." Nagato said, not surprising anyone who was paying enough attention to hear his response.

"Good choice." Mavis replied with a nod. "Then, the only thing we'll need to do is make sure you get healed up. Those eyes really did a number on your body. After that, we'll have to have you go through some rehab. All the while, we'll discuss the finer details when you're done with the treatment."

With that, the conversation continued with Alfonzo and Irene, once she came back to her senses, throwing in suggestions for a successful international branch guild expansion.

Meanwhile, Sasuke was sitting in another medical room while Porlyusica checked Itachi's condition. Though, after being treated by Porlyusica several times over the last couple of years, Sasuke, who wanted to ask her about his brother's condition, remained silent, as he knew better than to speak while she was working.

Eventually, Porlyusica finished her checkup. She then started taking notes on her findings. And when she finally put her pen down, Sasuke, in the politest tone he could muster, asked how Itachi was doing.

"Miss Porlyusica, will my brother be okay?" Sasuke asked while glancing at Itachi, who was currently unconscious.

"He'll be fine." Porlyusica replied in her usual grumpy tone.

Porlyusica then put down the clipboard she was using to take notes and glared at Sasuke.

"You've asked me the same question seventeen times in two days." Porlyusica said in an annoyed tone. She then reached behind her and pulled a broom out of nowhere while she continued to glare. "If you ask me again, I'll make it so that you actually have a reason to stay in this room with him. Hmph! That's why I hate humans."

Hearing Porlyusica's words in combination with the broom in her hand, Sasuke recoiled on instinct before lowering his head. Despite having the Mangekyō Sharingan, one that will not deteriorate his eyesight, Sasuke has never been able to dodge one of Porlyusica's broom attacks. And that fact has baffled him to no end.

"Yes, Ma'am." Sasuke replied while lowering his head in both fear and respect. "I had no intention of doubting you. It's just... He's my brother. The only family I have left. And I can't help but worry."

Seeing the sincerity in Sasuke's expression, Porlyusica's own expression softened slightly. She then propped the broom in her hands against the foot of Itachi's sick bed before turning towards the medical room's door.

"Like I said, he will be fine." Porlyusica replied as she started to leave the room. "The procedures he had to go through to fix his eye sight and take care of that lung disease only put his body under a lot of pressure. But after a few more days of rest, he should be back to his prime. Maybe even better. Especially since he's only twenty-two, or so. Technically, he should have already been in his prime. But the over use of those eyes of his never allowed him to get there in the first place."

"I see. And thank you very much." Sasuke replied while lowering his head once again.

Porlyusica did not stop when she heard Sasuke's words of thanks. She did, however, nod her head. Then, just as she stepped through the medical room's doors, she spoke one last time before she closed the door behind her.

"Unfortunately, I don't know what his future will hold after he heals." Porlyusica said quietly. "He has committed quite a few crimes. He's even an S-Class criminal wanted all over Ishgar."

Sasuke could not help but clench his fists at those words. Itachi had been an S-Class criminal ever since the day he massacred the rest of the Uchiha Clan. And even if he was doing it on the village's... no, Danzō's counterfeit orders, most people don't know that. And after so many years, even if the truth was revealed, no one would believe it.

"Brother, what should we do?" Sasuke asked himself once Porlyusica closed the door. "At this rate, you'll be hunted down regardless of what the truth is. You were only trying to stop a rebellion. Though, you were an idiot for listening to Danzō. The only reason he wanted the Uchiha gone was because he was an extremist and wanted to Sharingan for himself. If you had known what he did with them, you would have stormed back into the village just to kill him yourself."

"What do you mean, Sasuke?" Itachi, speaking in a raspy, tired voice, asked from the sick bed.

Immediately, Sasuke raised his head and stared in his brother's direction. However, despite having heard Itachi's voice, he could not tell if Itachi was awake, as he had not moved and the bandage wrapped around his eyes hid them from view.

"Big Brother... You're awake." Sasuke said, though it sounded more like a question than a statement.

"I am." Itachi replied calmly. "More importantly, tell me about what Danzō did with our clan's eyes."

Snapping out of his surprise, Sasuke hesitated for a moment. But he eventually told Itachi everything he had heard from Alfonzo about Danzō and the Uchiha Massacre he used Itachi to carry out.

After he finished his retelling of events, Itachi immediately fell unconscious, the guilt of his actions on that day multiplying, the stress too much for him to bear at the moment.

Naturally, Sasuke panicked when that happened. So, he rushed out the room to find Porlyusica, only to receive several blows to the head with her broom after making too much of a ruckus.

She did go to check on Itachi after beating up Sasuke, though. So, there was that.

Chapter 737: Brandish's Curiosity

While Alfonzo, Elicia, mavis, and Irene were at Porlyusica's house, the rest of the guild were relaxing in the guild hall. And in one corner of the guild hall's first floor, Lucy and Brandish were sitting together and chatting quietly.

"Are you still hesitating, Brandish?" Lucy asked in an exasperated tone. "Didn't you say as soon as you joined Team Steel Threads, you were gonnna confess to him? Well, that was almost a year ago, and things haven't changed at all."

"It's not that easy, Lucy." Brandish said while avoiding eye contact. "I've never done anything like this before. And it makes me nervous. I mean, what if he rejects me?"

"Then he does." Lucy replied. "But at least you'll be past this awkward situation where you're unsure of what comes next, right?"

"That's easy for you to say." Brandish said as she finally looked back to Lucy with a bit of annoyance in her eyes. "I mean, you're the only one of the girls in his harem who he pursued on his own, right?"

Taken aback at how quickly Brandish's mood changed, Lucy recoiled slightly. However, that did not last long, as her face blossomed into a smile with a slight blush on her face. Then, she reached up, lightly grabbed a lock of her blonde hair, and started twirling it around her finger.

"Hehe... I guess you're right." Lucy said with a silly grin on her face. "I guess I'm not the best one to give you advice, am I?"

Seeing Lucy's bashful smile that pretty much screamed: "I guess I'm special, huh?" it took all of Brandish's self-control to not lung across the table they were sitting at and punch her in the face.

'Wait! Why am I even holding back?' Brandish asked herself. 'This is Fairy Tail, right? Guild-wide brawls happen all the time, don't they?'

["Exactly."] Hecatoncheires replied from Brandish's inner world. ["There will be no consequences. Just look at Cana and Ultear or Mira and Erza, they fight all the time. Yet, they're still friends."]

'Huh? Hecatoncheires, you're encouraging this?' Brandish asked in a dumbfounded tone. 'But aren't you always telling me to be more modest in my actions and behavior? What's the deal?'

["Because Lucy needs that smug grin knocked off her face."] Hecatoncheires replied nonchalantly. ["And as her friend, it's your duty to make sure she doesn't get too arrogant, right?"]

Hearing that, Brandish's expression turned to one of enlightenment. Then, she looked at Lucy intently.

Lucy, on the other hand, was too busy praising her own beauty that captivated Alfonzo so much that he pursued her relentlessly to notice.

Bang!

So, when Brandish finally lunged across the table and punched her in the cheek, Lucy was completely caught off guard.

"Kya~~~!" Lucy screamed as Brandish's punch sent her flying. "Brandish, why~~~~~!"

Unfortunately, that was not the end of Lucy's misfortune. Instead, it only got worse.

Bang!

Clatter! *Shatter!* *Shatter!* *Splat!*

"Ahh~~~~~! Damn it, Lucy!" Cana shouted angrily after Lucy slammed into the table she was sitting at with Ultear and Erza, the collision knocking her glass of liquor to the floor and shattering it. "I'll make you pay for that!"

"No, Cana, wait!" Lucy screamed in terror. "It wasn't my fault. Brandish! Brandish, she..."

"Lucy..." Erza said in a dark tone with her head lowered and her bangs covering her eyes. "You've committed a grave offense on this day. Now, tell me, how would you like to be punished?"

Just when she did not think that things could get any worse after being punched, sent flying, and knocking over Cana's drink, Lucy heard Erza's ominous words. She then slowly turned her head to look at the scarlet-haired swordswoman. And when she saw the dark expression on her face, she knew exactly what happened. And when she quickly swept her gaze around the area, the shattered plate she saw lying on the floor and the splattered piece of strawberry shortcake among the pieces, all the color drained from her face.

"Wow! You're really in trouble this time, Lucy." Ultear said while shaking her head with a grin on her face. "Well, good luck. They won't kill you, at least."

"No~~~~~!" Lucy screamed desperately as Cana and Erza slowly closed in. "Brandish! I'll get you for this~~~~~!"

Meanwhile, Brandish, the reason for Lucy's current suffering, looked away from Lucy, who was about to be lynched by Cana and Erza, with an embarrassed expression on her face.

"Oops..." Brandish muttered. "I didn't mean to hit her that hard. I just wanted to make her fall off her chair."

["You can think about strength control later."] Hecatoncheires said in an urgent tone. ["You should get out of here first. As much as Lucy is yelling your name, Cana and Erza are bound to put two and two together sooner or later. And when they do, they'll come after you if you're still here."]

Hearing Hecatoncheires' advice, the light of realization flashed through Brandish's eyes. She then looked towards the Cana and Erza, who were jointly beating up Lucy. Then, without hesitation, she used [Command T] and cast [Reduction] on herself before slipping out of the guild hall.

"*Sigh* That could have been dangerous." Brandish muttered as she turned to look back at the closed doors of the guild hall. "Thanks for reminding me, Hecatoncheires."

["Naturally."] Hecatoncheires replied. ["Although I like Lucy as much as you do, she's let the fact that she's the only one who Alfonzo pursued on his own go to her head. She needed to be brought down a peg. Mostly for her own good."]

Though she said that, Brandish was certain that Hecatoncheires was jealous, on her behalf, of course, when she urged Brandish to punch Lucy. Still, that was because Brandish herself was jealous, as well.

"Even so, I can't go back to the guild hall." Brandish muttered after walking down the path leading away from the guild hall. She then restored her normal size before she reached a crossroad, one side leading to Magnolia while the other lead to Lake Sciliora. More specifically, the mansion on the Lake. "But what should I do? Lucy's probably gonna wanna fight when she sees me. I should probably avoid her, huh?"

Growl!

"Plus, I'm hungry." Brandish added while patting her flat stomach. "I guess I'll go to the town. I'm sure I can find a restaurant with something I want to eat."

["Or you could use [Magic Power Detection] and see if Alfonzo is home." Hecatoncheires suggested. ["If he is, he's probably cooking lunch right now. I'm sure he wouldn't mind feeding you."

Hearing that, Brandish's eyes lit up. Like everyone else, she had not been able to eat Alfonzo's cooking since Mavis became the guild master. Though, it seemed that both she and Hecatoncheires forgot that Alfonzo mentioned that he would not be cooking at home during that time, either.

Blissfully, and perhaps willfully, ignorant, Brandish thinly spread her magic power to cover the Mansion on the Lake. When she did, she noticed that Alfonzo, Elicia, and Irene had returned to the Mansion on the Lake. On top of that, along with Grayfia, Ikaruga, Mey-Rin, and Miyuki, they were the only ones in the mansion.

"Hmm... It looks like Maria and Ai took the children out to play somewhere." Brandish muttered to herself as she turned her head in the direction of the Mansion on the Lake. "And all the other girls are at the guild hall right now."

["Then, it looks like your destination is decided, no?"] Hecatoncheires asked, though it was more of a statement than a question.

"I guess." Brandish replied as she started walking towards Lake Sciliora.

It only took about ten minutes for Brandish, walking at her usual lazy pace, to arrive at the Mansion on the Lake's front door. When she did, just before she could knock or ring the doorbell, the door opened with Mey-Rin, her face completely red and her glasses steamed up, standing in the open doorway.

"G-G-Good Afternoon, M-M-Miss Brandish." Mey-Rin said with an embarrassed studder. "H-H-How do you do, t-t-today?"

'What's up with her?' Brandish asked while looking at Mey-Rin suspiciously. 'Usually, she only acts like this when Maria teases her. But Maria isn't here today. So, what's the big idea?'

"Good afternoon to you, too, Mey-Rin." Brandish said in her usual tone with an eyebrow slightly raised. "I came to see Alfonzo and Irene. I assume they are here, correct?"

Immediately, Mey-Rin, who was already blushing, blushed even harder, the red creeping down her neck and up her ears.

"Wahh~~~~~!" Mey-Rin let out a strange scream before steam was emitted from both her ears and her head. On top of that, she began to stagger in place, looking as if she had taken too many hits to the head.

'Interesting.' Brandish thought to herself while examining Mey-Rin's response. 'So, this is either because of Alfonzo or Irene. But what could make her act like this? Well, I'm definitely curious to find out.'

[“More than likely, it’s because she couldn’t handle one of Irene’s sadistic outbursts.”] Hecatoncheires said, giving her opinion on the matter. [“I doubt it’s because of Alfonzo. He treats all of the maids quite well, after all.”]

‘That’s true.’ Brandish replied while nodding internally. ‘But if Irene is in one of those moods at the moment, I’m kinda scared to go in there.’

[“But Alfonzo’s cooking will make it worth it, won’t it?”] Hecatoncheires asked, tempting Brandish with what amounted to the Devil’s whispers.

‘*Sigh* I guess you’re right.’ Brandish said after thinking through Hecatoncheires’ advice. ‘It’s not like I haven’t been on the receiving end of Irene when she’s in a mood before. And although I’m not desensitized to it, I think I can manage.’

“So, where are they, Mey-Rin?” Brandish asked as she stepped through the door.

“L-L-Living Room!” Mey-Rin screamed in that same strange tone.

Bang!

In the next instant, Mey-Rin slammed the door shut before running off and disappearing around a corner.

"Wahh~~~~~!" The sound of Mey-Rin's strange screams echoed throughout the mansion as she ran away.

Seeing Mey-Rin's over the top reaction, Brandish stared at where she disappeared for a moment. Then, she shook her head and started making her way towards the living room.

"There's no way Irene scared her that badly." Brandish said while once again shaking her head. "I mean, Alfonzo would have definitely stopped her before things went too far."

["But what if Irene turned her ire onto Alfonzo after that? "] Hecatoncheires asked. ["Alfonzo, although he is quite strong, is still weaker than Irene for the time being. She might be having her way with him right now. "]

Hecatoncheires perfectly reasonable speculation gave Brandish a moment of pause. Yet, after that moment of pause, she started to walk towards the living room again. As someone with a small domination kink, she was curious to see Alfonzo being dominated by Irene.

With the anticipation putting a bit of extra spring in her steps, Brandish's pace towards the living room increased. However, as she drew nearer, she found herself more and more confused. No matter how close she got to the living room, she could not hear any sounds. None, at all.

"This is weird." Brandish muttered as she continued to walk forward. "It's too quiet."

["Irene probably put up a [Sound Barrier] to not disturb the maids. "] Hecatoncheires suggested.

Nodding in agreement, though she was still feeling a bit uneasy, Brandish continued onwards. And when she finally arrived, she found out that Hecatoncheires was right. However, things were not what either of them thought.

As Brandish finally reached the living room, the first thing she saw was the back of a couch that was facing away from the entrance to the living room where she was entering from. Next, over the back of the couch, she saw Irene, who appeared to be sitting on the opposite couch. On top of that, she was smiling while raising a glass of wine to her lips.

At the same time, Irene looked up and made eye contact with Brandish before gesturing for Brandish to come join her.

Even more confused after not seeing the scene she expected to see, Brandish, with confusion written all over her face, stepped past the threshold to the living room. And as soon as she did, the reason for Mey-Rin's embarrassment came crashing into her like a train.

"*Slurp!* Mmm~~~~~! *Slurp!* *Gag!* *Slurp!*

And as soon as she heard those wet, sloppy, lewd sounds, Brandish froze like a deer in headlights, not knowing whether she should continue forward or turn around and run like Mey-Rin did.

Chapter 738: Brandish's Front Row Seat (R-18)

"Well, that happened." Alfonzo said as he flopped down on the couch in the living room of the Mansion on the Lake. "Honestly, I never expected Master Mavis to come up with an idea like that."

"Yeah, it was pretty cool." Elicia said as she sidled up to Alfonzo with a smile on her face. "But... This is the first branch location Fairy Tail has ever had? I mean, I've never heard of one before."

"Me neither." Alfonzo added. "But I don't think it's that uncommon... Or maybe it is... Phantom Lord was the only one I'd heard of before. But Mystogan kinda destroyed all of those by himself during that war."

"Mystogan?" Irene, who also accompanied Alfonzo and Elicia back to the mansion, asked in a curious tone. "I don't believe I've ever met him. He's the one who lives in Edolas, the parallel world to ours, yes?"

"That's right." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Although he lives in Edolas, he's still an S-Class member of the guild. Though, I doubt he could still keep up with the rest of us at this point. It was amazing enough that he could without having any magic power in the first place. But most of us are just on a totally different level now."

In response, Elicia and Irene both nodded in agreement. Then, Alfonzo stood up from the couch.

"Hey, where are you going, Fonzie?" Elicia asked while grabbing Alfonzo by the arm.

"*Sigh* To get back to work." Alfonzo replied. "Those Final Fantasy orders aren't gonna finish themselves, you know?"

"Though, I'm sure you could create something that would make them do so." Irene said with a smirk.

"Yeah, probably." Alfonzo said, shrugging in response. "But they wouldn't feel like my work, then."

"Indeed." Irene replied with another nod.

"No, stay and relax with us, Fonzie." Elicia whined. "You never hang out with us anymore. Except for when you stop to play with the kids. But we need quality time, too."

Then, without giving Alfonzo a chance to decline, Elicia pulled Alfonzo back down on to the couch, causing Irene to giggle at his helpless expression. Even so, since it would be more fun to help Elicia in this situation than Alfonzo, she added her own two Jewels.

"Besides, I believe we should celebrate the success Mavis achieved today." Irene added with a smile. She then raised her hand and pulsed her magic power on the tip of her finger in a particular way. "So, let us do just that."

The pulse of magic power Irene just used was a signal that everyone who visited the mansion enough knew about. It was used to summon one of the maids. So, it was no surprise when Mey-Rin entered the living room only a minute or so later.

"Master Alfonzo, Madam Elicia, Lady Irene." Mey-Rin said with a bow after entering the living room.
"How may I serve you?"

"There is a bottle of x772 Toussaint in Alfonzo's collection." Irene replied, her smile widening when she noticed Alfonzo's slight grimace from the corner of her eye. "We'll be celebrating Mavis' most recent triumph by opening that."

'I was really surprised when I found that bottle.' Alfonzo thought to himself while bitterly nodding at Mey-Rin. 'I mean, Toussaint is the place in the Witcher 3 where the Blood and Wine DLC takes place. I only bought it as a collectable. But I guess we're drinking it now, huh?'

Receiving Alfonzo's nod, Mey-Rin bowed. Then, she turned around to retrieve the bottle from Alfonzo's collection.

"Aww, are you really that heartbroken over losing that prized bottle of yours?" Irene said in a teasing, babying tone. "Well then, why I don't I see if I can perhaps raise your spirits."

With that, Irene reached up with both hands, took a hold of Alfonzo's cheeks, and turned his face towards her. Then, she leaned in and kissed him rather passionately. Her tongue snaking past his lips and entangling with his a moment later.

Meanwhile, Elicia, who was sitting on the other side of Alfonzo, leaned forward so that she could get a better view of the intense make out session that was going on. However, she was not satisfied with just watching for long. So, she quickly climbed onto her knees on the couch, moved Alfonzo's hair aside, and started kissing his neck. At the same time, she reached over and grabbed one of Irene's breasts.

'Soft!' Elicia exclaimed to herself as she vigorously groped Irene while kissing and sucking on Alfonzo's neck.

"Mmm~~~~!" Irene moaned into her kiss with Alfonzo thanks to Elicias ministrations.

At the same time, Irene took one of her hands off Alfonzo's face and grabbed one of his hands before putting it on her other breast and gripped it, causing Alfonzo to squeeze her breast, as well. She then released his other cheek and lowered her hand down to his inner thigh to rub near his crotch.

A moment later, Irene broke the kiss, a string of saliva connecting hers and Alfonzo's mouths. Yet, just as that happened, Elicia stopped sucking on Alfonzo's neck and used her free hand to turn his head towards her before replacing Irene in kissing him.

Then, as if they had practiced this before, Irene leaned in and started kissing the other side of Alfonzo' neck. At the same time, she started rubbing Alfonzo's crotch, causing a bulge to appear in his pants.

A few moments later, Mey-Rin, carrying a tray with the bottle of x772 Toussaint and three wine glasses, returned to the living room. However, when she saw what Alfonzo, Elicia and Irene were doing, despite the fact that all three of them were still fully clothed, she froze in place. Luckily, she did not drop the tray, all thanks to Grayfia's hellish maid training, no doubt.

"Kya!" Mey-Rin yelped, her face turning bright red as she processed the scene in front of her.

Mey-Rin's yelp caused the trio to stop and turn towards her.

"Damn... I got too caught up in the moment." Alfonzo muttered. "Hey, sorry about that, Mey-Rin--"

"You can leave the wine and the glasses on the end table." Irene said, cutting off Alfonzo's apology.
"Then, you can go. Oh, and tell the others not to come in for a while. We'll be kinda busy."

Nodding her head in a blur, Mey-Rin had to instinctively use her magic power to protect the muscles in her neck. Then, she quickly, yet carefully, made her way over to the end table Irene was talking about before putting the tray down. After that, she sprinted out of the living room, her face even redder than before.

"Now, where were we?" Irene asked with a seductive smile on her face.

==R-18 Start==

In response, Alfonzo only groaned while Elicia giggled before diving back into the kiss while continuing to grope Irene. At the same time, Irene, with her free hand, summoned Belserion and tapped its butt on the floor, creating a [Sound Cancellation Barrier] that covered the entire living room.

Satisfied with her work, Irene dematerialized Belserion. Then, she went back to kissing and sucking on Alfonzo's neck. At the same time, she rubbed the bulge in Alfonzo's pants with more vigor.

'*Sigh* I usually don't like to do this where someone could walk in on us.' Alfonzo thought to himself.
'But I trust that after Mey-Rin gives the instructions to the others, they won't let anyone in here but my girls. So, it should be fine. Besides, the kids will be out with Mira, Shizuka, Maria, and Ai until around dinner time. So, we don't have to worry about traumatizing them, either. I guess I'll just enjoy it this one time, then.'

Zip~~~~~!

Just as that thought crossed Alfonzo's mind, he heard the slow sound of his zipper being lowered before his pants were unbuttoned. A moment later, he could feel Irene's warm, soft hand wrap around his dick before pulling it out.

Yet, as soon as his dick was freed from its confines, Elicia broke the kiss. Then, she dove headfirst towards it.

"Hehehe. I guess I should have seen that coming, huh?" Irene said with a giggle as she started stroking Alfonzo's dick in time with Elicia, who was bobbing her head vigorously.

In response, Alfonzo groaned in pleasure while Elicia released her grip on Irene's breast and gave her a thumbs up.

Shaking her head in amusement, Irene took Alfonzo's hand off her other breast, as well. Then, she gently pushed him over onto his side. After that, she stood up and walked over so that she was standing behind Elicia. Then, she lifted one of the younger wizard's legs so that she could straddle Alfonzo's head, flipped Elicia's skirt, and pulled down her panties, Elicia cooperating so that they could be taken off without issue.

"Go ahead, get a taste." Irene said as she patted Alfonzo on the top of his head. "I'll just pour myself a glass and enjoy the show before joining the two of you again."

"This was your plan from the start, wasn't it?" Alfonzo asked while shaking his head lightly as he reached up to grab Elicia's hips. "Well, enjoy it while you can, I'm gonna punish you for plotting on my most prized bottle of wine when I'm done with Lici."

As he finished speaking, Alfonzo craned his neck before sticking out his tongue and dragging it from Elicia's clit to the bottom of her slit.

"Mmm~~~~~!" Elicia moaned, her lips vibrating around Alfonzo's dick as she did so.

Meanwhile, Irene, after seeing the glint in Alfonzo's eyes, shivered minutely. Yet, that did not stop her from sitting on the opposite couch, uncorking the bottle of wine, and pouring it into one of the wine glasses on the tray. She then did exactly as she said she would and started enjoying the show while sipping the glass of wine she poured for herself.

The next few minutes passed quickly while Alfonzo and Elicia vigorously pleasured each other, with Alfonzo fingering Elicia's pussy while passionately licking her clit as Elicia bobbed her head forcefully, slurping and gagging on Alfonzo's dick while fondling his balls.

At some point during those few minutes, unbeknownst to the three, the doorbell rang. Unfortunately, thanks to the [Sound Cancellation Barrier] Irene set up around the living room, no one was the wiser.

Shortly afterwards, Irene caught sight of Brandish, the one who rang the doorbell, approaching the living room. When she did, her satisfied smile widened. She then raised her wine glass and gestured for Brandish to come in.

A few steps later, after nodding at Irene, Brandish entered the living room. When she did...

"*Slurp!* Mmm~~~~~! *Slurp!* *Gag!* *Slurp!*"

... the lewd sounds from Elicia's sloppy blowjob echoed around the living room, causing Brandish's steps to stop as her eyes widened in shock.

"What are you waiting for?" Irene asked when she saw Brandish freeze. "Come over here and stop wasting time."

Hearing Irene's voice, both Alfonzo and Elicia stopped, as well. However, before Alfonzo could move Elicia to see who had come in, Elicia sat up and sat right onto Alfonzo's face while raising her upper body so she could see over the back of the couch.

Seeing that it was Brandish, Elicia smiled brightly while grinding her hips, waving at the new arrival with one hand, and wiping the drool off her mouth and chin with the other.

"She's right." Elicia said cheerfully, an undertone of lust evident in her tone. "You've already listened to us a few times at the hot springs. So, just come over and watch."

Meanwhile, Alfonzo was about to activate [Magic Power Detection] to see who had just come in. However, when he heard what Elicia said, he dropped that idea. Then, he shrugged his shoulders and went back to licking Elicia.

"Ahn~~~~~!" Elicia moaned as she threw her head back. Then, she looked down with a slight pout on her face as she continued. "Hey, Fonzie, I was talking. Don't interru--- Ahh~~~~~!"

Ignoring Elicia's scolding, Alfonzo opened his mouth and wrapped his lips around Elicia's clit. Then, he sucked as hard as he could. As a result, Elicia orgasmed as her body stiffened, her words once again interrupted.

Then, after shuddering for a few moments, Elicia flopped forward, her head landing on Alfonzo's thigh as she breathed raggedly after a strong orgasm.

At the same time, Brandish, with a fierce blush on her face, slowly, and somewhat mechanically, walked around the couch, approaching the couch that Irene was sitting on. And when she could finally see both Alfonzo and Elicia, she could not help focusing her attention on Alfonzo's dick, which was standing tall and resting against the bridge of Elicia's nose.

'It's so big.' Brandish thought to herself as she stared at the massive pole of flesh. She then touched her lower abdomen as her thought continued. 'Will something that big even fit inside of me?'

"I know what you're thinking, Brandish." Irene said with an amused smile on her face. "And yes, it will fit. Just look at Sun and Marin. They're both smaller than you, but they have no problems, do they?"

'I don't' know what to say about Sun.' Brandish thought to herself as she continued to approach the couch where Irene sat. 'But Marin doesn't count. She can change her body at will. So, of course, there's no problem for her.'

As Brandish sat down next to Irene, who offered her a glass of wine, which she refused, Alfonzo sat up. Along the way, he picked up Elicia, who was still a bit out of it. Then, he nodded at Brandish before holding Elicia up over his lap.

Meanwhile, Elicia, though still in an orgasm-induced haze, instinctively spread her legs while reaching down to guide Alfonzo's dick towards her pussy.

"Ahn~~~~~!" Elicia moaned as Alfonzo quickly lowered her onto his dick, the tip kissing her cervix at the end.

At the same time, Brandish gasped in both shock and awe as Alfonzo's dick disappeared inside of Elicia. And from that moment, she could not tear her eyes away from what she was seeing.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo scooted his butt to the edge of the couch. He then pulled Elicia flush against his chest. And planted his feet on the floor. Then, he slid his hands up from Elicia's waist, pushing her shirt up along the way. Finally, he pulled down the cups of her bra and fondled her breasts as he started pumping up into her with reckless abandon, the couch creaking under his forceful movements.

"Ahn~~! Oh, God! Yes!" Elicia screamed as her body jerked up and down from Alfonzo's thrusts as her eyes rolled into the back of her head. "Fonzie! Fonzie~~~~~! Mmm~~~~~!! Fuck me! Herder! Fuck me harder!"

Though he did not respond verbally, Alfonzo showed he was listening by increasing the pace and force of his thrusting, making Elicia scream even louder as she tightly grabbed Alfonzo's wrists to give herself a semblance of stability.

About a minute later, Irene finished her glass of wine. Then, she calmly stood up, letting her dress fall. Then, after straightening out any wrinkles, she hiked up her dress once again before pulling down her panties, whose crotch was completely soaked, and stepped out of them.

"Well, I'm gonna join the fun." Irene said as she glanced back at Brandish, whose eyes were completely fixated on the point where Alfonzo's dick disappeared into Elicia's pussy. Then, after not receiving a response, she giggled before continuing. "Feel free to have a glass of wine while you enjoy the show."

With that, Irene stepped forward while rocking her hips exaggeratedly. Then, she straddled Alfonzo's legs, her knees placed on the couch, while simultaneously pushing Elicia's legs back to make room for herself. And when she was settled, she reached down with one hand and started rubbing Elicia's clit while leaning forward to kiss her.

"Mmm~~~~~!" Elicia moaned hard into the kiss as her body started to shudder once again, reaching her second orgasm of the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Brandish, whose view was obstructed by Irene's inclusion, pouted. A moment later, however, her blush became even deeper when she realized what she had just done.

'I'm really turning into a pervert, aren't I?' Brandish asked herself, expecting Hecatoncheires to scold her for what she was doing.

Yet, after a moment, Brandish did not hear her [Armament Spirit's] voice in her head. So, out of curiosity, she looked into her inner world. And when she did, she was dumbfounded at what she saw.

Currently, lying among a mountain range, Hecatoncheires' gigantic form was currently masturbating vigorously while her face was completely red.

'Yeah, I really am.' Brandish muttered to herself dumbfoundedly as her other self enjoyed the show even more than she did.

"Urgh!"

A masculine groan, undoubtedly Alfonzo's pulled Brandish's attention from her inner world. When she looked up, she could see Irene sliding backwards, her knees falling to the floor. With that, Brandish was once again able to see the connection point between Alfonzo and Elicia. However, Alfonzo's thrusting had stopped.

Instead, Irene grabbed Alfonzo's shaft and pulled it out of Elicia, which caused her to moan quietly. Then, Irene lowered her head, taking Alfonzo's dick into her mouth down to the base. At the same time, Alfonzo's cum started dribbling out of Elicia's pussy while Elicia herself lay back on Alfonzo's chest with a blissful expression on her face.

Slurp~~~~~!

Then, Irene slowly raised her head, Alfonzo's dick, which was covered in a combination of his cum and Elicia's vaginal fluids, appearing clean with only a sheen of Irene's saliva on it.

"Now it's my turn." Irene said as she used a finger to scoop up some of the cum dripping out of Elicia. She then licked the finger before moving Elicia to the side. "I hope you're not too tired for me, Alfonzo."

Once Irene moved Elicia and laid her down on the couch, she moved to climb on top of Alfonzo. However, before she could lower herself onto him, Alfonzo's hands shot out and grabbed Irene by the waist, stopping her in place.

"Huh?" Irene intoned, her confusion evident.

"Did you forget already?" Alfonzo asked as he lifted Irene off the floor. "I said I was gonna punish you, Irene. And that's exactly what I'm gonna do."

Then, in one swift motion, Alfonzo, with Irene still in his grasp, stood up before throwing Irene onto the couch, her chest resting against the couch's back rest while her butt was raised into the air.

"Hey! Sto--- Ahh~~~~~!" Irene said, trying to protest before she was interrupted when Alfonzo moved her dress to the side and plunged deep into her pussy, doggy style.

Smack!

"No, you need to be taught the folly of your actions." Alfonzo said as he brought his hand down forcefully on Irene's plump ass.

And as the sound of Alfonzo's slap sounded around the room, Irene threw her head back as her tongue flopped out of her mouth.

"Oh, you came from just that?" Alfonzo asked as he gathered up the braid hanging down Irene's back with his other hand. "Then, you're gonna have a rough time today, huh?"

As Alfonzo pulled on Irene's braids, causing her to involuntarily arch her back, he started pistonning into her forcefully.

"Ahh~~~~! I sowwy!" Irene moaned, her body rocking hard with every thrust.

In fact, Irene's body was rocking back and forth so hard that her breasts fell out of her top and swung freely along with the rest of her body.

Meanwhile, Brandish, could no longer hold back from joining Hecatoncheires in masturbating as she watched Alfonzo's toned back side thrust back and forth while his balls dangled between his legs.

'Fuck! This is so hot.' Brandish exclaimed internally while her hand was stuffed into her bikini bottom and vigorously rubbing her clit. 'Why was I so afraid of watching up close while we were in Balsam Village. Damn it, I was missing out.'

Chapter 739: Maid Talk

After the little interlude Alfonzo had with Elicia and Irene in the living room, both Elicia and Irene, along with Brandish, who became the audience to their show, passed out. So, Alfonzo, who was feeling rather refreshed, carried the three unconscious women up to his bedroom so they could rest properly. After that, he headed down to the kitchen to start cooking.

Meanwhile, the maids who were at home, Grayfia, Ikaruga, Mey-Rin, and Miyuki started the task of cleaning the living room.

"They must have really been going at it, huh?" Ikaruga while wiping down an end table with a cloth, said with a smile. "Kinda makes you wish you could join them, doesn't it?"

"Eek!" Mey-Rin, who had finally calmed down after seeing the actions that lead to such an afternoon session, squeaked as she once again turned red and her eyes started to spin.

"Oh, it looks like Mey-Mey agrees with me." Ikaruga said with a giggle. She then moved to the couch Brandish was watching from and began to clean up the traces of Brandish's self-pleasure session.
"*Sigh* I offered myself to him once, you know?"

That seemed to draw both Grayfia's and Miyuki's attention, as they somehow got even quieter while cleaning, their attention clearly focused on Ikaruga's next words.

"Unfortunately, he took it as a joke." Ikaruga said sounding a little down.

"That doesn't sound like Master Alfonzo." Grayfia said, a slight frown marring her brow. "From what I've witnessed, he does not take the feelings of others so lightly."

Miyuki nodded in agreement with Grayfia.

"Well, that's probably my fault." Ikaruga said with a shrug. "I mean, I did make it seem like it was a joke on purpose. I did say it when Madam Elicia got pregnant, after all. And I did not want to come off as trying to make a move while my Mistress was unable to satisfy him."

"I see." Grayfia replied with an understanding nod.

"If you didn't say it like that..." Miyuki said, sounding a bit hesitant. "I doubt he would have accepted. Master Alfonzo seems to be firmly against... you know... doing that without some level of feelings being involved."

"Yes, I am aware." Ikaruga said with a nod. "And that's why I made it seem like a joke. Though, I would be willing to do it if he so asked."

"Wha-Wha-Wha!" Mey-Rin sputtered, her glasses steaming up as she did so. "Scandalous! So Scandalous!"

"Is it, though?" Grayfia asked, still sounding just as professional as always. "Were you too not trained to serve your master in such a way, should they desire it, Mey-Rin?"

"O-O-Of course not!" Mey-Rin shouted, though she did manage to get back to cleaning. "I-I-I'm still a v-virgin!"

"That is not what Miss Grayfia was suggesting, Mey-Rin." Miyuki said in an almost detached tone. "Rather, it is common to be taught various techniques to pleasure your master in most institutes that train housekeeping staff, is it not?"

"Oh... Y-Y-Yes. I suppose that's true." Mey-Rin said, finally thinking back to her own training. She then lowered her head, looking disappointed with herself. "But... I um... did not do very well in those classes. I was... too... embarrassed..."

"Understandable." Grayfia replied. "Not everyone in our line of work is willing to go that far. Unfortunately, they rarely have a choice. We have been fortunate to find a master as kind as the one we serve. I've heard horror stories about the treatment that others received in the past."

"How were your former employers, Miss Grayfia?" Miyuki asked in curiosity. "Were they just as kind?"

"They were, actually." Grayfia said with a nod. "The Ducal... Rather, former Ducal House of Gremory treated all their servants quite well. Though, the last Dutchess' father did try to add me to his harem many times in the past. But his wife stopped him from doing so by force."

"Gremory?" Ikaruga muttered to herself with a contemplative expression on her face. "That name doesn't ring any bells."

"That does not surprise me." Grayfia replied in her usual professional tone. "It was a noble house from Minstrel before the government collapsed, and the powerful guilds took over the country."

"I see." Ikaruga said, now understanding the circumstances. She then smiled as she continued. "Anyway, let's get back to the topic. You know, if any of you were to fall for Master Alfonzo and he accepts you, you could elevate your position. Being a maid would no longer be necessary."

"And why don't you do that?" Miyuki asked.

"Well, I was never a maid by profession before working for the Marcus household." Ikaruga replied. "I was a---"

"An assassin." Grayfia said calmly. "A member of the former Dark Guild, Death's Head Caucus' team, Trinity Raven. It's only surviving member in fact."

Hearing that, both Mey-Rin and Miyuki were taken aback. However, it did not take long for the two to narrow their eyes while subtly circulating their magic power just in case they needed to fight.

"You're rather well informed." Ikaruga said, completely unbothered by her past being exposed. "Yes, I used to be an assassin, a dark wizard, by trade. Though, I've left that part of my life in the past. Now, I've dedicated the rest of my life to Madam Elicia, the one who saved me from death, despite all the wrongs I had committed."

While Mey-Rin and Miyuki still looked skeptical, Grayfia nodded her head.

"Yes, I've heard." Grayfia replied. "You were released from prison on good behavior. Though, with your extensive list of crimes, it would not have been unthinkable for you to spend the rest of your life in a cell. No, it would have been more common for you to be put to death. But with the promise that you would serve Madam Elicia, who the Magic Council had no doubt would be able to keep you in check, your release was agreed upon."

"Exactly." Ikaruga said with a smile. "And I have no thoughts of doing anything that would bring trouble to Madam Elicia. She did save my life, after all."

Hearing the circumstances behind Ikaruga's employment by the Marcus Family, Mey-Rin and Miyuki wore complicated expressions. But since Grayfia, the head maid, did not seem to mind, they let it go, as well.

At that moment, the four maids felt a few magic signatures enter the barrier around the Artificial Island. But since they were familiar, they did not react much.

"It would seem Maria and Ai have returned with Young Masters Amar'e and Calvin and Young Miss Bianca." Grayfia said. "I would imagine the children must be exhausted after playing for most of the day."

"Then, I will go draw a bath for them." Mey-Rin said with a bow before leaving the living room.

Grayfia nodded in response before getting back to cleaning.

"So, none of you are interested in becoming romantically involved with Master Alfonzo?" Ikaruga asked, curious for some juicy gossip. "Well, I guess the only one I should be asking right now is you, Grayfia. I think we all know how little Miyuki feels, after all."

While Miyuki did not react to Ikaruga's teasing, Grayfia let the slightest hint of a smile curl her lips.

"What could you possibly be referring to, Ikaruga?" Miyuki asked in her usual, nearly emotionless tone.

"Don't play coy with me, Little Miyuki." Ikaruga said, her smile widening. "We've all seen the way you hover over Master Alfonzo in his sleep, looking like you're wrestling with yourself about kissing him."

This time, Miyuki's ears reddened in response. At the same time, Grayfia's lips arched just a little bit more. Though, if one was not paying close attention, they would never realize that the silver-haired maid had smiled at all.

"What is it that you always say when he wakes up?" Ikaruga asked, sounding as if she were trying to recollect her memories. "Ah! Yes, that's it."

Ikaruga then put on an emotionless mask and spoke in the flattest tone she could muster.

"It would have been better if you had never woken up." Ikaruga said, doing her best to impersonate Miyuki. She then burst into a fit of giggles. "But why don't you ever finish that sentence? I mean, it makes it sound like you wish he would die in his sleep, you know?"

This time, Miyuki's entire face turned red. Even so, her expression did not change.

"Because it would be embarrassing." Miyuki said, not denying her actions anymore.

"I suppose you are right." Ikaruga said with a nod. "Telling the man you admire and possibly have fallen in love with over the years that you would like to watch their sleeping face forever could be quite embarrassing."

"I think that's enough." Miyuki said calmly. "Don't you think you've teased me long enough, Miss Ikaruga?"

"If you say so." Ikaruga replied. "It's not like you're the only one of the maid staff with feelings for Master Alfonzo. Little Ai also seems to have the same feelings as you do. Though, it seems spending so much time as his assistant is what fostered hers."

"That should come as no surprise." Grayfia, who had moved on to cleaning the carpets in front of the couches, said calmly. "Master Alfonzo has helped her improve her skills as a magic item craftsman by quite a bit since she started working here. And I would imagine that means a lot to her."

"Indeed." Ikaruga replied with a nod. "That makes me wonder, will it be Little Ai or Little Miyuki who make a move first?"

While Miyuki decided to ignore Ikaruga for now, Grayfia found the conversation amusing. Though, she did not show it in her expression.

Not long later, the three maids could hear the mansion's front door open. Shortly afterwards, the sound of two pairs of little feet could be heard running through the house, headed towards the kitchen where Alfonzo was currently cooking.

"It looks like the children are looking forward to seeing their father." Miyuki said, the ghost of a smile spreading across her face.

"Indeed, it does. Grayfia replied.

"Good afternoon, ladies." Ai said as she entered the living room. However, when she saw Grayfia, Ikaruga, and Miyuki cleaning the room together, she was surprised. "What happened in here? No, never mind. The lingering scent tells me all I need to know."

Ai then moved to help the others clean.

"Ah! Perfect timing." Ikaruga said with a smile.

While Miyuki sighed in exasperation and Grayfia's hint of a smile returned, Ai turned to Ikaruga with an inquisitive gaze.

"Just before you returned, we were talking about maid's who gain their master's favor and escape the fate of being a maid." Ikaruga said with a smile. "Any thoughts?"

Instinctively, Ai knew that Ikaruga was talking about the crush she had been developing for Alfonzo. Though, like most of the maids employed by the Marcus Family, she was not so easily flustered.

"Then, shouldn't you be talking to Miyuki about that?" Ai asked, her composure not breaking. "I mean, we've all seen the way she hangs over Master Alfonzo before he wakes up in the mornings, right?"

Hearing Ai's question, Miyuki shot her a quick glare but did not react otherwise. Meanwhile, Ikaruga was getting great amusement out of his conversation.

"Actually, we were just talking about her." Ikaruga said in an amused tone. "But apparently, she's unable to get over her embarrassment for now."

'Though, I think that embarrassment is more about telling us more than telling Master Alfonzo how she feels.' Ikaruga mused to herself.

"I see." Ai said, glancing at Miyuki for a moment. She then turned to Grayfia, who was tidying the pillows on one of the couches. "And what about Grayfia?"

"I do not believe this current topic is relevant to my situation." Grayfia replied without looking away from her task. "Since we are talking about 'escaping the fate of being a maid,' correct?"

Ikaruga, Ai, and Miyuki all nodded in response to Grayfia's question.

"Then, there is nothing to discuss." Grayfia continued. "Even if I were to declare any feelings for Master Alfonzo, I would not stop my duties as a maid. For, I chose this profession because I enjoy it."

"Oh, I get it." Ikaruga replied while nodding in a sagely manner. "You have a maid fetish."

A nearly imperceptible blush colored Grayfia's cheeks at Ikaruga's blunt statement. However, she did not deny the claim, which caused the other three maids to smile.

"Well, you got the answer to your question, Little Ai." Ikaruga said with a grin. And before you try to switch things to me, I've dedicated myself to Madam Elicia. So, now, stop dodging the question."

Although she did not look uncomfortable, it was clear that Ai was not ready to answer the question aloud. And when the other three noticed her expression, they were all even more curious to know the answer.

Luckily, at that moment, Maria, who had taken the children upstairs to take their baths after they saw their father, stepped into the living room.

"Master Alfonzo says that dinner is ready." Maria said, completely unaware of the conversation she missed. "The Madams and Misses at the guild should be returning soon. Also, would one of you go upstairs and wake up Madam Elicia, Lady Irene, and Miss Brandish? Meanwhile, I will return to the kitchen to assist Master Alfonzo in bringing the meal to the dining room."

"I'll take care of it." Ai said, sounding a little too eager to complete the task.

Then, before anyone could protest, she ran out of the living room, heading towards the elevator.

"Tch!" Ikaruga clicked her tongue. "She escaped."

In response, both Grayfia and Miyuki shook their heads. Meanwhile, Maria tilted her head in confusion before turning around to assist Alfonzo while the other three continued to clean the living room.

Chapter 740: The Work Is Finished

"Alfonzo, Another fish!" Natsu shouted from in front of the bar in the Fairy Tail guild hall.

"Coming right up!" Alfonzo shouted back from the guild hall's kitchen.

More than four months have passed since the issue with the Akatsuki concluded. In that time, it was business as usual for the Fairy Tail guild. The wizards took and completed many quests of all difficulties. And to everyone's surprise, Ur, after having all her points taken away and even incurring a deficit, managed to get her point total back into the positive range. Even so, she was unable to get enough to trade for a meal.

As for Alfonzo cooking today, it was because he was finally finished with all the work Ur dumped on him before she stepped down as guild master.

From the moment Ur stepped down, Alfonzo had been working on the equipment orders for the Final Fantasy guild. And during that time, the women living in his house became more and more irritable after not being able to have Alfonzo's cooking, despite the fact that he was living in the house.

Though, if anyone went on a quest with him, which he took every few weeks, they were able to get his cooking while they were out.

Digressing, Alfonzo managed to finish the orders for Final Fantasy about a week before the Harvest Festival. So, he was free to compete in the battle of Fairy Tail Tournament with his team

As for the fifth member of the team, since Brandish no longer wanted to participate in the Grand Magic Games, they replaced her with Ur, to everyone's surprise.

The most effected by that decision was Gildarts, who glared at Alfonzo with all his might after Ur told him about the arrangement.

"You already took my little girl, Kid." Gildarts said the day after he found out about the Battle of Fairy Tail Tournament arrangements from Ur. "Now you're trying to take my woman? Alfonzo, I challenge you to a dual!"

Although Gildarts and Alfonzo fought in the Battle of Fairy Tail tournament after Gildarts' challenge, the all-out dual that he wanted never happened. Because as soon as the words left his mouth, Ur struck him in the back of the head with a super dense [Ice Fist] that knocked him out cold.

Also, like every other year Team Steel Threads participated in the Battle of Fairy Tail Tournament, they won. So, they would be taking part in the Grand magic Games once again to defend their title as Fiore's strongest.

After that, Alfonzo left Magnolia for almost two months to install the training chambers in the Sabertooth guild hall. And Irene accompanied him. Since she was training Minerva, Sabertooth's acting guild master, her inclusion made perfect sense.

The six weeks spent at Sabertooth's guild hall was rather uneventful, however, during that time, the two Dragon Slayers challenged Alfonzo to fight almost daily. But with the excuse of having work to do, he avoided all their challenges until the day he left.

After that, Alfonzo returned to Magnolia to relax for a little while. But he was back to work soon enough, as the S-Class Promotion Exam was upon the guild again. Unfortunately, Mavis, who was much stricter than Ur, did not deem any of the eight participants ready for S-Class once the exam was over.

And for the last four days, after coming back from Tenrou Island, Alfonzo has been spending most of his time in the guild hall's kitchen, as every member of the guild was spending their points to get a taste of his coking after having to abstain for so long.

"I knew they would all have a lot of points built up after these five months." Alfonzo muttered to himself as he dredged a fish fillet through the breading he prepared. "But seriously, how in the hell do they have this many? I mean, there's no way they did this many missions without fucking some shit up, right?"

Despite his complaints, Alfonzo worked with precision, evenly coating the piece of fish. Then, he repeated the process with another piece before putting them both in the pan of hot oil.

Before long, two golden brown fish fillets were pulled out of the oil and put on a plate along with a side of fries.

"Order up!" Alfonzo shouted as he placed Natsu's order on the order window before it was picked up by one of the guild's hired waitresses. "Who's next?"

'Damn, I'm getting tired of this.' Alfonzo thought to himself as he wiped some sweat with a towel. 'I like cooking but seriously. I've been cooking during the breakfast rush, the lunch rush after training, and the dinner rush for four days.'

["What did you expect?"] Bedlam asked in an amused tone. ["Your food is pretty much crack to these people."]

'I know...' Alfonzo replied internally. 'I'm just glad that no one was knocking on my door trying to suck my dick for food.'

["You wouldn't have minded if it was one of your girls, though."] Bedlam said with a sneer.

'No comment.' Alfonzo answered quickly. 'Anyway, I think it's about time I made my suggestion to Master Mavis.'

["I was wondering when you were gonna say that."] Bedlam said with a grin. ["Don't want the GMG getting too easy, do we?"]

'Exactly.' Alfonzo replied with a grin of his own.

["It's not like it's gonna make a difference."] Riot said disdainfully. ["As long as you have Lici, no one will be able to stand in your way."]

[<*Sigh* As much as I hate to admit it, he's right, you know?"] Bedlam said while shaking his head. ["Still doesn't change the fact that he's a simp, though."]

["Fuck you!"] Riot roared.

Like that, Alfonz's [Armament Spirits] started one of their usual fights. Meanwhile, Alfonzo, after not getting a response to his question, finally took the opportunity to relax. Then, he started cleaning up the guild hall's kitchen. Once he was done, he took off his apron and stepped out of the kitchen, making his way towards the elevator.

'It's never dull here.' Alfonzo muttered to himself while walking through the guild hall, dodging the occasional flying glass or slapping away a guild mate who lost track of their surroundings during a fight.
'But I love it.'

When his thoughts reached that point, Alfonzo had to slap away another guild mate. However, he noticed that this one was a bit... a lot rounder than the others he slapped away.

'Hmm? Was that Reedus?' Alfonzo asked himself. 'No, Gramps hasn't cast his [Giant Magic] on him in a long time. So, he's reverted back to his normal size. But since I made those expanding canvases for him, he doesn't mind that anymore. Anyway, if it wasn't Reedus, who the hell was it, then?'

Glancing in the direction he slapped away the last guild mate, Alfonzo had to do a double take when he saw who it was.

'Holy fucking shit!' Alfonzo exclaimed internally. 'Is that Droy? How the fuck did he get so fat so fast?'

Instead of the lean young man he was used to seeing, Droy had put on quite a bit of weight, his sharp facial features becoming much less refined while he now had a double chin and a bigger nose. On top of that, his arms and legs look much shorter. Though, that was only an optical illusion caused by everything about him getting wider.

["God damn! Depression hit that guy like a fucking truck! "] Riot shouted after Alfonzo's exclamation made him and Bedlam stop fighting to see what he was looking at.

["Well, the love of his life did choose another man in a public place. "] Bedlam said with a shrug. ["So, he couldn't lie to himself anymore after that. "]

And just as Bedlam said, after Levy accepted Gajeel's proposal at the Celebration Banquet after the Grand Magic Games, Droy started stress eating to deal with the depression. Unfortunately, that resulted in him putting on quite the large amount of weight in the last five months.

' Well, you can't help but feel bad for the guy. ' Alfonzo thought while shaking his head. ' But he needs to get over it. There's no point in getting diabetes and high blood pressure just because you got rejected. '

["You should just drag his fat ass to train with you every day. "] Riot said dismissively. ["With the way you train, there's no way he'll keep all that fat for long. "]

["Besides, if he gets jacked enough, someone might start trying to get at him, too. "] Bedlam added.

' I'll think about it. ' Alfonzo replied noncommittally. ' I'm not sure I'd be able to deal with all his whining if I did, though. '

["True. "] Riot and Bedlam replied in unison.

By now, Alfonzo had reached the elevator and pressed the call button. But before he could step inside, he felt an impact on his back before a pair of arms and legs wrapped around his torso and waist, respectively.

"Hi, Fonzie." Elicia, who was now clinging to Alfonzo's back, said happily as she rubbed her cheek on Alfonzo's. "You look a little tired."

"Hell yeah, I am." Alfonzo replied while nuzzling his cheek back against Elicia's. "I mean, I've basically been cooking for twelve to fifteen hours a fucking day for the last four days."

"True that." Elicia replied with a nod. "Well, it should probably be over soon. So, hang in there."

"I will." Alfonzo said as the elevator opened. "Well, I'm gonna go talk to Master mavis. I got an idea for the next Grand Magic Games."

"Ooh! It's that time, isn't it?" Elicia asked excitedly as she hopped off Alfonzo's back and stood next to him in the elevator. "I'm coming, too."

Shrugging his shoulders, Alfonzo reached out to press the button for the top floor. Then, the doors closed, shutting out the noise from the rest of the guild.

About an hour later, the elevator doors on the first floor opened once again. When it did, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Mavis stepped out. And to no one's surprise, there was a brawl happening.

"I guess they're still charged up from getting to eat your cooking again, huh?" Mavis said with a smile.

"Well, they need to chill out with that shit." Alfonzo muttered. "I'm too tired to have to deal with this."

"Aww, come on, Fonzie." Elicia said with a grin as she poked Alfonzo on the cheek. "What would Fairy Tail be if it wasn't rowdy?"

"A nice place to relax." Alfonzo shot back. "Anyway, I need to talk to Mira. I wonder if she's still here."

Saying that, Alfonzo sent out a quick pulse of [Magic Power Detection]. And sure enough, he was able to find Mirajane sitting with a few other girls. So, he quickly made his way over to her, with Elicia following closely. Meanwhile, Mavis went to join Ur and Gildarts who were drinking at the bar.

"Hey, Mira." Alfonzo said as he picked up Mirajane from where she was sitting with Shizuka and Rika. He then continued while taking her seat and sitting her down on his lap. "I need a favor."

"I'm not ready for another child yet, Alfonzo." Mirajane said playfully as she turned back and smiled at Alfonzo. She then planted a quick peck on his cheek as she continued. "But anything else, I'm probably willing to agree to."

"You make it sound like Fonzie was the one who asked you for a child, Mira." Elicia said as she sat down next to Alfonzo and Mirajane. She then started poking Mirajane in the side as she continued. "But from what I remember, you were the driving force behind Bianca's conception."

"Small details." Mirajane shot back with a grin. "It takes two hands to clap, after all."

"I want another baby." Shizuka said quietly.

Immediately, Alfonzo, Elicia, and Mirajane all snapped their heads in Shizuka's direction in surprise. Meanwhile, Rika started laughing hardily.

"We can talk about that later." Alfonzo said, not denying Shizuka's desire. "But for now, I need you to tell me how many points everyone has left, Mira. These guys are insane. They've had me cook so much over the last few days."

"Well, can you blame them?" Rika asked after her laughter died down. "I mean, your cooking is amazing. It's better than sex."

After saying that, Rika was surprised when Elicia, Mirajane, and Shizuka all looked at her strangely. Alfonzo, on the other hand, only shook his head while smiling wryly.

"Well then, since you like Fonzie's cooking better than sex, I'll take your turn." Elicia said with a wide smile. "I'm sure Fonzie wouldn't mind cooking another time for you to replace it, right?"

"Wait now, hold on a minute." Rika said while raising her hands. "You know that's not what I meant. It was just a figure of speech. A turn of phrase."

"How do you turn a phrase?" Shizuka asked while tilting her head cutely.

Rika only shot a tired glance at Shizuka while continuing to explain that she was not serious about that. Meanwhile, Mirajane reached into her cleavage and pulled out a small notebook.

"That still amazes me every time I see it." Alfonzo muttered.

Mirajane only smiled lightly in response while reading through the notebook.

"It looks like the only ones with points left are Naruto, Sasuke, and Jiraiya." Mirajane said after double-checking the figures on the page. "Then again, they've been out on an S-Class quest for the last week. So, they'll probably bombard you with requests when they get back."

"*Sigh* I guess I should get a bunch of ramen broth ready for when they get back." Alfonzo muttered.
"Naruto's gonna go crazy over it."

"Yeah." Mirajane replied as she put the notebook away. "By the way, we saw you and Lici go up to talk to Master Mavis. What's that about?"

"Oh, just a little surprise." Alfonzo replied. "You won't find out until next year, though."

As he spoke, Alfonzo poked Mirajane on the tip of her nose. Meanwhile, Mirajane pouted after Alfonzo did not tell her the details. But since she knew that getting information out of Alfonzo when he was determined to keep a secret, she did not ask any further.

And just like that, the rest of the night passed as peacefully as any night at the Fairy Tail guild hall could. Everyone eventually passed out on the floor and tables or went home not much later. And days would remain peaceful until the calendar closed on the year, x790.