

## Fairy Tail 741

### Chapter 741: In the End, No One Won the Bet

"Has there been any luck finding it?" Mard Geer Tartaros asked from his throne in the floating island known as the Cube where the dark guild, Tartaros resided.

"Unfortunately, we've been able to find nothing." Kyôka replied with little inflection in her tone.

"Originally, we had a deal with the former Magic Council Chairman, Crawford Seam. He was supposed to provide us with the information. Unfortunately, thanks to the trial with Fairy Tail, he was sentenced to death."

Instead of speaking, Mard Geer simply stared at Kyôka while she reported. Yet, despite his seemingly impassive expression, anyone who knew him would be able to tell he was furious at the lack of progress.

"I sent Jackal to retrieve him before he could be put to death at that time." Kyôka continued, aware of Mard Geer's rising anger. "But he was killed by Alfonzo Marcus of Fairy Tail despite Jackal's efforts. Even Jackal had to be respawned by the end of that encounter, defeated by Elicia Taylor."

Seeing that Mard Geer remained silent, though his anger was rising, Kyôka opened her mouth to continue.

"We tried to find the information we needed by another avenue, but----" Kyôka began to say.

"Do you only intend to report your failures, Kyôka?" Mard Geer asked, his tone deceptively soft.

Despite his tone, the anger Mard Geer was exuding was palpable. And the pressure from his magic power was making it hard for Kyôka to breathe. Yet, Kyôka somehow managed to keep her back straight as she continued to look Mard Geer in his eyes.

"For some reason, I don't like the way you're looking at me, Kyôka." Mard Geer said.

However, Kyôka remained silent, knowing that if she answered, she would be the next Etherious needing to be resurrected.

"Hmph!" Mard Geer snorted after not receiving a response. "Continue your report."

"Yes." Kyôka replied with a nod. "After losing Crawford Seam, we entrusted the task of finding the location of Face, as well as its method of activation, to Junko Enoshima and her subordinates."

"Oh, yes, that girl." Mard Geer said, a small smile making its way onto her face. "She was quite interesting. What did you say her name was again?"

"Junko Enoshima." Kyôka replied.

"Yes, that." Mard Geer said, nodding his head in understanding, though it was clear that he still had not committed Junko's name to memory. "So, how is... Uh... What was her name again? Ah! It's not important. How is her progress?"

"She was slain some time ago." Kyôka replied. "And from what we've gathered from the few clues on the scene, it was a powerful pair of wizards."

"\*Sigh\* Let me guess..." Mard Geer said in an exasperated, yet infuriated, tone. "Those two from Fairy Tail, Alfonzo Marcus and Elicia Taylor, correct?"

Kyôka widened her eyes immediately after Mard Geer immediately identified the biggest suspects in Junko's death. Yet, that was not what surprised her. Instead, it was because Mard Geer, who could not even be bothered to remember the names of most humans other than Zeref, calling them insignificant and lower than insects, actually remembered two of their names.

Even so, Kyôka eventually snapped back to her senses and nodded in Mard Geer's direction.

In response, Mard Geer stood up from his throne and stepped forward, approaching Kyôka at an unhurried pace. Yet, he did not stop in front of her. Instead, he walked past her, just to her left.

"Those wizards from Fairy Tail are becoming an eye sore." Mard Geer said casually. "I want them eliminated."

"Understood." Kyôka replied. "It will be done; I will mobilize all nine of the Demon Gates. Perhaps I will even mobilize Jiemma, as well."

Continuing to walk forward, Mard Geer left his throne room without a word. To him, it was natural that Kyôka would follow his orders. Now, the only thing to do was wait until his orders were fulfilled.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Magnolia.

At the same time, the sun was just starting to shine its light on the town of Magnolia. And with the sun's rays, the town was starting to come alive, shop owners flipping the signs on their shops as the housewives started making their way to buy groceries for the day.

The day not only started for the town's civilians, either. The wizards of Fairy Tail also started to stir from their slumbers and find their way to the guild hall. The residents at the Mansion on the Lake were no exception to the daily grind, either.

'I wonder who it is this time.' Alfonzo, just waking up with his eyes still closed, thought to himself while feeling a soft, pleasant, feeling on his lips. 'Well, it doesn't matter. A good morning kiss is never a bad way to start the day.'

Without thinking much, Alfonzo, feeling energetic first thing in the morning, pushed his tongue past his lips, its tip touching softly against the pair of lips pressing against his own.

\*Gasp!\*

However, as soon as Alfonzo's tongue touched the lips that were kissing him, he was surprised by the fact that the person in question gasped through their nose and their body stiffened.

Confused by what just happened, Alfonzo slowly opened his eyes, his uncertainty clear to see once his eyelids fluttered open. However, when he saw the pair of blue eyes staring back into his own, and the short black hair falling on either side of his face, his confusion disappeared immediately.

Then, Alfonzo calmly pulled his tongue back into his mouth before raising his hands and gently catching the one kissing him by her shoulders. He then gently pushed her, who was frozen in shock, off of him.

"Honestly, this took longer than I expected, Miyuki." Alfonzo said calmly. "But I'm not gonna lie, I'd rather you confessed and waited until I was awake for our first kiss."

Miyuki, Alfonzo's personal maid, reddened from the base of her neck to the tips of her ears in an instant.

"I've never wished you would have never woken up more than I do at this very moment." Miyuki said calmly from only an arm's length away from Alfonzo.

Despite how cold her words sounded, Miyuki's expression did not change in the slightest. At the same time, she calmly climbed off the bed, patted away a non-existent wrinkle, and bowed politely.

"Yeah, and that's never sounded more like you wishing for me to die in my sleep than it does at this moment." Alfonzo replied as he shook his head.

Alfonzo then pushed himself up to a seated position and stretched his arms over his head. A moment later, he lowered his arms and looked at Miyuki, who still had her head lowered.

"So, now that you got that out of your system..." Alfonzo said, a hint of teasing in his tone. "Is that gonna be a one-off thing? Or do you want more?"

Understanding what Alfonzo meant immediately, Miyuki quickly turned around to hide her expression. Though, as she did so, Alfonzo did not miss the smile that had started to bloom across her fair face tinged with a rosy blush.

"I'm not sure I'm ready to give you an answer at the moment, Master Alfonzo." Miyuki replied, her joy barely contained behind a calm façade. "Please give me some time to mull I over this proposition."

As soon as she finished speaking, Miyuki quickly moved to Alfonzo's closet. Then, with practiced ease, she pulled a set of training clothes out. After that, she pulled out a set of casualwear.

"For now, I will prepare everything for when you finish bathing." Miyuki continued as she turned towards Alfonzo while avoiding eye contact.

Seeing Miyuki's reaction, Alfonzo could not help but smile. He had known this day was coming for quite some time. And to be honest, he had become rather fond of Miyuki over the years. So, asking her to join his harem did not take much thought on his part.

"If that's what you want." Alfonzo replied while watching Miyuki approach the bed and lay out his training clothes across the foot of the bed. "You know where to find me when you make up your mind."

With that, Alfonzo swung his feet over the edge of the bed before standing up, letting Miyuki see his chiseled physique clad in only underwear. Then, he walked to the bathroom unhurriedly.

Meanwhile, Miyuki continued to prepare Alfonzo's attire for the day. Though, she did take frequent peeks at Alfonzo until he disappeared into the bathroom.

After that, Miyuki, faster than she had ever done before, packed Alfonzo's training clothes into a bag so that he could change after training at the guild hall. Then, she, by normal civilian standards, sprinted out of the room, though she only walked, her steps as elegant as ever.

About an hour later, after bathing and having breakfast prepared by Grayfia and Maria, Alfonzo and the ladies living in the Mansion left to train at the guild hall.

"Fonzie, did something good happen?" Cana, having noticed Alfonzo's smile, asked in a curious tone while hugging one of his arms between her breasts.

"You could say that." Alfonzo said without looking in Cana's direction.

"Well, what was it?" Mirajane asked, her curiosity peaked by Alfonzo's non-answer.

"Why don't you take a guess?" Alfonzo replied playfully.

"Don't tell me, Miyuki finally made her move." Lucy said, her tone making it clear she was joking.

In response, Alfonzo stopped walking for a moment, causing Cana to be pulled to a stop as well. He then turned to look at Lucy with an incredulous expression on his face.

Lucy, on the other hand, after not hearing an Answer from Alfonzo, stopped in place before turning around to look at him. Shortly afterwards, all the other ladies stopped and did the same.

"Wait, seriously?" Lucy asked in a dumbfounded tone.

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied.

Immediately, all the ladies slumped their shoulders in defeat.

"Damn..." Cana muttered. "None of us bet that it would happen this early. We all thought it would happen after this year's Grand Magic Games."

"Actually, I bet differently." Elicia said while shaking her head. "Still, even I didn't think it would happen until this year's Grand Magic Games started."

"\*Sigh\* I guess that means nobody wins." Rika said in a slightly downcast tone. "What a pity. I was looking forward to being the winner."

"I believe we all were." Erza added.

Alfonzo could not help but smile when he saw all the ladies who lived with him discussing how much they were looking forward to being the winner of their little bet.

A moment later, however, Alfonzo realized something.

"By the way..." Alfonzo said with no small amount of curiosity in his tone. "What would the winner of your bet have gotten if they won? I mean, I've known about this bet for a long time, but I never heard what the winner would get."

Hearing Alfonzo's question, all the ladies, Elicia, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, Lucy, Shizuka, Saeko, and Rika, stopped chattering and exchanged glances. Then, after a short conversation via eye contact, they all turned to look at Alfonzo in unison.

Seeing how in sync all the ladies were, and how intensely they were all looking at him, Alfonzo was slightly taken aback. Even so, he was immensely curious to know the answer to his question. Then, they all opened their mouths in unison to answer.

"A weeklong vacation with you alone." All the ladies said in unison.

"And if you were willing to have more children..." Marin added.

"... All the sex we would inevitably have during that week..." Rika said, picking up where Marin left off with a grin.

"... Would be unprotected." Erza continued, ending the explanation.

Although Alfonzo was not against having more children, lord knows he could afford to raise them, he was certainly dumbfounded. Most of them had not even hinted that they wanted children.

"I see." Alfonzo said, regaining his composure. "Well, you know you don't need to win some kind of bet for that, right? I mean, I can always make some time to take you all on vacations."

"We know." Sun said with her usual sweet and cheerful smile.

"It was just more fun this way." Shizuka said in her usual, somewhat sleepy tone.

"Besides, it would have been the perfect time for me to claim my dominion over you." Ultear said as she stepped forward and raised Alfonzo's chin with the index finger of her right hand. "Just think, you would have the honor of serving me, and me alone, for an entire week. Doesn't that excite you?"

"Seriously, Tear." Cana said in an exasperated tone. "Aren't you getting too old for this?"

"What did you say, Cana?" Ultear asked, snapping her head in Cana's direction with a snarl. "I know you're not calling me old."

"And what if I am?" Cana asked with a challenging smile on her face as she let go of Alfonzo's arm. She then stepped forward, invading Ultear's personal space, and continued while looking down at Ultear, who was nearly half a foot shorter than she was. "Whatcha gonna do about it?"

In response, Ultear, bristling from Cana's earlier question, flared her magic power. And Cana, not to be out done, naturally did the same.

"\*Sigh\* Here they go again." Mirajane said while raising her right hand and placing it against her cheek.

"Like you and Erza are any different." Lucy said while rolling her eyes before quickly turning away when Mirajane looked at her while smiling with that terrifyingly pleasant smile. "Don't look at me like that, Mira. It still creeps me out ever since that one time I got roped into Natsu's stupid plan to prove Laxus wrong."

"Don't worry about her, Lucy." Elicia said while pulling the shorter girl into her arms. "Mira's just embarrassed because you hit the nail on the head."

In response, Mirajane turned her pleasant, yet menacing, smile onto Elicia. However, like always, Elicia, because she always did things at her own pace and the fact that she was stronger than Mirajane, did not pay it any mind.

"Anyway..." Marin said while smiling awkwardly at the usual group dynamic. "I think we should stop Cana and Tear before they start fighting. I mean, there are no super strong metal walls to stop them from destroying everything around them."

"Yeah, we should definitely stop them." Sun said with a nod.

"Nah, just let them fight." Rika said with a shrug. "I mean, they'll have to deal with Master Mavis if they mess up anything this close to the town. And I wanna see how they react when they get the Ur treatment."

Immediately upon hearing Rika's words, both Cana and Ultear stiffened before starting to shudder as their magic power pressure receded. Then, they both snorted in unison before looking away.

"If you really wanted to see that happen, you probably shouldn't have said anything about it, Rika." Alfonzo said with a smile. "Anyway, let's get going. I plan on taking a quest after training today."

Receiving nods of agreement from all the ladies, Alfonzo led them all towards the guild hall to start their training. Though, Shizuka would be moving to the infirmary to look after anyone who managed to hurt themselves during the morning training session.

Chapter 742: Pranking the Pranksters

Reaching the guild hall, Alfonzo and the ladies stopped outside of the sliding doors with somewhat dumbfounded expressions on their faces.

"Are you fucking shitting me?" Alfonzo asked with an eyebrow twitching.

"I'm actually more impressed that they even got it to stay up there." Elicia said with a giggle.

"Um... Why is there a bucket sticking to the wall above the doors?" Sun asked while tilting her head in confusion.

"Because someone's playing a prank." Marin said in an exasperated tone.

"Yeah, and I'll give you three guesses who it is." Alfonzo said while shaking his head.

As just mentioned, above the sliding doors that served as the Fairy Tail guild hall's front entrance, there was a bucket stuck to the wall. On top of that, there was a thin string tied to its handle that, when the door opened, would cause the bucket to be tipped over and pour its contents on the person who was walking through the doors.

"Not that I approve of such pranks." Erza said while tilting her head like Sun. "But would it not be more effective to have the bucket on the inside of the guild hall, rather than the outside? Especially at this time of day."

"That's exactly what I told you, Fū!" The sound of a young man whisper shouting could be heard from nearby.

"I know, I know." A young woman's voice was heard next. "But the little guild master was still inside. And if she caught us..."

"She wouldn't have done anything at all." The first voice said. "Master Mavis is really nice. She might have even helped us if we asked."

Hearing that, Alfonzo and the rest of the ladies could all feel an eyebrow twitching as they turned their gazes away from the corner of the building where the two culprits were obviously hiding and looked up at the top floor of the guild hall.

"Damn it, Fonzie." Cana complained as she turned to look at Alfonzo again. "We can't see inside from down here. Why didn't you make the guild master's windows see through from both sides?"

"Windows are structural liabilities." Alfonzo replied with a shrug as he shifted his gaze back to where the two pranksters were hiding. "And we had just had our guild hall destroyed quite thoroughly. So, please excuse me for wanting to be safe."

"You sound like Legion." Elicia said while trying to hold back laughter.

Hearing Elicia say something completely incomprehensible, the other ladies completely ignored her, as this was a common occurrence. Alfonzo, on the other hand, only shook his head with a fond smile, as he was the only one who understood the reference.

"He's got a point there, you know?" Ultear replied.

"Even so, I can almost feel Mavis' watching us with amusement." Rika said while trying to stifle a laugh.

"Hey, Naruto, Fū." Alfonzo said with as his smile widened. "Come here for a minute. I wanna ask you something."

"I knew you were too loud." The female voice, Fū, said as she and Naruto walked out from around the corner.

"Me? It was definitely you." Naruto replied indignantly. "I'm sure you would have woken up the entire town by now."

"Hey! You take that back!" Fū shot back. "I'm definitely not that loud."

All the way until they were standing in front of Alfonzo and the ladies, Naruto and Fū bickered back and forth. However, they did stop to look up at Alfonzo when they were finally standing in front of him.

"What's up, Big Bro?" Naruto asked with his usual, innocent, goofy smile on his face. "Did you need something?"

"Not really." Alfonzo replied casually as he raised a hand for a fist bump. He then continued when Naruto reciprocated his fist bump. "I was just wondering when you, Jiraiya, and Sasuke would be heading back to the Village Hidden in the Leaves."

Naruto visibly deflated at that. However, he did not stay that way for long, perking up almost immediately after his shoulders slumped.

"We'll be heading back straight from Crocus once the Grand Magic Games are over." Naruto replied. "We'll be taking Fū with us, too."

"Yeah, Shibuki said he would pick me up from there." Fū said excitedly. "This will only be the second time I've ever seen another Hidden village. I'm really looking forward to it."

"Yeah! And I'll show you all the fun spots around the village, too." Naruto added energetically.

"Oh, Fū's going back with you, Naruto?" Elicia said with a mischievous hint in her tone. "Are you sure that's a good idea? What will little Hinata think when she sees you come back with another girl?"

Blushing both furiously and immediately, Naruto looked away. At the same time, Fū's eyes lit up. She had just heard something interesting. Something she could use to tease Naruto with.

Over the three years Naruto has been a member of Fairy Tail, Elicia, Cana, and some of the others who had stayed in the Village Hidden in the Leaves, had convinced him that Hinata liked him. And not as just a friend, but romantically. And ever since he realized it, Naruto had found himself liking the princess of the Hyuga Clan back. Though, he was quite embarrassed to admit it.

A moment later, Naruto finally process the rest of what Elicia said. As he did, his face paled. Then, he looked at Fū with panic. Yet, when he saw the mischievous glint in Fū's eyes, he paled even further.

"Oh, no!" Naruto exclaimed. "Hinata's gonna get the wrong idea, isn't she?"

"Probably." Fū replied with a smile. She then raised her chin and puffed out her chest proudly as she thumped her right fist on the left side of her chest. "But don't' worry, Naruto. As my best friend, I'd

never do anything to get between you and your sweetheart. So, I'll explain everything to her so that she understands that I'm not trying to steal you away from her."

Hearing that, Naruto breathed a sigh of relief. Though, he still could not help but worry for the day of his return.

As much as he trusted that Fū wouldn't do anything to hurt him, as she was just as kind as she was mischievous, he was still a bit scared. Especially since her thoughts were rather chaotic at times.

"Anyway, it's almost time to start training." Alfonzo said with a smile. "By the way, how is that new move coming, Naruto?"

"I think I almost got it." Naruto replied, completely forgetting his previous train of thought as he did so. "I just can't figure out how to throw it. From what Aunt Ren said, until I can use it from a distance, I shouldn't use it because it hurts me, too."

"Ah, yes. The [Wind-Style: Rasenshuriken]." Erza said, nodding in approval. "One the technique is complete; it will be quite the offensive boon."

"You've seen it, Erza?" Ultear asked in a curious tone. "I've only seen him use the regular [Rasengan]. And that was pretty powerful by itself. I can only imagine how strong it would be if you added [Wind Magic] to it."

With that, all the more combat oriented members of Alfonzo's harem started to discuss Naruto's new Jutsu, slightly embarrassing him in the process. Meanwhile, Alfonzo only smiled at Naruto with a hint of his own mischief swirling in the depths of his eyes. Though, neither Naruto nor Fū seemed to notice it.

"Well, how about this, Naruto." Alfonzo said, setting up his little prank while also trying to motivate the young shinobi. "If you can get the [Rasenshuriken] usable before we head to Crocus for the Grand Magic Games, I'll make as much ramen as you can eat as a reward. Oh, and it will all be free of charge."

Immediately, Naruto's eyes started to shine like torch lights. At the same time, he snapped his head in Alfonzo's direction.

"Big Bro, you're not joking, are you?" Naruto asked, his anticipation on full display. He then wiped away a bit of drool that leaked from his mouth as he continued. "You're really not joking, right?"

"Of course not." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head, the smile never leaving his face. "From the moment you met me, have I ever lied to you, Naruto?"

"No!" Naruto exclaimed as he jumped into the air in happiness. "Never. Everything you have told me is the truth. And you've helped me so much."

As he landed on the ground again, Naruto turned around to face the guild hall, turning Fū along with him.

"Come on, Fū, let's go." Naruto said, full of energy. "We gotta figure this out before the end of the month. If I can do it, I'll share my reward with you."

Although she did not need any extra incentives to help her best friend, Fū would never turn down any of Alfonzo's cooking. So, she energetically followed Naruto towards the guild hall when he started running.

\*Splash!\*

However, when the doors opened and the two shinobi were about to enter the guild hall, the bucket they hung over the door was flipped over. And just as they passed under it, they were both caught in the prank they, themselves, had set up.

With their momentum carrying them forward a few more steps, Naruto and Fū came to a stop just inside the guild hall, both completely soaked. Then, they both turned around slowly and looked back at Alfonzo, the desire for revenge shining in their eyes.

"Why are the two of you looking at me like that?" Alfonzo asked in the most innocent tone he could muster while imitating Sun and tilting his head cutely. "I didn't do anything."

Though it was true that Alfonzo was not the one who set up the prank, both Naruto and Fū had realized that he had distracted them so that he could direct them into tripping their own trap. And for that, they would definitely get him back.

"You two better get going." Alfonzo said, not too concerned with Naruto and Fū's retaliation. Their pranks were not too bad, after all. "Otherwise, you might not make the deadline."

With their attention once again diverted, Naruto and Fū's eyes widened. Then, they exchanged glances before turning around and running towards the elevator to reach their favorite training room, which just

so happened to be the large one on the tenth floor. That was the only one large enough for them to practice with their Tail-Beast forms, after all.

"You've gotten way too good at this." Mirajane said with a smile as she leaned onto Alfonzo while watched Naruto and Fū move deeper into the guild hall. "Tricking them into forgetting what they were thinking so easily."

"I've had a lot of practice." Alfonzo replied with a shrug and a smile. "I mean, Naruto is a lot like Natsu. So, the same tricks work on him, too."

"Now that you mention it." Lucy said while tapping her right index finger against her lower lip. "They really are a lot alike. Except, instead of fighting, Naruto likes to play pranks."

"But they both are easily motivated by food." Sun said, picking up where Lucy left off as she clapped her hands happily.

"Exactly." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Anyway, we should get going, too, Lici, Marin, Sun. We've got our own training to get to."

"Yeah, and we definitely don't wanna keep Ur waiting." Elicia added as she shivered while rubbing her butt.

Seeing Elicia's panic, most of the girls laughed at her. However, Ultear, who could empathize, looked at her with understanding.

And just like that, the group of wizards who lived at the Mansion on the lake made their way into the guild hall to start their training.

Meanwhile, on the top floor of the guild hall, Mavis, who had been watching the entrance from the one-way windows in her office ever since Naruto and Fū set up their prank, turned away from the window with a smile. She then skipped over to her desk before hopping into her seat.

"Well, that went about the way I expected it to." Mavis said to herself as she picked up the tablet-like magic item used to control the guild hall's functions and keep track of the guild's member roster. "Now, I really need to finish what I talked with Alfonzo and Lici a few months ago. I'll compare their achievements one more time today before making a decision."

And just like that, Mavis also got to work, and another typical, rowdy day at the Fairy Tail guild hall got underway.

#### Chapter 743: Taking a Big Step Forward

\*Clap!\*

"Alright, let's call it a day." Alfonzo said while loudly clapping his hands, the crisp sound drawing Elicia's, Marin's, Sun's, and Ur's attention. "The Grand Magic Games are only two weeks away and we don't wanna burn ourselves out before we even get started."

Hearing that, the four ladies stopped their current training routines. Then, after nodding to Alfonzo's advice, they all started their cooldown routines.

"This still feels weird." Ur muttered to herself as she started stretching. "I mean, I'm the former guild master, right? So, why aren't I the leader of this team?"

"Besides the fact that you were only Gramps' second choice?" Elicia pointed out playfully.

"What did you say, Brat?" Ur shot back.

"Lici's right, you know?" Marin added with a smile. "I mean, he did want Fonzie to succeed him originally, remember?"

"Yeah, but since Alfonzo rejected so adamantly, he chose you." Sun said, her innocent tone making it hard for Ur to get mad at her.

Though, that did not stop Ur from glaring at both Elicia and Marin, who did not seem to be bothered by the glare.

"Plus, isn't Alfonzo stronger than you, Ur?" Sun asked, tilting her head cutely. "So, doesn't it make sense that he's the leader of our team?"

Those words made Ur feel as if an arrow had pierced her heart, causing her to stumble back a few steps before regaining her balance.

"Sun really hits the critical spot, doesn't she?" Marin said with a smile.

"Alright, you four, focus on your cooldown." Alfonzo said, trying to defuse the situation.

'If I don't step in now, I'm afraid that this training room might turn into an absolute zero deep freezer.'  
Alfonzo thought to himself after seeing Ur's expression.

With Alfonzo's order, Elicia, Marin, and Sun got back to cooling down. Ur, on the other hand, glared at everyone in the room. Though, since she did not have anything to say about Sun's statement, she, too, returned to cooling down.

About half an hour later, the five members of Team Steel Threads all made their way down to the guild hall's ground floor, stepping out of the elevator into the main hall.

"Okay, I'm gonna get going." Alfonzo said after everyone was out of the elevator.

"What have you been doing, anyway?" Ur asked curiously. "I mean, every day after training, you disappear for a few hours."

"Nothing special." Alfonzo replied with a smile while waving off Ur's question. "Just a little experimenting."

Though Ur was skeptical of Alfonzo's answer. Over the years, just like his lovers, she had found that getting Alfonzo to tell you something he did not want to talk about was nearly impossible. Plus, after the incident on Tenrou Island, she knew that Alfonzo would not do anything to hurt them.

'Maybe he's working on another safety measure like back then.' Ur thought to herself. 'If that's the case, it's probably better to just let him do his thing.'

With that, Alfonzo hugged and kissed Elicia, Marin, and Sun before leaving the guild hall. He did have to turn down a few requests to cook, though. But since the Grand Magic Games was so close at hand, no one bothered him about it too much.

Then, as soon as Alfonzo left the guild hall, he was covered in arcs of violet electricity before kicking the ground a total of forty-seven times in the blink of an eye and shooting up into the sky.

\*Boom!\*

The sonic boom from Alfonzo's departure was deafening. Though, it did not physically affect any nearby structures, as the guild hall was the only building close enough to be affected.

About an hour later, Alfonzo landed on an uninhabited island off the coast of Fiore. In fact, this was the same island where Junko had been building the school for her crazy, despair inducing plan.

"Okay, let's try again." Alfonzo said as he flared his magic power.

In the next instant, as if his body was a door, two figures walked out of Alfonzo's body. Naturally, those two figures belonged to Riot and Bedlam, Alfonzo's [Armament Spirits].

"I like coming out like this." Bedlam said as he stretched his arms over his head. He then turned to look back at Alfonzo. "You know, you should really turn that thing on in your house more often. I like interacting with the outside world."

"I'll think about it." Alfonzo said as he started to loosen up.

"Hmph! Aren't you tired of getting your ass kicked yet?" Riot asked while crossing his arms in front of his chest. "Or is this how you indulge your inner masochist since you can't show it to Irene?"

"Quiet, Simp." Alfonzo said without even looking in Riot's direction.

"I guess that means you want your beating to be even worse than usual, huh?" Riot shouted as he materialized his weapon form in his right hand and charged towards Alfonzo angrily.

In response, Alfonzo dropped into his fighting stance, pulling Riot's true weapon form from the strap on his lower back with his right hand. Then, with the long side of the tonfa running along his forearm, he raised his right arm to block Riot's incoming attack.

\*Bang!\*

The force behind the collision caused a shockwave that blew any loose pebbles outwards in all directions.

"Jeez, can't you two at least let me enjoy the view for a little bit?" Bedlam asked while materializing a copy of his own weapon form in his left hand. "Whatever, I'm just not going back right after this is over."

With that, Bedlam also charged into the fray, swinging the long side of his tonfa at Alfonzo's waist.

Reacting quickly, Alfonzo drew Bedlam's true weapon form from his lower back, as well. Then, he swung it at the incoming attack, deflecting it away from his body. However, as soon as he did so, he was forced to duck to evade a left hook from Riot.

After dropping low, Alfonzo spun on his left foot, lashing his right leg outwards, aiming to sweep both his [Armament Spirits] off their feet. Yet, they both reacted just as quickly, stepping back to avoid the sweep.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Spark Cannon]." Alfonzo chanted once he had a bit of breathing room while pointing the long ends of each tonfa at their [Armament Spirit].

With Alfonzo's chant, a ball of violet electricity formed on the tip of each of his tonfa before they were fired at Riot and Bedlam.

Though they reacted differently, both Riot and Bedlam managed to defend against Alfonzo's spells with little difficulty.

While Riot created a large metal steak that he left to sink into the ground to act as a lightning rod, Bedlam let a few arcs of electricity flow from the tonfa in his left hand. A moment later, the electricity took the form of several sigils that floated in front of him in the air.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Reflection Barrier]." Riot chanted as the [Barrier] formed in front of him.

Then, to no one's surprise, Alfonzo's two spells were dealt with. While one [Spark Cannon] was grounded, the other hit the [Reflection Barrier] before being returned to sender.

What did surprise the two [Armament Spirits], however, was when Alfonzo put the tonfa representing Riot back in the strap on his lower back and used his free hand to catch the [Spark Cannon]. Even more so, Riot and Bedlam were surprised when the magic power making up the spell began to spin in all directions.

"Damn, did he just turn that into a [Rasengan]?" Riot asked as he raised his weapon in preparation for Alfonzo's attack.

"That's what it looks like." Bedlam replied as he too prepared for Alfonzo's attack. "Just be careful, we don't know what that thing will do."

Had Riot and Bedlam still been in Alfonzo's inner world, they would have known what this spell could do. In fact, if he had not thought it up on the fly after seeing the [Spark Cannon] shooting back in his direction, they would have already known how to deal with it, too.

In the next instant, Alfonzo, without saying a word, charged forward, aiming to end up between Riot and Bedlam. Yet, despite the fact that Alfonzo was not aiming at either of them, both [Armament Spirits] moved to create distance.

However, that did not deter Alfonzo. Instead, when he reached the point that was in the middle of Riot and Bedlam's previous positions, he stopped and slammed the whirling ball of electricity into the ground.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Gravity Ball Rasengan]." Alfonzo chanted.

\*Zap !\* \*Hum!\*

As soon as the spinning orb of electricity hit the ground, it defused outwards, creating an electromagnetic field. And as the name of the spell suggested, that field altered the gravitational field in a localized area.

As a result, Riot and Bedlam, who were still airborne after leaping away from their previous positions, came to an abrupt stop midair. Then, they found themselves being drawn back to where they stood.

No, not just back to where they stood originally. Instead, as they flew through the air, they found themselves increasing in speed... at an alarming rate. And from what they could tell, their end point was exactly where Alfonzo stood, right over the [Gravity Ball Rasengan].

"So, you want us to come to you?" Riot asked loudly as he drew back his tonfa. "Fine, then bring it on, Shithead!"

Instead of readying himself to receive Riot's attack, Alfonzo only smiled. Meanwhile, Bedlam, the calmer of Alfonzo's [Armament Spirits] noticed this smile and had a bad premonition about what was coming next.

"No, stop it you idiot!" Bedlam shouted, trying to get Riot to calm down.

Unfortunately, Riot's switch had already been flipped, still angry that Alfonzo had called him a simp, as true as it may have been. So, he was in no mood to listen to Bedlam's advice.

Understanding what Alfonzo would do next, Bedlam also raised his tonfa preparing to defend himself. Unfortunately, Bedlam had misread Alfonzo's intentions.

"[Run Wild with Destruction on Your Fingertips. Usher in Pandemonium with Creation in Your Hands. Riot, Bedlam]." Alfonzo chanted, releasing the seal on part of his [Soul Armament's] power.

In the next instant, Alfonzo's magic power spiked to nearly ten times his usual amount while both the tonfa in his left hand and the one strapped to his lower back melted down into liquid metal that flowed to his arms, coating Alfonzo's hands, wrists, and forearms. Then, with his hands coated in the liquid metal making up Riot and Bedlam, he reached out at lightning speed and grabbed both Riot and Bedlam's tonfa.

"Shit!" Riot exclaimed in panic.

"Well, this isn't good." Bedlam said while smiling wryly. "We fell for it."

"Sure as fuck did." Alfonzo said excitedly. "[Electromagnetism Magic: Spider Lightning]."

\*Zap~~~~~!\*

With Alfonzo releasing his spell empowered by his partial release state, the light from the lightning could be seen from miles around the island. Meanwhile, the sound of the lightning drowned out any sounds.

Shortly afterwards, to anyone with strong enough magic power focused in their eyes, shadows of three figures flashing back and forth in the flash could be vaguely seen while shockwaves would intermittently rock the entire island.

Eventually, the light from Alfonzo's spell died down. When it did, three figures, Alfonzo, Riot, and Bedlam could be seen standing in a triangular formation. However, they did not look nearly as pristine as they did before the flash blinded the area.

Both Riot and Bedlam had numerous tears in their suits. On top of that, there were even more burn marks on their clothing. Though, they were less visible on Riot's black suit than on Bedlam's white one.

As for Alfonzo, his shirt was in tatters with more than a few bruises and cuts on his skin. Meanwhile, his pants were missing the right pant leg from the knee down. Even so, the light in Alfonzo's eyes was still as bright as ever.

"Looks like all that training was worth it." Bedlam said, his usual confident smile still on his face. "But the question is, can you bring it all home? Or will you stall right in front of the finish line?"

"Is that even a question?" Riot asked with a scoff. "If he doesn't manage to do it after making it this far, I'm gonna really kick his ass next time."

"Well, you don't have to worry about that." Alfonzo said with a smile. "I've been going through this shit for over a year. And I'm really tired of getting my ass kicked by you mother fuckers."

"Isn't that the same as calling yourself a mother fucker?" Bedlam asked with a grin. "I mean, we are part of you."

"Yeah, and I do fuck Lici, Mira, Irene, and Shizuka." Alfonzo said, a wide smile spreading across his lips. "So, I don't see your point."

Bedlam could not help laughing uproariously when he heard Alfonzo's response. Even Riot, who was usually all anger, all the time, found himself smiling slightly. A moment later, however, the smiles disappeared from all three of their faces.

"Well, I think we've been at this long enough." Alfonzo said in a solemn tone. "So, let's wrap this shit up."

With that said, Alfonzo dropped into his fighting stance once again. At the same time, both Riot and Bedlam raised their tonfa, ready to engage one last time.

\*Swish!\* x 3

Then, without any kind of starting signal, Alfonzo, Riot, and Bedlam vanished from where they stood in bursts of speed.

\*Boom!\* \*Boom!\*

In the next instant, they met in the center of their triangular formation with Riot and Bedlam both swinging their tonfa, Riot's aimed at Alfonzo's head while Bedlam aimed for his torso. On top of that, both weapons were sparking with electricity.

In response, Alfonzo, with arcs of lightning dancing across both of his arms and hands, raised his left hand to parry Riot's attack while slapping upwards with is left hand to divert Bedlam's strike over his head. He then took a step forward once both strikes were successfully parried, stepping past both [Armament Spirits].

Then, just as he stepped past his [Armament Spirits], Alfonzo created a metal sheath on his hip, which he held in his left hand. At the same time, he moved his right hand to the mouth of the sheath, curling his fingers around an invisible hilt.

\*Zap~~~~~!\*

An instant later, a compressed sword of electricity appeared in the sheath, its hilt fitting perfectly into Alfonzo's right hand. He then spun in place. As he did, Alfonzo unsheathed the sword, taking a page out of Saeko's [Flying Heaven's Sword-Style] to perform a quick draw attack.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Electric Sword Execution]." Alfonzo chanted as the blade of his electric blade streaked towards Riot's and Bedlam's backs.

As Alfonzo unsheathed the blade, the island was once again bathed in bright light, blinding everything in a radius of a few miles.

"Mother fucker~~~~~!" Riot shouted as the blade of compressed blade of electricity sliced through his lower torso.

"Well done." Bedlam said with a laugh as he fell to the same attack.

With that, Alfonzo could feel Riot's and Bedlam's bodies breaking down into motes of magic power thanks to his [Magic Power Detection]. At the same time, those motes of magic power were being drawn into his arms, the current embodiments of Riot and Bedlam.

Once the last of the motes of magic power were absorbed into the liquid metal coating his arms, Alfonzo felt as if something had just been completed. Yet, thanks to the exertion, he was way too tired to explore that feeling. So, instead of celebrating his victory, Alfonzo fell to his knees, breathing raggedly as the blinding light faded.

["You finally did it."] Bedlam said from Alfonzo's inner world. "[So, how does it feel.]"

'I'll tell you later.' Alfonzo replied groggily. 'Right now, I'm too fucking tired to tell.'

["Well, it took long e-fucking-nough." Riot said angrily. ["it's hard to believe that I came from your soul. How could my creator be so weak that it took over a year to beat us?"]

'I'll argue with you later.' Alfonzo replied weakly, his consciousness fading due to magic power exhaustion. 'For now, I need a nap... Simp.'

"What did you say, you bastard?" Riot shouted angrily as Alfonzo lost consciousness.

"Ahahahahaha!" Bedlam laughed uproariously.

And just like that, Alfonzo flopped over onto his side, Riot's words and Bedlam's laughter not even registering in his mind.

It would be sometime after 10 p.m. before Alfonzo woke up and felt just how much stronger he had gotten thanks to the upgrade in his power brought on by defeating Riot and Bedlam in the real world.

#### Chapter 744: Elicia's Bad Habit Getting Her in Trouble Again

"Fonzie left around noon, right?" Cana, sounding a bit worried, asked while sitting on a lounge chair in the Mansion on the Lake's artificial grotto. "I know he's been leaving after morning training like this for a while, but he never takes this long to come back, does he?"

Currently, Elicia, Cana, Ultear, Mirajane, Rika, and Irene were taking the time to relax in the grotto while enjoying a few drinks. Meanwhile, Grayfia, Ikaruga, and Miyuki were serving them on the side.

"Yeah, that sounds about right." Elicia said, not sounding worried at all, despite the fact that her husband had been out of contact for more than ten hours. "But Fonzie's so strong that there are only two people I could think of who could fight him and win on Ishgar."

Elicia then turned to smile at Irene.

"And one of them is sitting right there." Elicia continued while raising her glass in Irene's direction.

Irene, on the other hand, after Miyuki refilled her wine glass, raised her own glass in return.

"Though that may be true for now, I'm not sure how much longer that will last." Irene said, her comment genuine despite the almost condescending way she said it.

"It sounds like you don't believe that yourself." Ultear pointed out, catching onto Irene's tone. "We all know how powerful you are, Irene. In fact, the only reason you were taken down when we had to fight you and Brandish back then was because of Master Retsu from Mermaid Heel."

"Ah! Yes, that woman." Irene said, the memory of that encounter making her frown slightly. "Though she did not look like much at first glance, she was quite strong. I wouldn't mind fighting her again."

Though, I'm not sure it would even be a contest now that I have Belserion. Her nearly endless regeneration would be a hassle to get around, though."

"Then, I guess that means you have a way of disabling healing?" Mirajane asked curiously.

"I do." Irene replied with a nod. "Though, it takes quite a bit of effort to set up. So, it would be more effective if I knew the fight was coming beforehand. But even if I was caught off guard, I would have no problem dragging it out long enough to make the preparations."

"Interesting." Mirajane said with a nod of her own.

"But her healing only works when she uses... What did Alfonzo call it?" Rika chimed in, looking for the right word.

"[Bankai]." Elicia said helpfully.

"Yeah, [Bankai]." Rika said, nodding at Elicia in appreciation. "Her super-regeneration only works when she's in her [Bankai] form, right. So, wouldn't it be easiest to just take her out before she can activate it."

"Hmm... That sounds like the easiest way, indeed." Ultear said after thinking for a moment. "But how many people could actually do that? I mean, for someone like you, who specializes in super-long range combat, it wouldn't be a problem. But what about people who need to get close enough to see her?"

"Exactly." Mirajane added. "That would become a problem because if you can see her, then she can probably see you, too."

"Yeah, I guess I didn't think that far." Rika said in an understanding tone.

"Yeah, yeah, that's all really fascinating." Cana said, sounding a bit annoyed. "But still, Fonzie has been gone a lot longer than usual. Does anyone know where he went?"

"Oh, probably to get some solo training done." Elicia said casually. "Sometimes he over does it and takes a nap after he's done."

"Seriously?" Cana asked, sounding completely dumbfounded. "I don't remember anything like this happening before."

"Well, it doesn't happen very often." Elicia said with a shrug. "The last time it happened, I think you were out on a quest. So, it makes sense that you never saw it."

"I guess that makes sense." Cana said, sounding relieved.

"But seriously, is there anyone who works as hard as Alfonzo does when he's not bogged down by work?" Ultear asked curiously.

"Well, I used to." Elicia said. "In fact, I still train harder than most of the guild. But Fonzie is just on a different level. And ever since he found the benefits of the Techno Organic Metal, he's been able to push his body further and further."

"Yeah, I tried using that stuff once." Mirajane said, shuddering as she remembered the experience. "I thought I was going to die from the pain. I can't believe Alfonzo does it every day."

"Yes, it sounds like he could be quite the masochist, doesn't it?" Ultear said, her voice taking on a sultry tone. "And that's why I allow him to pleasure me as I do."

"Seriously, Tear." Cana scoffed. "Doesn't this---"

"Shut up, Cana!" Ultear shouted. "Why can't you just let me have my fun? Would it kill you to let it go just once?"

"No, it wouldn't." Cana replied with a positively Cheshire grin on her face. "But it definitely wouldn't be nearly as much fun."

Ultear only puffed her cheeks and turned away in response. Meanwhile, Elicia, Cana, Mirajane, Rika, and Irene all laughed at Ultear's expense. Even the maids, Grayfia, Ikaruga, and Miyuki had to try to hold back smiles.

However, while everyone was laughing, Grayfia, who was pouring a drink for Rika, suddenly turned her head towards the front of the mansion. Though, she did not stop pouring Rika's drink, even stopping when it was filled to the perfect volume.

"It would seem Master Alfonzo has returned." Grayfia said as she stopped pouring. "If you would excuse me, I will go to greet him."

Yet, before Grayfia could even finish speaking, Cana had already shot up from her lounge chair and bolted for the grotto's entrance. Meanwhile, Grayfia, was completely unbothered, bowing to the other ladies before also making her way out of the grotto in calm, measured steps.

"I swear, she's acting like it's been months since she saw him last." Mirajane said while shaking her head. "I just don't get it, she never acted like this when he left for work."

"But she knew when to expect him back then." Rika pointed out. "And since she's gotten used to him getting back by a certain time, that probably has something to do with it."

"Does it really matter?" Elicia asked with a gentle smile on her face. "She is Fonzie's wife. So, it's only natural that she would be worried about him. Even if she has complete faith that he'll come back home."

"I guess that's true." Ultear replied. "I can still remember worrying about Mom whenever she took longer than expected, too. And ever since she started taking quests again, that feeling has come back."

At that moment, Irene, having just finished her glass of wine a moment ago, opened her eyes, which looked to be closed in satisfaction, and stood up. And like Grayfia, she started walking towards the grotto's entrance with perfectly measured steps.

"Well, it looks like she actually had reason to worry this time." Irene said while walking. "Right now, Alfonzo is in the living room. And from what I can feel, although he got a lot stronger, his magic power is almost completely exhausted."

Hearing that, Ultear, Mirajane, and Rika all widened their eyes in surprise.

Elicia, on the other hand, lowered her head in contemplation. Then, just as Irene was about to step out of the grotto, her head shot up, a look of realization flashing across her face as her lips curled into a smile.

"He did it!" Elicia said as she shot up to her feet.

Then, without any kind of explanation, she ran out of the grotto, passing Irene in a flash, leaving Ultear, Mirajane, and Rika confused. Meanwhile, Irene, who had been smiling in her usual confident way, smiled even wider as she continued to make her way towards the living room.

Unsure of what was going on exactly, the three ladies left in the grotto exchanged glances. However, because of Elicia's reaction, they were sure that nothing bad had happened to Alfonzo. So, they all stood up before also making their way out of the grotto.

Meanwhile, Ikaruga and Miyuki took the time to clean up after the six women. Then, with all the glasses and bottles of alcohol in hand, they left the grotto, as well.

"By the way, Miyuki." Ikaruga said in a playful tone. "I heard from a little birdy that you finally did it."

Knowing exactly what Ikaruga was talking about, Miyuki's cheeks were dusted with the slightest hint of a blush. Yet, she did not deem it necessary to dignify Ikaruga's statement with a response.

Not long later, Elicia reached the living room. When she did, the first thing she saw was Alfonzo sitting on the couch with his clothes in tatters. Meanwhile, all of his visible skin was covered in bruises and burns. Then, there was Grayfia, who was tending to his wounds while Cana hovered over him with a worried expression on her face.

"Come on, Cana, I told you I was fine." Alfonzo said while smiling tiredly. "I'm just a little exhausted. Seriously, there's nothing to worry about."

"\*Sigh\* Usually I wouldn't be worried." Cana said as she took a deep breath to forcefully calm herself down. "But I was doing a tarot reading this afternoon. And what I saw made it clear that you would be in danger while you were away. But it would be filled with opportunity."

"Well, it was kinda dangerous, I guess." Alfonzo said casually. "But it wouldn't have done anything permanent."

"And just what were you doing?" Cana asked, her expression making it clear that she would not be taking no for an answer.

However, before Alfonzo could answer, Elicia dashed into the room and threw herself in to Alfonzo's arms, a wide smile spread across her face.

"Congratulations, Fonzie." Elicia said as she plopped herself onto Alfonzo's lap. "But you managed to do it a lot faster than I thought you would."

"Huh?" Cana exclaimed in surprise. "You knew where he was the whole time, Lici? Then, why didn't you tell anyone."

"Actually, I didn't know until a little while ago." Elicia replied while turning to face Cana from Alfonzo's lap. "But something Irene said made me think about it."

Elicia then turned back to Alfonzo while smiling happily.

"Fonzie unlocked the rest of Riot and Bedlam's seal." Elicia declared. "That's the only reason I could think of when Irene said he got stronger but was facing magic power exhaustion."

"Yeah, that's right." Alfonzo replied in an exasperated tone with a nod while smiling wryly. "But I would have preferred to make the announcement myself, you know?"

When she heard that, Elicia froze like a deer in headlights. Then, she tilted her head cutely and...

"Tee-hee.!"

... giggled in the most innocent way she could.

Meanwhile, Cana, Scylla, and even Irene, who just arrived in the living room, sighed in unison while thinking the same thing.

'Elicia's tendency to speak before thinking as struck again.'

Eventually, Ultear, Mirajane, and Rika also entered the room. At first, when they saw Alfonzo's state and Grayfia tending to his wounds, they were surprised and worried. However, when they noticed the wry smile on his face, Elicia's attempt to look innocent, and the expressions on Cana's and Irene's faces that said they had completely given up, they found themselves confused again.

A moment later, when Elicia noticed the newcomers. She looked at Alfonzo with a smile.

"You don't have to be sad, Fonzie." Elicia said in an upbeat tone. "See, there are still a lot of people left for you to tell that you unlocked the rest of Riot's and Bedlam's seal, right?"

As soon as Elicia's words ended, she winced, as Scylla had started screaming at her from her inner world. At the same time, Ultear, Mirajane, and Rika were surprised once again. Meanwhile, Alfonzo, Cana, and Irene all stared at Elicia with the deadest deadpans any of them had ever made.

"Haha... Oops." Elicia said in a bashful tone. "I did it again, didn't I?"

The silence from Alfonzo, Cana, and Irene was more than enough of a response. And when Ultear, Mirajane, and Rika felt the atmosphere, they chose to stay silent, as well.

Yet, before Elicia could try to dig herself out of the hole she had just jumped into, Alfonzo opened his mouth to speak.

"Grayfia." Alfonzo said monotonously.

"Yes, Master Alfonzo." Grayfia replied, bowing her head while continuing to clean Alfonzo's wounds.

At that moment, the other five maids, Ikaruga, Maria, Mey-Rin, Ai, and Miyuki all entered the living room to see if any of those present needed them for anything.

"For the next two days, all of Lici's meals will be prepared by either Ikaruga or Mey-Rin." Alfonzo said in that same monotonous tone.

Upon hearing that, everyone, other than Alfonzo's eyes widened in surprise. Then, all the other ladies looked at Elicia with pity in their gazes. Meanwhile, the maids, though they did not show it, except for Mey-Rin, who began to shiver nervously, all thought the same thing.

'Madam Elicia is going to have a rough two days, isn't she?'

As for Elicia, she did not say anything. Not even try to plead for forgiveness. Because when she heard Alfonzo's decree, her eyes immediately rolled into the back of her head as she fainted, falling limply into Alfonzo's arms.

Not to say that Ikaruga's and Mey-Rin's cooking was as bad as Mirajane's used to be. However, everyone living in the Mansion on the Lake and those who frequently came to visit had gotten rather spoiled for normal cooking after eating food prepared by people like Alfonzo, Grayfia, and Maria for so long.

So, the thought of eating meals made by Ikaruga and Mey-Rin, who had skills of a fairly competent housewife and a student who was just barely passing at a cooking school, respectively, was too much for Elicia to take.

Chapter 745: Is Something Big Coming?

After a long day of training, Alfonzo once again found himself in the guild hall's kitchen. Though the Grand Magic Games was coming soon, that would never stop the members of Fairy Tail from using their points to trade for delicious meals made by possibly the best chef in the world.

"Um... Can I have a plate of spaghetti and meatballs?" A timid, female voice asked, barely audible over the hustle and bustle of the guild hall.

"An order of chicken cordon bleu, please." A sharper female voice added.

"Yes, and I'd like a bowl of Katsudon!" A louder, more excited male voice said shortly afterwards. "Such a dish is just what I need to let my youth explode."

'Well, those are voices I haven't heard in a long time.' Alfonzo thought to himself as he started to quickly prepare the ingredients. 'I guess Wendy's training with Tsunade is finally over.'

"Sure!" Alfonzo shouted back. "Coming right up. And welcome back, Wendy and Carla. Lee, it's good to see you again, too."

Wendy and Carla, shortly after last year's Grand Magic Games, received a quest from Tsunade. She wanted Wendy to help her new disciple, Sakura Haruno during her training, especially since she, as the Fifth Hokage of the Village Hidden in the Leaves, had very little time to focus on Sakura's training.

And although it was not specifically mentioned in the quest details, Wendy received personalized training with Sakura whenever Tsunade was free. So, the arrangements killed two birds with one stone.

On top of that, whenever Wendy was not helping Sakura train or working at the hospital to help out, she could spend as much time with Rock Lee as she liked.

Even Carla, who was not particularly adept in healing, was able to get some training. Though, it was mostly in hand-to-hand combat. But with her more human [Transformation], that would come in handy whenever she and Wendy took quests together in the future.

"Huh? Bushy Brows? Is that you?" Naruto, who was alerted when he heard a familiar voice from home, asked while raising his head from the bowl of ramen in front of him.

On a side note, there were sixteen more empty ramen bowls piled up on the table, as well.

"Ah! Naruto, my friend." Lee shouted while turning around with a thumb raised and a sparkle shining from his smile. "It is good to see you again. How have you been over the last three years. Have you been living youthfully?"

Noticing that it really was Lee, Naruto smiled. Then, he lowered his head and basically inhaled the rest of the ramen and broth in his bowl before tossing the empty bowl onto the top of the tower on the table.

While Naruto was running towards Lee with excitement shining in his eyes, when he saw what Lee was wearing, he came to a screeching stop and stared at his friend with his eyes opened wide.

"Wait!" Naruto shouted while pointing at Lee's torso. More specifically, the forest green vest he was wearing on his chest. "Lee, is... is... is that a Jōnin vest?"

"Ah! I see you've noticed!" Lee shouted happily. "Indeed, it is. Last year, I participated in the Chunin Exam held in the Village Hidden in the Sand. And thanks to Wendy, who helped me a lot with my training..."

"You mean healing you after you pushed yourself too far." Carla interjected.

"... I was able to progress rapidly." Lee continued, Carla's interjection thoroughly ignored. "And after that, while going on missions with my teammates, Neji and Tenten, both Neji and I were promoted to Jōnin. From what I've heard, Tenten isn't too far away from her promotion, either."

"Seriously?" Naruto replied with envy flashing in his eyes. "I've been with Fairy Tail the whole time. So, none of my quests have been evaluated by Granny Tsunade."

While Lee continued to smile, raising his thumb in encouragement. Wendy, after seeing Naruto's downcast expression did not know what to say. So, her eyes were swimming around the guild hall nervously.

However, before she could come up with something to say, Wendy noticed that there were some people missing.

"By the way, where are Erza, Natsu, and the others?" Wendy asked curiously. "I don't see them around. And it's really close to the Grand Magic Games. Aren't they going this year."

Just at that moment, Alfonzo, while floating a metal tray containing Wendy's, Carla's, and Lee's orders behind him stepped out of the kitchen, his shift coming to an end.

"Oh, they'll be back today." Alfonzo said with a smile as he made the tray land on the bar between him and the three youngsters.

Though, calling them youngsters would not be completely correct, either. Wendy was already nineteen years old. Though, she was still short and petite, she had all the womanly curves that would be expected of a young woman in her prime.

Meanwhile, Lee was about seventeen. Though, he did not look much different than he did three years ago. Just a bit taller. And from what Alfonzo could feel with his [Metal Magic], he had a substantial amount of weight wrapped around his legs and under his clothing.

As for Naruto, he would be sixteen in a few months. He was also quite a bit taller and the spitting image of his father, Minato. He even had his hair styled the same way. Though, he still liked wearing bright orange, which no one in Fairy Tail thought was a suitable color for a ninja.

Hearing Alfonzo's response, Wendy looked a little disappointed that the people she did most of her quests with were absent. However, Wendy's disappointment was nothing compared to Carla's. And the reason why was obvious.

For almost an entire year, Carla had been with Wendy. And for quite a bit of that time, she was forced to see Wendy being all lovey-dovey with Lee. Yet, she, who was separated from Happy, could only video call the cheerful, foolish, fish-obsessed blue Exceed. Even then, half the time Happy was too busy arguing with Natsu about his fish being eaten.

Naruto asked Wendy, Carla, and Lee all kinds of questions about what had been happening in the Village Hidden in the Leaves over the last three years. And the newly arrived trio answered all of his questions. And to Naruto's surprise, everyone who graduated from the Ninja Academy with him had already become Chunin, catching up with him and Sasuke while they were away.

"Oh, by the way, why are you all the way out here, Lee?" Naruto asked, realizing that he had not asked about that since he saw Lee.

"I'm on a mission to escort Wendy back to Fairy Tail." Lee said with a smile. "I'll be heading back with you, Lord Jiraiya, and Sasuke after the Grand Magic Games. And at that time, I'll be acting as a guard for Miss Fu, as well."

"That makes sense." Naruto said with a nod. "Well then, until then, you should train with us. I wanna see just how strong you've gotten since I saw you fight Gaara in the Chunin Exams three years ago."

"Ah! Speaking of Gaara." Lee said. "He became the Kazekage of the Village Hidden in the Sand earlier this year."

Hearing that, Naruto's eyes opened wide in disbelief.

"He beat me to it..." Naruto muttered while lowering his head in contemplation.

Seeing Naruto's response, Wendy and Lee looked at him with Worry. Carla, on the other hand, was taking glances towards the guild hall's entrance, clearly hoping that the rest of Team Natsu, Happy in particular, would come back.

Eventually, Naruto raised his head, determination burning in his eyes.

"Even if Gaara did it before me, I'm still gonna be Hokage someday! Believe it!" Naruto exclaimed.

Naruto's explanation made Wendy and Lee breathe sighs of relief. Meanwhile, Carla jumped at the loud declaration before glaring at Naruto for startling her.

As for Alfonzo, who had been standing behind the bar while the four chatted, he only smiled wryly.

'Naruto really only started getting the Village's recognition after he took down Pain in the canon.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'But since Fairy Tail took them down more than a year before what would have happened in canon, I'm not sure what he'll do to get the title of the Village's Hero. Hell, there won't even be a Fourth Great Ninja War at this point. I hope we didn't mess up his career track.'

After having that thought, Alfonzo eventually shrugged it off. Although he felt sorry for messing up the events that led to Naruto's rise, there was nothing he could do about it. He couldn't just let the Akatsuki trample over Fairy Tail when they came knocking, after all.

Like that, the rest of the afternoon went by in normal Fairy Tail fashion with the atmosphere being as rowdy as ever. However, Team Natsu did return before night fell. And when they did, Mavis made an announcement over the guild's magic items, calling Laxus, Fried, Cana, Ultear, Gray, Erza, Mirajane, Natsu, Gajeel, and Juvia into her office for a private discussion.

And while the ten previously mentioned wizards were confused as to why they were summoned to see the guild master and the rest of the guild was curious to know what was going on, Alfonzo and Elicia had a pretty good idea what this was all about.

Naturally, more than a few members of the guild noticed Alfonzo's and Elicia's expressions, which differed from everyone else's. Even so, when they tried to ask them about, the two kept their mouths closed, only smiling mysteriously in response.

Naturally, this led to some discontent from the guild members. And to no one's surprise, that discontent led to some insults being thrown around. From there, the issue quickly escalated into a full-blown brawl, which also did not surprise anyone.

In these situations, Alfonzo and Elicia would usually slip away from the brawl quietly. However, something must have come over them today. Because, as soon as the first punch was thrown, they both jumped right into action, putting guild mates down with swift, precise punches, kicks, and throws.

By the time Mavis and the ten guild members she called up to her office made it down to the first floor, with the exception of a few, most of the guild was laid out on the floor, nursing bruises and bumps while whimpering in pain.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo sat at a table with Elicia sitting in his lap. Across from them, Lee was gushing about the power of youth while Wendy smiled nostalgically, having missed the guild's rowdy atmosphere while she was away in the Village Hidden in the Leaves.

Then, there was Happy and Carla, who were sitting together in a corner of the guild hall, lost in their own world.

"Looks like we missed the party." Natsu said in a downcast tone. "I wanna fight, too."

"This doesn't look like a party to me." Gray said while surveying the scene. "It looks like a massacre."

"Juvia thinks you could have handled it, my love." Juvia said in a lovestruck tone while hugging Gray's arm.

"Did they all manage to piss off Fonzie and Lici?" Cana asked before raising her flask and taking a long sip.

"Probably." Ultear added with a shrug.

"There's no probably about it." Laxus said with his arms crossed. "Who else could have done something like this other than me?"

"Don't act like you're the only one, Sparky." Gajeel said while staring at Laxus with a challenging smile. "But if you think you are, why don't we test just how strong you are?"

Laxus only glanced at Gajeel dismissively before going back to surveying the hall.

"If you want to fight Laxus, you'll have to get through me first." Fried said, stepping between Laxus and Gajeel.

"Any time." Gajeel replied with a grin.

"I really would have thought that they would learn not to mess with Alfonzo by now." Mirajane said while resting her right hand on her right cheek.

"They need more discipline." Erza said sternly. "They are so quick to start a fight. Next time, I'll take care of disciplining them myself."

Collectively, all the wizards laid out on the floor shuddered. Dealing with Erza, who did not know the meaning of holding back, was much more terrifying than dealing with Alfonzo and Elicia, who were objectively stronger than Erza.

"Anyway." Mavis said in a cheerful tone. "Remember, what we talked about is a secret. And if it gets out before it's time, I'll ask Irene to have a chat with whoever let it slip."

This time, it was Laxus', Fried's, Cana's, Ultear's, Gray's, Erza's, Mirajane's, Natsu's, Gajeel's, and Juvia's turns to shudder. As terrifying as Erza was, she could not hold a candle to her mother in that regard.

Nodding quickly, the ten wizards dispersed to check on the people they were close with, who were almost all laid out on the floor. Though, Levy, Lucy, and Brandish were not included in that group. Mavis, on the other hand, skipped over to Alfonzo and Elicia before plopping down in the seat next to Alfonzo.

"Welcome back, Wendy." Mavis said in a bright tone. "I hope your time training in the Village Hidden in the Leaves went well."

"It did." Wendy replied with a polite bow. "Thank you for asking, Master Mavis."

Naturally, Wendy had received news of Mavis' reinstatement as guild master while she was away. So, it was no surprise when her voice rang out over the guild hall earlier in the day.

Nodding at Wendy, Mavis then turned to Alfonzo and Elicia with a smile.

"It's done." Mavis said. "Now, we only have to wait until it starts."

Hearing that, both Alfonzo and Elicia smiled. However, their smiles were not their usual smiles. Instead, they were both wearing competitive smiles, looking forward to what was coming next.

Chapter 746: Miyuki's Answer (R-18)

"Hey, Wendy, I got a question for you." Alfonzo said after the brawl finished, Erza mostly responsible for that.

"Hmm? What do you need, Alfonzo?" Wendy asked while tilting her head in curiosity.

Not only Wendy, but Lee, who was sitting next to her, was curious to hear the question, too.

"It's nothing serious." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "But why does Graceland pretend to be a wind spirit named Sylph whenever she materializes at my house? I mean, all the Dragon Slayer's [Armament Spirits] are the dragons they draw power from. So, it doesn't make sense for you to be different."

Now, not only Wendy and Lee, but everyone who had been to Alfonzo's mansion and saw the [Armament Spirits] walk around whenever he activated that magic item in the basement were also curious.

Meanwhile, Wendy widened her eyes in surprise. Then, she started to giggle uncontrollably. And it was clear to see that Graceland was shouting at her for being laughed at by the way Wendy would twitch from time to time.

"Now that you mention it." Natsu said while scratching his head in confusion. "I think Igneel said something about that. But I can't really remember."

"Oh, Natsu." Lisanna said with a sweet smile.

If Gajeel were present, he would have said something, too. But he was not in the guild hall at the moment. As soon as the brawl ended, Levy dragged him off to look at wedding decorations. As a result, both Jet and Droy were sulking in a corner of the guild while drinking, and in Droy's case, eating, their sorrows away.

"It's a secret." Wendy finally said, her shoulders still shaking from her laughter. "But since everyone knows, next time I come to your house, I'll call her Grandeeney. She'll still probably take that form, though."

In response, Alfonzo only shrugged his shoulders. Trying to figure out the thought process of an ancient dragon was not something he was equipped to do. So, he just let it go.

And just like that, the rest of the evening passed peacefully... Well, as peacefully as a night at Fairy Tail could. Then, everyone made their way home for the evening, still having things to prepare for the trip to Crocus for the Grand Magic Games.

June 30, x791.

===R-18===

A few days passed, and the day before the Grand Magic Games was once again upon the Kingdom of Fiore. And shortly after the sun rose, Alfonzo was awakened by a few familiar sounds.

\*Smooch!\* \*Slurp!\* \*Smooch!\* \*Gasp!\*

The next day, Alfonzo woke up to a familiar feeling on his lips. Once again, he was being kissed. And unlike the last time this happened, it was much more intense, as he could feel a tongue invading his mouth while his own was being sucked on passionately.

On top of that, he could feel a hand wrapped around his dick while stroking it gently but firmly.

Opening his eyes, Alfonzo was not surprised to see Miyuki's blue eyes right in front of him again.

"Good morning, Master Alfonzo." Miyuki said in her usual nearly emotionless tone after breaking the kiss once Alfonzo woke up. That said, she did not stop stroking his dick while she spoke. Plus, her cheeks were tinted red with a blush.

"Good morning, Miyuki." Alfonzo replied while smiling wryly. He then gestured down towards his lower body as he continued. "I guess this means you've made your decision."

In response, Miyuki nodded, still stroking his dick, her grip tightening ever so slightly as her cheeks reddened even further.

"I have." Miyuki replied, her voice barely louder than the flapping of a mosquito's wings. "Now, if you'll excuse me."

Miyuki then turned away from Alfonzo, her cheeks reddening to their limits. Even so, her movements were as smooth and graceful as ever.

Watching Miyuki with curiosity, Alfonzo noted that her hand did not stop. On top of that, she was moving her head towards his already hard dick.

Now, with her head facing his dick and her ass, clad in her maid uniform, pointed towards the head of the bed, with her knees just to the right of his right shoulder, Miyuki looked back at Alfonzo one more time.

Seeing the anticipation and curiosity in Alfonzo's eyes, Miyuki looked away. Then, she poked her little tongue out and with slow, deliberate movements, ran its tip over every inch of the head of Alfonzo's dick while continuing to stroke it.

"Mmm..." Alfonzo groaned in pleasure from the warm, slippery feeling of Miyuki's tongue.

Growing emboldened by the sounds coming from Alfonzo, Miyuki opened her mouth without pulling her tongue away. Then, she slowly engulfed the head of his dick with her lips, swirling her tongue as she gently sucked.

Once again groaning in pleasure, Alfonzo leaned his head back on his pillow. When he did, he could not help noticing Miyuki's ass, the cloth from her maid uniform tightly stretched across it, its heart shape standing out even more because of it.

Unable to resist the allure, Alfonzo pulled his right arm back and touched Miyuki just behind her bent knee. Then, he slowly raised his hand, sliding his palm over the smooth fabric, until it rested on her ass.

\*Gasp!\*

Meanwhile, Miyuki shivered from the sensation, gasping as she pulled her lips from around the tip of Alfonzo's dick. And as Alfonzo started to rub her ass over her uniform, a soft moan left her lips. At the same time, she pressed Alfonzo's dick against his abdomen, marveling at its size when compared to the rest of his body.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo reached over his body with his left hand and slowly raised Miyuki's skirt until it was hiked up over her ass, revealing her white thighs, the stockings she wore that were held up by garter belts, and her round, yet quite firm ass.

The thing that surprised him, however, was the fact that Miyuki was not wearing a pair of panties. The less surprising thing about the scene, however, was the sight of her love juices dripping down her inner thighs.

"Looks like you've been looking forward to this for a while, huh?" Alfonzo asked, a teasing, lustful, smile audible in his voice as he let his fingers brush the lips of Miyuki's pussy.

"Mmm~!" Miyuki moaned as her arms weakened from the stimulation.

Instead of trying to prop herself back up, Miyuki continued to moan from Alfonzo's touch as she stuck her tongue out and licked up and down the length of Alfonzo's shaft, swirling her tongue seductively as she did so.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo moved Miyuki's lower body so that she was straddling his head. Then, he raised his head slightly, stuck out his tongue, and poked at Miyuki's clit with its tip.

"Kya!" Miyuki yelped as her body shuddered.

Yet, Alfonzo did not stop, starting by swirling his tongue around her clit, he then sucked Miyuki's clit between his lips and massaged it with the flat of his tongue.

Miyuki's shivering and shuddering intensified with every moment that passed. However, she did come back to herself enough to once again stand up Alfonzo's dick and lubricate it generously with her saliva.

Then, once the entire thing was coated, Miyuki raised her head and took as much of Alfonzo's dick into her mouth as she could, which amounted to a little more than half. She then began bobbing her head rhythmically, her right hand, which was once again wrapped around the shaft, moving up and down in unison.

And as time passed, Miyuki's movements sped up, her tongue more passionately coiling around Alfonzo's dick. Meanwhile, Alfonzo moved from licking and sucking Miyuki's clit to using his tongue to explore the inside of her pussy while rubbing her clit with his fingers.

Miyuki was the first to reach her climax in this situation, her body shuddering as her love juices poured out of her pussy, dripping down Alfonzo's chin. Even so, Alfonzo did not stop, sending Miyuki to orgasm several times before he felt his peak approaching, as well.

And when he did finally cum, Alfonzo managed to make her cum once more. And this time, Miyuki's orgasm was so intense that she was forced to pull her head back to suck in a deep breath.

\*Pop!\* \*Spurt!\* \*Spurt!\*

Yet, as Miyuki's mouth was pulled away with an audible pop, that was also the last straw for Alfonzo, as he reached his limit, as well. And with that, his semen shot from the tip of his dick, rope after rope, all over Miyuki's face, hair, and the front of her uniform.

Even so, Miyuki did not seem to mind at all while riding out the reverberations of her most recent orgasm. In fact, even after Alfonzo stopped shooting, Miyuki was still shuddering with her tongue hanging out of her mouth and her eyes rolled back partially.

Then, when Miyuki eventually came down from her orgasm, she flopped down onto Alfonzo, her hand still wrapped around his dick and her head lying on his left thigh. Yet, when she noticed the cum dripping down his dick and her hand, she wasted no time cleaning it up with the tip of her tongue. Then, just for good measure, she, with great difficulty, raised herself up again and sucked the rest of Alfonzo's cum out of his dick to finish her clean up service.

By the time she was finished, most of Miyuki's weakness from such an intense orgasm had faded. She then turned her head to look at the clock hanging above the door to Alfonzo's workshop. And when she saw the time, she calmly crawled off of Alfonzo and stood next to his bed, her face, hair, and uniform still covered in his cum.

"If you are unsatisfied with things ending here, Master Alfonzo, I apologize." Miyuki said while bowing politely in Alfonzo's direction. "But the time for departure is drawing near. Although I'm sure this will not fully compensate you, please allow me to wash you in the bath."

'I guess she really likes the maid-master dynamic, huh?' Alfonzo thought to himself as he pushed himself up and swung his legs over the edge of the bed. 'Well, if that's what she wants, who am I to judge.'

Once Alfonzo's feet were on the floor, he stood up quickly without answering Miyuki. Then, before she could react, he swept her into a princess carry and started striding towards the bathroom.

"Kya!" Miyuki, once again surprised by Alfonzo's actions, squealed as she wrapped her arms around his neck on instinct.

"I'm okay with that compensation." Alfonzo said with a smile. "So, let's go."

Seeing Alfonzo's smile, Miyuki pressed her face into the crook of his neck to hide her blush and the smile that was spreading across her face that came along with it.

===R-18 End===

At around noon, the two airships, the Blackbird and the Fairy's Tail flew away from magnolia, the people of the town cheering and wishing them luck on retaining their title as Fiore's strongest guild.

And before long, thanks to the speeds that the two airships could reach, they landed safely on the roof of the Sixth Sense Hotel in Crocus.

Earth land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Crocus.

"Okay, I don't think I need to tell you all what you can and can't do at this point." Mavis said while standing in front of the Fairy Tail wizards gathered in the hotel's lobby. "You already know that you should be back by midnight for the beginning of the prelims. Other than that, just don't cause trouble in the city. Now, go and have fun."

After Mavis set them free, it did not take long for the hotel lobby to empty out, leaving only Alfonzo, his children, and his harem behind.

"So, what are all of you going to do?" Mavis asked while turning to the group.

"We're gonna take the kids out to play." Elicia said with a smile. "Hopefully we can tire them out enough so that they don't wake up when the prelims start."

"Yes, getting them back to sleep after they wake up in the middle of the night is a hassle." Mirajane added.

"You know, I could just set up a [Silencing Barrier] around the room." Irene suggested.

"We actually used to do that when we weren't participating in the Games." Alfonzo replied. "But if we did that now, we might miss the buzzer, too."

"Oh, Darling, I wasn't talking about using something as crude as your sigils to do the job." Irene said as she stepped forward and ran one of her slender index fingers across Alfonzo's jaw line. "My [Enchantments] are much more versatile."

Unfortunately, there were three little ones in the group who were completely uncaring that Irene was being a bit flirty, as Amar'e, Bianca, and Calvin all grabbed Alfonzo's pant legs and tried to drag him towards the hotel's entrance so they could have fun in the festival-like atmosphere of Crocus during the Grand magic Games.

Smiling wryly at his children's enthusiasm, Alfonzo allowed himself to be pulled along, causing all the other ladies to smile. He then looked back over his shoulder and nodded at Irene.

"I trust you can handle it, Irene." Alfonzo said. "I'll leave it to you."

"Still, we'll try to tire them out as much as possible." Mirajane added. "We still have to make sure they actually go to sleep. They do know what's coming, after all."

With that, Alfonzo, the kids, and most of the ladies left, leaving Mavis and Irene standing together in the lobby.

"You're not going with them?" Mavis asked curiously.

"No, I'm going to handle a little something." Irene said while shaking her head. "I'm sure you noticed it, too. Ever since we landed, someone has been keeping watch over the hotel." And when everyone left, those insects split up to tail some of them."

"\*Sigh\* yes, I noticed." Mavis said in an exasperated tone. "Do you have any idea who they are?"

"I don't'." Irene replied with a shrug. She then started walking towards the hotel's doors. "But I'll find out. And if they are up to no good, I'll deal with them."

"Just don't' kill anyone." Mavis said while shaking her head.

"Oh, I won't." Irene said, a sadistic smile stretching across her face. "But by the time I'm done, they might just wish I did."

Mavis could not help shaking her head again as she watched Irene leave the hotel. Shortly afterwards, she left for Mercurius, the Flower Light Palace, to handle Fairy Tail's registration for the Grand Magic Games.

Chapter 747: Raven Tail's Failed Scheme

As always, the atmosphere in Crocus when the Grand Magic Games came around was just like a city-wide festival. And the wizards of Fairy Tail, who just arrived in their airships, were looking forward to enjoying it to the fullest.

For example, the group of Lisanna, Natsu, Happy, and Miyako were out running around and having a great time while Natsu, happy, and Miyako ate everything they could get their hands on. Lisanna, on the other hand, watched her family have fun while making sure that Natsu did not cause too much trouble.

As for Laxus, Saya, and Chico, they were strolling around hand in hand while Fried and Bickslow followed behind them like bodyguards. Meanwhile, Evergreen was off in another part of the city with Elfman doing the same.

Alzack, Gray, Bisca, and Juvia were out on a double date. And while everything looked harmonious, every time they passed a jewelry shop, Juvia would make a point of staring at the engagement rings on display while Alzack and Bisca teased Gray about popping the question.

The rest of the guild was also out having fun. Though, there weren't as many couples activities. Unfortunately, there was a group of people that had no intention of letting some of the guild members enjoy their day in piece.

One such group who was interrupted was Wendy, Carla, and Lee.

While walking around the gardens of Mercurius, enjoying the beautiful blooming flowers, Wendy was sneak attacked by a small, red-skinned creature with leaf-like green hair and wearing a hat.

However, thanks to Lee's quick reflexes, the attack was thwarted. On top of that, the creature was smashed into the ground hard enough to make the entire garden shake.

Naturally, this drew the attention from the knights guarding the palace, with Roy Mustang, having been promoted to general, leading them. And after taking the creature into custody, it was found that the creature was named Obra, a member of a guild called Raven Tail.

Other members of Fairy Tail were also attacked throughout the day. And like Obra, all the attackers were from Raven Tail. Also, like Obra, they were all captured and interrogated. As a result, Raven Tail, who had registered a team to participate in the Grand Magic Games, was disqualified.

"Those useless fools." A tall, middle-aged man with tanned skin, black eyes, black hair with a bald patch on the top, and a strange beard and mustache said angrily after receiving a report from one of his subordinates in the most luxurious suite of a hotel in Crocus. "How did they all managed to get themselves captured and exposed? They were only tasked to distract those weaklings from Fairy Tail so I could convince my son to join me."

The subordinate wizard, feeling the man's anger, remained silent. Because he knew that if he said something to displease the man, Ivan Dreyar, son of Wizard Saint and Magic Councilman, Makarov Dreyar, and the father of S-Class wizard Laxus Dreyar, he would become the outlet for his anger.

Despite being the son and father to Makarov and Laxus respectively, the only identity that Ivan had that mattered to his subordinates was the fact that he was the master of their guild, Raven Tail.

However, anyone who knew their story would find the fact that Raven Tail was somehow able to register in the Grand Magic Games quite strange. Because after Ivan was excommunicated from Fairy Tail and created his guild, Raven Tail, they were classified as a Dark Guild.

"I should have known better than to leave this to those fools." Ivan said after a few moments of thought, which allowed him to calm his anger. "No matter. Even if Raven Tail can't participate in the Grand Magic Games, convincing Laxus to join us is still worth it. To think that my weak son would grow this much after we were separated."

Ivan then started walking towards the suite's door, intending to find Laxus to have a chat.

"But with his power now, he should surely know more about Fairy Tail's secrets." Ivan continued as he reached the door and held his hand out to grasp the doorknob. "With him by my side and the power that Fairy Tail is hiding in my hands, I will become the strongest wizard this world has ever seen."

\*Bang!\*

Yet, before Ivan could open the door to his suite, a loud sound jolted him from his thoughts. At the same time, his eyes widened as he watched a slender, fair-skinned hand punch a hole in the door before wrapping around his throat.

"It's hard to believe that you and that little old man are related by blood." A playful female voice said from the other side of the door. "But from what I heard about Laxus in the past, you two were quite alike at one point. It's a good thing Alfonzo beat all that power hungry nonsense out of him, though. Otherwise, I'm not sure I would have been able to hold back from killing him."

While the female voice spoke, Ivan, initially caught by surprise started clawing at the arm protruding from the door. At the same time, he flared his magic power, increasing his strength tremendously.

Yet, despite the rise in his physical strength, nothing Ivan did was able to budge the arm or hand wrapped around his neck in the slightest.

Meanwhile, the subordinate who came to report to Ivan was completely dumbfounded. Even though he knew that Ivan was far from the strongest wizard on Ishgar, never had he seen his guild master be manhandled in such a way.

"But it would seem your dreams of power have gone to your head." The female voice said as the doorknob turned before the door was gently pushed open, forcing Ivan to move along with it. "It would seem you haven't been keeping up with your son's growth, either."

As the door opened fully, it revealed the figure of a relatively tall woman with braided red hair, Irene, standing on the other side.

Irene then reached around the door with her free hand and used it to grab Ivan's neck before pulling her other arm through the hole in the door.

"Because if you had, you would know that there was no way he would follow someone like you." Irene continued, her playful tone even more prominent. "Because you're just too weak."

Seeing Irene's face and hearing her words made Ivan's eyes widen in anger. He then let go of her arm and dropped his hands to his sides.

"You dare call me weak?" Ivan rasped out. "It seems you have no idea who you're dealing with."

From Ivan's sleeves, a large amount of paper slipped out, fluttering to the floor. On their way down, each sheet of paper rapidly folded itself into a Shikigami, a paper doll, before climbing on top of each other and forming a sphere around Irene.

"[Shikigami Magic: Shikigami Dark bomb]." Ivan chanted with venom in his tone.

Completely unbothered by the predicament she found herself in, Irene's smile never left her face. Instead, she only looked at the inside of the sphere made from the Shikigami with intrigue. At the same time, she did not loosen her grip on Ivan's throat.

\*Boom~~~~~!\*

Then, in a violent explosion of [Darkness Magic], the top floor of the hotel was completely blown away, sending the Raven Tail subordinate wizard flying into the city below.

Ivan was no exception, having also been blown away. However, instead of falling from the top floor of the hotel, he managed to get his feet down on the floor and slid to a stop just before the edge, a partially broken wall stopping his momentum.

"Ahahahahaha!" Ivan laughed after seeing the devastation his spell caused. He then looked back at the smoke cloud at the explosions epicenter and spoke with disdain. "You dare call me weak? Regret your ignorance in your next life."

"Eh... I've seen bigger explosions when Natsu... Ah~! Never mind." Irene said, her voice floating from the smoke. "I doubt you even know who Natsu is. Was he even a member of the guild before you got kicked out?"

\*Click!\* \*Click!\* \*Click!\*

After Irene's words ended, Ivan, completely dumbfounded by how steady Irene's voice sounded could only hear the sound of high heels clicking across the floor.

Realizing he was completely outclassed, Ivan's first thought was to run.

Yet, before he could even move his legs, a suffocating magic power pressure washed over him, causing him to start leaking cold sweat while his legs started to shake violently.

"Who... Who are you?" Ivan asked, his voice shaking just as violently as his legs.

"Oh, didn't your spy tell you about me?" Irene asked while tilting her head in amusement. A moment later, she straightened her neck, and an expression of realization appeared on her face. "Oh, now that I think about it, Gajeel's been feeding you false information from the beginning, hasn't he?"

Hearing that, Ivan's expression turned even uglier than it already was.

"It's really cute that you think you have more charisma than the old pervert." Irene continued after seeing Ivan's expression, her smile widening as she did. "It's truly amazing that you can't garner as much loyalty as someone who treats his guild mates like family when the only thing you use them as is tools. Truly baffling, isn't it?"

"Impossible." Ivan muttered, his spirit visibly leaving his expression.

"Well, as fun as this has been, I think it's time to end this." Irene said, completely ignoring Ivan's expression of disbelief. "I'll take you to the authorities. Hopefully, they won't blame Fairy Tail for this explosion."

While considering how to explain the explosion and the damage it caused to the hotel and the surroundings, Belserion appeared in Irene's right hand.

\*Thud!\*

She then tapped the butt of the staff on the damaged floor. When she did, glowing runes appeared all over Ivan's body.

"[Agony]. [Bind]." Irene chanted activating the [Enchantment] she placed on Ivan.

In the next instant, Ivan's body stiffened before he tipped forward and fell face first to the floor. At the same time, his eyes bulged at the pain that surged through his body as he relived the pain of every injury he had ever suffered in life while his pain sensitivity was raised to five times its normal level.

"Well, that's taken care of." Irene said. "I should get going. If I'm fast enough, I can join the others while they walk around the city and enjoy the festival."

With that, Irene walked over to Ivan's immobile body. Then, she tapped her stave on the floor once again before both she and Ivan vanished, reappearing outside Mercurius, where a number of knights were mobilizing to investigate the explosion Ivan caused.

And just like that, the rest of the day passed, night eventually falling over the city of Crocus.

On a side note, Irene was caught up with questions from the knights, the king, and the Magic Council, Mavis being dragged into it, as well. So, she was not able to catch up with Alfonzo, the kids, and the other ladies while they enjoyed their day.

Even so, Mavis and Irene eventually made it back to the Sixth Sense Hotel before midnight, just in time for the Grand Magic Games Prelims to start. And after Mato announced the rules for this year's Prelims, a race through a maze where the first eight teams to finish would qualify for the Grand Magic Games Main Event, wizards shot into the maze that floated above the city in droves.

When the Prelims started and all the teams rushed into the maze floating over the city, Mavis and Irene were sitting down in the suite booked for Mavis while paying attention to the teams progress with their [Magic Power Detection].

"So, how do you think the rest of the kingdom will take this?" Irene asked with an amused expression as she swirled a glass of wine.

"Well, if everything goes as planned." Mavis replied with a smile. "They'll probably be surprised. But I doubt there will be much of an uproar. We're not breaking any rules."

"That's true." Irene replied before taking a sip of wine. "There will probably be some upset guilds, though. And if everything works out as you planned, one of our allied guilds won't make it in to the main event, either."

"I know." Mavis said with a nod. "Hopefully, they'll be able to get over it. And maybe it will even push them to work harder, increasing the power of all the guilds in Fiore."

"There's always the chance that it will breed resentment, as well." Irene pointed out. "We might end up with a new Phantom Lord by the end of this."

"That won't scare Fairy Tail." Mavis said with conviction. "Even if it does create a new Phantom Lord. The original should stand as an example for anyone who has bad intentions towards our guild."

While Mavis and Irene continued to chat, the Prelims finished smoothly with the top eight teams moving on to the main event later in the morning, with Team Steel Threads, Alfonzo, Elicia, Ur, Marin, and Sun, taking first place.

Chapter 748: So Much Is Different

{"Ladies and gentlemen, we're back once again for the most popular event in the Kingdom of Fiore."} Loli Chapati said excitedly, his voice carrying over the Domus Flau's sound system. {"And like every year, I, Loli Chapati, will be your host. And former Magic Councilman, Yajima will be providing commentary."}

{"Hello, everyone."} Yajima, wearing a chef's hat with the 8-Island logo on the front, said in a calm tone. {"And don't forget, next time you're in Hargeon, please do stop by 8-Island."}

{"Oh, another shameless plug."} Loli said with a chuckle. {"Even so, that won't stop the proceedings. Neither will it stop me from introducing a fan-favorite guest from last year's Games. Now, everyone, please join me in welcoming General Roy Mustang, the commander of the Kingdom's Alchemist Knights!"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

{"Well, hello."} Roy said in a frivolous tone. {"Thanks for having me. And let me extend a special thank you to all the ladies."}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

Once again, the crowd cheered loudly. However, the ratio of men to women cheering was about 2:6. Meanwhile, had the cheers not been so loud, the sound of a certain blonde, major, formerly lieutenant, face-palming would have been audible through the broadcasting equipment.

{"Well then, now that we're done with our introductions, we'll get to introducing the teams participating in this year's Grand Magic Games..."} Loli said with great enthusiasm. Though, he trailed off at the end before his tone turned more subdued as he continued. {"Right after a word from our sponsors."}

Then, with the end of Loli's words, all the Lacrima-Vision screens in the Domus Flau turned to a pre-recorded advertisement for Sorcerer Weekly. Then, it turned to a recruitment ad for the Knights. And finally, an advertisement for Sixth Sense Holdings and all of its services rounded out the commercial break.

"You've turned into one of those evil capitalists." Elicia said playfully while the Sixth Sense Holding advertisement played as she nudged Alfonzo with her shoulder. "I'm so disappointed, Fonzie."

Alfonzo could not help chuckling because of Elicia's little jab. Meanwhile, Ur looked as if she could not believe that she did not think of something so lucrative while she was still the guild master. She then turned a glare in Alfonzo's direction.

"Hey, Kid, why didn't you think of something like this for last year's Grand Magic Games?" Ur asked sternly. "Everyone knows that Fairy Tail is a shareholder of Sixth Sense Holdings. And if you coupled that with the fact that we reclaimed the title of Fiore's strongest, we would have made a killing."

This time, Alfonzo could only smile awkwardly while Ur glared at him and waited for his response. Meanwhile, Elicia, Marin, and Sun looked at him with expectant gazes, looking forward to his answer.

"Honestly, I'd like to take credit for this..." Alfonzo said as he reached up and began scratching the back of his head. "But this wasn't my idea. Master Mavis came up with this while I was out at Sabertooth's guild hall."

'Of course, I didn't think of this shit.' Alfonzo thought to himself with disdain. 'I came from the internet era in my past life. And commercials and ads were fucking everywhere. And I fucking hated them.'

["Exactly."] Bedlam added. ["And now that they showed up in the Grand Magic Games, they're going to start showing up everywhere here, too."]

["We should kick Mavis' ass for introducing such culture."] Riot said angrily.

This time, however, instead of calling him names or outright ignoring him, both Alfonzo and Bedlam only stared at him with deadpans on their faces. Though, Alfonzo's was mental.

["Hey, don't look at me like that."] Riot said, sounding a bit flustered. ["I didn't actually mean it. I mean, she's our benefactor. I wouldn't actually suggest something like that for real. Otherwise, Alfonzo would have been the guild master by now,"]

Meanwhile, when Elicia, Marin, and Sun heard that the commercials were Mavis' idea, they all nodded in understanding. At the same time, Ur looked as though she had just been punched in the gut. She had been the guild master for around five years. Yet, with one advertisement, Mavis had potentially brought in more money for the guild than she had in her whole tenure.

Elsewhere...

In a corner of the arena, a man whose appearance was covered by a cloak sat in the stands of the Domus Flau with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

"Sixth Sense Holdings, what the hell is that?" The cloaked figure said with a male voice in an uncertain tone. "And what the hell are those little magic items everyone spends so much time looking at? I came to the past. So, why don't I remember anything like this?"

Unable to figure out why everything was so different from his memories, the cloaked figure shook his head vigorously. Then, he returned his gaze to the Domus Flau's VIP viewing box where Princess Hisui E. Fiore sat, overlooking the Grand Magic Games.

"It doesn't matter." The figure said. "As long as I can get that foolish princess to assist me, I'll be able to take control of the dragons that come through the Eclipse Gate. Then I'll be able to use them to kill Acnologia and gain the title of Dragon King for myself."

At the same time, a second cloaked figure was watching the advertisements, as well. However, this one, thanks to her figure, was clearly female. And like the first figure, she was also watching the advertisements and the iPhones in everyone's hands with confusion.

"Um... I don't think I ended up in the right place." The female cloaked figure muttered to herself. "I've never heard of this Sixth Sense Holdings before. Nor have I ever seen anything like these iPhones..."

Reaching that point, the female cloaked figure raised a slender hand, revealing that she had procured an iPhone, as well.

"If we had something like this, we wouldn't have been caught so off-guard when Acnologia attacked." The cloaked woman continued in a bitter tone. "And we might not have lost Natsu, Gajeel, Laxus, and Wendy... Or any of the other Dragon Slayers"

The cloaked woman had to fight back the tears that threatened to fall from her eyes when she thought of all the friends she had lost.

"No, now's not the time for that." The cloaked woman said while forcefully shaking away the negative thoughts. "For now, I need to stop the Eclipse Gate from opening."

She then turned her gaze to the Domus Flau's arena with a yearning expression in her eyes.

"And I know just who to ask for help." The cloaked woman said, this time, unable to hold back the tears that had built up.

Unbeknownst to both cloaked figures, however, they had been noticed by the members of a certain, overly destructive, rowdy guild's members. And because of their magic power signatures matching ones they already knew, despite those people also being in the Domus Flau at the moment, there were already a couple of members moving to subdue them.

{"Now! Is everyone ready to meet this year's participating teams?"} Loli asked enthusiastically over the broadcasting system.

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

{"Then, without further ado, give it up for the eighth place team!"} Loli said. {"Last year, they finished in sixth place. But they were the eighth team to make it through the preliminaries this year. Is this a sign of things to come? Or will their Wild! Manly spirits guide them up the leaderboards? We'll just have to find out over the next few days as we watch Quatro Cerberus compete in this year's events."}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

As the crowd cheered for Team Quatro Cerberus, the gates to the arena opened. Through them, Baccus led Guy, Ikkaku, Yumichika, and Genma into the arena.

{"They look quite confident."} Yajima said as he watched the members of Quatro Cerberus enter the arena. {"I get the feeling they'll have something good to show us this year."}

{"Perhaps."} Roy added in a somewhat uninterested tone. {"Their team would be more captivating if they had even one lovely lady on it, though."}

Even though most of those watching the team introductions were not surprised to see Quatro Cerberus in last place, the two cloaked figures were thoroughly dumbfounded.

'Wasn't Fairy Tail supposed to be in last place?' both cloaked figures thought simultaneously.

And that was the moment when both cloaked figures realized that something had gone terribly wrong.

{"Next up is one of the most popular guilds in Fiore."} Loli continued, his enthusiasm undiminished. {"With some of the most handsome guys and beautiful girls in the world of magic. Give it up for our seventh place team, Blue Pegasus."}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

With Loli's introduction, Team Blue Pegasus, led by Ichiya, made their way into the arena. However, there was a small difference from last year's team. Although Karen, Sorano, and Jenny were still on the team, Kai had been replaced by Yukino Agria, Sorano's younger sister.

{"Now this is what I'm talking about."} Roy said excitedly as he sat forward in his seat and peered down at Blue Pegasus' team. {"Such beautiful ladies. It's a shame their all gathered around a man like that, though."}

{"Yes, they really are quite beautiful."} Yajima agreed while nodding his head.

Meanwhile, the members of Blue Pegasus waved to the crowd like they were used to such attention. And with every wave, the cheers grew even louder.

{"In sixth place, despite their worse than average showing in last year's Grand Magic Games, is one of the strongest contenders for the championship."} Loli continued with the team introductions. {"Now, let's welcome Team Iamia Scale!"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

With the loud cheers, Jura led the rest of his team out into the arena. And just like with Blue Pegasus, there were some changes to their team's roster, with Jura and Lyon the only members present from last year's team. The new members consisted of Takashi Kamuro, Rei Miyamoto, and Sherria Blendy, Sherry's younger cousin.

And when Loli saw Sherria, the youngest wizard participating in this year's Grand Magic Games, with her petite figure, innocent expression, and pink hair tied into pigtails, he almost lost his mind, as his hair piece shot right off his head in his excitement.

{"Take it easy, Chapati."} Roy said in a stern tone, not matching the frivolous tone he had been speaking in since the broadcast started. {"I am the commander of the Alchemist Knights. I have the right to take you in if you get too outta hand with your preferences."}

{"\*Sigh\* I knew this would happen one day."} Yajima added in a disappointed tone while shaking his head. {"Well, it was nice working with you. But I think the committee will probably have your replacement ready soon."}

Hearing Yajima's and Roy's words, Loli was jolted back to awareness. He then picked up his hair piece while cold sweat dripped down his face. Then, not even realizing what he was doing, he started wiping his sweat with the hair piece in his hand.

{"Ha... ha... ha...."} Loli's hollow laughter rang out over the broadcast system. {"I was just kidding. It was just a joke, I'm not a criminal. Besides, She's already a proper adult. So, I'm not doing anything wrong."}

{"Oh, I know."} Roy replied, his frivolous tone returning. {"But you've got to admit, that was pretty funny."}

{"It definitely was."} Yajima added. {"Seeing you squirm like that isn't a sight you see every day, after all."}

This time, after hearing Yajima and Roy, Loli could only blink in dumbfounded amazement at being teased. Then he put his hair piece, wet from his sweat back on his head.

Meanwhile, as Yajima and Roy teased their co-host, the two cloaked figures realized that something else was different about the teams that had come out.

"Now that I think about it, the only person from Quatro Cerberus that I recognize is their ace, Bacchus Groh. But I've never seen the other four before." The male cloaked figure said to himself. "I've never seen some of those people on Lamia Scale, either."

"Wasn't Yukino supposed to be on Sabertooth?" The female cloaked figure asked herself from the other side of the Domus Flau. "And that's Karen Lilica, isn't it? But she was killed years ago, wasn't she? And why is Angel on Blue Pegasus? Shouldn't she be in prison right now? Just what in the world is going on?"

Unaware of the internal conflict from the two cloaked figures, Loli, tired of Yajima's and Roy's teasing, huffed. Then, he leaned into his microphone to forcefully change the subject.

{"In fifth place, we have a team that performed very well in last year's Games."} Loli said. {"Coming in in third place on their first showing was more than impressive. But will they capitalize on that momentum? Well, I'm sure we'll find out. Now, everyone, help me in welcoming Team Sabertooth."}

{"They were indeed quite impressive last year."} Yajima said with a nod. {"Even more impressive is how quickly they bounced back after the scandal with their former guild master, Jiemma, that was exposed after the Games last year."}

{"Indeed."} Roy said, his tone turning serious once again. {"Unfortunately, we were unable to bring him to justice. But we have yet to give up our search. And one day, that traitor to the kingdom will be found and punished for his crimes."}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

Meanwhile, Minerva led the rest of Team Sabertooth into the arena. Unfortunately, they were all aware that the cheers they could hear were not for them. Instead, they were for Roy's declaration.

"Well, at least this team is how I remember it." The two cloaked figures said in relieved tones. "But they are a lot lower in rank than I remember, though."

"By the way, Irene." Mavis said from her seat in the Fairy Tail viewing area. {"Who did Sabertooth choose as the guild master? I mean, I expected either Sting or Minerva to become the new guild master."

"Some nameless wizard." Irene replied while smiling amusedly. "I'm sure that won't last for long, though. It was just a loop hole they exploited to be able to participate in this year's Grand Magic Games."

"I see." Mavis replied with a nod. "Then, I guess that means they won't be allowed to participate next year, will they?"

"Probably not." Irene replied. "Anyway, it's time to see how much your little scheme will surprise the crowd, isn't it?"

"Yes, it is." Mavis replied with a smile as she and Irene turned their attention back to the introductions.

{"The team in fourth place is quite a surprise!"} Loli said, drawing Yajima's and Roy's attention, not to mention the rest of the audience. {"Just last year, they were able to reclaim their title as the strongest guild in Fiore. But have they fallen so low in only one year? I guess we'll have to find out. Anyway, let's welcome Fairy Tail."}

In response to Loli's introduction, the crowd fell silent in disbelief. No one who was present for last year's Grand Magic Games could forget the dominant display Fairy Tail put on for the kingdom. However, when they saw the group of five wizards who entered the arena after the announcement, they were even more confused.

Leading the team who just entered the arena was Erza. Behind her were Ultear, Gray, Natsu, and Juvia, all of whom had never participated in the Grand Magic Games before, a fact that confused the crowd even more.

Yet, before anyone could start questioning Fairy Tail's team formation, Loli moved on to the next team, his tone even more confused than before.

{"And in third place is... Um... Oh boy, this is awkward... Um... I mean... It's Fairy Tail... again..."} Loli continued, his uncertain tone making the audience even more confused.

"What~~~~~?" The audience shouted in surprise.

Following that, another team composed of Fairy Tail wizards entered the arena. However, the audience was still dumbfounded. On the upside, they at least recognized two of the five members of the team, though.

Stepping through the arena's entrance, Laxus led Fried, Cana, Mirajane, and Gajeel to gather with the other teams. And when they arrived near the first Fairy Tail team, Gajeel broke away from the group and walked up to Natsu.

"Heh, looks like you lost to us, Salamander." Gajeel said with a grin. "Well, I always knew you weren't as good as me."

"What did you say, Metal Head?" Natsu asked, flames spewing from his mouth in anger. "You wanna fight?"

"Any time." Gajeel said as he leaned forward with a challenging smile on his face.

"\*Sigh\*" Levy, walking through the Domus Flau's corridors, and Lisanna, sitting in the Fairy Tail seating area, sighed in unison when they saw their husband and fiancé acting like they usually do.

{"Well, I must say, the last two teams have been unexpected."} Yajima said while rubbing his chin in the broadcast booth.

{"They sure were."} Roy said, his frivolous tone on full display. {"But what isn't unexpected is just how beautiful the ladies from Fairy Tail are."}

{"I wouldn't say that if I were you."} Yajima said while shaking his head. {"Look, there's already one member of Fairy Tail glaring up at you."}

And just as Yajima said, when Roy looked down to the arena, Gray was glaring up at him while standing in front of Juvia defensively. Meanwhile, Juvia was swooning over how protective Gray was.

{"Anyway, I think we should move on before things get out of hand."} Yajima said with a shrug. {"Loli, if you would?"}

{"Ah, right."} Loli replied as he looked down to the card with the second place team's information on it. {"Next is x789's champions and x790's runners up. You all know them as the Jewel of the Deep. And they're here to try and recapture their former glory. So, let's give it up for Mermaid Heel~~~~~!"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

Happy to hear the name of one of the front running teams they were expecting, the crowd cheered even louder than before. At the same time, Yoruichi led Kagura, Sui-Feng, Anko, and Rangiku out into the arena

{"They are certainly five of the most beautiful women in Fiore."} Roy said in the tone he had maintained for most of the broadcast. {"It's just too bad they aren't members of the knights. \*Sigh\* Such a pity, indeed."}

{"That's an interesting opinion."} Yajima said while shaking his head. {"But now, I'm even more curious to know who came in first during the Preliminaries."}

Yajima then turned his attention to Loli, who was looking at the last card in his hand with a dumbfounded expression on his face... Again.

{"Well then, Loli...?"} Yajima continued in an even tone. {"I'm sure this can't be any more surprising than anything else we've seen today, can it?"}

{"I'm not so sure about that, Yajima."} Loli muttered, his volume barely audible in the arena. Anyway, I'll just get to it. And for a third time, please help me in welcoming a team from Fairy Tail."

Once again, the crowd fell silent.

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

But when they saw the five individuals who stepped into the arena, led by the wizard who made the biggest impression in last year's Grand Magic Games, Alfonzo, followed by three of the four wizards who were on last year's championship team, Elicia, Marin, and Sun, and a wizard new to the Grand Magic Games, but no less well known, the former master of Fairy Tail, , the Ice Witch, Ur, step into the arena, the crowd nearly shook the Domus Flaw apart with how loudly they cheered.

Meanwhile, the two cloaked figures had two totally different thoughts when they saw the three teams from Fairy Tail.

"I can't wait." The male in the cloak said to himself while staring down at the five unfamiliar wizards on the last Fairy Tail team to enter the arena. "I don't' know what they are capable of. And that means they'll be the most unstable element of my plan."

"The me from this time period isn't participating for Fairy Tail?" The female cloaked figure thought to herself. "I don't' get it. Well, I'll just need to ask them about it. I mean, I wanted to talk to them and let them know what was coming, anyway. So, it should be fine... I think"

With those thoughts, both cloaked figures turned around, wanting to put their plans into motion. However, when they did, they both stopped when they each found someone standing behind them.

"Damn it! It's Gildarts." The man in the cloak said in a frustrated tone.

"Good, you know who I am." Gildarts said with a smile. "Then, this should make things easy. Why don't you come with me. Master Mavis would like to have a chat with you."

Gildarts' expression then hardened as he let some of his magic power leak.

"But if you wanna do things the hard way, I'm okay with that, too." Gildarts continued.

\*Smack!\*

"If you do that, you'll end up destroying the Domus Flau." Irene, having just appeared behind Gildarts and slapped him upside the head, completely neglecting his [Crash Magic], said in an exasperated tone. "If he resists, I'll handle it."

"Geez, you didn't have to hit me so hard, Irene." Gildarts said while rubbing the back of his head where he was just slapped. "I was just trying to scare the kid, that's all."

Meanwhile, the cloaked figure could only look on in horror. He recognized Irene, the Scarlet Despair of the Alvarez Empire. But he could not understand what she was doing in Ishgar so early in the timeline. Yet, when he saw her, his thoughts of escape evaporated immediately.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the arena, the female cloaked figure was stunned when she saw who was standing behind her.

"Levy..." The female cloaked figure muttered as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Your magic power signature is exactly the same as the Lulu I know." Levy said with a slightly confused smile on her face. "It's really incredible. And from the way you said my name, I know it's you, Lulu. But what I can't figure out is why there are two of you here."

"I..." The cloaked woman, apparently, Lucy Heartfilia from the future, muttered, not knowing where to start her explanation.

"It's okay." Levy said with a smile as she took a step towards this second Lucy. "I'm sure the master would like to hear your explanation. But I'm sure that can wait until after the day's events are over. For now, come with me. We'll watch the Games together."

As she spoke, Levy held out a hand with a smile on her face. Meanwhile, the tears that had gathered in this Lucy's eyes started to fall. She then cautiously placed her hand in Levy's just in time to hear Loli give the stage to Mato.

## Chapter 749: He Brought That Old Thing Back

{"Hello, hello!"} Mato said as his face appeared on all the Lacrima-Vision screens in the Domus Flau. {"I hope you're ready for another great show of magical prowess from the best wizards our kingdom has to offer!"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

In response, the audience cheered loudly in excitement. For most of the citizens of Fiore, the Grand Magic Games were the highlight of their year. So, no matter what, the answer to Mato's question was a resounding yes.

{"Good!"} Mato shouted back just as excitedly. {"Well then, I won't keep you waiting! The first event of this year's Grand Magic Games is..."}

As Mato drew out his last word, all the screens in the stadium changed, revealing the name of the event.

{"The Hidden."} Mato said in time with the changing screens. {"Now, each team should choose their competitor. Once that's done, I'll tell you all the rules."}

And with that, Mato fell silent. Meanwhile, every wizard in the arena turned to Team Steel Threads to see who they would send into the event.

"Are we seriously doing this again?" Alfonzo groaned exasperatedly as he looked around at everyone who was staring at him. "Can't we just play it like we're supposed to? I mean, you're not supposed to know who the other team is sending up, right?"

"Stop acting like that, Alfonzo." Laxus said while rolling his eyes. "After what you showed last year, everyone here wants to compete with you. That should be no surprise. And you should know that."

In response, all the other wizards, other than Team Steel Threads, nodded their heads, the determination to test themselves against one of the strongest wizards in Ishgar shining in their eyes.

"Oh, don't get it twisted." Alfonzo said, his exasperation giving way to a self-confident smile. "It's not that I don't get it. In fact, if I were in your shoes, I'd probably be doing the same shit."

As he spoke, Alfonzo shrugged his shoulders while letting his gaze land on every member of every team other than his own.

"Hey, Lici, I don't think I've ever seen him smile like that before." Marin said, whispering into Elicia's ear. "But it's kinda hot."

"\*Sigh\* That smile means the old Fonzie is about to come out." Elicia said while shaking her head. "And I thought he was gone."

"What do you mean?" Sun asked while tilting her head in curiosity.

"Well, do you remember when Fonzie lost his arm and Erza... um... slapped me for what I said about it?" Elicia asked, sounding a little embarrassed to bring up such a thing.

In response, Sun tilted her head to the other side while thinking about that day nearly ten years ago. Ur, on the other hand, wore a contemplative expression, as she, too, tried to remember the story she heard back then.

\*Clap!\*

A moment later, Sun clapped her hands as she remembered what happened while Ur raised her head with realization in her expression.

"Back then, you used to always say he was being arrogant." Ur and Sun said in unison.

"Really?" Marin asked curiously. "Arrogant? Fonzie?"

"Yeah, I was wrong back then." Elicia said while covering her face with her hands. "But he really was arrogant at one point. Because of his talent. And that smile..."

"But you have to understand." Alfonzo said having finally making eye contact with all the other wizards. "It's not gonna make a difference. No matter what you do, I'm not gonna lose. So, if you all wanna get spanked that bad, I'll join this first game."

"... means he's gonna say something really arrogant." Elicia continued as Alfonzo's words ended. "Then again, it's not really arrogance since Fonzie can usually back up what he says."

At the same time, with Alfonzo's declaration, some of the more hot-headed wizards in the crowd were ready to rush him immediately. Luckily, their teammates were there to keep them from getting themselves disqualified.

"Nice job painting a target on your back, Kid." Ur said while shaking her head with an amused grin on her face.

"Well, I'm just trying to motivate the competition." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "Honestly, after my breakthrough, there really aren't many people on the continent, let alone the kingdom, that can fuck with me, you know?"

"\*Sigh\* I really wanna call you out on that and say you're getting too big for your britches." Ur said while once again shaking her head. "But I know you're telling the truth. So, I'll just keep my mouth shut."

"Anyway, we'll head up to our seats." Elicia said as she placed her arms on Alfonzo's shoulder before raising up on the tips of her toes and kissing him on the cheek. "There's no reason for us to stay here anymore since our participant has been decided."

Despite saying that, Elicia looked deep into Alfonzo's eyes, the two sharing a silent conversation. Then, they both smiled before breaking eye contact.

As a matter of fact, this outcome was already decided. In other words, Alfonzo and Elicia had discussed what they would do if the games were the same as the ones in the canon version of the x791 Grand Magic Games, Alfonzo would participate in the first game. And if they were different, Elicia would enter.

After breaking eye contact, Elicia started walking towards the stands. Marin and Sun then both gave Alfonzo a kiss for good luck while Ur walked away and waved over her shoulder.

Meanwhile, the stronger members of each team were arguing about who would participate in the game and make Alfonzo eat his arrogant words. The worst among them being the other two teams from Fairy Tail. Though, there were two teams who did not even have to think about who would participate.

The first of those two teams was Lamia Scale, who sent Jura. As one of the Ten Wizard Saints, he was the only choice. And the other team was Quatro Cerberus. However, instead of sending out their ace, Bacchus, they sent out Guy.

'That's about what I expected from Lamia Scale. Jura is the only one on their team who could even think about keeping up with me.' Alfonzo thought to himself as he watched the wizards from Lamia Scale and Quatro Cerberus return to the stands. 'But I wasn't expecting that from Bacchus. It looks like he's gotten better at keeping his head. With him participating in another event, it raises his chances of getting a win. Though, Guy could probably give me a run for my money in my base form if he opened the [Seventh Gate]. But that won't help in an event like this.'

As time passed, the other teams were also able to choose their participants. However, it was obvious that not everyone was okay with the choices. Most notably, Natsu and Gajeel, who really wanted to fight Alfonzo after his declaration.

As for those who would be participating, it would be Alfonzo from Fairy Tail Team A, Yoruichi from Mermaid Heel, Laxus from Fairy Tail Team B, Erza from Fairy Tail team C, Rufus from Sabertooth, Jura from Lamia Scale, Ichiya from Blue Pegasus, and Guy from Quatro Cerberus.

{"Well, it looks like you've all made your decisions."} Mato said excitedly, his voice once again ringing around the Domus Flau. {"Then, let's not keep these people waiting. Here are the rules for the event!"}

At the same time, a list of rules for the event showed up on all the lacrima-Vision screens while Mato spoke them aloud.

{"The event will take place in a magically created town."} Mato continued, beginning his explanation. {"Each participant will start in a random location in the town. The objective is to land attacks on the other wizards. And for each attack landed, the attacking wizard will receive one point while the attacked wizard will lose one point. The player with the most points after thirty minutes will be the winner."}

Hearing that, seven of the eight contestants started eyeing up the rest of the competition, forming battle plans in their heads. Of course, Alfonzo was the exception. Instead of sizing up his opponents, he stood with his arms crossed and his head raised proudly, making most of the competitors annoyed by his arrogance.

Though, there were two people, the only female participants in this event, Erza and Yoruichi, who were looking at Alfonzo with stars in their eyes.

'When he shows such confidence, he really is attractive.' Erza thought to herself while sneaking the occasional glance at her husband. 'And that was one of the reasons I fell in love with him in the first place.'

'Damn it... Seeing him every year is not making things easy for me.' Yoruichi thought to herself. 'I really need to find a way to get those women of his, especially Cana, to forgive me. Otherwise, I'm going to end up driving myself insane.'

While everyone was lost in their thoughts or creating plans for the event, they were pulled back to the here and now when Mato spoke once again.

{"But there's a catch!"} Mato exclaimed loudly. He then lowered his volume back to normal as he continued. {"And that catch is that there will be numerous magical clones of all you roaming the town, as well. And guess what!"}

A frown appeared on most of the contestants' faces when they heard that. And the reason was simple. They all felt like they knew where this was going."

{"If you accidentally attack one of the clones, then you'll lose a point."} Mato said, making all the contestants, other than the three from Fairy Tail, groan. {"So, you better be careful~~~~~."}

"Great..." Yoruichi said with a pout. "It's almost like this event was made for you Fairy Tail wizards."

"Indeed." Guy added with a smile. "But I know that your guild is far too youthful to fix the games like that."

"What the hell does being youthful have anything to do with it?" Laxus asked, genuinely confused by Guy's statement.

Instead of replying, Guy only raised a thumb in Laxus' direction while smiling so brightly that his teeth sparkled.

"Miss Yoruichi is right, though." Jura said in a peaceful tone. "That ability you have to track magic power signatures will definitely be useful in an event like this."

"It matters not!" Ichiya said, his usual dramatic flare on full display as he held up his hands. "For as long as we give it our all and leave no regrets, we can be proud of our showings in today's event, no matter the outcome."

\*Smack!\* x 2

"For the last time, please don't try to touch my wife, you little gremlin." Alfonzo said as he appeared next to Erza in a burst of speed and slapped the hand Ichiya was using to reach for her hand.

"Seriously, don't touch me either." Yoruichi added as she slapped Ichiya's other hand away. "And you call yourself a gentleman. But you're always trying to touch a lady without receiving their permission."

While he was used to having his hands slapped away, Ichiya never really took it to heart. However, when he heard what Yoruichi said, his whole body stiffened. Then, his eyes widened in realization.

"You're right." Ichiya said in a despondent tone as he fell to his hands and knees. "How could I have not noticed such a thing? To think I've been acting in such an uncouth manner. How disgraceful... Men..."

Seeing Ichiya's reaction, everyone stared at him dumbfoundedly for a few moments. Even Mato, who was ready to continue onto the beginning of the event stayed silent, not knowing what to do.

A moment later, however, Guy was the first to move. After forging a friendship with Ichiya during last year's Grand Magic Games, he hurried over to check on his friend.

Meanwhile, Erza, after finally hearing something that might keep Ichiya away from her, turned to Yoruichi with stars shining in her eyes, and immense gratitude in her expression. She then rushed forward to Yoruichi and grabbed her hands.

"I must thank you!" Erza said with heartfelt emotion in her tone. "For so many years, Ichiya has harassed me with his notion of gentlemanliness. And no matter how many times I reject him, or Alfonzo intervenes, nothing has stopped him from trying again. But now, I can finally see hope. Hope of the harassment ending. Thank you! Thank you so much, Yoruichi."

Overwhelmed by Erza's enthusiasm, Yoruichi did not know what to say at first. Yet, when she saw the relieved tears that were welling up in the swordswoman's eyes, she smiled gently.

'Well, it wasn't my intention when I said it.' Yoruichi thought to herself. 'But this might be the first step to gaining their forgiveness.'

\*Clang!\*

So overcome with emotion, Erza, while Yoruichi was lost in her thoughts, pulled the Mermaid Heel ace into a hug. Unfortunately for Yoruichi, that meant her head was slammed into Erza's chest plate, leaving her completely dazed.

Meanwhile, all the Fairy Tail wizards in the arena, even Cana and the Lucy from the future, all felt some level of pity for Yoruichi, since most of them had experienced something similar in the past.

#### Chapter 750: The Hidden

While the eight teams were selecting their participants for "the Hidden," Gildarts, Levy, Irene, the future Lucy, and the cloaked man arrived at the Fairy Tail seating area. The three Fairy Tail wizards who went to investigate the strange magic power signatures then gave Mavis reports on the situation.

Meanwhile, the future Lucy and the cloaked man, upon seeing Mavis, who had been resurrected for a short time before losing her life again in their timeline were shocked into silence. Especially since that short resurrection did not happen in their timeline.

"So, you're from the future, huh?" Mavis asked rhetorically while looking the future Lucy up and down. "But you look about the same age as our Lucy. So, how could that be possible?"

Hearing what Mavis had to say, the future Lucy's eyes widened. Then, she frantically looked around the seating area, trying to find her counterpart from this time period. And when she finally found her, she was completely dumbfounded, still trying to process everything she was seeing.

"How is this possible?" Lucy asked in an astonished tone. "You should have completely stopped aging when you were sealed in the---"

Before the future Lucy could finish speaking, Mavis gently placed her hand over the time travelling wizard's mouth.

"That's a guild secret." Mavis sad quietly. "Instead, why don't you answer my question. We can talk about anything else when we have more privacy, okay?"

Hearing that, the Future Lucy realized that she was about to reveal a guild secret. She then lowered her head with guilt flashing in her eyes. Then, after a moment, she nodded in agreement with Mavis' suggestion.

Seeing the future Lucy's reaction, Mavis smiled. Then, she removed her hand from her mouth before continuing.

"Now, let me ask my question again." Mavis said in a gentle tone.

"No... That won't be necessary." The future Lucy replied while shaking her head. "As for being from the future, yes, I am. I came back from x798, seven years in the future. As for why I look the same age as this Lucy, I'm not sure."

"How old are you?" Irene asked curious to solve the mystery behind this.

"Technically, I'm thirty-one." The future Lucy replied, though it was clear she was not completely comfortable answering a question about her age. Especially because that question was coming from Irene Belserion, one of Fairy Tail's enemies in the history she knew. "But physically, I'm only twenty-four."

"Interesting." Irene replied. "Very interesting."

Mavis, on the other hand, fell into thought. She then remembered a conversation she had with Alfonzo almost seven years ago, back when she was questioning him about [Fairy Sphere] and how he managed to stop it after Acnologia's attack on Tenrou Island.

When her thoughts reached that point, Mavis' head shot up and her eyes widened. Then, she focused her eyes on the future Lucy.

'It's because of [Fairy Sphere], isn't it?' Mavis asked herself, though it was clear that she knew she was right. 'She must have been trapped in time. Alfonzo thought that they would have been trapped for about seven years, too. If his magic item had not worked as intended back then.'

Though it was clear to everyone that Mavis had realized something, no one asked her about it because of the presence of the cloaked figure.

"Huh?" the future Lucy intoned in utter confusion, not understanding why Mavis was looking at her the way she was.

However, just as her mind finally worked through the situation, and she was ready to say something, Mato's voice rang out over the Domus Flau, beginning to explain the rules for "the Hidden."

Naturally, that cut off the future Lucy's response. She then exchanged glances with Mavis before both blonde women nodded and turned their attention to the arena.

Not long after that, Mato finished his explanation of the rules and the whole arena area was engulfed in a blinding light. And when the light dimmed, the arena was filled with a magically projected town with thousands of people walking around casually.

Though, if one were to look closely, those thousands of people were actually the same eight people. Meanwhile, the lacrima-Vision screens were all focused on the eight contestants.

"You know, a game like this kinda feels unfair to the other guilds." Macao said with a grin on his face.

"Yeah." Wakaba replied while nodding in agreement. "That [Magic Power Detection] Alfonzo came up with seems like it would make this event much easier than the organizers ever thought it would be, doesn't it?"

"And from what I remember, he created that spell when he was only nine, right?" Reedus asked.

"That's right." Wakaba said before taking a puff from his pipe. "In fact, it was when he went on his first quest outside the town. I was the one who guided him back then. Though, even back then, it seemed like he already knew what he was doing."

"Oh, yes." Reedus replied in a nostalgic tone. "That day, I went with Lici on her first quest, too. She made me run around after her the whole time. \*Sigh\* How time flies."

Overhearing the conversation between Macao, Wakaba, and Reedus, both the future Lucy and the cloaked man wore expressions of confusion. In their present, neither of them had heard of Alfonzo or Elicia. And while the cloaked man was restrained and unable to speak at the moment, thanks to Irene's [Enchantments], Lucy turned to Mavis once again, unable to endure her curiosity any longer.

"By the way, Master Mavis..." The future Lucy said in an uncertain tone. "Who is this Alfonzo? Actually, now that I think about it, there are a lot of people here that I don't recognize."

Immediately, every Fairy Tail wizard in the seating area stopped their conversations and turned to look at the future Lucy in shock and disbelief.

Meanwhile, the future Lucy, feeling the weight of everyone's stares, shrank in on herself, realizing she said something she probably should not have.

Mavis, on the other hand, fell into contemplation once again.

"It seems things are more complicated than I expected." Mavis muttered to herself after a moment of consideration. "Well, we can talk about this later. For now, the event should be starting soon. So, let's just focus on what's going on right now, okay?"

Though she really wanted to know the answer to her question, the future Lucy eventually nodded her head. She then, like the rest of the wizards of Fairy Tail, turned to the arena just in time to here Mato start the event.

As soon as the game started, while Ichiya, Jura, Yoruichi, and Guy started to move cautiously, not wanting to lose points by attacking one of the clones, the other four wizards began to move more boldly.

For one, Rufus quickly moved to a high vantage point. He then took his [Memory-Make] posture.

As for the three Fairy Tail wizards, Alfonzo, Laxus, and Erza, they all blurred into motion, [Magic Power Detection] active and able to detect the difference between the clones and the wizards.

"[Requip: Heaven's Wheel Armor]." Erza chanted as she donned a new set of armor.

Erza then floated up into the sky, thirteen swords floating along with her. She then fired all the swords in different directions, sending one each at Ichiya, Jura, Yoruichi, Guy, and Rufus. AS for the other eight swords, she sent four each to attack Alfonzo and Laxus.

"[Memory-Make: A Night of Falling]--- Argh!" Rufus began to chant before a flash of violet light smashed into him, causing him to be teleported away from wherehe previously stood.

\*Clank!\*

A moment later, a sword impaled the rooftop where he stood only a moment ago.

At the same time, in a different part of the town, Yoruichi vanished from where she stood just a moment before a flash of golden light passed by.

"Tch! You're still as fast as ever." The flash of golden light, Laxus, said as he looked up to where Yoruichi was perched on the wall surrounding a house.

"And you're still too slow." Yoruichi replied in a teasing tone.

Gritting his teeth, Laxus turned away. Then, he began to crackle with arcs of golden lightning once again.

"I don't have time to deal with you right now." Laxus said with his back turned to Yoruichi. "But we will fight again. And I won't lose to you again, no matter how many of your team mates you bring with you."

\*Zap!\*

Then, before giving Yoruichi a chance to reply, Laxus shot into the sky like a lightning bolt's return stroke.

"Something tells me that I'll really have to take him seriously if I don't want that to be true." Yoruichi muttered as she started to move, trying to find a real person among this sea of clones.

"Men~~~~~!" Ichiya's shrill cry echoed over the town, causing Yoruichi to turn in its direction just in time to see a sword rise into the air.

Yoruichi then turned her attention towards the redheaded swordswoman in the sky with a smile on her face.

"Well, it looks like I found my first target." Yoruichi said with a cat-like grin on her face. "Don't take this personally. Okay, Erza?"

With that, Yoruichi vanished from where she stood with the [Flash Step]. She then reappeared behind Erza with her leg lashing at her shoulder.

\*Clang!\*

Erza, on the other hand, before Yoruichi even arrived behind her, [Requipped] a sword into each hand. She then raised her sword, blocking Yoruichi's kick with ease.

"Tch!" Yoruichi clicked her tongue. "I guess that's how Laxus felt when I dodged him so easily."

"You'll have to be faster than that to ambush me, Yoruichi." Erza said in a serious tone, all the while, using her flying swords to pursue the other contestants.

"She even said I was too slow." Yoruichi groaned as she kicked off the flat of Erza's blade. "Karma came back around way too fast."

"Even if Karma is fast." Alfonzo, appearing in a flash of violet light, said with a smile on his face. "I'm faster."

\*Smack!\* \*Smack!\*

As he became visible to the two ladies, Alfonzo's open hands were already too close for them to avoid. An instant later, his left hand landed on Yoruichi's shoulder while his right landed on Erza's lower back, just above her butt, causing both ladies to vanish from the arena until they were respawned.

On a side note, if Erza's butt had not been wrapped in that armored skirt, Alfonzo would have definitely slapped it, instead.

"That's three points for me." Alfonzo said with a grin.

"It's about to be two!" Laxus said as he appeared behind Alfonzo with his fist reeled back.

"Nah, I'm good." Alfonzo replied, casually turning his body in mid-air to avoid Laxus' attack.

"[Iron Rock Fist]." Jura's chant sounded from another part of the town.

At the same time, a large stone fist covered in a stone gauntlet grew from the ground and flew towards the two Fairy Tail wizards.

"Hmph!" Laxus snorted as he pulled back to evade Jura's attack. "I'll let you off for now."

"You say that like you haven't gotten your ass kicked every time we fight." Alfonzo said in a teasing tone as he moved to avoid the giant rock fist, as well.

"Hmph!" Laxus snorted once again.

\*Zap!\*

Laxus then flashed away to find another target. And since Jura had made such a ruckus, he figured Jura would make the perfect target.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo also disappeared in a flash of light. A moment later, he was standing behind Guy, who had just opened the [Gate of View] and readied himself to start running around the town to find someone.

"That's not a bad strategy, Guy." Alfonzo said with his right hand raised. "Just don't overdo it. I know how much strain that technique puts on your body."

\*Clap!\*

As soon as his words ended, Alfonzo lowered his hand, clapping Guy's left shoulder. Guy, on the other hand, froze when he heard Alfonzo's voice. Then, when he felt the impact on his shoulder, he only had enough time to turn his head and see that it was Alfonzo before he vanished.

"Wow, I didn't even get to hear anything about Youth before he disappeared." Alfonzo said with a chuckle.

Meanwhile, at the base of the rock construct Jura created, Laxus was flashing around, trying to land a strike on Jura, who had raised a few [Iron Rock Walls] to defend himself. Unfortunately, there was not much more that he could do, as using any of his more destructive techniques would cause him to lose a lot of points due to collateral damage.

However, to Jura's surprise, Laxus eventually stopped attacking and the sound of crackling lightning faded into the distance.

"He left?" Jura asked himself as he lowered his defenses while looking into the distance where a bolt of golden lightning fell from the sky.

"Yeah, he really wants to win" Alfonzo replied from right behind Jura.

"\*Sigh\*" Jura could only sigh because he knew what was coming next.

\*Smack!\*

Then, with a smile on his face, Alfonzo slapped Jura on his bald head before causing the Lamia Scale ace to vanish.

Meanwhile, as soon as he respawned, Rufus saw a fist wreathed in golden lighting enlarging in his vision.

\*Bang!\*

He then vanished once again after feeling an impact to his left jaw. At the same time, Ichiya also respawned. However, not long after respawning, he vanished once again, this time because of a flash of violet light.

And just like that, the eight wizards continued to attack and defend while trying to find the real versions of the other contestants. However, with [Magic Power Detection], Alfonzo, Laxus, and Erza absolutely dominated this event. And by the time the thirty-minute timer ended, the scores looked like this.

{The Hidden Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 100 Pts. Fairy Tail C 81 Pts. Fairy Tail B 80 Pts. Mermaid Heel 37 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 24 Pts.  
Lamia Scale 21 Pts. Sabertooth 21 Pts. Blue Pegasus 18 Pts.}

In fact, if the Fairy Tail wizards had not stopped attacking when there were only five minutes left in the event, the scores for the other five teams would have been nowhere near as high as they were. Even so, it was clear to see just how big of an advantage [Magic Power Detection] was in an event like this one.