

Fairy Tail 751

Chapter 751: A Close Race at the End of the First Day

{"Although I can't say that the outcome to the game was unexpected, the process was..."}

Loli said in a slightly awkward tone.

{"Yes, it was more one-sided than expected."}

Yajima added, picking up where Loli left off.

{"Yes, it was almost as if the wizards from Fairy Tail could tell the real wizards from the clones."}

Roy added.

{"Actually, they probably could."}

Yajima said, his tone making it clear that he had just remembered something. {"A long time ago, Maki, I mean former Fairy Tail guild master, Makarov Dreyar, told me about a skill that Alfonzo Marcus developed when he was a child. I think that was how they did it."}

Hearing that, both Loli and Roy leaned forward with interest. Though, the expression on Roy's face was much more intense.

{"That sounds quite interesting."}

Roy said, his playful tone completely absent. {"Why don't you tell me more, Yajima."}

{"You know I can't do that, General."}

Yajima replied, his perpetually squinted eyes widening slightly as he did so. {"That's a Fairy Tail guild secret, and it's not my business to tell."}

Exactly the opposite of Yajima, Roy narrowed his eyes until he was squinting when he heard that.

'Looks like I need to find some time to have a conversation with Master Mavis.' Roy thought to himself while glancing towards the Fairy Tail seating area. 'I doubt she would be willing to give it up, though. A spell like that would be an advantage for any wizard, let alone an entire guild.'

{ "Well, now that today's event is over with, why don't we take a look at the overall scoreboard before we move onto the day's Battle Round?" } Loli asked, pulling Roy out of his thoughts.

With that, the Lacrima-Vision screens were replaced with the scoreboard.

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 10 Pts. Fairy Tail C 8 Pts. Fairy Tail B 6 Pts. Mermaid Heel 4 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 3 Pts. Lamia Scale 2 Pts. Sabertooth 2 Pts. Blue Pegasus 0 Pts. }

{ "It would appear that all three teams from Fairy Tail have come prepared." } Yajima said while looking over the scoreboard. { "And that doesn't look like a good thing for the other teams." }

{ "You're right, Yajima." } Roy added. { "Especially for Blue Pegasus, who is consistently one of the strongest teams participating in the Grand Magic Games." }

{"That's true."} Yajima said with a nod. {"But I wouldn't count them out yet. Blue Pegasus is a guild filled with powerful wizards. And just because they got off to a slow start doesn't mean they will stay that way."}

{"Well, I think there's only one way to see if things will change or stay the same!"} Loli shouted excitedly with palpable enthusiasm in his tone. {"I just got the list of today's battles. So, without further ado, let's see who will be facing who!"}

{"Was the rhyming really necessary?"} Yajima asked in an exasperated tone.

{"Seriously."} Roy added, sounding just as exasperated.

Ignoring the two commentators, Loli quickly opened the envelope he had been handed only a moment before. Then, his eyes lit up when he read the first two names on the card.

{"The first match will be between two swordswomen who put on quite the show in last year's Games."} Loli said, his enthusiasm completely undiminished. {"Now, let's welcome Sun Seto of Fairy Tail Team A and Kagura Mikazuchi of Mermaid Heel into the arena!"}

Cheer~~~~~!

Hearing the two names Loli just announced, the crowd went wild. Everyone who watched the Grand Magic Games last year still had an impression of the magic and swordsmanship the two put on in last year's final event, the Grand Magic Game, and they were all looking forward to more.

Meanwhile, Sun stood up before pecking Alfonzo on the cheek. Then, she leapt from the seating area into the arena. At the same time, Kagura stood up among her teammates and without hesitation joined her rival in the arena.

Clang!!

As soon as the match started, both Sun and Kagura rushed forward without a word. A moment later, the blade of Sun's Shirasaya, Kanade, met with the sheath of Kagura's longsword, Archenemy. The force of the impact so powerful that a shockwave was sent in all directions, causing the ladies' hair to flutter while dust was kicked up and sent in all directions, creating a haze all over the arena.

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

Cheer~~~~~!

Though the floating dust obscured most of the audience's view of the arena, the sound of clashing weapons kept their attention focused firmly. And as time went by, the speed Sun and Kagura were moving at slowly cleared the dust as the air flow their movements created pushed it away.

Meanwhile, as the battle raged on, Mavis finally turned her attention away from the arena. When she did, she looked at the two guests Gildarts, Levy, and Irene brought back during the Hidden event. And

when she saw the future Lucy standing between Levy and the Lucy she already knew, to say she was intrigued would be an understatement.

However, because she knew she would be able to speak with the future Lucy later, when everyone returned to the hotel after the day's events ended, she turned her attention to the other individual who clearly did not belong in this timeline.

"Although I already know who you are based on the feel of your magic power, would you mind introducing yourself?" Mavis asked in her usual tone.

Yet, the cloak man who Mavis spoke to did not even acknowledge her existence. Instead, he watched the battle going on in the arena with shock and awe.

'At this point in time, no one in Fairy Tail or any of the other guilds should be this strong other than Gildarts.' The cloaked man said to himself. 'Just what in the world is going on here? All of these overpowered wizards... All the unfamiliar faces... Where did I actually end up? I mean, I know this is Fiore on the continent of Ishgar, but nothing seems like what I know.'

Thud!

The sound of a solid impact on the Domus Flau's stands pulled the cloaked man out of his thoughts with a jump. He then turned in the directions of the sound, only to see Irene glaring at him with her stave in hand.

"Pay attention, Boy." Irene said in a cold tone with a sadistic smile on her face. "Or perhaps, you need to be trained to listen when someone is speaking to you."

Irene punctuated her question by licking her lips in an unsettling manner. Though, Alfonzo would have probably found it quite attractive, even if he would have had to show her who ran things in the bedroom later.

Shrinking back slightly, the cloaked man quickly looked away from Irene before making eye contact with Mavis, whose eyes were much more welcoming than Irene's.

"It looks like I need to repeat that." Mavis said with a smile. "Although I know who..."

As mavis repeated herself, the cloaked man could not help looking at her skeptically. Sure, it was possible to identify someone by their magic power if someone was familiar enough with them. But he doubted that she had spent enough time with his younger counterpart in this world to actually be able to do that. They were from different guilds, after all.

Not to mention, according to the timeline he knew, his former guild and Fairy Tail should only be encountering each other for the second time this year. And their first meeting should not have left them on friendly terms.

"Based on the fluctuations of your magic power, it would seem you don't believe I know your identity, Rogue Cheney." Mavis said, her tone never changing. "Well, although there is a slight difference from the Rogue I know, I'm confident that I'm not wrong. I am curious to know why it seems like Sting Eucliffe's magic power has been integrated with your own, though."

Hearing that, the cloaked man, or rather, Future Rogue, widened his eyes, which could not be seen due to the shadow cast by the cloak's hood, and his mouth dropped open. That one statement completely

shattered his hypothesis about Mavis not being able to know his magic power signature based on unfamiliarity.

"So, that's who this kid was." Gildarts, who was unable to use [Magic Power Detection] thanks to the properties of his [Crash Magic], said in an enlightened tone.

"So, now that we've established your identity, would you mind telling us why you've come back to our time?" Mavis asked with a bright smile. "Oh, and I think you should keep this in mind before you refuse."

Mavis then flicked a glance in Irene's direction before she continued.

"Should you insist on refusing, I'll just let Irene ask you all the questions I want answers to." Mavis said as she turned her gaze back to the future Rogue. "And based on the way you shuddered earlier, I'm sure you know that she won't be nearly as kind when she asks."

That subtle threat of torture made the future Rogue look at Mavis as if she were some kind of smiling demon. He then glanced at Irene, whose eyes were practically screaming: "Please refuse, nothing would make me happier." Then, with fear evident in his eyes, he turned back to Mavis, raised his hands, and removed his cloak.

"Fine, I'll tell you everything you want to know." Future Rogue said as he revealed his face for everyone to see.

When he did, Future Rogue revealed a familiar, yet unfamiliar, appearance. While the right side of his face was still obscured by his long bangs, the eye behind them was missing, replaced by a long, jagged scar. As for the left side of his face, it was relatively unchanged. Though, there was a curved tattoo

around his visible left eye. On top of that, his hair was much longer, tied into a high ponytail that reached the middle of his back. Plus, his hair was no longer completely black, the left side now a shade of platinum blond.

On top of that, Future Rogue's facial features were also older, as he came from seven years in the future. But that should have been obvious.

"So, what are your questions." Future Rogue said in a reluctant, yet resigned, tone.

Meanwhile, despite the serious conversation taking place in the Fairy Tail seating area, the battle in the arena continued, its intensity rising with every second that passed. Yet, despite both Sun and Kagura releasing the seals on their weapons, neither woman could claim victory before the thirty minutes allotted for the battle passed, resulting in the first battle of the day ending in a draw.

{"What an amazing match!"} Loli shouted excitedly.

{"Indeed."} Yajima replied with a nod. {"It's clear to see how much both contestants have improved since last year."}

{"Especially Sun Seto."} Roy added. {"In last year's Games, Kagura was the victor. But this time, their battle ended in a draw. I'm curious to see just how far these two will grow in the future. Especially since they are both relatively young."}

{"Yes, the future for Fiore is certainly looking bright, isn't it?"} Loli asked with a smile. {"Now, I think it's time to move on to the next match. Ultear Milkovich of Fairy Tail Team C and Lyon Vastia of Lamia Scale, please make your way into the arena."}

{"Now, this should be an interesting matchup."} Roy said while looking down at the notes on the contestants. {"Both of these two were trained by the Ice Witch, Ur Milkovich."}

{"They aren't the only ones, either."} Yajima added. {"Gray Fullbuster of Fairy Tail Team C was also trained by the Ice Witch."}

{"It would seem that Ur is quite the trainer of wizards."} Roy said while leaning forward slightly. {"If only the military had a wizard of her caliber to train its ice wizards."}

{"Any organization would be happy to have someone as talented as Ur when it comes to training young wizards."} Yajima added.

While the three commentators continued to talk about how good Ur must be as a trainer, and Ur was sitting with the rest of her team while puffing out her chest in pride, Ultear and Lyon both hopped down into the arena. Though, their expressions were vastly different from the others.

"Lyon, you'd better give this everything you have." Ultear said as she stepped into a comfortable speaking range. "Mom gave Gray and I strict instructions to test you thoroughly if either of us were to face you during the Grand Magic Games."

"Didn't the two of you test me enough when I was training with you after last year's Games?" Lyon asked, sounding a bit apprehensive.

"Well, we have to make sure you haven't been slacking off since you left, right?" Ultear said with a bright smile. Though, there was a hint of something else in her eyes that Lyon could not readily identify.

'No, wait!' Lyon thought to himself. 'That's how she looked just before she beat me up during training. Is that the only thing she's looking forward to? Just beating me up? Does checking my progress even matter to her?'

To be blunt, the answer to Lyon's unasked question was a resounding no.

"Fine." Lyon said after realizing the situation he was in. He then made his casting gesture as he continued. "I'll show you everything I've got."

Almost as soon as Lyon's words ended, the battle began. And for the next fifteen minutes, Lyon and Ultear showed the audience something they had only seen once before.

Such a brutal one-sided beating on the same level as Alfonzo's fight against Orga in the first battle of the first day's battle round in last year's Grand Magic Games. The only difference between this one and the one from last year was how long Ultear continued to tortu--- *Cough* fight Lyon.

After the end of Lyon and Ultear's match, the next match was announced between Cana Alberona of Fairy Tail Team B and Bacchus Groh of Quatro Cerberus. And just like the match between Sun and Kagura, this one also ended in a draw. Because while Bacchus held the advantage in close quarters combat, Cana never let him get close enough to land a finishing blow. Bacchus, on the other hand, managed to defend himself against all of Cana's [Card Magic] with the use of his [Palm Magic] and his fighting style, the Water Stream Rock Smashing Fist.

Though, everyone noticed Laxus shouting at Cana while she started drinking from a bottle of liquor when she returned to the stands, making it seem like Cana had not gone all-out when fighting Bacchus, which was true. Because had Cana released Hoyle, she would have been able to easily defeat Bacchus. However, Cana did not want to show off her trump card so early in the Games, so she did not take things that far on the first day.

As for the last match, it was between Yukino Agria of Blue Pegasus and Minerva Orland of Sabertooth. And unfortunately, Yukino, though a skilled mage who used [Celestial Spirit Magic], and had two Golden Celestial Keys, Libra and Pisces, she was no match for Minerva and her [Territory Magic], resulting in a victory for Sabertooth.

As a result, the overall scoreboard looked like this at the end of the first day of the x791 Grand magic Games.

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail C 18 Pts. Fairy Tail A 15 Pts. Sabertooth 12 Pts. Fairy Tail B 11 Pts. Mermaid Heel 9 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 8 Pts. Lamia Scale 2 Pts. Blue Pegasus 0 Pts.}

Chapter 752: Parallel World Theory

Time passed quickly after the events of the first day of the Grand magic Games ended. While most people left the stadium to enjoy the festival-like atmosphere surrounding Crocus, the members of Fairy Tail quickly returned to the Sixth Sense Hotel. However, they were not alone, as they also brought the members of Team Sabertooth along with them.

On top of that, the two visitors from the future came along to the hotel as well. Though, in the future Rogue's case, he did not have much of a choice, as he was dragged along while forced to wear anti-magic bracelets and anklets.

Upon reaching the hotel, the group, or rather those intelligent enough to understand what was going on, were invited to gather in the hotel's meeting room. Though, it should be noted that Alfonzo was not present, as he was out with his children enjoying the city.

"Do you really believe they're from the future?" Minerva asked while staring at the future versions of Lucy and Rogue. She then pointed towards Future Rogue as she continued. "I mean, I can kind of see it with him. He looks several years older than the Rogue we know. But her...?"

As she trailed off, Minerva shifted her attention to the future Lucy, who was standing next to her counterpart from the present. And to anyone who saw them, they would look like a pair of twins. Though one of them, the Lucy from the future, looked like she had been through a lot more than the other.

"As hard as it is to believe, I believe they are telling the truth." Mavis replied.

"But can't this be just some kind of extravagant [Transformation Magic] spell?" Rufus asked curiously, not intending to dismiss Mavis' claim outright.

"We actually considered that, too." Irene said calmly. "But as it turns out, one of our S-Class wizards happens to be a master of [Transformation Magic]. So, why don't we ask her?"

With that, all eyes turned to Marin, who was pulled into this conversation for this exact reason.

"Yeah... Um... So, like when I use [Transformation Magic], I can take on any appearance I want, within reason." Marin said, cycling through the appearances of a few of the women in the room to emphasize her point. "But no matter what I look like, my magic power still feels like my magic power."

"I see." Minerva replied, understanding Marin's explanation.

"In my memory, I recall several of the contestants in today's event mentioning that Fairy Tail wizards can distinguish an individual's magic power from another's. Then, that must be the reason why you are so sure they are who they say they are."

"Exactly." Mavis replied cheerfully while nodding her head enthusiastically, her ahoge bouncing along with her head movements. However, she then turned to the future Rogue with a somewhat uncertain expression on her face. "But this one is a little different. Although his magic power is similar to Rogue Cheney's from your guild, it is also different."

"Like it has been mixed with the magic power of another." Irene added, finishing Mavis' statement.

"And by any chance, do you know whose magic power that is?" Minerva asked, though she had an idea when she looked at the lighter-colored half of his hair.

"Sting Eucliffe, if we had to guess." Irene replied casually. "Though, we don't know how that is possible."

Bang!

"Impossible!" Rogue, who had been silent until now, shouted while slamming his palms on the table with great force. "Ow~~~!"

However, thanks to the force he put into the hands that slammed the table, Rogue cried out in pain. Meanwhile, the table that he struck did not even seem damaged in the slightest. At the same time, both Minerva, Rufus, Future Lucy, and Future Rogue looked on in confusion, constantly shifting their gazes from Rogue, who was shaking his hands and the table.

"Rogue, are you okay?" Frosch asked in a gentle, caring, tone from where he was sitting on top of the table.

"Just what is this table made of?" Rufus asked while repeatedly poking the table with his finger. "It seems to be a type of wood. But there is no wood that durable in my memory."

"Oh, it's something Fonzie reinforced with his sigils." Elicia said cheerfully. "He knew that there would be business meetings held in this room. And well, it would cost a lot to change the table every time a negotiation got too heated, and someone destroyed the table by accident."

Elicia's statement caused everyone who was not part of Fairy Tail to look at her in surprise. At the same time, it made perfect sense to them. Although they did not know that Alfonzo was the true owner of Sixth Sense Holdings, as he had managed to keep that secret even until now, it was no secret that Fairy Tail was a shareholder. So, asking Alfonzo to reinforce a table that would probably be destroyed repeatedly was not that far outside the realm of possibility.

What really surprised them was...

"Wait!" Minerva said sharply with an incredulous expression on her face. "Are you saying that this table is a magic item?"

"Yup, pretty much." Elicia replied with a happy nod. "Fonzie is the best, isn't he?"

Minerva, Rufus, Future Lucy, and Future Rogue all stared at Elicia as if she had grown a second head. Rogue, on the other hand, was still trying to soothe the pain in his hands while Frosch was fussing over his best friend.

"Okay, that's enough about the furniture." Mavis said with a smile. Though, her tone seemed a little more smug than usual, but everyone wrote that off as a figment of their imagination as they paid attention to the next words that would come out of her mouth. "Instead, I think we need to decide what to do with Rogue's future counterpart."

"You should probably tell us why he came back to the past, too." Minerva added.

"Yes, I believe that would be prudent." Mavis replied with a nod. "Well, from what we were able to gather, in their future, Acnologia has almost wiped out everyone on Ishgar."

That one statement caused everyone who did not already know to stare at mavis with their eyes wide open.

"And the reason this Rogue came back was to gain control of an army of dragons to fight Acnologia in the future." Mavis continued, unbothered by the shock in her listener's eyes. "But it was not to just stop him. Instead, he wanted to take Acnologia's place and become the new Dragon King."

Immediately, the shock in everyone's eyes turned to wariness when they looked at Future Rogue.

"As bad as that sounds, I think there is a silver lining, though." Future Lucy said, her timid voice causing all the eyes in the room to turn to her instead.

"Before that, why have you come back to our time?" Minerva asked curiously after tearing her eyes away from the future Rogue.

"That actually ties into that silver lining I was talking about." Future Lucy replied, her tone making her seem a bit unsure of her own following words. "Well, you see, this time is nothing like what I lived through seven years ago. I mean, everyone in the guild is much stronger than they were in my memories. On top of that, there are a lot of people I don't even recognize from my time."

As she spoke her last sentence, Future Lucy looked around, her gaze lingering on Elicia, Marin, Sun, the Elric Brothers, the group from Takanosu City, and the Seto Family longer than the rest.

"Hmm... That's interesting." Mavis said while rubbing her chin "To think you would not recognize some of our most notable members. Most of them are people who joined the guild even before the you of this time joined."

"Yeah." Elicia replied with a nod. "Which means, this isn't just a time travel thing."

"What do you mean?" Future Lucy asked in a dumbfounded tone.

Future Lucy was not the only one confused by Elicia's statement, as they all turned to look at her with confusion.

"Ever heard of parallel world theory?" Elicia asked with a smile as she let her gaze roam over everyone in the room.

"You mean like Edolas?" the Lucy of this time asked curiously. "I mean, that's a parallel world to ours, right?"

"Yes and no." Elicia replied while waving her hand in a so-so gesture. "It's kinda like that but it's... Argh! Fonzie is so much better at explaining things like this."

"Is he better at it, Lici?" Cana asked after taking a sip from a wine glass. "Or are you just too lazy to explain properly?"

"Yes!" Elicia replied loudly.

Elicia's response drew chuckles from everyone in the room. Even so, after a moment, Elicia continued with her explanation. And despite her clear unwillingness to get so long winded, her explanation painted a basic picture for everyone when it came to parallel world theory.

"Wow... To think that every choice ever made and every choice that was ever not made throughout history can have such a profound impact on the world we live in." Future Lucy said in a tone filled with awe. "But still, that doesn't explain how we..." She trailed off while gesturing to herself and Future Rogue "... traveled from one parallel world to another."

"Unfortunately, I don't have an answer for that." Elicia replied with a shrug. "The only reason I understand parallel world theory at all is because it's impossible to stop Fonzie once he gets into teacher mode."

In response, all of the members of Fairy Tail nodded their heads with wry smiles on their faces.

"Yeah, and he gets even more intense if he notices you spacing out during his explanation." Marin added with a faraway look in her eyes.

Once again, everyone who had experienced Alfonzo's passion for imparting knowledge nodded in agreement.

"I think his scientific theories are quite interesting, though." Alphonse said with a smile.

"That doesn't change the fact that he's still really long winded sometimes." Edward said, though it was clear that he also found scientific conversations with Alfonzo entertaining.

"Stop pretending like you don't like it." Winry said with a giggle. She then reached out with one of her hands and pinched Edward's cheek as she continued. "Besides, the look on your face when the two of you get into a heated debate is really cute."

"Knock it off, Winry..." Edward muttered with a slight flush while sweeping Winry's hand away.

Edward's reaction brought a round of laughter to everyone present.

"Anyway, let's get back on topic." Mavis said after the laughter died down. "Now that we know what's going on, as Fairy Tail, we can't let it happen. Even if it's not our world that's going through it."

"But how can you stop it?" Future Lucy asked, her smile disappearing, replaced by a solemn expression. She then gestured to Future Rogue once again before continuing. "I mean, we know that his trip to the past is one of the reasons why our world fell to ruin in the future. But we don't even know how to get back to our own parallel world at this point."

"We can just leave that to Fonzie." Elicia said nonchalantly. "I mean, in our world, he has a stable way to get to Edolas. So, I'm sure he would be able to tweak it a little bit to end up in your worldline, or whatever you wanna call it."

Most of those present nodded in agreement with Elicia's confidence in Alfonzo. One of the exceptions, however, let out a peel of harsh laughter while smiling disdainfully at everyone else.

"And what exactly do you find so funny?" Irene asked, her sadistic smile replaced by one that was far too gentle for the current situation. "Please, tell me. I'm looking forward to a good laugh, too."

Hearing Irene's serene tone and seeing her gentle smile made Future Rogue, the one who was laughing, shudder. For some reason, one that he could not explain, Irene's current expression was more terrifying than anything he had seen in all his life.

"Well?" Irene asked, leaning forward and making eye contact with Rogue, who could not seem to look away. "Are you going to tell us?"

Click!

A few moments of tense silence passed after Irene asked her question. All the while, she held eye contact with Future Rogue. And with every second that passed, more and more cold sweat dripped down Future Rogue's forehead and back. Though, he was not the only one intimidated by Irene's seemingly non-threatening attitude, as many of those who had seen Irene when she's angry or annoyed also started to shudder with repressed fear.

However, just before Future Rogue's fear led him to piss himself, the tense atmosphere was broken when the door to the meeting room was opened. When everyone looked towards the door, they all caught sight of Alfonzo carrying the three children, who were asleep in his arms, as he entered the room.

"Hmm... Feels like I missed something important." Alfonzo muttered as he entered the room and surveyed the expressions on everyone's faces. "Anyway, I just wanted to let you all know that I'm back. I'll put these three to bed. Then, I'll come back, and you can get me caught up on what's going on. Sound good?"

Chapter 753: Is He Really a Legal Guild Wizard?

"That's... not what I was expecting to hear." Alfonzo said while sitting in the Sixth Sense Hotel's meeting room with Mavis, Irene, and all the others interested in the two visitors from the future after hearing the entire story about the time travelers.

And Alfonzo was not putting on an act, either. Knowing the story of the canon Fairy Tail world, he knew there would be something like this. Though, for both Future Lucy and Future Rogue to not recognize him meant something was completely different than what he was expecting.

"I know." Mavis replied while nodding her head, her usual smile replaced by a solemn expression. "Lici mentioned something about a parallel world. A concept you explained to her in the past."

"Yeah, I remember that conversation." Alfonzo replied with a nod of his own.

'If I hadn't been to other worlds, I would have thought the same.' Alfonzo thought to himself, his head lowered in thought. 'But after all the world hopping shenanigans, I'm thinking this is more multiverse theory than simple parallel worlds.'

Alfonzo then glanced discreetly in Elicia's direction. And when she caught this glance, she nodded almost imperceptibly.

'Looks like she was thinking the same thing.' Alfonzo thought. 'But since there are so many people that aren't in on that little secret in the room, she probably kept that shit to herself.'

Alfonzo then turned his attention back to Future Lucy and Future Rogue.

'So, these two are from the canon timeline.' Alfonzo muttered internally. 'And they need to get back there to make sure their world has a happy ending, huh? *Sigh* This shit is gonna be a pain in the ass. I'm not gonna get any sleep at all, am I? I'll have to come up with a way to send them back to their own timeline, make sure they show up at the right time to have things play out the way they're supposed to, and I should probably go with them to make sure that Ultear doesn't have to sacrifice her youth, too. *Sigh* And that means I'll have to come up with a way to get back, too.'

While Alfonzo was lost in thought, the others remained silent. Everyone knew just how bad it would be to interrupt his train of thought during such a crucial time.

Naturally, the few people in the meeting room who were not familiar with Alfonzo's capabilities started to get nervous when they saw him fall into thought with such a pensive expression on his face.

"Hey, will he really be able to do it?" Future Lucy asked quietly while leaning over towards the Lucy from this timeline and Levy.

"I've never seen anything that Alfonzo wanted to do that didn't become reality." Levy replied. "And I've known him for a long time. More than fifteen years, I think."

"I haven't known him that long yet." Lucy added, a smile spreading across her face. "But I trust my husband."

"Huh?" Future Lucy exclaimed, drawing nearly everyone in the room's attention onto herself. "Did you say... he's your h-h-husband?"

Future Lucy then flicked her gaze over to Elicia, who waved at her with a cheerful smile on her face.

"But... I thought he was married to Elicia.

"He is." Lucy replied with a nod. She then started counting on her fingers as she continued. "And Cana, and Sun, Erza, Ultear, Mira, Marin, Shizuka, and me. He'll probably marry Saeko, Rika, and Irene sometime in the future, too."

Lucy then glanced at Brandish, who was sitting with a bored expression on her face.

"Her, too." Lucy said, discreetly pointing at Brandish with a smile. "But she needs to get over her shyness and tell him how she feels, first. Even if it's obvious to everyone in the guild already."

"Wha..." was the only thing that Future Lucy could say in response.

To Future Lucy's surprise, no one seemed to react to her dumbfounded utterance. Though, Brandish, who glanced in their direction and saw Lucy pointing at her, frowned while simultaneously blushing, as she could figure out exactly what her friend was talking about just by looking at the grin spreading across her face.

Knock!

However, before Brandish could say anything, Alfonzo came out of his thoughts, knocking on the table as he raised his head.

"This is gonna be a real pain in the ass." Alfonzo said in a slightly irritated tone. "But I'll take care of getting the two of them back to where they belong. *Sigh* Why couldn't this happen after the damn Grand Magic Games. Now, I'm not gonna get any fucking sleep all fucking week long."

"Do you really have to rush through everything?" Mavis asked curiously.

"I wish I didn't." Alfonzo replied as he placed his right hand over his face. He then continued while dragging his hand downwards, his voice slightly muffled by his hand. "But the longer I wait, the harder it will be to calculate the time flow. On top of that, I'm not even sure what the time difference between our worlds is. So, I'll have to study the dimensional frequency of our guests and compare it to our own."

"Study?" Future Lucy asked, her expression hardening as she did so. "Does that mean you'll have to use us as test subjects?"

"Unfortunately." Alfonzo replied while removing his hand from his face. He then turned to look at Future Rogue with an almost malicious grin on his face. "It's a good thing we've got a bad guy here for me to experiment on. I won't feel any pity if he loses a limb, or two, during the experiments."

Hearing that, Future Rogue's expression hardened, a hint of hatred shining in his eye. Meanwhile, Future Lucy looked completely aghast at the way Alfonzo said what he did. Add the unsettling grin on his face, and she found it hard to see him as a Legal Guild wizard.

"But for now, I wanna get some sleep." Alfonzo said, his expression softening considerably. "I competed today, kicked a bunch of ass, and took the Amar'e, Bianca, and Calvin out to have fun. I'm tired."

"Hmph!" Laxus only snorted as he turned around and started moving towards the room's exit.

Shortly after Laxus, most of the other wizards in the room also got up and started to leave, as well. Meanwhile, Irene slapped some [Enchantments] on Future Rogue, making it so that he could not leave the hotel without experiencing excruciating pain. At the same time, Levy and Lucy led Future Lucy out of the room, towards the reception desk, to book a room for her.

That left only Alfonzo, Elicia, and Mavis in the meeting room, with Elicia taking a seat on Alfonzo's lap now that the serious atmosphere was mostly gone.

"So, how long do you think it will take you to make everything you need?" Mavis asked.

"If nothing comes up, I'll probably be done before the banquet held by the king." Alfonzo replied as he reached up and started combing his fingers through Elicia's hair. "I'll just have to pull a whole bunch of all-nighters to make sure that happens."

"Don't push yourself." Mavis said, her sternness as a guild master mixing with concern for one of the members of her guild.

"Don't worry, I won't." Alfonzo replied while waving dismissively. "I can survive off a few hours of sleep for a week, or so."

"Besides, even if you tell him that, he's gonna do it anyway." Elicia said with a giggle.

Smack!

"Mmm~!"

In response to Elicia's playful jab, Alfonzo slapped her on the butt. However, Elicia's reaction, a moan of pleasure, caught both Alfonzo and Mavis off guard. Well, more Mavis than Alfonzo.

While Alfonzo only rolled his eyes, Mavis' face reddened immediately.

"Anyway, I'm gonna head up to my room to get some sleep." Alfonzo said as he stood up, Elicia clinging onto him like a koala. "I'll start working tomorrow during the events."

"Ah! [Archive Magic] really is convenient." Mavis replied with a smile. "Well then, I'll see you tomorrow. Have a good night."

"See ya." Alfonzo replied with a wave as he turned towards the doors.

"Night Night~!" Elicia added in a sing-song tone while also waving at Mavis.

Mavis only smiled in response with a small wave of her own. Then, once the door was closed behind Alfonzo and Elicia, she slipped into thought.

"Time travel, huh?" Mavis muttered to herself. "Just how many wrongs could I change if I traveled back in time?"

After voicing that thought, Mavis shook her head to rid herself of those thoughts.

"No, I need to be happy with what I have now." Mavis said. "If I were to change things carelessly, all of this... could disappear."

Though, she could not help thinking about the man she fell in love with, in the past, nearly a hundred years ago, for a few seconds before shaking her head once again.

After that, Mavis also stood up, left the meeting room, and headed to her own room, as well.

July 2, x791.

{"Good morning, everyone!"} Loli said over the Domus Flau's broadcast system. {"We're back for another exciting day of the Grand Magic Games. And as always, I'm here with Yajima doing the commentary."}

{ "It's good to be here." } Yajima said in his usual calm, collected tone. { "I'm really looking forward to what the best wizards the continent has to offer will show us today." }

{ "As am I, Yajima. As am I." } Loli said with a smile. { "Well then, since we don't have a special guest for today... Mostly because we were afraid... Afraid she might say something strange... Like she did last year... let's send it over to Mato." }

Although he did not say any names, Darkness, who was patrolling the stands with her two squadmates, shuddered, blushed, and started breathing erratically after Loli's comment. Meanwhile, the two knights, who have been part of Darkness' squad for years, acted as if nothing happened. Then, when Darkness got her wits together again, they continued their patrol as planned.

{ "Thanks, Loli!" } Mato's excited voice rang out all around the Domus Flau as his face showed up on all the Lacrima-Vision screens. { "Well then, I think you all know the drill by now. I'll tell you the name of today's event. Then, I'll explain the rules after each team has chosen a contestant." }

Cheer~~~~~!

{ "Good, it looks like we're all on the same page." } Mato continued. { "Well then, the name of today's event is... Chariot!" }

With Mato's declaration, all the screens changed to show the name of the event, "Chariot." Meanwhile, all eight teams started discussing who would participate in the event. Well... most of the teams, anyway.

"I'm taking this one!" Natsu shouted from Fairy Tail Team C's seating area before he jumped into the arena without waiting for input from anyone else.

"Is that really, okay?" Gray asked, exasperated by Natsu's impatience.

"It's not like it matters." Ultear replied while shaking her head gently. "We don't know what kind of game it will be until after everyone is chosen, anyway."

"Besides, Natsu is strong." Erza added in her usual tone. "There isn't much that he won't be able to handle."

"Even so, I have a bad feeling about this." Gray muttered.

"Sounds like you're just jealous that he got the jump on you, Gray." Ultear said in a teasing tone.

Gray only shook his head in response before turning his attention to the other teams to see who they would send up for today's event.

"Juvia thinks Gray would have been the best choice for the game." Juvia said with a sweet smile on her face as she cuddled up to Gray.

Once again, Gray did not respond. Though, he did snake his arm around Juvia's waist and pull her closer, making her squeal in ecstasy.

Meanwhile, Gajeel, after seeing Natsu jump down into the arena, also jumped into the arena, leaving the rest of his team sighing in exasperation. Everyone except Cana, that is, who was too busy drinking to care. Especially since now that Gajeel had volunteered for the event and she was in yesterday's battle, she had no responsibilities for the day.

After Gajeel, it did not take long for the rest of the teams to choose their participants. And those participants were, Ur from Fairy Tail Team A, Rangiku from Mermaid Heel, Sting from Sabertooth, Rei from Lamia Scale, Sorano from Blue Pegasus, and Bacchus from Quatro Cerberus.

Finally, when all eight participants were gathered in the center of the arena, Mato's image reappeared on the Lacrima-Vision screens.

{ "It looks like the players for today's event have been chosen." } Mato said enthusiastically. { "Then, let's get into the explanation of today's event." }

With that, all the lacrima-Visions screens once again changed. Now, instead of Mato's face, there was a view of a large number of interconnected, covered chariots running a circuit from the Domus Flau to the outskirts of Crocus.

{ "Now, if you'll look here." } Mato said, a small image of himself appearing on the screen next to the interconnected chariots with a pointer in one hand. { "As you can see, we've set up a track for all of you to race on. And yes, the tops of these moving chariots are that track." }

Immediately, the faces of Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting paled. Because as Dragon Slayers, they were at a severe disadvantage in a game like this one.

"See, I told you so." Gray muttered from his team's seating area.

{"You will all move to the starting line, which is at the edge of the city."} Mato said while pointing his pointer at one end of the large circuit. He then continued while pointing the pointer at another spot on the circuit. {"And the first contestant to reach the Domus Flau will be the winner. Also, the use of magic to increase your speed or hinder other contestants is allowed. However, you are not allowed to use your magic on other contestants directly. Oh, and one last thing, falling from the chariots to the ground means instant disqualification. So, be~~~ careful~~~!"}

While most of the contestants were starting to form strategies, Ur, who knew exactly why Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting had paled so rapidly, looked at the three younger wizards with a gaze filled with schadenfreude. Then, she started walking towards the arena's exit to make her way towards the starting line.

Chapter 754: The She-Devil's Overwhelming Power

"Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting aren't gonna have a good time in this event, are they~?" Elicia asked in a sing-song tone.

"Not at all." Marin said with a giggle. "I mean, having such bad motion sickness is gonna make this game torture."

"I kinda feel bad for them." Sun added, watching the three Dragon Slayers through the Lacrima-Vision screens with pity as the eight contestants made their way towards the outskirts of the city along the circuit of chariots.

"You should really feel bad for everyone other than Ur. Alfonzo said while using his [Archive magic] to work on the schematics for the magic tool he would use to travel to the Future Lucy's and Future Rogue's timeline. "I mean, she kinda outclasses everyone in this event... In every category."

"Yeah, I kinda wish she had used that line Ever did back in the first Miss Fairy Tail pageant." Elicia said with a smile. "I can remember it now. As soon as she walked into the locker room, she asked who was coming in second, as if first place was meant for her."

"Ooh! Sun exclaimed excitedly as she clapped happily. "I remember that, too."

"Yeah, me, too." Marin added with a smile. "And that made it all the more hilarious when she lost and got dragged away by Ur when she got mouthy at the end."

After saying all that, Elicia, Marin, and Sun could not help giggling at the memory. Even Alfonzo, who was not there for the line in the locker room cracked a smile at the memory of Evergreen being dragged away in the dark after calling Ur a violent old hag, or something to that effect.

"By the way, how are you planning to make a magic item that can get the two from the future back to where they belong, Fonzie?" Marin asked curiously.

"You just had to ask, didn't you?" Elicia asked as she face-palmed at Marin's inquiry.

"Huh?" Marin intoned with confusion written all over her face.

"Well, I plan on starting with the Anima as a base." Alfonzo replied casually while continuing to work. "But just that won't be enough. Currently, those are set to move only from Earth Land, our Earth Land, to Edolas. So, to fix that, I'll be..."

And like that, Alfonzo went on for the remainder of the time it took the contestants to reach the starting line for the Chariot event. Along the way, he even stopped to make sure that Marin was paying attention whenever he felt her going into a daze.

Meanwhile, Elicia looked at Marin with an expression that practically screamed: "You did this to yourself." Sun, on the other hand, was trying to follow along with Alfonzo's explanation. However, as time went by, her eyes started to spin in their sockets while steam started to escape from the top of her head and her ears.

Luckily, it did not take too long for Ur and the others to reach the starting line. And when they did, Elicia, Marin, and Sun had the perfect excuse to make Alfonzo stop his long-winded explanation.

{"It looks like the players have reached the starting line!"} Loli shouted, his enthusiasm causing Alfonzo to stop his explanation as he looked towards the Lacrima-Vision screens. {"Is everyone ready for another exciting event?"}

"Okay, the game is about to start, Fonzie." Elicia said, shushing Alfonzo by putting a finger over his lips. {"let us concentrate on what's going on. We don't wanna miss anything."}

"Fine~." Alfonzo said, his tone making it clear that he was annoyed that his explanation was interrupted.

The three ladies immediately sighed in relief when they heard that. Then, they all focused on the Lacrima-Vision screens with high intensity.

{"The three Dragon Slayers, Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting aren't looking so good."} Loli said after noticing the states that the three were in. {"Will they be okay?"}

{"Who knows."} Yajima replied with a shrug. {"Unfortunately, since they chose to enter this event, if they give up now, they will be disqualified."}

On a side note, Yajima's statement about not knowing what was wrong with Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting was true. Because despite being an old friend of Makarov's, Makarov never thought it was necessary to tell him the weaknesses of the members of his guild. So, the secret about Dragon Slayers having terrible motion sickness after they reached a certain level of strength was never disclosed to him.

{"Well, we'll just have to see how things play out, I guess."} Loli said, his enthusiasm coming back with a vengeance. {"Well then, since everyone looks like they're ready, I'll count us down to the starting signal. In fact, everyone counted down with me!"}

"Three!"

"Two!"

"One!"

"Go~~~~~!"

Bang!

At the same time the count down, which nearly the entire audience participated in ended, a loud explosion sounded, marking the beginning of the race.

"[Ice-Make: Floor]." Ur chanted, slamming her hands into the ground in time with the signal.

Immediately, the entire roof of the chariot where everyone started the race was covered in ice, causing Sorano, Bacchus, Rei, and Rangiku to all slip, nearly falling face first, just as they started running.

Undoubtedly, Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting would have faced a similar fate if they weren't so nauseated due to their motion sickness that they could barely move. Instead, they simply fell to their knees, trying not to vomit.

Meanwhile, Ur channeled her magic power through her body before kicking off from the ice as if friction was not an issue to her. Then, before anyone knew it, she was four chariots away from the starting line.

"Well, I'll see you all at the finish line!" Ur shouted over her shoulders. "I hope you kids don't keep me waiting too long."

Seeing just how far away Ur had gotten in such a short amount of time, Sorano, Bacchus, Rei, and Rangiku were all momentarily stunned. However, it did not take them long to regain their wits and start chasing after her.

Bacchus was the first to regain his senses. He then coated his palms in his [Palm Magic] before slamming them down on the ice and shooting himself forward, shattering the ice underneath him and rocking the chariot as he did so.

Next, Sorano summoned her [Hammer Angel]. And when it appeared, she grabbed onto its waist as it slammed its hammer down, using a strategy similar to Bacchus as it flung itself and Sorano forward.

After that, Rangiku dug her Zanpakuto into the ice before using it to throw herself forward to the next chariot. Then, she activated the [Flash Step] with all her might to try and catch up.

Finally, Rei jabbed her spear into the ice while channeling her magic power into its tip. And with that, she vaulted forward, using the magic power in the spear tip as a propulsive force to send herself forward. And every time she landed, she repeated the process, picking up speed with every vault.

Meanwhile, Natsu, Gajeel, and Sting were even worse shape than before, the shaking chariot intensifying their motion sickness.

About three minutes after the race started, Ur was the first to reach the finish line. However, it took nearly fifteen more minutes for the next contestant, Sorano, to arrive. And the reason for that was simple, along the way, Ur coated more than a few of the chariots in a sheen of black ice that no one, other than her, noticed on the first pass.

As a result, most of the contestants spent most of their time, after the second time they slipped, Bacchus almost falling off of the chariot, trying to determine whether or not each chariot was slippery.

"You think you over did it a little?" Sorano asked, her hair a mess after all the times she slipped and fell.

"Hmm? Did I?" Ur asked with a smile on her face. "Who knows?"

Sorano could only huff in annoyance at Ur's dismissal.

About a minute later, Bacchus, followed by Rangiku then Rei, reached the finish line, all of whom gave Ur, who was smiling triumphantly, the stink eye while covered in bruises from falling, ice burns and scrapes from sliding across the ice and chariots, and disheveled hair and clothes from everything above.

It took another fifteen minutes before Sting, Gajeel, and Natsu finished the race in that order and the Chariot event came to an end.

{"Alright, folks!"} Loli shouted excitedly. {"That's the end of the day's event. And with that, let's take a look at the scoreboard!"}

With that, all the Lacrima-Vision screens in the Domus Flau switched to show the overall scoreboard.

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 25 Pts. Fairy Tail C 18 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 16 Pts. Sabertooth 14 Pts. Mermaid Heel 13 Pts.
Fairy Tail Rank B 12 Pts. Blue Pegasus 10 Pts. Lamia Scale 5 Pts.}

{"This game really shook up the rankings, didn't it?" Loli said after reading the scoreboard aloud. {"But seeing the scores so close really makes this whole thing more exciting, doesn't it, Yajima?"}

{"Yes. Yes, it does."} Yajima replied while nodding his head. {"It makes the upcoming Battle Round even more exciting than usual, doesn't it?"}

{"Undoubtedly!"} Loli replied energetically. {"And as it just so happens, I just received the envelope with today's matchups. So, why don't we get right into it?"}

Cheer~~~~~!

{"It looks like the crowd is up for it."} Yajima said with a smile evident in his tone.

{"Well then, I don't want to keep anyone waiting."} Loli said as he tore open the envelope. He then looked down at the names for the first match. And when he did, his eyes lit up. {"It looks like all the men in the audience are going to be in for quite the show!"}

"It doesn't take a genius to know who's up this time, does it?" Alfonzo muttered while shaking his head.

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

Marin was also curious to know what Alfonzo meant. Meanwhile, Elicia smiled knowingly.

"It looks like the rest of the guild is starting to rub off on the two of you." Ur said as she returned to her seat. "Like the kid said, it's pretty obvious that the next match will be between---"

{"Mirajane Strauss of Fairy Tail Team B and Jenny Realight of Blue Pegasus, please make your way to the arena~~~~~!"} Loli shouted with lots of energy, his hair piece popping off in his excitement.

"Yup, that's what I thought." Alfonzo and Ur said in unison.

"Oh~~~~~." Marin and Sun chorused in realization a moment later.

Meanwhile, both Mirajane and Jenny, looking as beautiful as ever, hopped into the arena and started walking towards its center. All along the way, they both waved their hands while smiling brightly at all their cheering fans.

On a side note, Karen was glaring at both of the younger wizards who took her places as the first and second most popular models in Fiore.

However, when Mirajane saw Jenny wink and blow a kiss in Alfonzo's direction, her beautiful smile gained a dangerous hint to it. Though, no one other than the wizards of Fairy Tail, not even Jenny, seemed to notice.

"That girl never learns her lesson, does she?" Irene asked in a playful tone.

"Come on, Big Sis!" Elfman shouted, cheering at the top of his lungs. "Take the win like a real man!"

"Neither does he." Mavis added with a smile of her own on her face.

At the same time, a tick mark appeared on Mirajane's temple, meaning that things would not be very pleasant for Jenny during this fight. Nor would Elfman have a good time after they returned to the hotel.

"Go~~~~~, Mommy!" Bianca cheered loudly. "You can do it~~~~~!"

Yet, when Mirajane heard Bianca cheering for her, nearly all of the dangerous aura that was flowing around her vanished. Even so, she planned to make Jenny realize why it was such a bad idea to try flirting with her man in front of her.

As for Elfman, well, Mirajane decided not to beat him up right away when they got back to the hotel. She did not want to embarrass him in front of his niece, after all.

{"Are the contestants ready?"} Loli's excited voice rang out throughout the Domus Flau. He then continued after receiving nods from both Mirajane and Jenny. {"Then, without further ado, fight~~~~~!"}

"[Take Over Magic: Machina Soul: Bodysuit]." Jenny chanted as she was engulfed in the light of her [Take Over Magic].

A moment later, Jenny reappeared in her maroon [Bodysuit] with the magic power sword affixed to her right arm, the gatling gun on her left, and the vulcan cannons on her shoulders. However, when she could see what was in front of her, her eyes widened in surprise.

"I'll end this quickly." Mirajane said, her right hand reaching to grip Jenny by the face.

Jenny was not the only one surprised to see Mirajane standing in front of her. The entire crowd, with the exception of the Fairy Tail wizards, were also surprised. Especially at how quickly Mirajane covered the distance between her and her opponent.

In the moment it took for Jenny's [Take Over] to complete, Mirajane vanished from her spot, a little over thirty feet away from Jenny, and reappeared within an arm's length from the blonde model donning her [Sitri Soul Take Over].

Then, before Jenny could react, Mirajane grabbed her by her face and pushed forward.

Bang!

In the next instant, the back of Jenny's head was slammed into the ground, a cloud of dust shooting up into the air from the impact. Meanwhile, all the spectators could do was stare with their eyes wide open.

"Yeah~~~~~! That's how a real man does it!" Elfman shouted as he jumped excitedly in the stands.

"Mommy~~~~~!" Bianca cheered loudly, her childish voice ringing out clearly, overshadowing Elfman's cry in the nearly silent stadium.

"That ended quickly." Alfonzo muttered, a hint of pity in his gaze as he looked down at the dust cloud in the arena. "I kinda feel bad for her."

"Why, do you like her?" Marin asked curiously. "If you do, I'm sure you could get her to switch guilds with all that charm you have."

As she spoke, Marin nudged Alfonzo with her elbow a few times.

"No, that's not it." Alfonzo replied while smiling wryly. "I won't lie and say that Jenny isn't hot as hell. But that's not why I feel bad for her."

"Then why?" Sun asked just as curiously.

"It's because Mira wouldn't have dealt with her so harshly if not for..." Elicia replied, trailing off as she looked in Elfman's direction.

Immediately, Marin and Sun understood what Alfonzo meant as they, too, turned to look at Elfman, who, at some point, had pulled a banner with Mirajane's face on it and the words, "A Real Man," printed next to it out of nowhere and swung it around energetically.

"Unfortunately, that Blue Pegasus girl just became Mira's outlet." Ur said, a hint of sympathy in her tone. "It was just bad luck, really."

While this conversation was happening, the dust cloud slowly dispersed. And when it did, everyone in the arena could see Mirajane standing over Jenny, who lay in a shallow crater with her eyes rolled back in her head and her outfit reverted back to her normal clothes. Meanwhile, Mirajane, though she was smiling brightly, was staring at Elfman with a sharp gaze.

"Elfman's gonna be in trouble, isn't he?" Sun asked as she pressed her palms together in prayer.

Chapter 755: Fights, Fun, and Girl Talk

{"And the winner of the first match of today's Battle Round is Mirajane Strauss of Fairy Tail Team B..."}

Lola said, his mind not quite catching up to what he just saw.

Lola was not the only one having trouble keeping up with what just happened, either. The entire crowd was also dumbfounded by how quickly the match ended, as well. Even so, after hearing Lola's announcement, they broke into loud, raucous cheers.

As for Mirajane, she only smiled at the crowd and waved a hand gracefully while dispelling her [Take Over]. Then, she took another look at Jenny before turning around and returning to her team's seating

area. Along the way, she glanced at Elfman, causing him to freeze in place, the banner he was swinging around drooping after seeing the promise of pain in the future in Mirajane's eyes.

Not long later, several female members of the Grand Magic Games staff entered the arena and picked up Jenny before taking her to the infirmary, which snapped Lola back to his senses.

{"Although a short, one-sided match, that was amazing!"} Lola cheered excitedly. {"This is the first time we've gotten to see the She-Devil, Mirajane Strauss in action at the Grand Magic Games. And I must say, she's as powerful as she is beautiful."}

{"Indeed."} Yajima replied with a nod. {"She had quite the reputation in the past, becoming an S-Class wizard at the age of sixteen. But we haven't heard too much from her ever since then. But now, ten years later, it's easy to see that she has not slacked in her training."}

{"Yes, it is, Yajima."} Lola replied. {"Though most people only know her for her work as a model in Sorcerer Weekly, as well as being the reigning Miss Fiore, I think they'll start to get to know her as a powerful wizard, as well, from this day forward. Anyway, let's move onto the next match. Anko Mitarashi of Mermaid Heel, Genma Shiranui of Quatro Cerberus, please make your way into the arena."}

Following Lola's instructions, Anko and Genma wasted no time jumping into the arena. And to everyone's surprise, the two were quite evenly matched in terms of strength, speed, and durability. However, what ended up making the difference, leading to Anko's victory, was the versatility in her spells and techniques, as Anko employed a high mastery of [Fire Magic] and [Snake Summoning] spells that gave her the edge in the end.

The third match of the day was between Marin and Sherria. And despite the age difference, the match was much closer than anyone expected. Though, Marin did come out on top. However, Sherria's [Sky God Slayer Magic], with its versatility gave Marin more trouble than she expected. Because like Wendy,

who used [Sky Dragon Slayer Magic], Sherria was able to attack, heal, and buff. Even so, Marin, with her several more years of experience, was able to take the victory.

The last match of the day was between Juvia and Rufus. And although Rufus, contrary to what anyone might have expected, this match was not close at all. Even though Rufus had all the tools necessary to defeat Juvia, lightning-based spells, strong spell output, and powerful strategical abilities. All it took was Gray telling Juvia that he knew she could get the win when her name was called to turn Juvia into a completely different wizard.

During the match, Juvia's spells were so sharp that one would think she was much older than twenty-four, her skill with her magic making it seem that she had been practicing it for decades longer. Her reflexes were on a completely different level than usual, too. On top of that, the completely lovestruck expression on her face for the entirety of the match was kind of off putting for Rufus, as well, leading him to make a couple of mistakes that he would have never made otherwise.

In the end, Juvia, after about thirteen minutes, was able to claim victory. And with that, the second day of the Grand Magic Games came to an end.

{"That was another great day of magic, wasn't it, Yajima?"} Lola asked, sounding a bit tired from all the energy he used during the broadcast.

{"It certainly was."} Yajima replied with a smile. {"It also made quite a few changes to the scoreboard."}

{"Yes, it did."} Lola said. {"And with that, why don't we take one last look at the scoreboard for today. After that, we'll sign off until tomorrow."}

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 35 Pts. Fairy Tail C 28 Pts. Mermaid Heel 23 Pts. Fairy Tail B 22 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 16 Pts. Sabertooth 14 Pts. Blue Pegasus 10 Pts. Lamia Scale 5 Pts.}

With the scoreboard showing on every Lacrima-Vision screen in the Domus Flau, the audience started to leave the stadium while talking about the day's events. At the same time, the guild mates of the wizards injured during the day made their way to the infirmary while the other guild wizards also left the Domus Flau with the rest of the crowd.

Fairy Tail was no exception, making their way to the Sixth Sense Hotel as a group. Though, it was clear that some of them wanted to explore the city and try all the foods and other festival-like things on display.

Eventually, the wizards of Fairy Tail made it back to the hotel. There, Mavis said a little something, encouraging the members of the guild before sending them on their way. And while most of them left the hotel just as quickly as they arrived, Alfonzo went up to an office reserved for the hotel's owner, bringing Ai along with him to get started on the device that would be used to jump between worldlines.

Meanwhile, Levy, Lucy, Brandish, and Future Lucy were walking around Crocus, enjoying the atmosphere, as they chatted about what was going on.

"You know, I kinda feel bad for Alfonzo." Future Lucy said with a bit of regret in her tone. "I mean, because of me, instead of enjoying the Grand Magic Games festival atmosphere, he's stuck inside working. He can't even spend time with his family."

"Don't worry about it." Lucy said while waving dismissively with a smile on her face. "Trust me, he doesn't mind."

"Yeah, for as long as I've known him, not once have I ever seen Alfonzo do something that he didn't want to do. Not even if Master Makarov or Master Ur asked him to."

"But if Master Mavis asks him, he almost always drops anything to complete it for her." Brandish chimed in.

"Really?" Future Lucy asked, genuine curiosity coloring her tone. "He must really respect her. Then again, she is the first guild master. So, that's kind of expected."

"Well, he does really respect her." Lucy said with a giggle. "But I don't think it's because she was the first guild master."

"Then why?" Future Lucy asked, her curiosity burning even brighter than before.

Remembering how moved Alfonzo was when Ur named Mavis the fifth guild master, Levy and Brandish could not help joining Lucy in giggling to themselves.

"With the three of you just laughing like that, I'm even more confused." Future Lucy said, pulling the three out of their recollections.

"Sorry... Sorry..." Lucy replied while waving her hands once again. "It's just kinda funny."

It took a few more minutes before Levy, Lucy, and Brandish were good enough to tell the story.

"So, after last year's Grand Magic Games, Ur called everyone in the guild for an announcement." Levy said, taking the role of explaining to Future Lucy.

And like that, Levy told Future Lucy about how Alfonzo was terrified when Ur declared that she would be stepping down as guild master, thinking that she would name him the next guild master. She then went on to explain how overjoyed he was when Mavis was named the guild master, and how he jumped on stage, picked her up, spun her around, and kissed her on the cheek in happiness when it was clear that he would not have to take up the mantle.

"Master Mavi's blush after all that was really cute." Lucy said with another fit of giggles. "She was just o caught off guard."

"Wow!" Future Lucy exclaimed in surprise. "He really didn't want to be the guild master that badly? That's hard to believe."

Almost as soon as she finished speaking, Future Lucy shook her head. The fact that Alfonzo did not want to be the guild master was not actually that hard to believe. In her timeline, by the end of x792, Fairy Tail was already on its eighth guild master, with Makarov becoming the guild master twice more by that time.

Future Lucy then remembered all the time the Makarov of her timeline spent writing reflection letters to the Magic Council because of all the things Fairy Tail wizards destroyed while out on quests. And when she did, she could completely understand why Alfonzo would not want to become the guild master.

"Yeah, now that I think about it, I guess it makes sense why he wouldn't want to be the guild master." Future Lucy muttered as her thoughts came to an end. "Still, I feel bad for making him work so hard when he's still gotta worry about the Grand Magic Games."

"Well, I can think of a way you can thank him." Levy said with a mischievous grin on her face. "I mean, there are two Lucys now. Double the pleasure, double the fun, right?"

Immediately, Brandish and Future Lucy flushed a bright red. Meanwhile, Lucy, who was not as pure and innocent when it came to things of a sexual nature, only rolled her eyes.

"Levy, you weren't like this before." Lucy said while playfully swatting her best friend's arm. "But ever since you started doing it with Gajeel, you've really changed."

"I have no idea what you could possibly be talking about." Levy said in a mischievous tone. "Perhaps you mean since we started going out?"

"Play dumb if you want." Lucy said with a giggle while bumping Levy with her hip.

Meanwhile, Future Lucy could only stand there, her eyes and mouth wide open in shock. To think, this version of her could talk about such things so openly. She could never imagine being so open about things like this seven years ago. Even hearing about it now was too much for her. Especially since she had no experience in such things.

'Then again, this version of me is the same age as I am.' Lucy thought to herself while continuing to watch Levy and Lucy joke around. 'Plus, she's been married for a few years now. So, there's no way she's a virgin like me.'

While Future Lucy was thinking back on her, admittedly, pitiful love life, Brandish was walking along with the rest of the group with her head lowered.

'I didn't think of that.' Brandish muttered to herself. 'Alfonzo is definitely gonna be tired and stressed after everything he has to do this week. Maybe I could help him relax... Alone... Or in a group when it gets to be too much for him.'

As that thought ran through her head, Brandish's cheeks reddened even further as she remembered all the times she either watched or listened when Alfonzo was having fun with his harem. Though, she did not seem to notice as she was too caught up in her fantasies. Yet, both Levy and Lucy did notice. And when they did, they both gave a knowing smile before discreetly fist bumping each other.

In the guild, it was a not so well-guarded secret that Brandish had feelings for Alfonzo. Though, she almost never showed it. However, anyone with a discerning gaze could see the lingering gazes that followed him whenever he was in a room if they looked hard enough.

Like that, the four ladies continued to explore the city together. And before they knew it, the sun had set, and the time was approaching midnight. So, they returned to the hotel and prepared for tomorrow's events.

July 3, x791.

{"Ladies and gentlemen, we're back for the third day of this year's Grand Magic Games!"} Lola cheered over the broadcast system as the last few people filed into the arena. {"I hope you're ready for another great day of magical excitement!"}

Cheer~~~~~!

{"And today, we have a special guest."} Yajima said with a smile. {"I'm sure you all know him. He's one of Sorcerer Weekly's best. So, why don't you help us welcome, Jason."}

{"Cool~~~~!"} Jason shouted excitedly while looking over the arena with stars in his eyes. {"I'm so happy to be here, Lola and Yajima. This is like a dream come true. It's so cool~~~~!"}

At the same time, every member of every guild present let out an exasperated sigh. As previously mentioned, Jason was one of Sorcerer Weekly's best. And that applied to writing articles and taking pictures equally. However, his enthusiasm made him an absolutely abysmal interviewer, as that enthusiasm had a habit of making the interviews take three or four times longer than they should have.

{"I wonder what today's event will be!"} Jason shouted enthusiastically. {"This is so cool~~~~!"}

{ "I'm sure you're not the only one." } Lola replied, even his smile getting a little cramped at Jason's high energy. { "So, why don't we throw it over to Mato. He's the man with all the information about the events, after all." }

{ "Thanks, Lola." } Mato said almost immediately as his face showed up all over the Domus Flau on the Lacrima-Vision screens. { "Today's game is called Pandemonium. Now, if you want to hear the rules to this game, hurry up and pick your competitors. It's not like I want to tell you the rules, though. Hmph!" }

With Mato's snort, he turned his head to the side with one arm crossed over his chest while the other was raised, pretending to twirl a strand of imaginary hair around his index finger. Then, all the screens cut out, replaced with the word, "Pandemonium," as the teams were given time to choose their participants for this game.

"Well, I guess I'll take this one." Elicia said as she stood up, stretching her arms over her head. She then leaned down to peck Alfonzo on his cheek while he continued to work on the time-traveling, world hopping, magic device with his [Archive Magic. "Wish me luck."

"Not like you'll need it." Alfonzo replied absent-mindedly. "But break a leg out there. Just don't do anything embarrassing like that one time you powered up in front of all those people, okay?"

Elicia smiled in response to the first part of Alfonzo's statement. Then, she waved at Ur, Marin, and Sun. However, just before jumping down into the arena, she heard the rest of what he had to say, causing her to stumble and nearly fall out of the stands.

"Seriously, Fonzie?" Elicia groaned in embarrassment. "Are you ever gonna let that go?"

"Nope." Alfonzo replied with a wide, bright smile. "I watch that video any time I need a quick pick me up."

By now, both Marin and Sun were giggling at Elicia's expense. Ur, on the other hand, was curious to know what they were talking about exactly. But since it seemed to be an inside joke, she just shrugged it off.

"Just get going." Ur said, nudging Elicia towards the arena.

"This isn't over, Fonzie." Elicia said in a mock threatening tone. Then, she jumped down into the arena with a pout on her face.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the arena, as soon as she saw Elicia jump into the arena, Karen of Blue Pegasus also jumped down, making her team mates shake their heads in exasperation, as she did the same thing last year, as well.

"Oh, Lici is playing this one, huh?" Cana muttered as she lowered an empty liquor bottle onto the floor of the seating area. "Well, since I'm outta booze, I guess I'll go play with her."

"Are you sure, Cana?" Mirajane asked with a hint of concern in her tone. "You've been drinking since before the sun came up."

"Don't worry, I'll be fine." Cana said, waving off Mirajane's concern. "Someone had to keep Fonzie company while he was working, after all."

And with that, Cana jumped down into the arena, stumbling slightly upon landing before making her way towards the center to join Elicia and Karen.

Meanwhile, Mirajane pouted slightly. Not because Cana dismissed her concerns. Instead, it was because she did not think about keeping Alfonzo company while he was up alone.

"We could have worked on some more family planning if he got too wary of the work." Mirajane muttered to herself.

At the same time, the other teams sent out their contestants, as well. Fairy Tail Team C sent out Ultear, Mermaid heel chose Sui-Feng, Sabertooth's competitor was Orga, for Lamia Scale, it was Takashi, and Yumichika came up to represent Quatro Cerberus.

And once all eight competitors were gathered, Mato's image reappeared on the screens to explain the event.

Chapter 756: The Unholy Trinity's Public Debut

With the eight contestants, Elicia, Cana, Ultear, Sui-Feng, Orga, Takashi, Karen, and Yumichika gathered in the center of the arena, Mato's image reappeared on the Lacrima-Vision screens to introduce today's event.

{"Okay, now that all the players have been decided, let me tell you about Pandemonium!"} Mato shouted excitedly, eliciting cheers from the crowd. {"If you'll take a look at the screens, I'll get the explanation started."}

As soon as Mato's words finished, the screens changed, now showing an image of a large temple with a small Mato standing to its side, once again holding a pointer.

{"The game will take place in this temple, you should be able to see it now in the sky."} Mato said, his small image pointing upwards with the pointer in his hand.

Immediately, everyone in the arena looked up. When they did, they could see a large temple floating down towards the arena, its main doors opening to reveal a flight of stairs lowering towards the ground.

Boom!

A few moments later, the temple landed on the ground, the stairs leading up to the entrance while the impact created a loud sound and made the arena shake momentarily.

{"One by one, after drawing lots, each player will step into the temple to fight a variety of monsters we've prepared especially for this event."} Mato continued once the temple was in place. {"There are a total of one hundred monsters inside. And each player, at the start of their turn, will be allowed to choose how many monsters they will fight. Please keep in mind, once the round starts, you won't be able to leave the temple until you've defeated all the monsters, or the monsters defeat you!"}

Cheer~~~~~!

Being able to see the wizards fight monsters, which was basically a subjugation request, made all the members of the audience go wild.

{ "The winner of the event will be the one who defeats the most monsters once there are no more monsters left." } Mato continued. { "So, without further ado, let's get to drawing those lots!" }

With Mato's words, a member of the Grand Magic Games committee stepped out onto the arena grounds with a box in hand.

{ "Alright, everyone please come this way and choose a lot." } The female committee member said into a microphone attached to her outfit. { "There are eight lots in this box. Your orders will be determined by the number printed on the lot you choose. And please, each wizard can only take one lot. Though, I shouldn't have to tell anyone that." }

While saying that last part, the committee member was glaring at the members of Fairy Tail, more specifically, Cana.

"Hey, Cana, do you know her?" Ultear asked playfully?

"Nope, never met her." Cana replied, looking like she was ready to take a bottle of booze out of her [Storage Card] at any moment.

"Then why is she staring at you like that?" Elicia asked, sounding just as playful as Ultear. "Maybe you destroyed something that belonged to her on one of your quests."

"Hmm... That's possible..." Cana said while putting on a contemplative expression.

Seeing Cana's oblivious expression, the committee member could only grit her teeth.

As a matter of fact, Elicia was spot on as to why the committee member was glaring at Cana. Several years ago, when Alfonzo's and Elicia's first mansion was built, Cana had taken a quest. And to make sure that she made it back on time for the house warming party, Cana rushed through the quest. In the process, she completely destroyed an entire block of the town she was working in.

Unfortunately, this committee member used to live on that street. So, in Cana's haste, she destroyed that woman's family home, along with the homes of a dozen more families, and everything inside so she could get back quickly.

Compensation was made to all the families affected, though. Even so, the heartache of losing everything they knew still haunted some of the victims of that event until this very day.

"Well, I can't think of why she would be so mad at me." Cana said with a shrug. "So, let's just go draw our lots."

With Elicia and Ultear both shaking their heads, the three Fairy Tail wizards made their way to the back of the line where the others were drawing their lots.

In the end, the order for today's event went like this.

First, Elicia Marcus Taylor.

Second, Takashi Komuro.

Third, Orga Nanagear.

Fourth, Karen Lilica.

Fifth, Ultear. Milkovich

Sixth, Yumichika Ayasegawa.

Seventh, Sui-Feng

Eighth, Cana Alberona.

"Guess that means I'm first." Elicia said with a grin as she started walking towards the temple steps while holding up her lot with the number one printed on it. "I don't know what you all are gonna do when I'm done, though. I plan on taking out all one hundred monsters in one go."

As she spoke, Elicia tossed the lot to the side just as she reached the stairs to the temple. She then walked up the stairs with confident steps.

{"Did you hear that, Yajima?"} Lola asked enthusiastically. {"Contestant Elicia has declared that she will be facing all one hundred monsters at one time. What do you think of that?"}

{"It's quite an ambitious declaration."} Yajima replied diplomatically. {"But if I've learned one thing over the years, it's that you should never underestimate a Fairy Tail wizard. They tend to surprise you at every turn."}

{"Yes, I can understand the sentiment."} Lola replied with a nod. He then turned to Jason, who was basically bouncing in his seat while leaning forward as far as he could. {"And what do you think, Jason?"}

{"So cool~~~~~!"} Jason replied loudly.

{"That's about what I expected."} Lola said while shaking his head. {"Anyway, Contestant Elicia has entered the temple. So, let's see how she does in this challenge."}

Cheer~~~~~!

As the cheers from the audience drowned out any other sounds in the arena, Elicia stated the number of monsters she wished to face once again. And as soon as she did, the doors to the temple closed. A moment later, doors all around the inside of the temple opened. And through them, monsters of all kinds stepped in. There were even some S-Class threats mixed in with the monsters, and they were all staring at Elicia like they wanted to tear her apart.

"Well then, let's get started." Elicia said, her smile never dropping from her face. Though, it was clear to everyone watching the screens in the stadium that she was not there to play around. "[Thread Magic: Thread Slicer]."

With Elicia's chant, all the monsters went into an immediate frenzy. They then, some by land and some by air, charged towards her. However, before they could get very far, they all came to an abrupt halt. And when they did, all the threads that Elicia released as soon as the doors opened to release the monsters became visible.

Gasp!

And when the audience saw just how many threads were surrounding the entire room, they were completely surprised. To think that Elicia could release so many threads and keep them all hidden from view until the moment they were needed just after the game started was incredible.

"She's really doing it, huh?" Ultear muttered with a smile. "She really didn't leave anyone else a chance, did she?"

"You act like you wouldn't have done the same." Cana said with a scoff. "Let's be real, if they were capable, anyone in this event would have done the same."

"True." Ultear replied with a nod.

Meanwhile, the other wizards participating in the event were having similar conversations. However, they all came to a stop when they saw Elicia turn to the camera that was recording the inside of the temple and wink.

Then, Elicia jerked her arms backwards. And with that, all the threads wrapping up the monsters constricted, slicing all one hundred monsters in to ribbons, their blood, guts, and bone fragments sent flying all over the inside of the temple.

Bzzt!

Not even a second after all the gore started, the lacrima-Vision screens around the arena cut out, the gruesome view too much to be broadcasted.

A few moments later, the doors to the temple opened and Elicia, without even a single drop of blood on her, stepped out before the doors once again closed behind her.

"So, who's coming in second?" Elicia asked, a wide smile plastered on her face. A moment later, however, she burst into giggles before continuing. "Hehehe! I sounded just like Ever."

"Shut up, Lici!" Evergreen shouted from the Fairy Tail seating area with her face beet red.

Before Elicia could tease Evergreen even more, however, a green-haired, human-sized missile rushed towards her and tackled her to the ground.

"Lici!" Karen, the human-sized missile, shouted while sitting on Elicia's abdomen and shaking her by the shoulders. "That, do that to me! Well, without the shredding, okay? I want you to tie me up so bad! I need it!"

"Oh, you were here, weren't you, Karen?" Elicia asked, an awkward smile on her face.

"Lici! Tie me up! Do it right now!" Karen shouted, not caring that Elicia had just mentioned not noticing her. "I don't even care if I lose this event. I need it. I need it so bad! Please!"

"You can tie me up, too!" Darkness, who was sitting among the audience as a spectator instead of patrolling today, shouted as she stood up. "We still have to get my rope escape skills up to snuff, remember? That way, if I'm ever captured... *Pant* I'll be able to escape... *Pant* Even if it takes me a while... *Pant* And my captors manage to use me as sexual relief... *Pant* I won't give up, my knightly spirit will remain unbroken... *Pant* because I know I can rely on the skills we'll have worked out together! *Pant*"

As Darkness' rant continued, the people seated around her slowly moved as far away from her as they could. Meanwhile, every wizard in the stadium, other than Karen, who was too focused on Elicia, cringed, remembering run ins they've had with Darkness in the past while turning in dark wizards.

"And this event just went from Rated E for Everyone to Rated M for Mature." Alfonzo groaned.

"What is that supposed to mean?" Ur asked with a weirded out stare on her face.

"Oh, I plan on making games that can be played on the iPhone and other devices that will be released in the next year." Alfonzo replied casually. "And those are part of the rating system I was thinking of using to let people know what ages are suitable for playing the games."

"I see." Ultear replied. "That's kinda interesting."

"Yeah, but at least Virgo isn't here to add to the chaos, right?" Marin said with a smile.

Immediately, Alfonzo face palmed. Ur face palmed, and Sun tilted her head, confused by Alfonzo and Ur's actions.

Flash!

Then, as if to tell Marin that testing Murphy was a bad idea, Virgo summoned herself into the arena next to Lucy.

"*Sigh* Something told me you'd be making an appearance soon, Virgo." Lucy muttered in a defeated tone.

"Yes, Princess, I've come to join in the punishments." Virgo replied while bowing as politely as ever. She then straightened up as she continued. "So, how would you like to punish me today, Princess?"

"Why does this always happen whenever those two are in the same place?" Lucy asked while covering her face with her hands.

"Your Virgo is even worse than mine." Future Lucy said in a dumbfounded tone.

With the chaos brought on by Karen's outburst, the proceedings stopped for a few moments. However, as professional as they were, Lola and Yajima managed to get things back on track soon enough.

{"Although I said you should always expect the unexpected when it comes to Fairy Tail wizards, I'm not sure how we should proceed now that all the monsters have been defeated so thoroughly by Elicia."}
Yajima said, drawing the attention of the crowd.

{"Neither am I, Yajima. Neither am I."} Lola replied. He then turned to Jason. {"Any suggestions, Jason?"}

{"So cool~~~~~!"} Jason shouted while snapping pictures of the chaos in the stadium. {"So cool! So cool! So cool~~~~~!"}

{"Thanks for your input, Jason."} Lola said with a deadpan. A moment later, his smile returned as he continued. {"Luckily, I do know someone who can help with this dilemma. So, what do you have for us, Mato."}

With that, the broadcast fell silent for a few moments. That's not to say that Mato did not have an answer to Lola's question. Rather, the one inside the Mato costume, King Toma E. Fiore, was caught off guard. Not expecting that all the monsters would have been defeated so quickly, he had taken off his costume to enjoy the event. And now, he was scrambling to get back into it.

{"Uh.... Mato?"} Lola, unaware of Mato's true identity, asked in an unsure tone. {"Is everything all right?"}

A moment later, the Lacrima-Vision screens changed to show Mato, who was clearly trying to catch his breath.

{ "*Pant* *Pant* yes, sorry about that, Lola." } Mato said through ragged breaths. { "I stepped away for a moment to um... to get something to drink. And I had to run back to tell everyone what comes next." }

Cheer~~~~~!

{ "Although this is unexpected, it's not so unexpected that we didn't have a countermeasure in place." } Mato continued to the sound of the cheering crowd. { "So, we'll be bringing back an oldie but goodie to decide, as Miss Taylor asked, 'who's coming in second?' through eighth." }

With that, a group of Grand Magic Games committee members walked into the arena carrying a Magic Power Finder. At the same time, the temple that would have been the stage for Pandemonium, began to rise into the air, eventually disappearing from view.

The committee members then set up the Magic Power Finder in the place where the temple's stairs once were.

Chapter 757: Magic Power Finder

{ "Well then, now that the Magic Power Finder has been set up, let's get back to the game." } Loli said, his enthusiastic tone clear for everyone to hear. { "First up, Takashi Komuro." }

Following Loli's announcement, Takashi, who was standing in a line with the other contestants, took a deep breath. Then, he took a step forward, slowly walking towards the floating Magic Power Finder.

"Hmm... He's not carrying his bat." Alfonzo said, a hint of interest shining in his eyes. "He said he wanted to learn [Earth magic] from Jura. I guess he succeeded."

Hearing Alfonzo's muttering, the other three members of his team, as Elicia was still in the arena, looked a little interested in Takashi. Especially since they remember hearing about him from Saeko, Saya, Kohta, Shizuka, and Rika ever since the five joined the guild.

Meanwhile, Takashi finally reached the Magic Power Finder. Standing to the left of the device and taking another deep breath, he finally flared his magic power.

"[Earth magic: Iron Rock Cudgel]." Takashi chanted as he raised his hands.

With Takashi's chant, a dense, stone club, in the shape of a baseball bat with spikes growing around the head manifested between his hands. He then pulled his hands back, taking a fairly standard right-handed batting stance.

"Never mind, there it is." Alfonzo said with a small smile on his face.

Bang~~~~~!

Then, with a determined glint in his eyes, Takashi raised his left leg, pulled his hands aback to the right side of his body, stepped down with his left foot with enough force to cause a small shockwave on impact, and swung the club at the Magic Power finder with all his might.

Upon impact, the sound of the clash echoed throughout the entire Domus Flau. And as it did, the numbers on the device's display began to rise quickly, only starting to slow down once they reached 2,000. Eventually, the numbers came to a stop at...

{"2,309!"} Loli shouted excitedly. {"That's quite the amazing score for a wizard so young."}

{"Indeed."} Yajima replied with a smile. {"For reference, the average Rune Knight can hit the Magic Power Finder and receive a score of around 350. It looks like the future of Lamia scale is bright."}

{"Cool~~~~~! So... Cool~~~~~!"} Jason shouted while taking pictures at a rapid pace.

Meanwhile, Takashi, satisfied with his showing, turned around with a smile and returned to the other contestants.

"Not bad, Takashi." Elicia said with a smile. "You've grown a lot since we saved you all those years ago."

"Thanks, Lici." Takashi said, Elicia's praise making him feel even more proud of himself.

"But you shouldn't get too complacent." Elicia continued, her tone growing a bit sterner. "Remember, you've only just started as a wizard. Now, you should watch the others, they'll show you the kind of heights you could reach if you continue to work hard."

Understanding that Elicia meant he was probably at the bottom of the barrel when compared to the rest of the contestants in this event, Takashi's pride was brought down a peg. But at the same time, he knew she was telling him that for his own good. So, he nodded his head and turned to watch the other contestants with the drive to improve burning in his eyes.

Seeing Takashi's expression, Elicia nodded her head. Then, she turned to watch the rest of the event, as well.

{"Up next, we have Sabertooth's God Slayer, Orga Nanagear!"} Loli shouted.

With that, Orga, as confident as ever, stepped forward until he was standing about fifty feet away from the Magic Power Finder. He then raised his hands, pointing his palms at the device with arcs of black lightning sparking from his arms.

"[120mm Black Lightning Cannon]." Orga shouted his chant as an orb of black lightning condensed between his arms near his chest.

As time passed, the mass of black lightning Orga was creating grew in size while the color grew darker and darker. At the same time, all the other wizards in the arena could feel the air being charged with electricity.

"Hmph! Featherweight." Laxus grunted from his seating area.

"he's gotten a lot stronger since he fought me last year." Alfonzo said while smiling at Laxus response to Orga's power. "he's only been training in the gravity chambers for what...? Seven months? As always, Slayer Wizards are bullshit."

While Marin and Sun nodded in agreement with Alfonzo, Ur rolled her eyes.

'I've been training most of my life.' Ur thought to herself. 'But you're like twenty years younger than me, and I'm no match for you. If anyone is bullshit, it's this whole generation of wizards.'

A moment later, Orga condensed the ball of black lightning to the limit of what he could control. Then, with a loud shout, he shot it at the Magic Power Finder.

Boom~~~~~!

{"So~~~~~ cool~~~~~!"} Jason shouted, his eyes shining at the power of Orga's attack.

{"Quite impressive."} Yajima said agreeing with Jason.

{"Now, we just have to wait for the dust to clear so we can see the score."} Loli added, the excitement in his tone clear to everyone.

Not long after Loli spoke, the lightning surrounding the Magic Power Finder cleared. When it did, it revealed a score of 4,721.

"Yeah~~~~~!" Orga shouted while raising his arms over his head in triumph.

"Wow, he's a lot stronger than me." Takashi muttered with his eyes wide open.

"Oh, you ain't seen nothing yet." Elicia said with a mischievous grin.

{"Moving on to the next contestant, Karen Lilica, it's your turn!"} Loli shouted once Orga returned to the line of wizards.

At the same time, Karen, with her usual haughty demeanor, stepped forward, looking every bit like the former top model that she was.

Stopping at roughly the same place where Orga attack from, she flared her magic power as she raised her hands clad in rings.

Bang!

Then, in the next instant, she slammed both her fists into the ground.

"[Ring Magic: Volcanic Blast]." Karen chanted as two of her rings lit up with magic power.

Rumble!

With Karen's chant, the ground of the arena began to shake, causing the entire stadium to shake, as well. Though, it was not as dangerous as it seemed thanks to all the magical enhancements on the stadium.

Boom~~~~~!

In the next instant, the ground under which the magic Power Finder floated cracked open. And when it did, a stream of magma shot out from the ground, striking the Magic Power Finder from below.

Along with the magma that flew up from the ground, the Magic Power Finder was also sent skyward. Meanwhile, all the wizards, including Karen leapt away from the magma that was now flowing in the arena.

"[Ice-Make: Wall]." Ultear chanted as she slapped her hands on the ground.

In the next instant, before the magma could travel too far and damage the arena too much, a circular wall of ice shot up from the ground, stopping all the magma in its tracks while simultaneously cooling it, releasing a large cloud of steam into the air on contact.

Cheer~~~~~!

{"Thank you, Player Ultearr."} Mato said, his voice playing from the speakers all over the Domus Flau. {"The committee thanks you for stopping the damage from spreading too far. At the same time, there will be no action taken against Player Karen because we were the ones to tell everyone to use their strongest spell."}

Cheer~~~~~!

Seeing Ultear's show of power along with Karen's attack caused the crowd to cheer loudly, since they never believed they were in any danger from the magma. And the fact that Karen was not going to be penalized for the damage she caused made them cheer even louder.

"No fair!" Natsu shouted indignantly. "How come no one cheers when I burn stuff?"

"Maybe because you burn their personal property." Gray said dismissively. "You should really think before you speak, Flame Brain."

"What did you say, you frozen streaker?" Natsu asked angrily. "Why don't you say that again when you've got some clothes on?"

"Huh?" Gray asked in a dumbfounded tone. He then looked down to see himself sitting in the stands in just a pair of boxers. "What happened to my clothes?"

Meanwhile, Juvia, who was sitting next to him, was smiling dumbly with a nosebleed... for the umpteenth time in three days.

"It looks like your Gray hasn't gotten over that habit, either." Future Lucy said while shaking her head.

"Nope." Lucy replied while also shaking her head. "And I can't even count how many times Tear and Ur have beaten him up for it. I'm just glad that Lyon doesn't do it. Otherwise, Ur really would be known as a trainer of perverts."

"What was that?" Ur shouted angrily. "Would you mind repeating that, Lucy? Don't think I won't kick your ass just because you're one of the kid's wives."

"Eek! I'm sorry~~~!" Lucy shouted, fear evident in her tone as she hid behind her alternate timeline self.

{"The steam is clearing!"} Loli shouted. {"I think I can make out the score. It looks like it says... 7,415!"}

Cheer~~~~~!

Hearing such a high score, the crowd went wild. Meanwhile, Karen flipped her hair arrogantly. At the same time, Ultear, who was the next in line, stepped forward, not worried about the ice she created to stop Karen's magma.

"Well, I think I'll take the win right here and now." Ultear said with a confident smile on her face.

Ultear then leapt onto the ice wall she created.

Crash!

Then, once she landed, Ultear stomped hard on the ice before shooting down towards the Magic Power Finder while making her casting gesture. At the same time, the power of her stomp caused all the ice, the wall and the frozen magma, to shatter into ice shards.

"[ice Age]." Ultear chanted as she approached the Magic Power Finder.

Then, when she was within arm's reach, Ultear extended her right arm and laid her hand on the surface of the Magic Power Finder.

Freeze!

And in an instant, the entire device was flash frozen. Then, while turning around, Ultear tapped one of her finely manicured fingernails on the frozen device. Before walking away.

Shatter!

And just like the rest of the ice, the frozen Magic Power Finder shattered into ice shards.

"I guess that answers your question, Lici." Ultear said as she walked back to the group of wizards, her long hair blowing in the wind. "Second place should be mine."

{"This is just like the preliminaries from last year's Grand Magic Games!"} Loli shouted. {"Once again, someone has completely destroyed the Magic Power Finder!"}

{"Cool~~~~~!"} Jason shouted energetically.

{"Yes, but something tells me we'll be needing more than just one replacement by the time the game is over and done with."} Yajima said while looking at the faces of the remaining contestants. {"Especially when I look at the competitive glints in Cana Alberona's and Sui-Feng's eyes."}

And just as Yajima said, when Loli and Jason looked at Cana and Sui-Feng, they could see a glint of something in their eyes. While Sui-Feng's eyes seemed to be holding disdain in them, Cana was looking at Ultear as if she had just accepted a great challenge.

{"Well, I guess we'll have to wait to find out."} Loli said, his pitch rising with excitement. {"The members of the Grand Magic Games committee should bring out a new Magic Power Finder shortly."}

Not long after Loli spoke, another group of committee members came out carrying not one, but two new Magic Power Finders.

"Something tells me I'm being underestimated." Yumichika said with an eyebrow twitching as he saw that there were only two Magic Power Finders. "Well then, I guess I'll have to show them the error of their ways."

'Although this would be easier if Ikkaku and the rest of the squad wouldn't look down on me for using [Kidō].' Yumichika thought to himself while watching the committee members set up the first new Magic Power Finder.

{ "It looks like everything is ready for u to continue." } Yajima said. { "Well then, Yumichika Ayasegawa, it's your turn." }

Hearing that, Yumichika stepped forward, his posture as elegant as ever. And as he made his way to the Magic Power Finder, he began raising his magic power output. At the same time, he drew his Zanpakuto.

"I know you really don't like the name I'm going to call you." Yumichika whispered towards his Zanpakuto. "But just this once, I need you to give me as much power as you can."

In response, Yumichika's Zanpakuto vibrated in his hand. Though, he could tell that the Sword Spirit was angry about what was to come. Even so, it seemed to agree with Yumichika's request, not wanting to put on an embarrassing display.

"[Bloom, Fuji Kujaku]." Yumichika said, his Shikai release command echoing around the stadium, as he ran his hand along the blade of his Zanpakuto.

With that, Yumichika's Zanpakuto blade began to glow. Then, its shape changed, taking on the form of a falx, a sickle-shaped blade, connected to the hilt by a ring. He then flicked his wrist, causing the blade to fan out, revealing that there were actually four blades connected to the ring.

"Ooh~~~~~!" The crowd's astonishment was audible for everyone to hear when they saw the weapon's transformation.

And although Yumichika like the attention from the crowd, he was far too focused on the task at hand to bask in it. So, instead of turning to wave at the crowd as he usually would, he used the [Flash Step] to vanish from where he stood before reappearing in front of the Magic Power Finder with his sword raised and ready to swing it down.

Shing!

In the next instant, faster than most of the people in the audience could see, Yumichika swung his weapon, the sound of the blades tearing through the Magic Power Finger clear for everyone to hear. Even so, the device continued to float in place, even if its levitation was a bit unsteady.

{"9,998!"} Loli shouted once the score showed up on the Magic Power Finder.

Cheer~~~~~!

With Loli's shout, the crowd cheered once again. However, it was clear that Yumichika was not happy with the result.

"Tch! I would have been able to destroy it if I had used your true name." Yumichika muttered to himself as he released his Zanpakuto's released state.

The Zanpakuto in Yumichika's hand vibrated to show its displeasure, as well. Even so, Yumichika ignored it and sheathed the sword in a smooth, elegant motion.

"You lack training." Sui-Feng said sharply as Yumichika rejoined the rest of the contestants.

"Hmph!" Yumichika snorted in displeasure as he returned to the line.

{"That was incredible!"} Loli shouted as the cheering died down. {"But we still have two competitors left. So, without further ado, Sui-Feng, it's your turn."}

With that, Sui-Feng, instead of walking towards the Magic Power Finder, turned around and started walking towards the wall separating the crowd from the arena. Naturally, this action confused all the spectators. However, there were a few wizards in the arena who had an idea of what was coming next.

"I think we should get away from here." Elicia said as she grabbed Cana and Ultear, and started pulling them away from where they stood.

Yumichika, without a word, also started herding Takashi and Orga way, as well. As for Karen, as soon as Elicia started moving, she followed her like a lost puppy.

Meanwhile, Sui-Feng reached a spot about ten feet away from the wall. Then, she unsheathed her Zanpakuto, Suzumebachi, from the sheath slung across her lower back. Next, she loosely held the hilt, letting the blade hang towards the ground before flaring her magic power to its limit.

"[Bankai]." Sui-Feng said quietly.

In the next instant, Sui-Feng's magic power exploded, reaching ten times its previous amount. At the same time, a column of light blue magic power surrounding Sui-Feng shot into the air, dispersing a passing cloud in the sky.

After a few moments, the magic power surrounding Sui-Feng faded. When it did, however, Both Sui-Feng and her Zanpakuto's appearance changed.

No longer did Sui-Feng hold a wakizashi in her right hand. Instead, her right arm, up past her shoulder, ending in a half mask that covered the right half of her face and a wind shield that covered her left eye, was covered by a golden-colored missile launcher pointed at the ground. On top of that, there was along, cylindrical object with a pointed tip slotted into the launcher. Yet, this cylindrical object stood twice Sui-Feng's height as it towered above her.

"[Jakuhō Raikōben]." Sui-Feng said, naming her [Bankai] release. She then looked at the massive weapon on her right arm with a hint of disdain as she continued. "I really hate using this thing. It's too unwieldy, too flashy, and too big for a stealth operative like myself."

Even though she said that, Sui-Feng raised her right arm, steadying it with her left, and aimed the tip of the long golden cylinder at the Magic Power Finder.

"Still, I can't deny the fact that it gets the job done when the task calls for it." Sui-Feng muttered.

As Sui-Feng corrected her aim, it was obvious to see that she was straining to hold the missile up. Even so, she did not seem to care. Instead, she continued to correct her aim to make sure that all the destructive power of her attack would be focused on the Magic Power Finder.

Eventually, Sui-Feng deemed her aim perfect. And when she did, she willed the firing sequence to begin. And as it did, three fins unfolded from the back of the missile. Then, she flared her magic power once again.

And with that final flare of magic power...

Boom~~~~~!

... the missile was fired, its massive recoil sending Sui-Feng flying backwards. And because she was so close to the separating wall, it did not take long for Sui-Feng to slam back first into the wall, collapsing it on top of herself.

Meanwhile, the missile, fired with the majority of Sui-Feng's magic power powering it, flew forward at staggering speeds. Then, in the blink of an eye, it collided with the Magic Power Finder, and...

Boom~~~~~!

... triggered an explosion that covered the equivalent of two city blocks in all directions. At the same time, a powerful shockwave was sent in all directions, threatening to blow the weaker wizards in the arena off their feet.

"Holy shit...!" Cana said in a dumbfounded tone.

Just then, Sui-Feng was pulling herself out of the rubble. And when she heard Cana's surprised exclamation, she puffed out her chest proudly. However, when she heard the following words, she almost spit out a mouthful of blood in anger.

"She's really in the wrong guild." Cana continued, completely unaware, and uncaring, of the fact that Sui-Feng was listening to her. "With destructive power like that, she would fit in perfectly with our guild."

"Elicia and Ultear, on the other hand, had seen Sui-Feng climb out of the rubble. They also noticed how she puffed out in pride. So, when they saw the anger on her face at the rest of Cana's comment, they could not help starting to laugh.

{"That was..." } Loli said with his mouth slightly agape after seeing the destructive power of Sui-Feng's attack.

{"So cool~~~~~!" } Jason shouted, finishing Loli's sentence in his usual style.

{ "This time, I have to agree with Jason." } Yajima added with a nod. { "That was quite impressive. Oh, look, the committee is already carrying out the next Magic Power Finder. So, I assume that means there's another incalculable result, huh?" }

{ "I would think so." } Loli replied. { "Well then, it looks like this event is almost at its end. There's only one contestant left. So, as soon as the committee is done, Cana, it's your turn." }

"Well, I can't let you two out do me, can I?" Cana asked as she started flaring her magic power. "I guess I'll use that. Haven't used it since Master Mavis came back. So, now is as good as any."

"Are you sure?" Ultear asked. "Don't those spells use life force as a cost instead of magic power?"

"Don't worry about it." Cana said with a smile. "According to Hoyle, I shouldn't have to worry about it as long as I don't use it more than once a year."

"If you say so." Ultear replied, sounding slightly worried.

"Just don't overdo it, Cana." Elicia said in a slightly stern tone. "There are a lot of people behind the target. You don't wanna have an accident on that scale."

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing." Cana said, waving her hand as she started walking towards the freshly installed magic Power Finder that floated above the huge crater left behind from Sui-Feng's attack. "I've never hurt innocent bystanders before, and I don't intend to start now."

With every step, Cana's magic power grew in intensity. And as it did, an intricate tattoo like marking appeared on her right arm. She then stopped at the edge of the crater and pointed her right palm at the Magic Power Finder.

"Glitter! O river of light that's guided by the fairies! Shine! In order to perish the fangs of evil! [Fairy Glitter!]" Cana's incantation rang out over the entire stadium.

As her incantation went on, Cana was engulfed in a bright light. So bright, in fact, that nearly everyone in the stadium was forced to close their eyes. Then, as the incantation ended, that light surged forward, following the direction where Cana's arm was pointing.

Boom~~~~~!

Then, in a violent explosion of light that could be seen from nearly every corner of Crocus, the surging light slammed into the Magic Power Finder, the destruction of the spell covering just as much area as Sui-Feng's attack. However, instead of simply creating a dome of devastation, the light surged straight up into the air.

{"Well, it really did take all three to break before the event ended, huh?"} Yajima said, his smile audible in his tone. {"And that means we should have a three-way tie for second place in this event."}

Chapter 758: When Will She Make Her Move?

{"And that's the end of another exciting event in the Grand Magic Games!"} Lola shouted with a smile. {"Seeing just how powerful this year's contestants can be when they go all out was sure exciting, wasn't it?"}

Cheer~~~~~!

{"That's right, Lola."} Yajima replied with a nod. {"It was quite the sight to see. It just makes me look forward more and more to what's coming next."}

{"So cool~~~~~!"} Jason shouted in response. {"I wanna interview all of them."} He then turned to Lola and Yajima with excitement shining in his eyes. {"Do you think I could put together a press conference for all the participating wizards?"}

With Jason's question, all of the wizards who have been interviewed by him in the past winced. Meanwhile, the other reporters in the audience had their eyes light up in anticipation. Being able to ask all the wizards participating in the Grand Magic Games some questions would certainly make quite a bit of news for the next few issues of whatever publication they worked for.

{"Um... I think you'll have to take that up with them."} Lola said, not really sure how to answer Jason's question. "Uh... Anyway, let's take a look at the scoreboard. I'm sure there should be a few changes after the end of that event."

With that, all the Lacrima-Vision screens in the Domus Flau changed to show the overall scoreboard.

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 45 Pts. Fairy Tail C 36 Pts. Mermaid Heel 31 Pts. Fairy Tail B 30 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 19 Pts. Sabertooth 15 Pts. Blue Pegasus 12 Pts. Lamia Scale 5 Pts.}

{"Hmm... It seems there were no changes in placement after the last event."} Yajima pointed out after seeing the scoreboard. {"Instead, with the overwhelming showing of the top four teams, they've only widened the gap between themselves and the rest of the teams. But there are still two Battle Rounds and another event. Maybe things could get turned around before the last day."}

{"I suppose only time will tell."} Lola said as he was handed the envelope with the day's matchups for the Battle Round. {"But there's no better time to find out than now. I've just received the matchups for today's battles. So, why don't we get right into it?"}

As he spoke, Lola opened the envelope, noticing the anticipation in both Yajima's and Jason's eyes as he did so. Then, he looked down to read the first pair of names on the card.

{ "Okay, let's see..." } Lola said as he read over the card. { "The first match of the day will be between...Jura Neekis of Lamia Scale and Sorano Agria of Blue Pegasus." }

Cheer~~~~~!

While the crowd went wild, Jura, as calmly as ever, stood up with a peaceful expression on his face. Then, he took a step forward, stepping atop the separating wall, before hopping into the arena.

Sorano, on the other hand, leapt straight from her seat into the arena. Then, once the two combatants made it to the center, the signal was given for the battle to begin.

And to no one's surprise, Jura, one of the Ten Wizard Saints, came out victorious. Though, Sorano did not make it easy for him, showing that even though she was not one of the Ten Wizard Saints, she was strong enough to eventually be counted among their numbers.

While Jura's [Earth Magic] was powerful, and its defense was among the strongest on the continent, Sorano was consistently able to break through it with the help of her [Angel Magic]. On top of that, just as she had back when she first faced Elicia, she showed a mastery of martial arts that made Jura take the fight seriously no matter the range at which the two fought.

The next match was between Gajeel Redfox of Fairy Tail B and Rangiku Matsumoto of Mermaid Heel. And boy was it an explosive match.

Almost as soon as the match started, Rangiku released Haineko, her blade breaking down into a cloud of dust. At the same time, Gajeel, smiled savagely as he was covered in his [iron Dragon Scales]. And from there, the match was a game of cat and mouse, with Gajeel trying to get close enough to land a finishing blow and Rangiku trying to keep her distance long enough for Haineko to eat through the [Iron Dragon's Scales].

Unfortunately for Rangiku, the scales of an iron dragon were much stronger than she expected. And during a moment of inattention, she was struck on the right leg by one of Gajeel's [Iron Dragon Clubs].

As a result, she was slowed down enough that Gajeel was able to close in and end the match. Though, he was quite annoyed that he was unable to use his [Iron Dragon's Roar] throughout the match because of the swirling dust that Rangiku controlled, fearing that it would end up in his mouth when he opened it.

The third match was a bit out of the ordinary, as it featured a wizard who had also competed in the earlier game. However, Lola assured that it was because the game was not nearly as taxing as the others, thanks to being substituted by the Magic Power Finder event.

So, Orga Nanagear of Sabertooth was set to face off against Erza Scarlet of Fairy Tail C. Unfortunately, this match was not nearly as close as the previous two. Instead, Erza [Requipped] into her [Black Wing Armor] and blitzed Orga before he could even cast a single spell. She then struck him with the flat of her blade, sending him flying before he was imbedded into the arena's separating wall.

And the last battle of the day was also one without much suspense. It was between Ur Milkovich of Fairy Tail A and Might Guy of Quatro Cerberus.

Unfortunately for Guy, despite how strong he was, especially with the ability to open the [Eight Inner Gates], Ur was just out of his league. Not to say that Ur even gave him a chance to open even the first [Inner Gate]. Because as soon as the match started, Ur froze the entire arena and everything in it. And that, naturally, included Guy.

So, before ten seconds even passed, Ur was declared the winner. She then unfroze the arena and made her way back to her seat. At the same time, the Grand Magic Games staff, wearing heavy Winter clothing, came out to help Guy to the infirmary to make sure he was not too badly affected by the sudden drop in temperature.

{"And that will end the day's proceedings."} Lola said, a smile audible in his tone. {"We're drawing close to the end of yet another Grand Magic Games, aren't we?"}

{"We are."} Yajima replied. {"And although it's always sad to know that a good thing will come to an end, I'm still looking forward to seeing how things will turn out in the end."}

{"The feeling is mutual."} Lola said. He then turned to Jason, who was still snapping pictures of everything he could see. {"And we'd like to thank you for being here with us today, Jason. Any parting words for the audience?"}

{"So cool! So cool! So cool~~~~~!"} Jason replied excitedly.

{"Truly profound words of wisdom."} Lola said, clearly tired of Jason's limited vocabulary by this point. {"Well then, let's take one last look at the scoreboard before we sign off for the day."}

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 55 Pts. Fairy Tail C 46 Pts. Fairy Tail B 40 Pts. Mermaid Heel 31 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 19 Pts. Sabertooth 15 Pts. Lamia Scale 15 Pts. Blue Pegasus 12 Pts.}

With that, another day of the Grand Magic Games ended, and everyone headed out of the Domus Flau. This time, however, Mavis did not require everyone to return to the hotel first. Instead, she let them loose at the Domus Flau's entrance. However, there were a few people who did not go out to have fun.

First among them was Alfonzo, who still had work to do on the device that would get Future Lucy and Future Rogue back to where they belonged. Next were Irene and Mavis, who decided they would relax at the hotel and share a bottle of wine. And finally, Brandish, who also decided to return to the hotel. Though, her reason for doing so was not quite as innocent as the others.

"How am I supposed to help him relax if Ai is always with him?" Brandish asked herself while monitoring the office where Alfonzo and Ai were working with her [Magic Power Detection]. "I mean, sure. I may not mind watching. But am I okay with being watched?"

["You probably are."] Hecatoncheires replied from Brandish's inner world. ["But even more important than that, maybe you should... Oh, I don't know... Try telling him how you feel first! Or do you intend to be a harlot to the very end? It's bad enough how you dress. At least have some decency in this regard, please?"]

Unfortunately, as loudly as Hecatoncheires was shouting at her, Brandish was too lost in her own thoughts to even notice. Though, her [Soul Armament Spirit] was correct. Through all her thoughts of moving forward, she had forgotten something so simple.

Meanwhile, in the owner's office, Alfonzo, while working with Ai, could not help but smile awkwardly.

"Is she just gonna keep watching me like that?" Alfonzo asked while performing some calculations. "I mean, seriously, if she's got something to say, she can just say it, right?"

"That's not always as easy as you make it out to be, Master Alfonzo." Ai replied while performing several calculations of her own using the [Archive Magic] she learned from Alfonzo. "Not everyone is so outspoken as you and many of the others in Fairy Tail."

"*Sigh* I guess you're right." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head. "I've been around them so long, I forgot that most people's brains have some kind of filter."

Ai could only giggle lightly in response.

"As for Miss Brandish, I know you're waiting for her to tell you how she feels herself, but perhaps you should take the initiative in this case." Ai said in a considerate tone. "Based on her upbringing in the Alvarez Empire, I doubt she has the same sensibilities as the rest of us from Ishgar."

"You know, I really don't think where she was raised as anything to do with it." Alfonzo said with a smile. "It's more like who she was raised by. And with people like Irene, the old man Irene talked about, August, and the other Spriggans bringing her up, it's no wonder she's lacking in common sense."

"I don't' think Lady Irene would take too kindly to that." Ai said, sounding a bit scared to have been witness to a statement like that. "And Heine and Juliet will more than likely be even more angered by such an assessment."

"Yeah, I'm sure you're right." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "But that doesn't change the fact that it's true. Besides, I'm stronger than all three of them. So, I won't get my ass kicked for saying it."

"For now." Ai muttered to herself.

Alfonzo only shot Ai a quick glance when he heard that.

"Anyway, let's keep working." Alfonzo said. "If possible, I wanna have the device's hardware done by the morning of the fifth. Then, we'll spend all day experimenting on Future Lucy's and Future Rogue's temporal wavelengths to make sure we end up in the right place when we finally use the thing."

"Yes, Master Alfonzo." Ai replied, her tone turning serious as she redoubled her focus on the task at hand.

Like that, the rest of the day passed uneventfully. And soon, the calendar flipped to the next day.

July 4, x791.

{"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back."} Lola said over the broadcast system. {"Today is the last day of solo events in the Grand Magic Games. And after today, the only thing left will be the Grand Magic Game that will decide who will be this year's winners."}

Cheer~~~~~!

{"But I'm sure talk of an event that won't happen for two days can wait for two days."} Lola continued cheerfully. {"Instead, why don't we throw things to Mato to get the day's game started."}

{"That's probably one of the smartest things I've ever heard you say."} Yajima said, a hint of mischief seeping into his tone.

While all the Lacrima-Vision screens turned on to reveal Mato's image, Lola could only roll his eyes at Yajima's jab. Even so, it did not seem to bother him all that much.

{"Okay, okay, alright, alright!"} Mato said while waving his arms up and down like he was trying to hype up the crowd. {"is everyone ready? If so, let me hear you say, 'Ho~~~~~!'"}
~~~~~

"Ho~~~~~!" The crowd shouted in response.

{"Yeah, that's what I'm talking about!"} Mato continued, his energy reaching a whole new level. {"Then, without further ado, today's game is...."}

Trailing off to build suspense, Mato's image switched to reveal the name of the game as soon as he finished his sentence.

{"Naval Battle."}

And just like that, the teams began to discuss who would be their representatives for this game.

"Well, only two of us can go, right?" Marin asked while looking at Sun. "And to be honest, I think this one is right up Sun's alley."

"Can't argue with that. \*Yawn~~~\*" Alfonzo replied while yawning heavily.

"Seriously, Kid, it wouldn't kill you to get a good night's sleep, would it?" Ur asked, a bit of chiding in her tone.

"Don't worry about it." Alfonzo said, waving off Ur's concerns dismissively. "Since I don't have to participate in an event, at worst, I'll have to participate in the Battle Round. And if I go all-out from the beginning, I have nothing to worry about."

"Ooh! Juvia's going to play this game." Elicia said, interrupting Ur's lecture while pointing down at the arena. She then turned to Sun. "I agree with Marin and Fonzie, this game seems perfect for you. I can't think of anyone better to join a game called Naval Battle, after all."

Nodding in response, Sun smiled as she stood up from her seat.

"Hey, aren't you going to wait for my opinion?" Ur asked, looking a bit offended that Sun was ready to jump into the game even though she hadn't said anything.

"You were gonna say the same as the rest of us, anyway." Elicia said while rolling her eyes. "Besides, you're not even the leader of the team, Fonzie is. And he already said something."

Elicia's rebuttal actually brought Ur up short for words.

"Sorry, sometimes I forget that I'm not the guild master anymore." Ur replied while smiling sheepishly and rubbing the back of her head. "I mean, don't get me wrong, I don't regret giving that spot to Mavis. But you get used to it, you know?"

Sun only turned around to hug Ur in response. She then hugged the rest of the team, giving Alfonzo a kiss on the cheek, as well. Then, she, too, jumped into the arena.

Meanwhile, the other teams made their decisions, as well. Mirajane from Fairy Tail B, Kagura of Mermaid Heel, Minerva of Sabertooth, Lyon of Lamia Scale, Jenny of Blue Pegasus, and Ikkaku of Quatro Cerberus eventually joined Sun and Juvia in the arena, with Lyon immediately sprinting over to Juvia and trying to convince her to leave Gray and give him a chance while she thoroughly ignored his attempts.

{"Now that all the players have been chosen, I'll explain the rules of the game."} Mato said, drawing attention to the Lacrima-Vision screens.

Chapter 759: Sun's Absolute Underwater Dominance

{"Okay, now it's time to get into the nitty gritty of the event."} Mato said as his image appeared on the Lacrima-Vision screens. {"Like I said, this game is called, 'Naval Battle.' And as the name suggests, it will take place in water."}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

Knowing what that meant, most of the males in the audience began to cheer loudly. Even Lyon, who was participating in this event, could not help looking at Juvia with a hungry gaze.

Juvia, on the other hand, after seeing Lyon's gaze, quickly hid behind Sun, not even daring to poke her head out. Meanwhile, Erza had to physically hold Gray back from attacking Lyon with some kind of ice construct. Because if he was allowed to do what he was thinking, there was a good chance that he would be disqualified.

{"And the game will happen right... here."} Mato said as all his images around the Domus Flau pointed to the very center of the arena.

With Mato's declaration, the floor of the arena raised slightly. Then, the two sides peeled backwards, revealing a magic item hidden below the ground. A moment later, the magic item began to light up. Then, it began attracting the moisture in the air towards a point about a hundred fifty feet off the ground, slowly forming a water sphere at the point of convergence.

Seeing the spectacle on display, the crowd was suitably in awe. Meanwhile, Mato continued his explanation.

{"The game will take place in the orb of water that is forming."} Mato said, his images all pointing towards the center of the arena. {"And the point of the game will be to be the last one remaining in the sphere. What that means is, once the sphere has completed its formation, you will all be sent inside. Then, you will fight amongst yourselves to push the other contestants out. Simple right?"}

Mato received nods of understanding from all the competitors.

{"And the order you are forced out of the sphere will determine the number of points your team will receive towards the overall score."} Mato said after receiving the nods from the players. {"But wait! There's a catch."}

"Of course, there is." Minerva said as she crossed her arms under her breasts and glared at Mato in the screen directly in front of her.

{"If the game gets to a point where there are only two contestants left in the sphere, a special five-minute timer will start."} Mato continued, completely unbothered by Minerva's glare. {"And should someone be knocked out during those five minutes, the remaining wizard will be declared the winner, while the one knocked out will not receive second place, but last."}

\*Gasp!\*

Mato's final rule caused the entire stadium to gasp in disbelief. And that did not just include the spectators. Even the wizards participating in the event were taken aback by the twist presented before them.

Because now, they would have to consider even more closely if they were trying to be one of the final two competitors in the event. Because coming in second could be much worse than coming in third in this case.

"Hey, what happens if the two left standing last to the end of the five minutes?" Sun asked while raising her hand like a student.

This time, it was Mato's turn to be caught off guard. To be honest, he had never thought someone would ask that question. But he knew he could not remain silent for long.

{ "\*cough\* Well... If both participants in that situation last more than five minutes, then..." } Mato said, struggling to come up with a reasonable outcome. { "Um... The rules will return to normal. So, the contestant to lose, should the last two last more than five minutes, will receive the normal score for a second place finish." }

Hearing that, Sun nodded in understanding. Though, she had no intention of letting things get to that point.

{ "Are there any more questions?" } Mato asked. However, after the players for this game stayed silent for a few seconds, his smile returned. Then, somehow, all of his images on the Lacrima-Vision screens pointed towards the entrance to the arena and he continued.

{ "Well then, while the stage for the game is being completed, please head inside and change into something you wouldn't mind getting wet in." } Mato said, a happy, yet lecherous, smile spreading across his face.

"Phrasing!" Alfonzo, Cana, and Rika simultaneously shouted in amused tones from the audience, causing the rest of their guild mates to roll their eyes at their antics.

{ "By the time you're all done changing, I'm sure the stage will be ready." } Mato continued without paying any mind to hecklers.

Hearing that, Jenny smiled brightly. Then, she shot a challenging look at Mirajane before striding towards the waiting room.

Knowing what Jenny's gaze meant, Mirajane shook her head before also heading towards the waiting room alongside Sun and Juvia.

Naturally, the other contestants also made their way into the waiting room, as well. And to no one's surprise, when they arrived, it had been separated into two sections, one for men and one for women to change.

"So, what kind of swimsuit did you pack just in case you ended up in a water event?" Sun asked curiously as she went to the locker with her things inside. "I picked something that Fonzie said he would like."

"Juvia picked something that will blow Gray's socks off!" Juvia said energetically as she pulled a sling swimsuit out of her locker that barely covered anything at all."

"Um... I don't think Gray would like to see you in that." Mirajane pointed out as she pulled out a white and red bikini with white ruffles accenting it. "Not with so many other men being able to see it, anyway."

Immediately, Juvia's hands, which were about to start taking off her clothes, came to a stop. She then widened her eyes in horror.

"No! Juvia does not want any other man to see her skin!" Juvia lamented loudly. "What should I do?"

Almost immediately after Juvia's outburst, the sound of a male groaning from the other side of the room could be heard.

"Sounds like Lyon really wanted to see you in that swimsuit." Mirajane said playfully.

"Juvia does not care." Juvia replied bluntly while searching through the rest of her outfits. "His opinion does not matter to Juvia. Only Gray's opinion matters."

\*Shatter!\*

\*Thud!\*

This time, the sound of something metaphysical breaking could be heard as the sound of Lyon falling to his knees echoed through the waiting room.

"Good thing Lici told all of us to bring one of these with us." Sun said as she pulled out a cute, frilly one-piece, blue and white swimsuit out of her belongings. "She thought you would get too excited if a water game ever came up and you were chosen to participate."

Hearing that, Juvia finally perked up. She then bolted over to Sun and took the swimsuit from her hands before looking the whole thing over.



"It's perfect." Juvia said with stars in her eyes. "Juvia will thank Lici after she takes first place."

"That's quite the bold declaration." Minerva said, having already changed into a dark blue cheongsam-style one-piece swimsuit. "You shouldn't boast too loudly. Otherwise, you might embarrass yourself."

"Juvia is the master of [Water magic]." Juvia said proudly. "There is no way she could lose. Especially not with Gray watching her."

\*Satter!\*

Once again, the sound of a heart breaking could be heard throughout the waiting room. But everyone ignored it.

"Stop talking." Jenny, having also changed, now wearing a yellow bikini, said. "Even if I don't win, I'm definitely going to be the one to get the most attention from the crowd."

All the other ladies, other than Sun, rolled their eyes in response. As for Sun, she just smiled cheerfully as she always does.

Feeling like she had won after not hearing a response, Jenny turned around and headed towards the waiting room's entrance. However, she did not leave the room, intending to enter the arena last.

Meanwhile, the rest of the contestants changed into their swimsuits and headed out, not caring about the order in which they entered the arena.

However, just as expected, all the female contestants received warm welcomes when they entered the arena. And to Jenny's absolute annoyance, the cheers Mirajane received were louder than hers.

{"Now that you're all changed, please make your way into the sphere."} Mato said enthusiastically.

The sphere that was just forming when the players all made their way into the waiting room was now completed. And to everyone's surprise, it was about three hundred feet in diameter, more than large enough for everyone to move around during the game.

Following Mato's instructions, everyone dove into the sphere. Then, they all spread out, taking up locations that gave them as much time as possible to react to any attack that would happen right when the game started.

On a side note, due to the magic item maintaining the sphere, none of the players would have to worry about suffocating or drowning while in the water sphere. Though, no one could explain why that was possible. Instead, if they really wanted to know, they could ask Alfonzo, the one who built it. But anyone who knew him would never do so. His lectures had received a bit of notoriety, after all.

{"Now that everyone is in position, let the game begin!"} Mato shouted, giving the signal to start the game.

Immediately, several of the wizards in the water sphere took action simultaneously. Mirajane used her [Satan Soul] thanks to its ability to use [Water Magic]. Meanwhile, Jenny used her own [Take Over] to equip herself with her vulcan cannons, gatling gun, and Christina's thrusters.

As for Minerva, she set up her [Territory] while Kagura held her sword in front of her. Lyon, on the other hand, made his casting gesture, intending to freeze all the water in the sphere at once. Ikkaku was not idle either, as he released the seal on Hōzukimaru, increasing his strength several times over.

The one everyone, other than Mirajane was most wary of, however, was Juvia. Because as soon as the game started, she began spinning in place, turning her [Water Body] into a violently spinning whirlpool.

As for Sun, she went mostly unnoticed. Unfortunately, that was a huge mistake. Because while everyone was preparing their spells for combat, she was taking a deep breath.

"[Voice magic: Howling Voice]." Sun chanted with a scream as soon as her lungs were full.

In the next instant, a powerful shockwave spread through the entire sphere with Sun's open mouth as the starting point. And before even a second passed, everyone, without exception was holding their ears in pain. Some of them, namely, Lyon, Ikkaku, Jenny, and Juvia, even losing consciousness immediately.

And this was a really unfortunate event for Juvia. Because of her [Water Body], the soundwaves making up Sun's spell hit her even harder than the others. Even if she had enough magic power to fend off an attack like that one under normal circumstances. The fact that she was in the water worked against her this time.

After that, Sun quickly transformed back into her mermaid form. Then, at speeds that not even Juvia could reach under water, she swam around, pushing Juvia, Jenny, Lyon, and Ikkaku out of the sphere in that order, as she just moved from closest opponent to closest opponent.

Sun then took another deep breath and released another [Howling Voice]. And this time, she managed to knock out the other three contestants, as well. Then, instead of swimming to knock out the others, she swam to the middle of the sphere and [Requipped] Kanade into her hands.

"[Sword/Water Compound Magic: Secret Form: Tidal Wave]." Sun chanted as she spun in place, drawing her sword with such force that a current was created sending all three of the other ladies out of the sphere simultaneously.

Meanwhile, neither the crowd nor the commentators had the time to get excited over the beginning of the game. Because in less than fifteen seconds, Sun was the only one remaining in the water sphere.

On a side note, Gozaburo did start cheering for Sun when she drew Kanade to perform [Tidal Wave]. However, before he could get too carried away, because let's be honest... of course, he was going to, Ren punched him in the back of his head and knocked him out.

{"Uh... I'm not sure what to say."} Loli said in a dumbfounded tone as Sun's fish tail transformed back into her legs. {"But... I think, wow, just about covers it."}

{"Yeah... That sounds good to me."} Yajima replied, his tone equally as dumbfounded as Loli's.

{"Then, I guess that makes Sun of Fairy Tail Team A the winner of the naval Battle."} Loli said, his tone still just as dumbfounded as before. {"as for the others, I think it looks like we've got another three-way

tie for second place. Meanwhile, fifth place goes to Ikkaku of Quatro Cerberus, Lyon of Lamia Scale will take sixth, Jenny of Blue Pegasus will take seventh, and Juvia of Fairy Tail Team C will take last."}

{"Then, let's take a look at the scoreboard to see how the outcome of this game has changed the placements, why don't we?"} Yajima, his wits returning to him, asked as the lacrima-Vision screens changed to show the scoreboard.

{Grand Magic Games Overall Scoreboard

Rank Team Score

Fairy Tail A 65 Pts. Fairy Tail B 48 Pts. Fairy Tail C 46 Pts. Mermaid Heel 39 Pts. Sabertooth 23 Pts. Quatro Cerberus 22 Pts. Lamia Scale 17 Pts. Blue Pegasus 11 Pts.}

{"Well, there were a few changes, indeed."} Loli said after Yajima read out the scores and ranks of the teams. {"But the front runners still have a pretty sizable lead over the others. Though, I'm not sure if anyone will be able to catch up to Fairy Tail Team A. They've been a dominant force ever since the Grand Magic Games started this year."}

{"Once again, only time will tell, Loli."} Yajima said in a wise tone. {We still have the day's Battle Round and the Grand Magic Game in two days. Anything can still happen."}

"You're right, Yajima."} Loli said as he was handed the envelope for the day's battles. {Now, why don't we get to the Battle Round, since I've just been handed the matchups?"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

## Chapter 760: The Last Battle Round

{"Oh, wow!"} Loli exclaimed as he read the first set of names on the card. {"It looks like there's something really special in store for today's Battle Round."}

{"Don't keep us in suspense."} Yajima replied in an irritated tone. Though, there was definitely interest shining in his eyes. {"Just read the card already."}

The crowd also seemed to agree with Yajima, as murmurs of discontent could be heard throughout the Domus Flau, as well.

{"Alright, alright, sorry."} Loli said while raising his hands, and the matchup card, disarmingly. He did make sure to keep the contents of the card hidden from Yajima, though. {"No need to get up in arms. I'll just spit it out, alright?"}

{"Well then, get on with it."} Yajima said in a dry tone while his perpetually squinted eyes opened a tad, adding some gravitas to his words.

Seeing the dispassionate light in Yajima's slightly opened eyes, Loli shuddered momentarily. Then, he decided not to make the former Magic Councilman any more annoyed and read out the matchup immediately.

{"Today's matches, will be two on two bouts."} Loli said, his tone a bit apprehensive with Yajima still staring at him. {"And the first match of the day will be even stranger, as one of the teams will be fielding their reserve member, as well."}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

At first, when the audience heard Loli's explanation, they froze momentarily. However, when the words settled in, they erupted in thunderous cheers.

{"So, without further ado!"} Loli said, his enthusiasm coming back with the crowd's excitement, not to mention the fact that Yajima closed his eyes once again. {"Yoruichi Shihouin and Sui-Feng of Mermaid Heel, Ichiya Vandalay Kotobuki and Nichiya of Bue Pegasus, please make your way to the arena~~~~!"}

"Oh, God..." Marin muttered in dumbfounded amazement. "Please tell me he doesn't mean who I think he does."

Not only Marin, but everyone who participated in the forceful trip to Edolas back in x784 when Magnolia as a whole disappeared, had the same expressions on their faces as Marin.

Meanwhile, Yoruichi and Sui-Feng wasted no time jumping into the arena and looking in the direction of the Blue Pegasus seating area. Shortly afterwards, Ichiya stood up with a rose stem held between his lips while a much shorter figure wearing a cloak stood up from the Blue Pegasus guild's seating area. Then, the shorter figure stepped forward, jumping past the rest of his guild mates until he was standing atop the separating wall just to the left of Ichiya.

A moment later, after they both struck flamboyant and, in their opinions, gentlemanly poses, both wizards leapt down into the arena. The two then made their way towards the center of the arena to face off against the two S-Class Mermaid Heel wizards.

"My lovely ladies." Ichiya said in his deep, what he considered to be, silky-smooth voice. "Allow me to introduce one of the newer members of Blue Pegasus."

As he spoke, Ichiya bowed politely while gesturing to the short, cloaked figure next to him.

"He came to us about two years ago, after embarking on a journey to discover himself." Ichiya continued while maintaining his bow. Then, just as the figure next to him grabbed his cloak, Ichiya continued. "Lovely ladies, this is Nichiya, a true gentleman, much like myself."

\*Flap!\*

At the same time as Ichiya's introduction, the cloaked figure, Nichiya, flung away his cloak to reveal... An Exceed. One with facial features that were very similar to Ichiya's, standing in a gentlemanly pose with his own rose held between his lips.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, ladies." Nichiya said, his voice sounding eerily similar to Ichiya's in its tone and pitch. "Now, instead of fighting, wouldn't you rather sit down for a cup of tea and discuss life?"

\*Gag!\*



As one, the entire crowd gagged when they saw what was hidden under Nichiya's cloak. Meanwhile, Yoruichi and Sui-Feng both visibly flinched. And Yoruichi, who had the ability to transform into a cat, was the worse of the two.

The reason for that was simple. It seemed that Nichiya already knew about Yoruichi's transformation ability. And he was looking at her with an, please excuse the pun, exceedingly, hungry gaze.

"It's him!" Happy and Carla shouted in unison while remembering the time Nichiya led a group of Exceed to kidnap them while they were in Edolas.

"Yup, it's exactly who I thought it was." Marin said in a tired tone.

"Eww... This is so much more gross than I thought it would be." Yoruichi said while shaking off her apparent disgust.

"Hey, Cat." Sui-Feng said with murderous intent burning in her eyes. "If you don't take your disgusting eyes off of Lady Yoruichi, I'll rip them out."

"Now, now, young lady." Nichiya said, putting on what he considered to be his most charming smile. "There's no need to be jealous. I assure you, I have enough love for the both of you. So, how about that--"

"Start the damn match!" Yoruichi and Sui-Feng both shouted while shivering at the amorous gaze they were both receiving from Nichiya.

{"Uh... Yeah... Let the match begin..."} Loli said, intimidated by the auras the two Mermaid Heel wizards were releasing.

"[Shunko]!" x 2

Immediately after the match began, both Yoruichi and Sui-Feng chanted their most powerful enhancement spell. Then, they were covered in lightning and wind respectively. A moment later, both ladies vanished from where they stood and reappeared in front of Ichiya and Nichiya, each with an attack primed and ready.

\*Bang!\* x 2

\*Boom!\* x 2

Then, at the same time, both Yoruichi and Sui-Feng released their attacks, sending the two, self-proclaimed, gentlemen flying into the walls behind them, collapsing them on top of themselves from the impact.

"Men~~~~~!" x 2

And as they flew, both Ichiya and Nichiya let out Ichiya's catch phrase in pained voices. Their cries only coming to a stop when they were buried by the rubble of the collapse wall.

At the same time, the entire stadium fell silent, not sure what to make of what they just saw. Meanwhile, Yoruichi and Sui-Feng, having put everything they had into those attacks, stood where Ichiya and Nichiya once stood while trying to catch their breath.

Eventually, the silence was broken when the dust from the collapsed wall settled. However, the silence was not broken by the crowd cheering for the Mermaid Heel victory. Instead...

"Ladies... there's no need... to be shy..." Ichiya said in a weak tone, his clothing covered in dust while his hair was a mess.

"\*Cough\* That's... right." Nichiya added, his hair and clothing just as disheveled as Ichiya's. "That invitation for... tea, is still... open for later..."

"Ugh!" x 2

Then, as soon as Nichiya's words ended, all the energy the gentleman of Blue Pegasus mustered to give their last words was used up, and they fainted in the rubble.

"Ichiya~~~~~! Nichiya~~~~~!" The members of Blue Pegasus, the Trimens being the loudest, shouted in despairing tones.

{"Um... It looks like Yoruichi and Sui-Feng of Mermaid Heel are the winners."} Loli announced, unsure of what to make of that match, much like the rest of the audience. {"Anyway, let's get onto the next match,

yeah? The next battle will be between Quatro Cerberus and Lamia Scale. Ikkaku Madarame, Yumichika Ayasegawa, Takashi Komuro, Rei Miyamoto, make your way to the arena."}

{"Actually, is Ikkaku even able to battle at this point?"} Yajima asked in a concerned tone. {"I mean, he was just knocked out in the game that took place a few minutes ago, wasn't he?"}

{"Huh? Now that you mention it..."} Loli said while looking towards a member of the staff stationed in the broadcast room.

"Oh yeah!" Ikkaku's voice sounded throughout the arena before Loli could get an answer, however. "I've been waiting for this! I think this is the perfect occasion for my happy dance!"

Then, before anyone could react, the doors to the waiting room burst open. And through them, Ikkaku with clear signs of ointment having been applied to his inner ears, sauntered out into the arena while dancing on the tips of his toes. Meanwhile, Yumichika, having expected something like this from his old friend, shook his head with a fond smile on his face as he jumped down into the arena.

At the same time, with expressions filled with determination, both Takashi and Rei also jumped into the arena before making their way to its center to face off against their opponents.

Not long later, the match began. And to everyone's surprise, the two newcomers, Takashi and Rei put up quite the fight against Ikkaku and Yumichika. Though, it should be noted that neither Soul Reaper released their Zanpakuto during the fight. Still, for two youngsters who had only been wizards for the last four or five years, it was quite impressive. Even if they did not take the victory in the end.

The third match was between Natsu Dragneel and Gray Fullbuster of Fairy Tail Team C and Sting Eucliffe and Rogue Cheney of Sabertooth. And when you consider that there were three Dragon Slayers on the field, the crowd's excitement was palpable.

However, when Natsu and Gray started fighting each other as soon as the match started instead of their opponents, the audience did not know what to think. They were even more dumbfounded when Natsu, after using a dirty trick, knocked out Gray and threw him back into the stands to face the Sabertooth Twin Dragon Slayers alone.

However, when Natsu finally faced off against Sting and Rogue, the crowd could not help but remember back to last year's games, when Alfonzo did something similar. And just like that fight in last year's games, Natsu managed to defeat the two Dragon Slayers alone. Though, he did not do it quite as effortlessly as Alfonzo had the year before.

{"Next up is the last match of the Battle Rounds in this year's Grand Magic Games."} Loli said excitedly as he read the last four names on the card in his hand. {"And this one is akin to a clash of titans. This time, we won't have just one Fairy Tail team involved in the match, but two. So, are you all ready for this?"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

{"Then, help me welcome the combatants into the arena~~~~!"} Loli shouted at the top of his lungs, the anticipation in his tone on full display. {Alfonzo Marcus, Elicia Marcus Taylor, Laxus Dreyar, Fried Justine! Make your way to the stage~~~~!"}

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

Based on the volume of the cheers and the way Loli introduced the match, it was clear to anyone present that this was a widely anticipated match. In fact, it was the first time that wizards from the same guild would fight each other in the Grand Magic Games. And thanks to Fairy Tail's reputation, everyone knew that neither side would be holding back.

Meanwhile, as the sound of the cheers saturated the arena, Laxus and Fried both stood up calmly. Then, without hesitation, they both leapt into the arena. At the same time, Elicia also stood up. Alfonzo, on the other hand, sighed while continuing to work with his [Archive Magic] for a bit longer before closing all the windows floating around him. Then, he, too, stood up. After that, he and Elicia jumped down into the arena hand in hand.

"I didn't think I'd get an opportunity like this until the last day of the Games." Laxus said as Alfonzo and Elicia stepped into a comfortable speaking range. "But I'm not complaining. I've even got something new to show you, Alfonzo."

"Oh?" Alfonzo, clearly interested in Laxus words, intoned, genuine curiosity shining in his eyes. "I hope it's worth it, Laxus. Because if I'm disappointed by what you have to show, I'm gonna kick your ass even harder than usual. Then again, you probably won't get to show it off until the last day. I'm pretty tired, you see. So, Lici and I are gonna end this one fast. \*Yawn~~~\*"

"Hmph! We'll see." Laxus said as he pulled the halberd, his [Soul Armament], Elexion, off his back.

At the same time, Fried also drew his [Soul Armament], Thoth, a longsword hanging at his waist, from its scabbard.

Meanwhile, Elicia took her fighting stance while Alfonzo drew Riot and Bedlam from the strap on his lower back.

\*Cheer~~~~~!\*

Seeing the four fighters were all ready to begin the match, the crowd cheered loudly once again. At the same time, all the wizards who had a chance of facing Alfonzo and Elicia in the Grand Magic Game event, watched the match like a hawk. Because none of them had forgotten the overwhelming displays the husband and wife pair put on during last year's games.

{"Alright, it looks like all four combatants are ready!"} Loli shouted, his hair piece flying off in his excitement. {"Then, let the last match of this year's Battle rounds... Begin!"}