

Fairy Tail 781

Chapter 781: Alfonzo's Lost Opportunity

"Alright, we're here." Alfonzo said as he and Future Lucy appeared in front of a large, golden gate with the symbols of the twelve-zodiac etched around it.

"Hey! Who are you?" A blonde woman asked while pointing a golden Celestial Key at them. "Kya~~~~~! Monster!"

Unfortunately, because of Alfonzo's [Full-Release State], Alfonzo looked very different from most humans, with the exception of his humanoid shape. So, that naturally frightened the more skittish Lucy from the Prime Timeline.

"Oh, I guess I do look like a monster right now, don't I?" Alfonzo asked as he looked down at himself. He then tapped the Fairy Tail emblem in the middle of his chest as he continued. "But this should tell you that I'm on your side, right, Lucy?"

And just as Alfonzo said, the one pointing a Celestial Key at him and Future Lucy was Prime Lucy. On top of that, Prime Yukino was standing next to her, a Celestial Key of her own in her hands. And like Prime Lucy, she was ready to attack the monster standing in front of her, as well.

"You think I'll believe you are part of Fairy Tail just because you have the emblem on your chest?" Prime Lucy asked in a hostile tone. "Do you have any idea how many people pretend to be members of Fairy Tail to trick people before they do bad things."

"Are you talking about Bora?" Alfonzo asked as the liquid metal around his head retracted, exposing his face, before he started stroking his chin. "Yeah, I guess you would be wary. I mean, you did get tricked back then. Almost got sold off into slavery, too."

"Wha! How do you know that?" Prime Lucy asked in a flustered tone.

"Um... Miss Lucy, why are there two of you?" Prime Yukino asked in a confused tone.

"Huh?" Prime Lucy intoned, sounding even more flustered and confused than only a moment ago. She then looked at Prime Yukino, who was pointing at the woman who looked like an older version of herself sitting on the hulking black, red, and violet monster with a human head's shoulder. "Ahh~~~~! Why are there two of me?"

"*Sigh* That's a long story." Future Lucy said in a tired tone as she slid off Alfonzo's shoulder, landing on the ground between him and Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino. "But the short version is that I came back in time to stop..."

Reaching that point, Future Lucy gestured to the Eclipse Gate that was wide open in front of her. She then spun around and pointed out all the dragons wreaking havoc in Crocus.

"... this." Future Lucy continued after turning back to her younger self. "But something went wrong when I traveled through time, and I ended up in a completely different timeline where I met... him and the Fairy Tail in his world."

The dumbfounded and confused expressions on Prime Lucy's and Prime Yukino's faces were both annoying and understandable. But Future Lucy really did not feel like she had the time to deal with that right now.

"Well, you have fun explaining that." Alfonzo said as he was once again cloaked in crackling arcs of violet electricity. "I've got some dragon ass to kick."

Hearing that, Future Lucy widened her eyes. Then, she spun on her heels to try and stop Alfonzo from leaving so he could help explain the situation.

Zap!

"Don't leave me alone with this!" Future Lucy shouted with her fists clenched.

Yet, before the words even left her mouth, Alfonzo was already gone. The only thing she could see was a streak of violet light flying towards the battlefield.

"Damn it, Alfonzo!" Future Lucy shouted as she stomped her foot in frustration.

Realizing that Alfonzo probably heard her and had no intention of turning around, based on the faint laughter she could hear from the distance, Future Lucy huffed in annoyance. Then, she turned around to look at the confused expressions on Prime Lucy's and Prime Yukino's faces.

"I'll explain everything after we get the gate closed." Future Lucy said in a defeated tone. "For now, just take out all your Golden Celestial Keys. We'll need them to close the Eclipse Gate."

Receiving a pair of dumbfounded nods from the two Celestial Wizards, Future Lucy began explaining what they needed to do as the two took out all their Golden Celestial Keys.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo was streaking through the skies towards one of the dragons fighting the wizards of this timeline.

"Well, that was fun." Alfonzo muttered to himself. "But the time for fun is over. Let's see what's going on around the city."

With that, Alfonzo focused on his [Magic Power Detection].

"So, Gildarts and Ur finished off the dragon they were fighting and now they're moving with who I would assume is this world's version of Tear and Meredy. Mira and Erza finished off theirs, too. Mira is moving to help people evacuate while Erza is fighting a horde of little dragons... Well, as little as dragons can be, anyway... with her counterpart and this world's Jellal. Oh, Natsu, his counterpart, my Tear, and another dragon are on their way over to them, too. And since the two Natsus seem to be riding on that dragon's back, they must have turned Atlas Flame to their side already. Well, that was probably easier without the Rogue from the future here to control all the dragons."

["Lici and Laxus just arrived near another dragon, too."] Upheaval said, his voice sounding like Riot and Bedlam's voice speaking in unison.

"You know, hearing you speak like that is weird." Alfonzo muttered. "And the fact that I'm hearing angry as hell and infuriatingly smug at the same time is throwing me off, too."

["Deal with it."] Upheaval said uncaringly. ["Right now, we've got dragon ass to kick."]

Smiling in response, Alfonzo picked up his pace. Eventually, he arrived in the sky above a dragon with dark blue scales and red eyes. And like most dragons, it had four limbs and a pair of wings. But what made it stand out from the other dragons were the fish-like fins protruding from the sides of its head, its back, and its limbs while it had a white beard growing from its chin.

"Hmm... That one looks pretty aquatic to me." Alfonzo muttered as he looked down at the dragon below him. "Oh, and are those Sting and Rogue fighting it? They're actually doing pretty well with their [Drives]."

["But they're too weak to finish it off."] Upheaval said disdainfully. ["They supposedly killed Skiadrum and Weisslogia. But there's no way in hell that's possible if this is all they can do. Hell, if I had to guess, they were already three feet in the grave when Sting and Rogue even fought them. Then, instead of dying, they pulled their own souls out of their bodies and stuffed them into those two brats."]

"I wouldn't doubt it." Alfonzo replied. "Anyway, I'll just take care of that thing before it tires those two out by too much. They'll be needed to help with reconstruction by the time this is all over. And they'll need as much energy as they can save for that."

Zap!

With that, Alfonzo was once again cloaked in violet electricity before he fell from the sky like a bolt of violet lightning.

Boom!

In the next instant, Alfonzo slammed feet first into the center of the dragon's, Levia's back, forcing it down to the ground and causing a localized earthquake from the impact.

Roar!

"What was that?" Prime sting asked as he leapt away from the impact site.

"I don't know." Prime Rogue replied solemnly. "But we should be careful."

Eventually, the dust from the collision cleared. When it did, Prime Sting and Prime Rogue saw a monster, though not nearly as big as Levia, standing on Levia's back. What confused them the most about this monster, however, was the fact that it was sporting a Fairy Tail emblem in the middle of its chest.

"What the hell is that?" Prime Sting asked while pointing at the monster, Alfonzo.

"Fairy Tail's secret weapon, maybe?" Rogue said, though it sounded more like a question.

"Well, you're right in one sense." Alfonzo said, his voice a mixture of his own and Upheaval's. "But completely wrong in another. Anyway, We'll explain once all these flying lizards are dealt with. As for this one, We'll handle it real quick. Then, we can get to helping people. Sound good?"

The sound of the monster's voice, mixed with the absurd amount of power Prime Sting and Prime Rogue could feel rolling off of it made them feel uneasy. But since they could not feel any hostility directed towards them, they did not attack on instinct.

Yet, there was someone who was intent on attacking. And that was naturally Levia, who was struggling to stand after being forced into the ground.

"I don't know who you are!" Levia bellowed angrily. "But you will pay for humiliating a dragon."

"Classic third-rate villain dialogue." Alfonzo said uncaringly.

"[Water Dragon's---] *Roar!*" Levia began to chant a spell before roaring in pain once again.

"Yeah, no." Alfonzo said as he lit up with violet electricity. "[Electromagnetism Magic: Electrolysis]."

Boom!

Unfortunately for Levia, the spell he was preparing to cast coated its body in water. And thanks to Alfonzo's [Electrolysis] spell, the electric current he produced separated the oxygen and the hydrogen in the water before the heat caused them to explode.

Whoosh!

However, before anyone could comment on the large explosion that engulfed Levia's form, both Prime Sting and Prime Rogue saw the dragon's body being flung into the air by what appeared to be black tentacles.

What the hell are those?" Prime Sting asked in a dumbfounded tone.

"Honestly, I'm not sure." Prime Rogue replied.

A moment later, the tentacles released Levia, sending him higher into the air. Then, they whipped outwards in all directions, clearing the smoke and debris from the explosion before reacting. When they did, the last vestiges of the tentacles could be seen disappearing not Alfonzo's body. Meanwhile, Alfonzo could be seen standing in the middle of a crater with his arms raised and a conical chunk of metal forming between his outstretched arms.

"You dare to challenge the majesty of a dragon?" Levia asked as he spread his wings and righted himself in the air. "Then, I shall show you the error of your ways. [Water Dragon's Roar]."

As he finished speaking, Levia opened his mouth wide. Then, a pressurized torrent of water was fired towards Alfonzo.

"Yeah, you're definitely no Acnologia." Alfonzo muttered as his arms lit up with electricity. "If it had been him, I would have never even been able to sneak up on him like that. And your breath attack... don't make me laugh."

As Alfonzo spoke, the conical piece of metal floating over his head finished forming. At the same time, the electricity dancing around his arms spread to his entire body. On top of that, to anyone sensitive to electricity, they would have seen a barrel of electromagnetism forming around Alfonzo and stretching to about three times his height in the air.

"[Electromagnetism Magic: Linear Cannon]." Alfonzo chanted as he pulled his arms down to his waist with his fists clenched.

Boom~~~~~!

Then, faster than either Prime Sting or Prime Rogue could comprehend, Alfonzo thrust his fists upwards, slamming them into the flat side of the piece of metal. At the same time, a Vibranium barrier rose from the ground to stop the aftermath of having the sound barrier broken several times over as the metal projectile shot into the sky, leaving a streak of superheated air in its wake.

Splatter!

In less than the time it would take to blink, Alfonzo's [Linear Cannon] reached Levia's breath attack before tearing through it like a wet piece of paper, splattering the water that did not evaporate all over the area. Then, before Levia could react, the projectile passed by him, causing his body to explode from

the force and heat it produced before the projectile flew out past Earth Land's atmosphere into the depths of space.

For the next few moments, the area fell into silence with Alfonzo just basking in his accomplishment while Prime Sting and Prime Rogue were too shellshocked to say anything.

"Ah! Damn it!" Alfonzo shouted in frustration as he raised his hands to his head and started pulling at the liquid metal wrapped around it, the metal stretching as if he was pulling at his hair.

"What's wrong?" Prime Sting asked in a panic, Alfonzo's shouting snapping him out of his daze.

"Is it coming back?" Prime Rogue asked while looking around cautiously.

"No, that mother fucker is dead as a door nail." Alfonzo replied in a forlorn tone.

"Then what's wrong?" Prime Sting asked, sounding a bit irritated at the scare.

"I didn't leave a body!" Alfonzo roared in lament. "I've never cooked a dragon before. And now I won't have the chance to. God fucking damn it~~~~~!"

Hearing that, Prime Sting and Prime Rogue could only stare at Alfonzo blankly as he wallowed in regret. Then, they looked at each other, hoping the other would know what to say.

However, when the Twin Dragon Slayers made eye contact, they were both surprised to see a sense of regret in the other's eyes. As it turned out, they were curious to know what dragon tasted like, too. Just as long as the meat didn't come from Skiadrum or Weisslogia, that is.

A moment later, the Dragon Slayers turned their attention back to Alfonzo. However, they found themselves surprised once again as they saw the liquid metal coating his body reseeding towards his hands before taking the form of a pair of tonfa.

"You... You're actually human?" Prime Sting asked while pointing an accusing finger at Alfonzo.

"Uh... Yeah?" Alfonzo asked, not understanding what the issue was. "I thought being in my base form would be better when we go around to help the people of the city. That form would have just scared them even more."

'You think you didn't scare us?' Prime Sting and Prime Rogue thought simultaneously.

"Anyway, let's get going." Alfonzo said in a dejected tone as he turned towards the nearest civilian magic power signature he could feel. "We got a shit-ton of work to do."

Naturally, Alfonzo's downcast mood would not last long. Elicia's surprise for him would brighten his day right up after all of this was over.

Chapter 782: A Dance of Wind and Iron

"[Iron Dragon's Roar]." Prime Gajeel chanted as he spewed forth a swirling mass of metal shards to combat a beam of jade-green energy.

On the other side of the jade-colored beam was a large dragon with jade-green, jagged scales, four powerful limbs with four fingered claws, a pair of large wings on its back, and a row of spikes running down its spine. The dragon also seemed to have a flat skull and nose with two long strands of hair growing from its chin.

"Hmm... You're doing better than I expected." The dragon, Zirconis, said casually. "Maybe I should keep you around and train you as a sparring partner. Yes, train you as a sparring partner. No! No! No! I'll eat you instead. Yes, I'll eat you instead."

"Make up your damn mind!" Prime Gajeel shouted as he leapt out of the way of Zirconis breath attack after it overwhelmed his own. "You've been going back and forth about the same thing ever since you got here!"

Immediately, Zirconis' words and movements came to a stop. Then, he slowly turned his head to glare at Prime Gajeel, flames of anger burning in his eyes.

"How dare a puny little human, even one who learned from one of the great dragons, speak to me that way." Zirconis said in a cold tone. "And just for that, I am definitely going to eat you."

"Um... Gajeel, maybe that wasn't the best thing to say." Prime Wendy said in a nervous tone.

"So what?" Prime Gajeel asked indignantly. "This guy is just too annoying. Always changing his mind... Always repeating himself... Can't he just keep that big ugly mug shut?"

The flames of wrath burning in Zirconis' eyes only grew in intensity as Gajeel spoke. And the reason for that was simple. Zirconis was well-aware of his personality flaws. However, that did not make it okay for others to mention them.

"I've heard enough." Zirconis said sonorously. "I'll eat you right now. But I hate the taste of clothing. So, I'll get rid of those first."

While Prime Gajeel looked at Zirconis disdainfully after hearing that, Prime Wendy paled immediately. Then, she wrapped her arms around herself defensively while looking at Zirconis warily.

"This dragon... he's a pervert." Wendy said in a shaky tone, the fear from being stripped naked in public completely outweighing the fear she felt for the dragon in front of her.

Zirconis froze once again upon hearing that. However, instead of exploding in rage, he repeatedly opened and closed his mouth, unable to find the words to defend himself.

"I agree." A familiar, yet unfamiliar, female voice said from behind Prime Gajeel and Prime Wendy. "I can't believe he's from the same race as Grandeeney."

Hearing the voice coming from behind them, Prime Gajeel and Prime Wendy quickly turned their heads in the voice's direction. Meanwhile, Zirconis narrowed his eyes when he saw the two people walking towards them.

"Who are you?" Prime Gajeel asked, his eyes narrowing as well.

Meanwhile, one of the newcomers, Gajeel, smirked.

"What's wrong? Don't you recognize such a good-looking mug?" Gajeel asked while cupping his chin with his left hand.

"We came to help." The one who spoke earlier, Wendy, said softly with a determined expression on her face. "So, just let us take care of this degenerate dragon. [Sky Dragon's Healing Roar]."

After speaking her chant, Wendy took a quick, but deep, breath. Then, she breathed out a gentle wind that flooded the area. The wind quickly spread to everyone in the area, whether it be Prime Gajeel and Prime Wendy, or all the people caught up in the dragon's destruction. Then, to everyone's surprise, they felt their injuries begin to heal.

The only one who was not affected by Wendy's healing winds was Zirconis. And after seeing all his future meals being healed from their injuries, he grew even more angry.

"If you think that will save them, you're sadly mistaken." Zirconis said, his easy-going tone nowhere to be heard.

Whoosh!

Zirconis then flapped his wings, propelling himself into the air. Then, when he was up high enough, he inhaled a large amount of air, clearly preparing for his breath attack once again.

"I don't think so." Gajeel said, drawing a bastard sword from a sheath on his back. "[Crush Them with Claws and Fangs of Iron, Metalicana]."

Hearing the name Metalicana, Prime Gajeel's eyes widened. However, before he could ask the look-alike in front of him about it, he was forced to take a step back when Gajeel's magic power spiked. At the same time, his eyes widened even further when he saw the changes Gajeel's bastard sword went through.

Though the shape of Gajeel's sword did not change by too much, seeing the sword's edge become serrated like the blade of a saw was something Neither Prime Gajeel or Prime Wendy expected.

"[Let the Winds of Healing Spread, Grandeeneey]." Wendy also chanted her release command.

As Wendy's chant ended, her magic power also rose sharply. At the same time, the small, metallic dragon wings on her back, Grandeeneey's sealed state, expanded to the point where the wingspan was nearly triple Wendy's height. They also became a pair of white, feathered wings, looking a lot like Grandeeneey's.

Seeing the change in what she only thought were a pair of decorative wings on Wendy's back, Prime Wendy's eyes widened in surprise as her hands flew up to cover her wide open mouth and tears began forming in her eyes.

"Grandeeneey..." Prime Wendy muttered in nostalgia and longing.

"[Ile Vernier], [Ile Arms], [Ile Armor]." Wendy chanted three spells in quick succession.

In the next instant, multicolored orbs of magic power were sent flying from Wendy in all directions, two of each colored orb sinking into everyone present on the battlefield, wizards and civilians alike.

"Yeah, that's what I'm talking about." Gajeel said happily as he felt his speed, offensive ability, and defensive ability increase twice. "Now, let's show this bastard what it means to mess with our kingdom. [Iron Dragon Incarnation]."

In the next instant, Gajeel was covered in an iron armor that looked like a humanoid version of Metalicana. Then, with his sword in hand, he flapped the wings of his armor and rocketed up towards Zirconis.

"[Jade Dragon's roar]." Zirconis chanted, exhaling a much more powerful beam of jade-green light towards the approaching Gajeel.

"[Dragon Slyer Secret Art: Karma Demon's Iron God Sword]." Gajeel chanted only a moment later.

In the next instant, while the beam of destructive green light charged towards him, the sword in Gajeel's armored hands fused with the armor. Then, it expanded in size, its length now comparable to Zirconis' length from snout to tail.

"[Rip and Tear]." Gajeel chanted once again while raising his arms and the giant sword above his head.

Brrr~~~~~!

With Gajeel's second chant, the serrated edge of the sword began to rotate around the blade like a chainsaw, the shrill sound echoing throughout the surroundings. Then, once Gajeel was close enough to the breath attack, he swung his arms down with all his strength., cutting through Zirconis' [Jade Dragon's Roar] with ease while his approach remained unimpeded.

"What? Impossible!" Zirconis gasped in surprise.

However, Gajeel did not stop at just cutting through Zirconis' most powerful attack. Instead, once he was close enough, he swung his arms back along the same path.

Splatter!

And with that return swing, Gajeel cut through Zirconis from his head through most of his tail, which had flicked to one side when he was surprised by how easily his [Jade Dragon's Roar] had been dealt with, causing blood, bone fragments, and shredded pieces of dragon organs to rain down on the part of the city where the battle was taking place.

Meanwhile, everyone in the area could only watch in shock and awe at how easily a dragon, one that had been terrorizing their city almost completely unchallenged since it was summoned, had been cut in two with only one slash from a massively oversized sword.

"Ha!" Gajeel barked a satisfied laugh as he watched Zirconis bisected body fall from the sky. "I thought the fight would be harder."

Bom!

A moment later, the two halves of Zirconis crashed onto the ground, kicking up a large dust cloud that formed the shape of a mushroom.

Gajeel landed next to Wendy not long later and looked at her with a grin.

"Hey, Pipsqueak." Gajeel said, causing Wendy to look in his direction. "Why don't you ditch that loser, Salamander, and team up with me and Levy... Oh, and I guess those other two, too. With your help, we would be able to take on much tougher S-Class quests."

"No thank you." Wendy replied casually. "I like hanging out with Natsu, Erza, Gray and Lucy. Besides, Carla would be sad if she couldn't see Happy as often. They've already been apart for a long time, you know."

"What, and you think Lily isn't better than Happy?" Gajeel asked, almost sounding offended.

"That's not what I meant." Wendy said, her calm demeanor breaking immediately as she waved her hands in panic. "But they're in love. And you can't force her to stop loving Happy and start loving Lily, right?"

"Tch! Whatever." Gajeel said, clicking his tongue as he turned away.

Seeing Gajeel's reaction, Wendy panicked even more, thinking she had upset him. However, because of the angle at which she was looking at him, she couldn't see the teasing smile on his face.

Meanwhile, Prime Gajeel and Prime Wendy were thoroughly shocked by the display from two people who looked almost exactly like they did. Gajeel did not have a spell like [Iron Dragon Incarnation], nor had he ever thought of creating one. As for Prime Wendy, she could see just how much the people injured in Zirconis' attack had recovered from just one wide-ranged spell from Wendy. On top of that, seeing Wendy double cast all three of her support spells was just as incredible to her.

Then, there were the weapons and accessories both Gajeel and Wendy wielded. And the fact that they were named the same as their dragon parents who raised them made Prime Gajeel and Prime Wendy want to ignore everything and ask a whole slew of questions.

"Stop lookin' at us like that." Gajeel said after noticing the stares from his and Wendy's counterparts. "I know you two have a bunch of questions. But now's not the time. Instead, you should worry about helping all the people who can't help themselves."

"Yes." Wendy added, snapping out of her panicked state. "There will be an explanation for all of you before we go back home."

Though that answer did not satisfy their curiosity, Prime Gajeel and Prime Wendy accepted it for now. Especially since they understood just how much their help would be needed for the people of Crocus. So, after glaring, in Prime Gajeel's case, and looking at them with puppy-dog eyes, in Prime Wendy's case, the two darted off to start helping as many people as they could.

"Alright, we should get going to help, too." Gajeel said as he resealed Metalicana and dispelled his [iron Dragon Incarnation]. "You go help the short stack heal as many people as you can while I help that handsome bastard dig people out of rubble."

Rolling her eyes at Gajeel's narcissism, Wendy turned to follow Prime Wendy. But before she started running, she looked at Gajeel from over her shoulder.

"Yeah, I understand." Wendy said, a mischievous smile beginning to spread across her face. "But you know, I didn't realize just how cute I was back when I was twelve."

Then, before Gajeel could reply, Wendy, with the help of Grandeeney, which was still released, sped off with a gust of wind to follow her younger counterpart.

Meanwhile, Gajeel could only watch Wendy leave with a dumbfounded expression on his face for a few moments, completely surprised by her cheeky reply. Then, when he got his wits together, he threw his head back and laughed at the top of his lungs.

"Oh man, she really has changed since she came to the guild." Gajeel said with a wide smile on his face. "Then again, so have I. I mean, I would have never thought about getting married back then, would I? I guess Fairy Tail really is a good influence on us, huh?"

After saying that, Gajeel shook his head before he could start comparing himself to how he was back in Phantom Lord. Then, he dashed off in the direction where Prime Gajeel went, to help him clear rubble.

Chapter 783: Extreme Thermal Fluctuations

"We're almost there." Ultear said as she looked down at the two Erzas and Prime Jellal fighting off the miniature dragons spawned by Motherglare. "But it looks like one of the Erzas is reaching her limit. We need to hurry."

"What?!?" x 2

Both Natus reacted violently when they heard Ultear's analysis of the situation. Even though Ultear never mentioned which Erza was in trouble, just knowing that one of their friends might be in danger was enough to make them act.

"Hey, Atlas Flame, we need to hurry!" Prime Natsu shouted as he crouched down, ready to attack.

Natsu, on the other hand, did not say a word. Though, he did crouch down, as well. But instead of asking Atlas Flame to speed up, he channeled his magic power into his feet. Then, with one powerful kick, he leapt from the fire dragon's back, his flames acting as boosters that sent him flying through the air at breakneck speed.

Meanwhile, Erza looked up when she felt the approaching magic power signatures through her [Magic Power Detection]. And when she noticed Natsu flying towards them with his [Soul Armament] partially released, she quickly grabbed Prime Erza and leapt away from the miniature dragons.

At the same time, Jellal, after seeing Erza leap away with Prime Erza, also distanced himself from the area. Though, he was not exactly sure of why. However, when he felt the increase in heat, he had a fairly good idea of what was going on.

Boom!

Less than a second after the three wizards cleared the area, a pillar of flames fell into the center of the miniature dragon's encirclement, the shockwave from the impact staggering the nearby miniature dragons.

"Natsu, attack on my mark!" Ultear shouted as she, too, sped up and reached the outskirts of the encirclement while making her casting gesture. "[Ice-Make: Floor]."

Ultear then slammed her hands onto the ground, a thick sheet of ice spreading below everyone's feet. She then made her casting gesture for a second time before slamming her hands onto the ice beneath her.

"[Ice-Make: Rampart]." Ultear chanted as she raised her head to shout at Natsu. "Now!"

"[Fire Dragon King's Purgatory]." Natsu chanted as his body was engulfed in high-intensity flames.

The flames surrounding Natsu quickly heated the ice under his feet, creating steam. Yet, that was not the end of Natsu and Ultear's combined attack. Because only a moment later, the flames engulfing Natsu spread in all directions. On top of that, the heat increased rapidly, as well.

Boom~~~~~!

An instant later, a violent steam explosion engulfed the entirety of Motherglare's spawned miniature dragons. Luckily, Erza, Prime Jellal, and Prime Erza were able to get away quickly enough to avoid the

detonation. However, if Ultear had not raised the [Ice Rampart], they would have still been injured by the steam.

"Good work, Ultear." Erza said with a smile while looking toward Ultear, who was approaching the trio.

"Ultear?" Prime Erza asked while looking between Prime Jellal and Ultear.

"She's not the one who's with me." Prime Jellal pointed out. "More than likely, she came with that "Erza and her companions."

"I see." Prime Erza replied. "I'll find out more---"

"Damn you!" Motherglare's roar of anger put an end to that conversation, causing the four wizards to look up. "I'll kill you all!"

Roar!

Yet, before Motherglare could act again, a second dragon's roar echoed over the city. Then, a flaming body slammed into Motherglare from above.

"You're not gonna kill any of my friends." Prime Natsu shouted as he leapt off of Atlas Flame's back. "We're definitely taking you down first. [Fire Dragon's Talon]."

"[Fire Dragon King's Destruction Fist]." Prime Natsu shouted shortly afterwards as he shot up from the steam still filling the space inside of Ultear's [Ice Rampart].

"Yeah, I'm not really looking to be killed by a dragon, either." Ultear muttered as she once again made her casting gesture. "[Ice-Make: Gatling Guns]."

With her [Soul Armament] in its partial release state, Ultear did not stop at making only one gatling gun. Instead, she made a total of four, one on each of her hips and one on each of her shoulders with their firing mechanisms connected between the two on each side. And with the additional strength afforded to her from her [Soul Armament], wielding such heavy weapons was no issue.

Bang! x 2

Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-! x 4

A moment later, the sound of Prime Natsu's kick and Natsu's punch echoed around the area, each impact causing shards of diamond to go flying from Motherglare's [Diamond Form]. Then, even more shards of diamond were sent flying when the four streams of ice bullets riddled Motherglare's body, as well.

Roar~~~~~!

On top of that, Motherglare could feel the flames making up Atlas Flame's body were melting her diamond scales. And that was angering her even more than being attacked by the humans.

"Atlas Flame, you traitor!" Motherglare bellowed as she whipped her tail at Atlas Flame, who's fangs were buried in her neck. "I'll make your death even more miserable than those pathetic humans!"

"Does helping my dear friend Igneel's son make me a traitor, Motherglare?" Atlas Flame asked after releasing his fangs from Motherglare's neck. "If it does, then I'm fine with being a traitor."

Then, just as Atlas Flame's words ended, Atlas Flame opened his mouth, gathering flames between his open jaws. Meanwhile, Ultear, Natsu, and Prime Natsu continued to attack, chipping off pieces of Motherglare's [Diamond form] with every attack landed.

Whoosh!

Finally, after charging his breath attack for a moment, Atlas Flame unleashed a devastating stream of fire that bathed most of Motherglare's body, melting down more and more of her [Diamond Form].

"*Roar* Damn you!" Motherglare roared in both pain and anger as she struggled to free herself from Atlas Flame's grip, the violent writhing dislodging both Natsus from her.

Mother glare then whipped her tail, striking Atlas Flame in the head, freeing herself from his grip, as well.

"I've got them." Erza said calmly as she bent her knees, preparing to jump. "[Requip: Black Wing Armor].

In the next instant, Erza was covered by the light of her magic power before she vanished from next to Prime Erza in a burst of speed. She then flew through the air, catching both Natsus before once again landing next to Prime Erza.

"I'll take care of the final blow." Ultear said as she spread the wings provided by Kinsi's unsealing.

Ultear then flew up to above Motherglare, who was trying to cool her glowing red hot body. However, before the temperature could drop by too much, Ultear, clad in freezing cold wind, landed on Motherglare's back with her hands held out in her casting Gesture.

"Damn... It's even hotter than I thought." Ultear muttered as she flared her magic power. "No matter. Hopefully, this should end things. [Ice Age]."

Freeze!

Immediately after Ultear uttered the name of her spell, Motherglare's entire body was frozen. Then, without the flapping of her wings to keep her airborne, she fell to the ground, the light in her eyes completely snuffed out from the rapid change in temperature.

Boom!

Shatter!

And when the body of such a large dragon hit the ground, having become brittle after rapid heating and cooling, it shattered into shards of ice and diamond, marking the end of yet another dragon from the past.

"I see you've actually been paying attention when Alfonzo talks about science." Erza said as Ultear landed next to her.

"Yeah, some of that stuff is actually quite useful when you can use [Ice magic]." Ultear said while wincing in pain. "Anyway, I need to find Wendy. Even though I covered myself in cold air to try and mitigate the heat, I've still got burns all over. And I really don't wanna end up with scars."

"Indeed, your skin is far too pretty for that." Erza replied with a nod. "Though, I doubt that Alfonzo will love you any less for it."

"Oh, I know he won't." Ultear replied with a painful smile. "But I don't look pretty just for him, you know. Being pretty makes me feel good, too."

Erza nodded in response. Then, she turned to the others to thank them for their help. However, when she saw the sour expression on Prime Jellal's face and Prime Erza's blush that made it unclear where her hair started and her face ended, she was brought up short.

"Um... Is something wrong?" Erza asked in an uncertain tone.

"You said you were married to this Alfonzo, right?" Prime Jellal asked in a dark tone.

"Yes?" Erza replied, not understanding what the issue was.

"Then, why would it matter if he stops loving her?" Prime Jellal asked while looking pointedly at Ultear.
"Is that man two-timing you?"

Hearing that, Prime Erza's blush faded rapidly. She then began to glare angrily, as well.

"What kind of scum is he?" Prime Erza asked coldly. "To think the man that another version of me fell in l-l-love with is such a fickle man."

Erza was completely dumbfounded when she heard that. Ultear, on the other hand, was trying, and failing spectacularly, to hold back her laughter after understanding the misunderstanding Prime Jellal and prime Erza were having.

"Since you're laughing, you must understand why these two are so angry, correct?" Erza asked, turning her attention to Ultear, who by now was holding her stomach in laughter, wincing in pain from her movements.

"Oh... Hahaha! Yeah, I... Haha! Get it." Ultear replied as she fell to her knees from the hilarity of the situation and the pain she was in. "They think that I'm the other woman and you're okay with it."

Having consumed many smutty romance novels over the years, after Ultear's explanation, it did not take long for Erza to also understand the issue. Her expression then turned stern as she flared her magic power, putting pressure on both Prime Jellal and Prime Erza.

"I think you're both having a misunderstanding." Erza said coldly. "And because you don't know our circumstances, I won't punish you for speaking ill of my husband. But should you ever do so again, I will make my displeasure known."

Feeling Erza's magic power, not only Prime Jellal and Prime Erza stiffened with their eyes wide in shock, but even Prime Natsu, who was talking to Natsu and asking him about Igneel, froze. Meanwhile, Atlas Flame, if he had any, would have raised an eyebrow at just how potent Erza's magic power was before glancing at Ultear and Natsu, who also had magic power on a completely different level than the humans he was familiar with.

"But why are you okay with that?" Prime Jellal managed to ask despite the pressure he was under. "Shouldn't your husband be true to you and only you?"

"Alfonzo has many wives." Ultear said after getting her laughter under control. At the same time, she flared her magic power in a specific pattern to get Wendy's attention since she had made her injuries worse from all the movement. "And that's all thanks to his first wife, Elicia, who urged him to accept more of us into his life to make everyone happy."

"D-d-does that mean...?" Erza, her blush going supernova again, asked. "All of you d-d-do that together?"

Once again, Ultear could not help but burst into uncontrollable laughter while flaring her magic power even more frantically to call for Wendy. Prime Jellal, on the other hand, looked like he just ate something extremely bitter while throwing glances at Prime Erza.

"We do." Erza replied with a nod as she retracted her own magic power and sealed Astraia. "Quite often, in fact. Though, we haven't had much time to do so for the last few days. *Sigh* Perhaps I'll ask---"

"Alright, Erza, that's enough." Ultear said, forcefully stopping her laughter to intervene. "We don't need to let everyone know what we do behind closed doors with Alfonzo. You do enough of that in our world. We don't need legends about us spreading here, too."

"I suppose." Erza replied. Though, it was obvious to see that she wanted to continue.

"Hey, guys." Natsu said while looking into the distance. "That big golden gate is closing. Does that mean there won't be any more dragons to fight?"

Hearing that, everyone turned to look in the direction of the Eclipse Gate. And just as Natsu said, it was closing. Meaning, Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino, under Future Lucy's guidance, managed to get the job done.

"That's right." Atlas Flame said, his voice rumbling through the area. "And if they can manage to destroy it, I will be able to return to where I belong, as well. Though, that will be much harder than simply fighting the dragons that came through it."

"I'm sure Alfonzo will find a way." Erza and Ultear said in unison. "He always does."

With that, the group continued to chat for a few minutes while waiting for Wendy to arrive. And before long, both Wendy's arrived with the two Gajeels not far behind. And when they did, the atmosphere got even more lively.

However, everyone's attention was pulled towards the Eclipse Gate when they felt a swell of magic power appear near it.

"Yup, looks like Alfonzo is doing something about it." Ultear said while Wendy treated her burns.

"Do you think he's gonna destroy it himself?" Gajeel asked with an almost feral grin on his face.
"Because I'm kinda mad that I'm not closer. I really wanna see it up close. He might even leave some metal scraps for me to eat."

Hearing about metal to eat, Prime Gajeel's eyes lit up as he turned to look at his counterpart.

"Metal?" Prime Gajeel asked.

"Oh yeah." Gajeel replied as he threw an arm over Prime Gajeel's shoulders. "He uses [Metal Magic]. He can create any kind of metal. And let me tell ya. The ones he makes are the tastiest I've ever had. Especially that Techno Organic Metal stuff. Mmm... It's like nothing I've ever tasted before."

As Gajeel continued to praise the taste of the Techno Organic metal, Prime Gajeel began to drool just thinking about it.

Unfortunately, that little conversation drew everyone's attention away from the Eclipse Gate for a moment. And in that moment, the entire gate vanished, looking as if it had been sucked into itself. Then,...

Boom~~~~~|

... before they could continue for too long, the sound of a humungous explosion silenced all the conversations taking place in the entire city as heads whipped in the explosion's direction from everywhere. Then, they all saw that the Eclipse Gate was replaced by a pillar of black magic power and motes of golden magic power were rising into the sky.

At the same time, Atlas Flame's body was also breaking down into motes of magic power. Then, before he could even offer a fair well to the two Natsus, he was sucked in the direction of the Eclipse Gate's magic power before vanishing from this time period.

Chapter 784: The End of the Eclipse Project

"It looks like the last of the fighting is over." Alfonzo said as he landed in front of the Eclipse Gate, right behind the exhausted Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino, who just finished closing the Eclipse Gate. "The only dragon left alive is the one made of fire."

"Eek!" x 2

Hearing Alfonzo's voice right behind them, both Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino shrieked and jumped in surprise. Then, with all the strength they could muster, they turned around to face the newcomer. Prime Lucy even threw a kick aimed at Alfonzo's crotch on reflex.

"Lucy Kick!" Prime Lucy shouted as her leg lashed out.

Smack!

"Whoa! Don't fucking do that." Alfonzo growled as he caught Prime Lucy's ankle. "Do you have any idea how pissed off Lici and the others will be if that gets damaged?"

"Yeah, I'd be pretty upset." Elicia, landing next to Alfonzo said with her hands on her hips. "I wanna give Mar'e another younger sibling. And if you break..."

Reaching that point, Elicia sharply pointed her right index finger at Alfonzo's crotch as she continued.

"... that, I won't be able to do that." Elicia said sharply.

"Huh?" Prime Lucy, with her right leg still in Alfonzo's grasp, said while blinking her eyes in confusion.
"Um... Who are you?"

"I'm his first wife." Elicia said proudly. "I'm the architect behind his harem, too."

While Alfonzo could only sigh at Elicia's usual antics, Prime Lucy's mouth fell open in shock. Meanwhile, Prime Yukino's face reddened in embarrassment. Though, she did glare at Alfonzo like he was the worst

kind of man in the world. A moment later, however, she registered what Elicia said and looked at her with the same kind of dumbfounded expression that Future Lucy was wearing.

"*Sigh* Do you two always have this kind of effect on people you meet for the first time?" Future Lucy asked in an exasperated tone.

"If they meet us both at the same time?" Alfonzo asked with a shrug as he let go of Prime Lucy's ankle. "Yeah, pretty much."

"That doesn't surprise me in the slightest." Future Lucy replied while shaking her head in exasperation.

"Anyway, what are you gonna do about that, Fonzie?" Elicia asked as she turned to look at the Eclipse Gate.

"Destroy it." Alfonzo said casually. He then turned to look at Elicia with a raised eyebrow. "By the way, what are you doing here? I thought you were helping Laxus clear rubble and save people."

"Oh, he got to talking to the other Laxus and they started ignoring me." Elicia replied with a shrug of her own. "Then, this world's Evergreen was glaring at me like I was trying to take her place in the world, or something. And since I'd had enough of that when we were kids, I just left."

"Makes sense." Alfonzo said while nodding in understanding.

"Hold on... Can we go back to the fact that this guy has a harem?" Prime Lucy asked while pointing at Alfonzo's nose from up close. She then turned to point at Elicia as she continued. "And the fact that you're okay with it?"

"What's the problem?" Elicia asked while tilting her head cutely. "The you in our world certainly doesn't mind."

"What!?" Prime Lucy shrieked in disbelief. "That's impossible! I'd never share a man with anyone!"

"You'd have to actually have a man to make a statement like that." Future Lucy said. She then slumped her shoulders with a depressed aura emanating from her. "I just hit myself with the splash damage. Ugh! Why does Aquarius have to be right? Even now, I've never had a boyfriend."

A moment later, Prime Lucy also slumped her shoulders in defeat, as well. And it hit her even harder knowing that seven years in the future, she would still have never had a boyfriend.

"Anyway, I need to do something about this gate." Alfonzo said in an awkward tone. "Otherwise, the fire dragon is gonna be stuck here. And if he stays here, Acnologia's gonna show up. And I'm still not ready to deal with that problem. I still need another year or so for that, I think."

Immediately upon hearing that, both Future and Prime Lucy's heads snapped in Alfonzo's direction. Having both experienced the horror of Acnologia on Tenrou Island, they had an idea of how powerful Acnologia was... Not a very good one. But still, they had an idea. And to hear Alfonzo say that he thought he could handle that flying natural disaster in a year or so, they could only look at him with complete and utter confusion on their faces.

"That sounds like a fairly accurate assessment to me." Another female voice said from above.

Looking up, everyone saw Irene floating down with Future Rogue next to her and magically restrained.

"Oh, I thought you would have been most of the way to Alvarez by now." Alfonzo said, genuinely surprised to see Irene here.

"I decided against going." Irene replied as she landed softly and gracefully, Future Rogue slamming face first into the ground right next to her. "I know what I was like before meeting you and having my humanity restored. So, I know that a battle would have been inevitable if I actually did go to see her. And that would have ended with me destroying most of Alakitasia."

"Emperor Spriggan would have been a problem, too." Elicia added. "And fighting an immortal black wizard would have been a real pain."

"Who is this?" Prime Lucy asked curiously. "She kinda looks like someone I know."

"Of course she does." Future Lucy replied. "That's Erza's mother, Irene Belserion."

"Huh?" Prime Lucy intoned in confusion. "But Erza was an orphan. We saw where she grew up at the Tower of Heaven."

"That is a long story." Irene said while shaking her head. "One I may tell if I meet this world's Erza. But not a memory I'd like to relive otherwise. Unfortunately, I am not sure that my counterpart in this world will accept her. I know I would not have if I had not received Alfonzo's help."

After saying that, Irene turned to look at Alfonzo with a sweet smile. A moment later, however, her smile turned predatory before she licked her lips seductively.

"Perhaps Erza and I should show you just how grateful we are for bringing us back together as a family when we get home." Irene said as she reached out and stroked Alfonzo's cheek with one of her slender index fingers.

The dumbfounded expression reappeared on Prime Lucy's and Prime Yukino's faces once again. First, they find out that this woman, Irene, was Erza's mother. And as if that was not surprising enough, they find out that the two are sharing the same man. They even...

"Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha!" Prime Yukino sputtered, her confusion and embarrassment reaching their maximum states almost instantly.

Prime Lucy, on the other hand was so confused and surprised that she couldn't even make a sound. Instead, the only thing she could do was stare at Irene with her eyes and mouth wide open while her cheeks turned as scarlet as Irene's hair.

As for Future Lucy, she only sighed, a slight dusting of red on her cheeks, as well. She had heard about all the women involved with Alfonzo while she was in the other timeline. So, she could not blame Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino for their reactions. Because when she heard about all of this, she, too, was thoroughly flabbergasted, as well.

"Alright, I think that's enough, Irene." Alfonzo said as he reached up and took Irene's hand. "You're gonna make these girls faint from high blood pressure if you continue."

"Hmph! Fine." Irene said as she looked away. Though, she did not take her hand back. Instead, she intertwined her fingers with Alfonzo's. "But it was so much fun. Seeing these little girls get so flustered was like food for my soul."

Hearing that, both Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino relaxed almost immediately.

"Oh, that's good." Prime Yukino said while using her right hand to fan her still hot face.

"Yeah, I thought you were saying that you and the Erza from your world were sleeping with the same guy." Prime Lucy added with an awkward chuckle. "But it looks like you were joking. But seriously, please don't do that. I don't think my heart can take it."

Hearing Prime Lucy's and Prime Yukino's naive response, Future Lucy could only shake her head once again. She then shot a glance filled with pity at the two young women. Because she knew that their naive thoughts would be shattered in short order.

"Oh, that's not what Fonzie meant." Elicia said with a smile. "He was just telling her to stop talking about it in front of you. I mean, steamy stuff like that is a bit much for a couple of virgins, right?"

Immediately, not only Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino felt as if an arrow had pierced them through the heart. But even Future Lucy was hit by the fallout.

"Elicia is right." Irene replied with a nod. "That definitely was not a joke. In fact, we joined each other in his bed just a few days before we left for the Grand Magic Games. And We will more than likely--- Mmph."

"Seriously, that's enough." Alfonzo said as he clamped his hand over Irene's mouth. "They really will pass out at this rate."

With her mouth covered, Irene looked at Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino. And when she saw them staggering back and forth as if they had too much to drink, she smiled. Though, the smile could only be seen in her eyes. She then flicked her eyes towards Alfonzo as they glinted playfully.

"Really? Now you're gonna lick my hand?" Alfonzo asked while rolling his hand as he pulled his hand away from Irene's mouth. "You know, I did just fight a dragon."

"Oh please." Irene replied while rolling her own eyes. "We both know you burned away anything that might have gotten on them with not only electricity but microwaves, as well. So, they're probably cleaner than most things you can find in this world. We both know how you feel about keeping your hands clean as a cook."

Alfonzo only shrugged his shoulders in response while Elicia giggled and Irene smiled triumphantly. Unfortunately, the two Lucies and Prime Yukino were still reeling from Elicia's and Irene's comments. So, they were unable to appreciate the back and forth, not that they would have either way.

"Anyway, I'm gonna get rid of this gate." Alfonzo said, deciding he was done with this conversation. "So, I suggest everyone take a few steps back."

Following Alfonzo's suggestion, both Elicia and Irene pulled the Lucies and Prime Yukino back to a distance where they could stand the shockwave from the unsealing of Alfonzo's [Soul Armament].

"You better say it this time!" Elicia shouted as Alfonzo raised Riot and Bedlam over his head.

Once again, Alfonzo rolled his eyes. Though, it was clear to see that he was definitely amused.

"Ban... Kai!" Alfonzo shouted as his magic power flared to its limit.

"Yeah! That's the right way!" Elicia cheered excitedly.

While Irene and Future Lucy were amused after hearing Elicia scold Alfonzo earlier, Prime Lucy and Prime Yukino were too busy shuddering from the amount of magic power they could feel. Then, when you add the fact that Alfonzo's tonfa melted down and covered his entire body before Alfonzo turned into the monster they saw when he dropped off Future Lucy, they were not in the right state of mind to pay attention to what Alfonzo said before his transformation.

A few moments later, Alfonzo's magic power settled. Then, he lowered his hands to either side with his palms upturned.

"We are Upheaval." Alfonzo said, his voice a combination of his own, Riot's, and Bedlam's. "Now, We will bring this to an end. [Electromagnetism Magic: Singularity]."

With that chant, Alfonzo raised his arms, the palms of his hands facing each other in front of his chest. And between his hands, a black orb sparking with violet electricity began to take form. However, as the orb formed, the arcs of electricity were drawn into it. On top of that, the five ladies who were standing not too far away could feel an attraction force acting upon them.

"Is he...?" Prime Lucy asked in a dumbfounded tone.

"He's creating a gravitational anomaly." Irene replied, answering the unfinished question.

"Yup!" Elicia said excitedly. "It's a miniature black hole."

The thought of someone wielding that much power made Future Lucy, Prime Lucy, and Prime Yukino break out into cold sweats. Their cold sweats then got worse when Alfonzo said this kind of power was not enough to beat Acnologia.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo continued to gather power between his hands. Then, when the orb reached the limit of what Alfonzo could control, he retracted his arms slightly, the heels of his palms coming together behind the orb. Then, he gently pushed it forward, towards the Eclipse Gate.

Slowly, the black orb floated through the air. As it did, small bits of debris were pulled up from the ground, also merging into the orb.

"Is that really gonna be enough?" Prime Yukino asked, the sight before not looking like it would be enough to destroy a regular gate, let alone the Eclipse Gate.

"Just wait for it." Alfonzo replied casually.

Eventually, the orb came in contact with the Eclipse Gate. And when it did...

Shoop!

.. the entire gate, along with a fair amount of the ground, was drawn into the orb in the blink of an eye.

"And now..." Alfonzo said as he looked back over his shoulder at Future Lucy, Prime Lucy, and Prime Yukino, who all wore expressions of sheer disbelief. He then lowered his left hand while stretching his right arm towards the orb that was still floating in the place where the Eclipse Gate used to be. Then, he slowly clenched his fist. "Boom."

Alfonzo's casual tone made the three ladies from this time line think that Alfonzo was just playing around again. But when they saw him snap his hand open, they did not have time to react before...

Boom~~~~~!

.. the orb exploded, all of its energy directed upwards, creating a pillar of magic power that reached up to the clouds.

With that, Future Lucy, Future Rogue, and Atlas Flame all broke down into motes of magic power before returning to their own places in time.

"Damn... We didn't get to say a proper goodbye." Alfonzo muttered as he resealed his [Soul Armament].

Chapter 785: A Bittersweet Goodbye

After the Eclipse Gate's destruction, the members of Fairy Tail that traveled to the Prime Timeline helped as many people as they could start to recover from the aftermath of the Eclipse Project. Though, they did make it a point to not meet with the Prime Royal Family of Fiore. And the reason for that was simple.

With the exception of Natsu, who was too dumb to understand the entire situation, they all thought that they were a group of royal morons, especially Princess Hisui. Believing Future Rogue without investigating his identity was near the height of stupidity for someone born into a royal family. Add to that the fact that they did not take any precautions just in case something went wrong, and no one could look at them with the level of respect that most royals would receive.

Instead, the members of Fairy Tail enjoyed interacting with the Prime members of the guilds they were familiar with. Even if a lot of the members they knew were not present in this timeline. Even so, all the wizards who helped protect Crocus during the Eclipse Project were gathered together in Crocus' central square, chatting, laughing, and getting to know each other to celebrate surviving the attack of the dragons.

"Wait!" Prime Kagura, usually stoic, shouted as she stood up at the table where she, Erza, Prime Erza, and the members of Prime Mermaid Heel's Grand Magic Games Team, Prime Millianna, Prime Risley, Prime Beth, and Prime Araña, sat. "Did you just say that my brother, Simon, is alive in your timeline?"

Prime Kagura was not the only one surprised by that revelation, as Prime Erza and Prime Millianna were also left with their eyes and mouths wide open in surprise.

"Yes." Erza replied with a nod. "After being defeated at the hotel when he and the others tried to abduct me, we brought them back to the Tower of Heaven. There, Elicia, Cana, and I fought Trinity Raven. Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Ultear helped Simon, Wally, Millianna, and Shô gather their belongings, advising everyone else in the tower to leave along the way."

Seeing the interest on all her listener's faces, Erza went on to explain all the events leading up to the Tower of Heaven incident in her timeline. First, how Ur gave Ultear tickets to Akane Resort, then how they played darts to see who would accompany Alfonzo and Ultear. Next, how Cana, Elicia, and she won the other three spots.

"So, you didn't go with the rest of your team?" Prime Erza asked with a slight frown. "But if Natsu wasn't there, who was it that defeated Jellal?"

"Alfonzo." Erza replied. "Although he was not the strongest member of the guild back then, he was definitely the strongest wizard in our generation. I can't even count how many times he had defeated Laxus by that point."

"Hey, you don't have to tell them that!" Laxus shouted from another part of the central plaza.

"Is what I said false?" Erza asked, sounding confused by Laxus' protest.

"Of course it's not." Alfonzo said from behind a grill he created with his [Metal Magic] to feed everyone gathered. "I've kicked his ass more times than I can count over the years. And he's never won even once."

"Damn you, Alfonzo!" Laxus roared angrily while glaring at Alfonzo.

In response, Alfonzo only smiled. Then, he casually opened his mouth, which Elicia, who was standing next to him with a smile of her own, gently put a piece of meat into. And when Laxus saw that, he could only grit his teeth. Because despite how badly he wanted to start a fight with Alfonzo, he knew better than to attack while Alfonzo was cooking.

"Tch!" Prime Laxus clicked his tongue. "And I thought you were really strong. Looks like you're still not the strongest in your world's guild."

With that, Laxus' head snapped in his counterpart's direction, arcs of lightning crackling in his eyes. Even so, he did not say or do anything. Beating up someone as weak as Prime Laxus would not bring him any level of satisfaction.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, while continuing to cook, watched the other wizards in the plaza with a smile. Seeing everyone interact with their counterparts was proving to be entertaining. And seeing Ur and Prime Ultear brought a much gentler smile to his face.

"*Sigh* It's too bad we couldn't cook the dragons, though." Elicia said, bringing Alfonzo's attention back to her. "But they said that eating one would turn whoever ate it into an unstable Dragon Slayer. And I really don't want that."

"Yeah, neither do I." Alfonzo added as he flipped a burger. He then looked around to make sure that no one was close enough to overhear the conversation and continued. "But seriously, to think that there was a continuation to Fairy Tail after we died in that car crash. *Sigh* I'm kinda upset we missed that."

Yeah, but we get to live it now, don't we?" Elicia asked happily before bouncing up to plant a kiss on Alfonzo's cheek.

"Probably not." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head. "I mean, our world is so different than this one. Who even knows if the rules are all exactly the same there. But that 100-Years Quest is probably the same, though."

"Yeah... Now that you mention it." Elicia said, hanging her head to think for a while. Then, after organizing her thoughts, she looked back up at Alfonzo with a glint in her eyes. "Do you think we should give it a try?"

"In the future, maybe." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "But we still need to deal with Tartaros and Alvarez in the short term. After that, I don't see why not. Besides... Uh... Hold that thought."

The reason for Alfonzo's abrupt end to the topic was something that he had gotten used to in his own world. Currently, both Erza and Prime Erza were cowering away from Prime Ichiya, whose nose was flaring at the sight of two Erzas.

Zap!

Bang!

"Men~~~~~!"

"Master Ichiya~~~~~!"

Boom!

Crumble!

Zap!

As soon as Alfonzo stopped talking, he was covered in arcs of violet lightning before vanishing from behind the grill. Then, before Prime Ichiya could react, Alfonzo reappeared right next to him, threw a swift kick that landed on Prime Ichiya's ribs, and sent him flying.

Prime Ichiya's trademark exclamation caught the attention of the members of Prime Blue Pegasus, who called for him in worry when they saw him flying through the air. Then, when they saw him slam into one of the newly repaired buildings, which crumbled down on top of him, they all got up and scrambled to dig him out.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo kissed Erza on the forehead, told her not to worry because he was here, and flashed back to the grill. Then, the girls from Prime Mermaid Heel, other than Prime Kagura, began bombarding Erza with questions about her relationship with Alfonzo.

As for Prime Erza and Prime Kagura, they only stared at Alfonzo. Prime Erza because she was curious to know more about the man that won her counterpart's heart. As for Prime Kagura, she knew Alfonzo was one of the people who helped rescue that world's version of her brother and was curious to know if he ever existed in the current world.

On a side note, Alfonzo and Elicia did exist in this world. However, Bianca and Orlando were no wear near as strong as they were back in the other version of Earth Land. But like they did in the Metal and Threads version of Earth Land, they retired from wizarding, got married, and settled down in the village outside of Hargeon.

However, when the Cult of Zeref came to abduct the village, they were too weak to protect Prime Alfonzo and Prime Elicia. As a result, they were taken to the Tower of heaven. Though, they never interacted with Prime Erza, Prime Jellal, and the others. On top of that, with Prime Alfonzo's temper, untampered by the maturity from a previous life, he ended up getting himself beaten to death by one of the cultists. And shortly after that, Prime Elicia passed away from grief, as Prime Alfonzo was the only thing keeping her going after they lost everything else.

Unfortunately, that was a story that no one would ever find out.

Meanwhile, at the entrance to the central plaza closest to Mercurius, the Flower Light Plaza, a squad of knights had just arrived. This squadron was accompanying two important guests. And they were the Royal Family of Fiore, Prime King Toma E. Fiore and Prime Princess Hisui E. Fiore.

"Finally, we'll have the opportunity to meet with our kingdom's saviors." Prime Toma said as he walked among the knights. "Without them, we would have suffered much worse losses from the invasion of dragons."

However, Prime Hisui did not respond, only walking with her head down alongside her father. Over the last day or so, she had heard about what the visitors from another timeline thought of her actions. And although she was angered initially, she eventually took some time to think about it.

And the conclusion she came to was that they were completely correct. She knew nothing about Future Rogue. Yet, she listened to him like everything he said was the absolute truth. And when considering how intelligent she was usually that did not make sense. But for the life of her, Prime Hisui could not understand what was going through her head.

Eventually, with Prime Toma praising the visitors' actions and Prime Hisui's silence, the procession arrived in the corner of the plaza where Alfonzo, the leader of the group of timeline travelers, was cooking. And as they approached, the noise in the plaza slowly quieted down.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo and Elicia only shot the group brief glances before completely ignoring them.

"Visitors from another timeline... That is what you call yourselves, correct?" Prime Toma asked, his regal tone not matching his diminutive stature. "I, King of Fiore, Toma E. Fiore, would like to offer you our thanks on behalf of the people of Fiore."

After Prime Toma's words fell, an awkward silence fell in the plaza. All the wizards and knights waiting for a response.

Yet, Alfonzo and Elicia continued to ignore the king's gratitude. And while the members of Alfonzo's and Elicia's Fairy Tail expected something like this, the other wizards were dumbfounded by the blatant disregard for the king that was on display.

Eventually, the knights also realized that Alfonzo and Elicia had no intention of replying to the king. And as those who were most loyal to the Royal Family, they found themselves growing angry, their hands inching towards their weapons in order to teach these rude wizards a lesson.

"Is that all?" Alfonzo, just before the knights could grip the hilts of their swords, asked dismissively. "Then, please do not interrupt me while I'm cooking. It's one of the things I dislike the most in any world."

Once again, the plaza fell silent, the wizards of Prime Fiore's mouths wide open in shock. Meanwhile, the knights grew even angrier while Prime Toma was completely taken aback.

"How dare you!" Prime Arcadios shouted indignantly. "You stand before the King of Fiore. Are you trying to rebel?"

"Hmph! Rebel?" Elicia, in a much sharper tone than she usually used, asked. "Not only did we just save your capital city, but we also helped in the rebuilding efforts. On top of that, we're technically not even from this kingdom. So, how could we possibly be rebelling."

And with the more she said, Elicia's magic power began to leak from anger. As previously stated, the members of Fairy Tail from the other timeline had been avoiding interacting with the Royal Family. One of the reasons was because they thought that their actions that led to the dragon attack were completely idiotic. And the other reason was so that they did not sour relations with the Royal Family if they accidentally said something about it.

But hearing Alfonzo referred to as a rebel immediately crossed Elicia's bottom line. Though, it was not just Elicia who was angered, as one by one, Laxus, Gildarts, Ur, Ultear, Erza, Natsu, Mirajane, Gajeel, Wendy, and Irene arrived near Alfonzo and Elicia while glaring at Arcadios.

"Quick, protect the king!" Arcadios ordered after seeing all of the members of the group of visitors arrive. He then drew his sword and took up a defensive position in front of Prime Toma and Prime Hisui.

Following the orders of their commander, the other knights drew their weapons as well. Meanwhile, both Prime Toma and Prime Hisui looked on in shock. Neither of them took Alfonzo's words as provocation or a seed for rebellion. Unfortunately, because they were not expecting such a blunt response, they found themselves at a loss for words.

And when they saw that the members of the other Fairy Tail did not even seem to be worried, they understood that they did not see anyone present as a threat. Though, the way their eyes narrowed when they saw the weapons drawn did make the two royals worry.

"Let it go, guys." Alfonzo said casually as he dispelled his [Metal Magic], causing the grill and utensils to vanish and the food to fall to the ground. "It's not worth it. We'll just go home since we're clearly not welcomed here."

To be honest, Alfonzo was almost expecting an outcome like this. Thinking from Arcadios' shoes, having such power wizards in the kingdom, ones they could never hope to control, was a security risk. And although he did not appreciate being labeled a rebel after coming to help, he understood his point of view.

That said, he had no intension of putting up with it. So, after dispelling his magic, he reached into his pocket and pulled out the magic item responsible for transporting everyone across timelines.

"Let's go back to the Domus Flau." Alfonzo said while spinning the item in his palm. "We'll leave from where we showed up."

After nodding to Alfonzo's suggestion, the others all waved to those they had interacted with the most since they arrived. Then, they left one by one, leaving Alfonzo behind.

"Well, it was cool meeting parallel versions of everyone from our world." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "But this will probably be the last time you ever see any of us..."

As he spoke, Alfonzo made eye contact with everyone he interacted with, as well. He even turned to look at Prime Ichiya, who was being helped back to the rest of Blue Pegasus by the Prime version of the Trimens.

"Oh, and sorry about that, Ichiya." Alfonzo said. "The you in my world often gets too handsy with my wife, Erza. So, I kinda did that on reflex. Didn't mean to hit you so hard."

"Don't worry about it." Prime Ichiya replied with his most charming smile. "A true gentleman always protects a woman's honor. Men~!"

"Ichiya!" The Prime Trimens shouted in unison, tears of admiration welling up in their eyes.

Smiling wryly, Alfonzo took one more look around. Then...

Zap!

He vanished in a flash of violet light, making his way towards the top of the Domus Flau.

Seeing that, both Prime Toma and Prime Hisui wanted to stop him. But because of how quickly everything happened, they had no chance to do so. They then turned their glares onto Arcadios, who realized he had made a mistake by now.

A few moments later, a flash of light lit up the sky above the Domus Flau and the wizards from another timeline were never seen again, leaving those they had interacted with during and after the dragon attack a bit lost, as they still wanted to talk to the people from, what amounted to another, world.

Chapter 786: The Most Important Difference... I Dare You to Say Otherwise

About three minutes have passed since Alfonzo led the Fairy Tail wizards thought he gate leading to the Prime Timeline. And ever since they left, Mavis has been standing on the roof of the Sixth Sense Hotel worrying about the safety of her wizards.

"He said it would feel like they left then came right back like they left something." Mavis said while pacing between the two airships. "But it's been, what...? Almost five minutes since they left. How long does it take to realize you forgot something?"

Clearly, Mavis was worried. Luckily, she was alone on the roof. So, none of her other wizards could see her acting that way. Unfortunately, that was about to end.

"First Master, are you up there?" Makarov asked as he pushed open the rooftop access door. "Huh? Master Mavis, is something wrong? I thought you came up here with the others. But I never sensed them leaving."

'Darn it.' Mavis thought to herself as she spun around to face Makarov. 'Although I don't think Maki would turn on us for the Magic Council, he was the last person I wanted to know about this. I never wanted to put him in an awkward position where he would have to choose between his responsibilities to the council and the guild. Now, I just need to get him to leave before he starts asking too many more questions.'

"Oh, don't worry about them." Mavis said with a smile as she dismissively waved off Makarov's question. "They're just... Anyway, what do you need, Maki?"

Hearing Mavis' evasive tone, Makarov raised an eyebrow in curiosity. But seeing as she did not want to answer his question, he figured that it was a guild secret. And although he was the former guild master of the Fairy Tail guild, he was now a member of the Magic Council. And just as she thought, he would rather not have to worry about his responsibility with the Council. So, he just shrugged his shoulders and continued with the reason he came up to the roof in the first place.

"I just came to let you know I was about to head back to Era." Makarov replied respectfully. "I was hoping to say goodbye to the kids, as well. But it seems they're a little busy at the moment."

"I'm sure they'll be sad they missed you." Mavis replied with a smile. "But I'll make sure to tell them---"

Flash!

However, before Mavis could finish, a point of light appeared on the roof behind her. Then, before Makarov's eyes could even widen in surprise, it expanded to the size of a gate that could fit four people walking shoulder to shoulder.

'Well, so much for keeping it a complete secret.' Mavis thought to herself. "I can only hope that they don't say anything they're not supposed to when they come back through.'

"Man, meeting another version of myself who was frozen in time for seven years after Acnologia attacked Tenrou Island was weird." Natsu's loud voice could be heard as he, Erza, Ultear, and Ur were the first ones to walk through the Parallel World Gate. "But it's even weirder to find out that Alfonzo and Lici didn't exist in that world."

"Indeed." Erza replied. "Imagining the guild without those two is quite difficult."

Smack!

Mavis face-palmed hard enough that the sound of flesh smacking against flesh could be heard from the streets below.

Immediately after hearing the sound, Ur, Ultear, Erza, and Natsu noticed Mavis. And while Natsu looked at her quizzically after seeing her covering her face with her left hand, Ur, Ultear, and Erza all looked around before noticing Makarov standing there, staring at them and the Parallel World Gate with his eyes and mouth wide open.

"Oops." Ur muttered as she smiled wryly. "I guess the secret's out now, huh?"

Shortly after Ur said that, the rest of the Fairy Tail wizards who made the trip to the Prime Timeline walked through the gate with Alfonzo bringing up the rear before he closed the gate and put away the magic item that created it.

Seeing Mavis with her hand covering her face and the dumbfounded expression on Makarov's face, Alfonzo's thoughts were similar to Ur's

"Looks like we came back at a bad time." Alfonzo said casually. Then, he started walking to the front of his group, clamping a hand over Natsu's mouth as he passed by. "Well, we'll just get out of your hair. Master Mavis, you can continue your conversation with Gramps. We won't bother you."

Getting the hint, the other Fairy Tail wizards started walking, as well. However, before they could get too far, Makarov got his wits about him again.

"Hold on, you brats!" Makarov bellowed. "You think I can just let that go? You're going to tell me everything. There's no way I could miss out on hearing about a Fairy Tail so different than the one I know!"

This time, it was everyone else's turn to look at Makarov with a dumbfounded expression. Seeing him on the rooftop when they arrived, they were expecting him to question them about where they just came from. And when you take into consideration what Natsu said upon arrival, they thought it would be about traveling between timelines. But for his first question to be about the Prime Fairy Tail, that was something no one expected.

"I don't know if that's such a good idea." Mavis said in an unsure tone. "If you hear about this, you'll have to report it to the Council, won't you? And I'm sure none of them would like the thought of us playing around with parallel world travel. I mean, just look at the last time. Didn't Magnolia vanish from the face of Earth Land for a while."

"Huh? Tell them about what?" Makarov asked in a tone filled with feigned confusion. "I'm getting old. So, there's a good chance I won't even remember what you're talking about in about fifteen minutes, or so."

Although everyone looked at Makarov with dumbfounded expressions, no one was actually surprised by Makarov's response. Like Alfonzo said years ago to Laxus, Makarov eats, sleeps, and shits for Fairy Tail, and everyone knew it. So, him putting his duties to the Magic Council over the guild was something that was more or less impossible.

"Alright, let's just head inside." Mavis said in a tired tone. "I guess it would be unfair if the fourth and fifth masters of the guild knew about this and the third didn't."

Receiving understanding nods from everyone present, Mavis led everyone downstairs to the conference room. Though, they had to make the trip in groups, since the elevator was not large enough to fit everyone.

Along the way, Mavis called all the other members of the guild to listen to the story, as well. She was sure they would all like to hear about their own parallel world counterparts, too.

Eventually, the conference room was filled to the brim with members of the guild, and they were all watching Alfonzo, the leader of the trip to the other world, like hawks, waiting to hear all about it.

"Alright, is everyone here?" Alfonzo asked while looking around the conference room at all the familiar faces. Then, after he was satisfied with all the faces he saw, he began speaking again. "Okay, then, let's get down to business. I know you all want to know what the other world was like, right?"

"Yeah!" The members of the guild shouted excitedly.

"Well, before I do that... You know, just in case anyone is eavesdropping." Alfonzo said before tapping his right heel on the floor.

Swoosh!

In the next instant, the floor, ceiling, and walls were coated in a thin sheet of metal. This metal was packed full of small sigils, making the room completely soundproof.

"Okay, now that that's out of the way..." Alfonzo said with a solemn expression on his face. "The first and most important thing about that world is..."

Reaching that point, Alfonzo trailed off for dramatic effect. Meanwhile, everyone, even the ones who went on the trip to the other world, leaned forward in anticipation.

"Lici and I did not exist there." Alfonzo said, sounding completely heartbroken as he did so. "There were no mentions of Sun and Marin, either."

Bang!

Immediately upon hearing Alfonzo's first sentence, many of the guild's wizards, already leaning forward, face-planted into the floor or conference table.

"Seriously, that's what you call the most important thing?" Warren asked in a dumbfounded tone.
"What about the state of the guild?"

"Yeah! Then there's the fact that I had to have ended up with Levy, right?" Jet shouted.

"What do you mean you?" Droy asked angrily as he grabbed Jet's collar. "Obviously, it was me who would have ended up with Levy!"

And just like that, the entire conference room was embroiled in Fairy Tail's trademark brand of chaos. Punches were thrown, insults were made, and furniture started flying around the room.

"What do you assholes mean that me and Lici not being here isn't the most important?" Alfonzo asked angrily, his voice perfectly clear despite the ruckus. "Just what do you think this guild would look like if we weren't here? Would we have such a nice guild hall? What about the fight with Acnologia. Everyone would have been stuck in Fairy Sphere for years like they were in the other world. Even worse, they might have died to Acnologia's last attack. Then what about all your clothes? Who else would have hook you all up other than Lici? Get your heads out of your asses! We're clearly the biggest missing parts of the guild!"

The room fell silent after Alfonzo's outburst. And while most of the members of the guild glared at Alfonzo, Elicia and Alfonzo's other wives and lovers nodded their heads. None of them could imagine a world where Alfonzo did not exist. And the reasons Alfonzo mentioned were not the only ones.

Unfortunately, although most of the guild members agreed with what Alfonzo said, they were all too prideful to admit that they were any less important to the guild than he was. So, after a few moments of tense silence, they all decided to gang up on him, to put him in his place.

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

Unfortunately, they did not think that course of action through, forgetting just how much stronger Alfonzo was than the rest of them. So, most of them ended up with lumps on their heads, lying on the floor, and wailing in pain.

"Anyway, like I was saying." Alfonzo said while dusting off his hands. "Me, Lici, Sun, and Marin weren't the only ones who we couldn't find in that world. Everyone from Takanosu wasn't there, either. In fact, Takanosu didn't even seem to exist. Then, there were the Village Hidden in the Leaves and the Soul Continent. They didn't seem to exist, either."

Alfonzo then went on to list everything that was unique to this version of Earth Land and that did not exist in Prime Earth land. And the more his guild mates heard, the wider their eyes opened.

"Oh yeah, and Macao was the fourth master of the guild." Alfonzo said off-handedly.

Immediately, every eye in the conference room swiveled to Macao. Then, they all looked away and said the same thing, almost in unison.

"No way."

"What the hell do you all mean by that?" Macao shouted angrily. "I'd be a great guild master! Tell 'em Wakaba!"

In response, Wakaba only looked away, lit his pipe, and took a long puff.

"Boy, we're sure having great weather today, aren't we?" Wakaba asked, doing his best to not answer Macao's question.

"You can't even see the weather from in here, you bastard!" Macao shouted before throwing a punch that landed on Wakaba's jaw.

And just like that, the conference hall was thrown into chaos once again.

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

"That's enough!" Erza said after breaking up the brawl with more violence. "Behave yourselves. There is still more to be said."

"Erza is right." Mavis added. "So, tell us about what you did while you were in the parallel world."

"We fought dragons." Natsu shouted happily. "And it was a lot of fun. I bet we could take Acnologia if he ever came back."

"Nah, I doubt that." Alfonzo said, pouring a metaphorical bucket of cold water on Natsu's enthusiasm. He then smiled confidently as he continued. "At least, not right now. But I'm sure we'll be ready the next time he shows up."

"Hell yeah! Because we're Fairy Tail!" Natsu shouted after getting his energy back. "And Fairy Tail is the strongest! Aw, Man! I'm all fired up!"

Bang!

Crunch! *Crunch!* *Crunch!*

"You're starting to sound like those idiots from Sabertooth did last year, Salamander." Gajeel said with a grin while chewing the chunk of metal Alfonzo used to stop Natsu from spraying flames everywhere. Though, it was obvious that he wanted to take another shot at Acnologia, as well.

From there, Alfonzo was not the only one who spoke, as everyone who went to Prime Earth land started telling their own experiences over on the other side. Then, after everyone had the chance to talk and ask questions, Mavis decided it was time to return to Magnolia. So, everyone went back to their rooms, packed up their belongings, and boarded the two airships before Alfonzo and Ur piloted them back home.

Chapter 787: Let's Make Some Dragon Slayer Lacrimas

With the speed of the two airships, the Blackbird and the Fairy's Tail, it did not take long for the wizards of Fairy Tail to return to Magnolia. And when they did, they had another celebration for winning the

Grand Magic Games for the fifth time in six years. However, partway through the celebration, some of the higher-ranked members of the guild, namely Mavis, Alfonzo, Ur, Gildarts, and Irene, disappeared into Mavis' office.

"So, we talked about what happened while you were on the other side back at the hotel." Mavis said after taking a seat behind her desk. "And it was confirmed that six of the seven dragons attacking that version of Crocus were taken down. Five of which left bodies behind. But what did you do with those bodies? Surely, you did not leave them behind, did you?"

"Of course not." Alfonzo replied with a slightly embarrassed expression on his face because he was the reason there were only five corpses instead of six thanks to overestimating Levia's defense and underestimating the power he could bring to bear with Riot and Bedlam's powers fully released. "So much good material, there's no way in hell I'd leave something like that behind."

"Really?" Ur asked in a shocked tone. "But when did you pick them up? Even more important, how did you bring them back? I mean, I saw you helping with the reconstruction almost the whole time after the fight. When did you even have the time?"

"Oh, I can't take credit for that." Alfonzo said, his embarrassed expression turning into a smile. "But I do have them with me."

Alfonzo then reached into one of his pockets and took out five cubes the size of dice. Etched onto each cube were a number of microscopic sigils, the purpose of which was to preserve the dragon corpses in the state they were in when they were put into the cubes.

"We actually have Irene to thank for that." Alfonzo said while shooting a glance in Irene's direction. "Her [Enchantments] are really useful for shit like that, you know?"

"Yes. Using [Enchantments] to shrink the corpses down to a size that would fit in the magic items Alfonzo made then using more [Enchantments] to shrink the magic items down to the size you see here was child's play." Irene replied casually. "And releasing the [Enchantments] in reverse order will leave us with a set of five, mostly intact, dragon cadavers."

"Damn... I never even noticed any of that." Gildarts said with a good natured chuckle. "You two are really sneaky."

"Well, it makes sense that you didn't see shit, Gildarts." Alfonzo said in a teasing tone. "We did basically throw you out of the city during the times we were rebuilding. Couldn't have you breaking shit right after we put it back together, could we?"

"Hey! I'm not that bad anymore." Gildarts protested. "I mean, when was the last time they had to use the Gildarts Shift here in Magnolia?"

"That's only because Alfonzo added something to the barrier surrounding the town." Mavis said calmly. "That something nullifies the passive magic power you release. So, you can't just walk through whatever stands in your way anymore."

"I see..." Gildarts said while raising his right hand to rub his nose. "I was wondering what happened that one time I broke my nose."

In fact, shortly after Alfonzo installed the defensive barrier around Magnolia, Gildarts returned from a quest. And although he was surprised that the Gildarts Shift was not activated at that time, he paid it no mind, thinking that he had gotten better at not destroying everything around him.

And that would be true... When he's outside of Magnolia. However, as soon as he returned home, his old habits kicked in. He then walked in a straight line towards the guild hall. However, when he came across his first building, he walked straight into it, breaking his nose in the process. Though, he had never mentioned that little fact to anyone, telling the story in a way that made it seem like he broke it while completing the quest.

Snickers could be heard from everyone in the office. They all remember the day when Gildarts came back with an injured nose. And now, they finally understood why that was. Gildarts, on the other hand, put on an embarrassed expression after realizing he had just told his secret without even being prompted.

"Anyway, what do you plan to do with those dragon corpses?" Ur asked after she was able to stop laughing while holding Gildarts hand with a smile on her face.

"What else is there to do with them?" Alfonzo asked with a shrug. "I'll try to make upgrades to Erza's [Dragon Slayer Armor]. Oh, I'll work with Irene to make some Dragon Slayer Lacrima, too."

"And if it works, we might be able to add five more Dragon Slayers to the guild." Irene added with a smile. A moment later, however, her expression turned solemn as she continued. "But I'd suggest that we don't give them to any of our existing wizards. Other than my [Enchantment Magic], I've never seen other kinds of magic interact well with [Dragon Slayer Magic]."

That caused the office to fall silent while everyone took a moment to think about the possible consequences of mixing [Dragon Slayer Magic] with incompatible types of magic.

"Hmm... That may be true." Mavis said, the first to break the silence. "But there are precedents. Like you said, your [Sage Dragon Slayer Magic] and your [Enchantment Magic] meshed well together. Then

there's Laxus' [Lightning Magic] and [Lightning Dragon Slayer Magic]. So, it's not impossible to give some of those Lacrima to existing members of the guild."

"You mean Juvia, right?" Alfonzo asked, catching onto Mavis' thought process rather quickly. "Oh... Wait... I killed the one that used [Water Dragon Slayer Magic]. So, there's no corpse to convert into a Dragon Slayer Lacrima."

That caused Mavis' head to snap up quickly and stare at Alfonzo in disbelief. However, instead of getting angry, she just exhaled a defeated sigh and moved on.

"Yes, that's right." Mavis replied while shaking her head. "What were the other dragon's elements?"

"Uh... Jade, Diamond, Darkness, Rock, and... Actually, now that I think about it, I don't know about that weird one with the scissors on its head." Alfonzo said while scratching the side of his head.

"Who fought that one again?" Gildarts asked.

"Laxus and Lici." Ur replied. "But I don't think they even gave it a chance to attack. So, I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't know, either."

"Well, that could be an issue." Mavis said solemnly.

"Why would you say that?" Irene asked while tilting her head, the gesture being much cuter than it had any right to be coming from such a sadistic woman. "There are no weak forms of Dragon Slayer Magic. Just because we don't know what kind of wizard it would be compatible with, does that even matter? We can just give it to someone who doesn't specialize in a particular kind of magic."

"That's true." Mavis replied with a nod. "I suppose I was being a bit too greedy."

"That's understandable." Alfonzo said. "You only want to make the guild stronger. But do we really have to use all of them?"

"What are you talking about, Kid?" Gildarts asked with an eyebrow raised.

"I mean, couldn't we sell some of them to our allied guilds?" Alfonzo replied with a question of his own. "On top of making our allies a bit stronger, we would make quite a bit of money, too. And that always goes a long way when training new wizards, doesn't it?"

"Something tells me you have plans of adding to the new wizards that will eventually join the guild." Gildarts said while wearing a smile that most men would be familiar with and waggling his eyebrows.

"Well, I already know that Amar'e wants to be a wizard." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "And although I'm not sure about Bianca and Calvin yet. I bet Bianca will want to learn some kind of magic that can help her learn how to cook. Well, if she keeps an interest in cooking after she grows up a little more."

"If we're lucky, we'll be adding to the number of new wizards soon, too." Gildarts added without losing that smile.

"Stop it, Gildarts." Ur said while smacking Gildarts on the shoulder.

"Yes, Honey." Gildarts said dutifully.

"Hmm... I think I want to have another little one, as well." Irene said while flicking her eyes at Mavis mischievously before turning back to Alfonzo. "You'll help me with that, won't you darling?"

By now, Mavis was looking at the pair of couples sitting in front of her with a deadpan. Unfortunately, none of them should have known that she once had a child. But because she had to be sealed in the Lacrima, she never got to see it grow. IN fact, she did not even know if the child is still alive or not.

Naturally, Alfonzo and Elicia, who was not in the office at the moment, know about Mavis' child. And when the time comes, they'll do what they can to keep them alive... And unstabbed by Brandish.

'For some reason, I wanna find Doranbolt/Mest and kick his ass.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'IN fact, I think it's about time he came back to our side so I can do just that.'

"By the way, Master Mavis." Alfonzo said in a curious tone. "When are we bringing that guy back into the fold?"

Alfonzo's abrupt change of subject caused the atmosphere that was making Mavis uncomfortable to break immediately. And with a serious expression, Ur turned away from flirting with Gildarts to look at Mavis, as well.

"Which guy are you talking about?" Gildarts asked curiously.

"Mest Gryder." Ur replied. "I told you about him going under cover to infiltrate the Magic Council years ago, remember?"

"Um... Not really." Gildarts replied while scratching his head.

"I'm not aware of who this Mest is, either." Irene added with a raised eyebrow.

"That's because he had already been undercover before you came from Alakitasia." Alfonzo replied. "In fact, normally, thanks to his magic, I shouldn't even remember who he really is. But after fully unsealing Riot and Bedlam, his magic lost its effect on me."

"Interesting." Mavis said, her eyes lighting up at the new magical knowledge. She then stood up on her chair and leaned across her desk while staring at Alfonzo intensely. "Tell me more, Alfonzo. Tell me how it felt when your memories snapped back into place without the magic being released..."

Like that, Mavis continued to barrage Alfonzo with rapid fire questions. Though, they were not only about Mest's magic losing its effect. But she also asked about the abilities and power that Upheaval granted him. She then ended her line of questions with a devastating pout on her face as she asked.

"So, Alfonzo, why don't I have a [Soul Armament] yet?" Mavis asked, her cute and pitiful expression making Alfonzo feel as if he had truly done something wrong. Something for which, his death would only be considered a light punishment.

"I... Well... I mean..." Alfonzo stammered to answer under Mavis' aggrieved, pouty glare that was filled with disappointment. "I'll..."

Seeing Alfonzo, who usually always had something to say, stammering like that, Gildarts, Ur, and Irene could not help but laugh to themselves. Though, they made sure not to laugh out loud, as Alfonzo could be petty about some of the strangest things. Mavis, on the other hand, who just wanted to tease Alfonzo a little bit, felt bad for making him so panicked. However, before she could apologize, the elevator doors opened.

"Hey Fonzie!" Elicia shouted as soon as she caught sight of Alfonzo through the elevator doors. "We need you to get back downstairs. All the food is gone, and those guys are starting to rampage!"

Immediately, Alfonzo vanished from the couch he was sitting on in a flash of violet light, reappearing next to Elicia in the elevator only an instant later. When he did, the relieved look on his face made it hard for Gildarts, Ur, and Irene to keep their laughter inside while Mavis felt even worse.

"Got it." Alfonzo said quickly as he quickly pressed the button to send the elevator back to the ground floor. "I'll get to cooking immediately. Oh, and Master Mavis..."

Reaching that point, Alfonzo looked up and made eye contact with Mavis, an apologetic smile on his face.

"You'll have your [Soul Armament Embryo] tomorrow morning, I promise." Alfonzo said just as the elevator door closed.

And with that, Gildarts, Ur, and Irene finally lost their struggles to keep their laughter inside. Meanwhile, Mavis only sighed. The [Soul Armament] wasn't even that important to her, as she had no intention of fighting any time soon.

'I'll just apologize to him later.' Mavis thought to herself. 'But I won't stop him from making the [Soul Armament Embryo]. You never know when it will come in handy, after all.'

Mavis then turned to look at her laughing comrades and shook her head.

"Alright, you three, let's head downstairs ourselves." Mavis said while continuing to shake her head. "Ur is one of the people this celebration was meant for, after all."

With that, Mavis hopped off of her chair and started walking towards the elevator, the other three following her shortly afterwards. Though, neither of them had stopped laughing at the expression on Alfonzo's face quite yet.

Chapter 788: Relaxing with the Family

"*Sigh* It's been a while since we last came here." Elicia said while holding Amar'e's hand as she and Alfonzo walked out of the orphanage where their journey in Earth Land began. "I can't believe this is the first time Matron Rebecca and the others are seeing Mar'e. Now I feel bad for not bringing him sooner."

"I know what you mean." Alfonzo said while shaking his head fondly. "But things have been stupid busy for us in the last four years. On top of that, with all the donations we've made to the orphanage over the

years, they've taken in more kids. So, none of the staff really has time to come visit us in Magnolia, either."

"Momma, Dad, they said you used to live here." Amar'e said, interrupting the conversation between his parents. "Why didn't you live with your parents?"

That question caused both Alfonzo and Elicia to pause. Then, their expressions turned sad for a moment. Luckily, they were both able to fix their expressions before they caused Amar'e to worry.

"It's because our parents passed away when we were little." Elicia said softly. "But you're a little too small to know all the details, Mar'e. All you need to know is that they protected us to the very end."

Being just shy of four years old, Amar'e was not able to understand the meaning of Elicia's explanation. But what he did take from that was the fact that he would not be able to meet his grandparents. And that was a fact that brought his mood down, which was pretty high after getting to play with all the other kids at the orphanage for an afternoon.

"Anyway, why don't we go to a restaurant to have dinner?" Alfonzo said with a smile as he patted Amar'e on the head soothingly. "I haven't been to 8-Island in a long time, either. Plus, I'm sure Yajima would love to meet Amar'e, too."

"Is he even there?" Elicia asked with a smile while watching Amar'e's mood improve slightly because of Alfonzo's patting.

"Probably." Alfonzo replied. "I mean, running that restaurant has always been his dream, right?"

"You're probably right." Elicia said with a nod while continuing to hold one of Amar'e's hands while he walked between her and Alfonzo.

"Yajima?" Amar'e asked while looking up at Elicia curiously, his short attention span making him forget about the sad topic of his grandparents not being around anymore. "Momma, is that the man from the Grand magic Games?"

"That's right, Sweetheart." Elicia said with a smile. "He used to be a member of Fairy Tail when he was young, too. He was on Gramps' team back then."

Hearing that, Amar'e's eyes lit up. Over the years, although he has not gotten the chance to see Makarov very often thanks to all the time he spent in Era, whenever Makarov comes around, he's one of the most fun people to play with. Plus, all the stories the old man told when he gathered the youngest members of the guild were really fun, too.

"I wanna be a wizard, too!" Amar'e said excitedly. "I wanna go on adventures like Grampa Makarov, Mommy, and Dad. I'll beat up the bad guys and help people, too."

"Really?" Elicia asked. "I bet my Mar'e will be the strongest. Even stronger than Daddy."

"So, what kind of magic do you wanna use?" Alfonzo asked while rolling his eyes at Elicia.

That question caused Amar'e to stop and think. And he actually thought really hard about it. So hard, in fact, that the little frown on his face made Elicia coo continuously, somewhat messing up his train of thought.

But Amar'e eventually gave a response. A response that both Alfonzo and Elicia were somewhat expecting.

"I wanna use metal and lightning like dad!" Amar'e cried out loudly.

"Aww~! You don't wanna use threads like Mom?" Elicia asked, intentionally making her voice sound sad.

"Nope!" Amar'e, without mercy, denied Elicia's question. "Dad's magic is cooler."

Hearing the lack of hesitation in Amar'e's response, Elicia froze with the light in her eyes dimming slightly.

"Ahahahahahaha!" Alfonzo, on the other hand, burst into laughter. He then scooped Amar'e up into his arms. "That's right, Amar'e, tell her. My magic is much cooler."

It should go without saying, ever since Alfonzo and Elicia were children and learned about their magic, they have always argued about whose magic was better. Though, they never really involved anyone else in these arguments. In fact, calling them arguments was a bit much. Instead, it was just playful banter between them. But with Amar'e's inclusion, the definitive winner was decided. And that hit Elicia much harder than she expected.

However, after hearing Alfonzo's unbridled laughter, Elicia came back to her senses. Then, she looked at the two most important guys in her life with mock anger.

"Oh, so you think my magic isn't cool?" Elicia said while raising her hands and wiggling her fingers. "I think it's time for Mommy to show you just how wrong you are, Mar'e."

"Ahh~~~~!" Amar'e shouted while laughing happily. "Dad, help! Momma's gonna get me!"

"Don't worry, I gotchu!" Alfonzo shouted as he started to run away from Elicia. "I'll protect you from your mom's evil tickle techniques."

"You think you can get away from me?" Elicia asked in a playfully menacing tone as she started to chase Alfonzo and Amar'e. "You'll never escape!"

With that, the family of three, accompanied by playful laughter could be seen running through the streets of Hargeon, leaving their magic vehicle, Alfonzo's Vanquish, parked near the orphanage as they made their way towards 8-Island. Along the way, as Alfonzo and Elicia were quite famous, they received a lot of good natured smiles when they saw they were out with Amar'e for some family time.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Magnolia.

July 31, x791.

"..." Bianca's silence was deafening as she stared at her father with evident displeasure on her face.

"Come on, Bianca, how long are you gonna stay mad at me?" Alfonzo asked while smiling wryly.

Ever since Alfonzo, Elicia, and Amar'e returned home from Hargeon last night, Bianca had been staring at Alfonzo with such an expression. And although Alfonzo knew why, no matter what he did, he could not get her to stop... At least not for long, anyway.

The reason was simple, actually. Bianca felt left out when Alfonzo only took Amar'e with him to Hargeon. And although she could not articulate her feelings, she felt that he was playing favorites.

Of course, that could not have been further from the truth. Rather, the reason why Alfonzo did not take Bianca and Calvin with him was because they were with their mothers. While Calvin was sleeping in bed with Shizuka when it was time for Alfonzo, Elicia, and Amar'e to leave, Bianca had been at Lisanna's and Natsu's house with Mirajane so that she could play with her cousin, Miyako.

Then, when Alfonzo, Elicia, and Amar'e got home, the first thing Amar'e did was run to his little brother and sister and tell them about the trip. And while Calvin just thought it sounded like fun, Bianca was upset that she missed the chance to spend time with her father and play with other kids.

"Don't worry about it, Alfonzo." Mirajane said with a smile while watching her daughter show her displeasure. "She won't stay mad forever. Just give her some time."

"*Sigh* I know that." Alfonzo said while shaking his head fondly. "Still, I don't like making my little girl upset. I gotta think of a way to make her forgive me."

A moment later, a metaphorical lightbulb lit up in Alfonzo's mind. Then, he leaned in close to Bianca, looking like he was going to plant a kiss on her cheek. Yet, with reflexes that would not make anyone think she was only two years old, Bianca swiveled her head to the side, avoiding the kiss that she thought was coming.

However, Alfonzo expected as much. So, instead of trying to give his daughter a kiss, he only moved his lips close to her ear.

"Hey, Bianca, your big brother's birthday is almost here." Alfonzo whispered. "And you know what that means, don't you? I'm gonna have to make something for him. Something soft, sweet, and delicious. And you know what that something is, right?"

Despite herself, Bianca's eyes lit up. She knew exactly what the something Alfonzo was talking about was. And as it just so happened, it was her favorite thing to eat. Though, because she decided that she was still mad at Alfonzo, she tried her best not to show her excitement.

"It's cake... So what?" Bianca replied bluntly. Though, the quivering in her voice gave away exactly how she was feeling.

"Well, I thought that I'd teach you how to make one this year." Alfonzo said. "On top of that, you can be my official taste tester, too. What do you think about that?"

Hearing that, Bianca's eyes lit up even brighter than before. Still, she would not be won over so easily, at least that was what she thought. So, she would continue to pout while not looking at her father. At least, that's what she was doing in her mind.

In reality, Bianca's head snapped in Alfonzo's direction as soon as he said he would teach her how to bake a cake. And when she heard that she would be the official taste tester, her pout turned into a smile. A very wide smile.

Yet, it did not take Bianca long to realize that she was no longer pouting. Nor did it take her very long to realize that she was looking at Alfonzo again. Though, that was more due to the fact that she could hear Mirajane laughing at her than her own awareness. Even so, she tried her best to pout again as she quickly turned away from Alfonzo.

"Fine... I guess I'll help." Bianca said, trying to sound as angry as she could. "But I'm not doing it because of you, Daddy. I just want Mar'e's cake to be the best it can be."

Immediately, Alfonzo felt as if he took an arrow to the heart. And although this was not the first time he felt this way, he could understand why Gildarts and Gozaburo doted so much on Cana and Sun. Though, he had no intention of taking it as far as they did. He would never disappear for three years or try to kill the one Bianca eventually gave her heart to. Though, whoever that lucky boy happened to be, he would have to be prepared to handle having a few bones broken.

But unlike Gildarts and Gozaburo, he would not throw them out after breaking their bones. Instead, he would heal them using the Techno Organic Metal. So, what if they felt that having their bones broken hurt less than being healed. If they could not handle such pain, then how could they ever think they were good enough for his little angel?

"Mira, you'd better be careful with her." Ultear said playfully. "At this rate, Bianca's gonna end up a tsundere like Saya used to be. And we all know that Laxus is the only one in the guild who could put up with something like that."

"Oh, don't worry." Mirajane said with a giggle. "This is something she only does when she's mad at Alfonzo. Plus, seeing Alfonzo come up with ways to soothe his little girl's feelings is always so fun."

"Actually, every time I see him like this, it feels like he's gonna leave Team Steel Threads during the next Battle of Fairy Tail Tournament." Cana said after taking a sip from a mimosa.

"Why would you say that?" Marin asked in a curious tone.

"Because he reminds me of Dad when he's like that." Cana replied. "And wouldn't he be a perfect fit on a team with Dad, Gozaburo, and Maes? In fact, Alzack would fit on that team, too. Have you seen him when he's taking care of Bisca now that she's pregnant?"

"Alfonzo's not that bad, is he?" Sun asked, remembering the way her father acted in the past.

"Sun, no one's as bad as your father." Lucy said bluntly. "Still, I think I'd rather have a father like yours than one like mine."

"Oh, stop acting like you don't already have a daddy who spoils you rotten, Lucy." Cana said while waggling her eyebrows.

"Cana! Not in front of the kids!" Elicia, Mirajane, and Shizuka all shouted in unison.

"Sorry." Cana replied while ducking her head.

"Alright, you ladies can keep chatting." Alfonzo said as he scooped up Bianca into his arms. "Bianca and I have some stuff to do in the kitchen. Just wait, this will be the best one yet."

"Yeah!" Bianca cheered happily, unable to hide the excitement from cooking with her father and getting to taste all the cake experiments.

Then, without another word, Alfonzo whisked Bianca away to the kitchen with Maria following them shortly afterwards to act as support. By the time anyone saw the three of them again a few hours later, both Alfonzo and Bianca were covered in patches of flour while Bianca was licking the remnants of cake batter off her little fingers before Alfonzo took Amar'e and Calvin along to join them for a bath.

Chapter 789: An S-Class Quest for Alfonzo from Yajima

"Hey, Alfonzo." Mavis, sitting at the bar on the first floor of the guild hall, called out over the usual ruckus of the Fairy Tail guild after seeing Alfonzo come down from training. "You got a request."

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, just after stepping out of the elevator with Elicia and Mirajane, turned to look at Mavis. When he did, he saw her waving a request sheet over her head in his direction.

"You better go see what the Master needs." Mirajane said with her usual pleasant smile on her face. "If it's a quest just for you, it might be something important."

"Or it might just be Yajima again." Elicia added. "He calls for Fonzie every time he comes up with anew recipe."

"Who knows." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "I'm betting it's Yajima, though. I mean, he didn't even come out to say hi when Lici, Amar'e, and I showed up at his restaurant a couple of days ago."

Both giving understanding nods, Elicia and Mirajane took turns pecking Alfonzo on his cheeks before they moved through the guild hall to join the others at their usual table. Meanwhile, Alfonzo made his way over to Mavis to see what this quest was about.

"Who's it from?" Alfonzo asked as he arrived at the bar. He then took a seat next to Mavis and held out his hand. "I bet it's Yajima again."

"Good thing I have no intention of taking that bet." Mavis replied with a smile. "But this time, it's not for taste testing. Instead, he needs an extra chef. He wants you to bring along another waitress, too. Two, if possible, though."

Hearing that, Alfonzo raised an eyebrow. Then, he looked down to read the request. And just like Mavis said, he was requesting Alfonzo to work in his restaurant as a chef for a VIP guest and their entourage. He also wanted Alfonzo to bring one or two female wizards to act as both wait staff and security.

"Interesting." Alfonzo murmured to himself. "I've never received a quest like this one before. And it's actually S-Rank. The people he's hosting must really be hot shit, huh?"

"Sounds like it." Mavis replied. "So, are you gonna take the request?"

"Of course, I am." Alfonzo replied casually. "The real question is... who should I take with me. The best options would be Lici and Ur if we're only talking about strength. But Ur is off the table, immediately. If any of the guests get handsy, she'd just freeze them, no questions asked."

"Yeah, I could see that..." Mavis said, a hint of dread making its way into her expression.

"Lici's out, too." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "Amar'e's birthday is less than two weeks away. And nothing is gonna tear her away from the preparations."

"That's true, too." Mavis replied. "Erza's out on a quest, too. So, she's out of the running."

"Yeah, and Mira's supposed to be going on a quest with Elfman and Lisanna." Alfonzo said. "That's most of the strongest women in the guild who can't go."

"What about... No, never mind." Mavis said while shaking her head. "There's no way Irene would ever act as a waitress."

"Even if she was willing, I would never ask her." Alfonzo said while shivering. "Just imagining her in a setting like that is kind of terrifying."

"Agreed." Mavis replied with a strong nod. She then raised her head towards the ceiling in thought and started tapping her chin with an index finger. "Then... What about Brandish? She's pretty strong."

"I'm sure she'd just say it was troublesome." Alfonzo said. "But I guess it won't hurt to ask. I might even be able to turn it into a date afterwards. I mean, I haven't really taken her on one since we confirmed our relationship."

"Well, I'm sure if you lead with that, she'll agree." Mavis said with a smile as she nudged Alfonzo with her shoulder.

"But if I do that, bringing another girl will be kinda awkward, won't it?" Alfonzo asked with a shrug.

"Not if it's Lucy." Mavis said. "I'm sure she'll understand. Besides, why can't you just take both of them on a date together?"

Hearing that, Alfonzo's eyes widened. He then looked at Mavis with an amazed gaze.

"Master Mavis, are you a genius?" Alfonzo asked. "Because it's a date, I never even considered doing it with more than one. You know, I've always tried to make whoever I'm on a date with feel special."

"And why can't you make them both feel special?" Mavis asked while tilting her head in curiosity.

Naturally, Alfonzo did not have a response to that. Although this would not be the first time he went out with more than one of the women he was in a relationship with at the same time, he had never called it a date before. But like Mavis said, why does a date only have to be between himself and one of the ladies?

"Right." Alfonzo said as he stood up from the bar stool. "I'll go ask them if they want to go. Thanks, Master Mavis."

With that, Alfonzo turned around and made his way over to where his group usually sat. Meanwhile, Mavis smiled and gave a little wave. Then, she turned back towards the bar and let out a sigh.

"How long has it been since I was last on a date." Mavis muttered to herself as she rested her face in her palms. "I can still remember the first date I went on with Zeref all those years ago."

Shaking her head with a smile on her face, Mavis turned back to reading through the request sheets that had been delivered today.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo was approaching the table where he usually sat with his friends and lovers.

"So, what kind of quest was it?" Elicia asked curiously as she leaned towards Alfonzo. "Was it from Yajima again?"

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "But not as a taste tester. Instead, I'll be a cook."

Hearing that, many of those sitting at the table had their eyes light up.

"Now that I think about it, I need to take a trip to Hargeon." Kouta said as he adjusted his glasses.
"Maybe I'll stop by 8-Island while I'm there."

"Do you even know what day Alfonzo is going?" Alzack asked while rolling his eyes. "Besides, Me, you, and Rika are supposed to be leaving on a quest tomorrow, remember?"

"Oh, right." Kouta replied, his mood falling visibly.

"*Sigh* I'm sorry I have to leave all the quests to the three of you." Bisca said in a slightly disappointed tone.

"Don't say that, Love." Alzack said with a doting smile. "You're pregnant. We can't have you doing anything that might endanger the baby, right?"

"I know... But still." Bisca said, clearly missing the thrill of taking quests.

"Just let it go, Bisca." Elicia said with a smile. "It's better this way. Besides, you can still train. Just don't overdo it."

"Yeah, I know." Bisca replied.

"I don't know why you're acting like that." Mirajane said with a smile. "Personally, I loved having Alfonzo pamper me the whole time I was pregnant."

"Well, he can afford to do that." Alzack said while smiling wryly. "I'm not that rich. I have to still make money the old-fashioned way."

"It's okay, Babe." Bisca said with a loving smile as she cupped Alzack's face between her hands. "I know just how hard you're working for me and the baby."

"I knew you'd understand, Bisca." Alzack said with a smile.

With that, the two stared into each other's eyes for a long while, a pink-colored atmosphere surrounding them.

"This happened a lot before when Alzack finally confessed." Lucy said while shaking her head. "But now that Bisca's pregnant, it feels like there's a pink dome following them everywhere they go."

"I know what you mean." Rika said with a grin. "I'm just glad we don't have to deal with it on quests. Otherwise, we might start failing them because they slip into their own world at the wrong time."

"Do you really think they'd do that?" Kouta asked curiously.

"Of course they wouldn't." Alfonzo said with a smile. "They're both professionals. They know exactly when they can and can't act like this."

In response, everyone who had grown up with Alzack and Bisca nodded their heads. A moment later, Mirajane turned her attention back to Alfonzo.

"So, you're gonna be cooking at Yajima's restaurant this time, huh?" Mirajane asked with a curious smile on her face. "Is that okay?"

"Yeah, isn't it, like, some kind of conflict of interest or something?" Marin added. "What, with you owning your own restaurant, too."

"It could be." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "But I can keep the two separate. Besides, I have no intention of fucking shit up at Yajima's place."

"I guess." Marin said with a shrug of her own. "So, when are you leaving? It won't get in the way of Amar'e's birthday party, will it?"

Immediately after Marin asked her question, Alfonzo felt an intense stare fall upon him. And he knew that if his answer did not satisfy the owner of his stare, he would have hell to pay in the coming days.

"Nah." Alfonzo replied casually. "I only have to cook for one night, three days from now, for a group of VIPs. So, I should have plenty of time to help with the prep for the party."

As Alfonzo's words ended, the owner of the piercing stare, Elicia, softened her gaze and nodded in satisfaction. Though, because he did not intend to be away for too long, he paid her little mind. Instead, he turned his attention to Lucy and Brandish, the latter of whom had not spoken since he arrived at the table.

"By the way, Lucy, Brandish, wanna come with me on this quest?" Alfonzo asked with a smile. "Yajima needs a couple of waitresses to help serve the VIPs and act as extra security."

"Extra security?" Lucy asked. "Just who is he serving?"

"No idea." Alfonzo replied. "Probably won't find out until we talk to Yajima. But since it's an S-Class quest, their probably pretty important."

"I'll pass." Brandish said in her usual, lazy, tone. "Being a waitress sounds like it would be too troublesome."

"I expected you to say that." Alfonzo replied with a nod. He then turned back to Lucy. "So, what about you, Lucy?"

"Um... Well, I don't really have anything else to do." Lucy said after thinking for a moment. "So, I guess I'll go. This will look good for me, too. With enough S-Class quests, I might get another S-Class nomination at the end of the year."

"Probably." Alfonzo replied with another nod. "More important than that, once the quest is done, we can spend some time together. Maybe have a date."

Alfonzo then glanced at Brandish with an expression of feigned regret.

"I actually wanted to take the both of you out." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "But since Brandish doesn't wanna go, it will just be me and you, Lucy."

Immediately, almost everyone at the table noticed the subtle manipulation Alfonzo was employing. Everyone except for Brandish, that is.

Bang!

"Fine, I'll go." Brandish said, her tone filled with more energy than most of the wizards present had ever heard as she slammed her hands on top of the table. She then turned her head away, her cheeks a light shade of red after realizing that everyone was staring at her. "I mean, if you need the extra help, it's my duty to help my guild mate and b-b-boyfriend with his quest."

Smiling expressions that all but exclaimed how cute Brandish was surrounded Brandish after her declaration. And as she looked around at all those smiles, Brandish's face reddened even further. Then, unable to handle them, Brandish stood up before quickly walking away.

"I'll be ready to go on time." Brandish said without looking back. "So, you better not be late."

After that, Brandish walked through the guild hall's sliding doors without waiting for a reply.

"Well, that was fun." Alfonzo said while smiling happily.

"Why hasn't she already moved in with you yet?" Laki asked curiously.

"Because her lease isn't up." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "She doesn't wanna pay the fee."

"I guess that makes sense." Laki said in an understanding tone. "If she lived in Fairy Hills, she wouldn't have to worry about that."

"Well, not everyone wants to pay 200,000 Jewels a month, either." Lucy said. "That's why I never lived there."

"Well, you would have been kicked out pretty quickly if you did." Elicia pointed out. "Always teaming up with Natsu really puts a damper on your income, doesn't it?"

"*Sigh* Tell me about it." Lisanna said while shaking her head. "If Natsu, Miyako, and I didn't live out on the town's outskirts, in a house Natsu built himself, we would never be able to afford rent, either."

Everyone at the table could only look at Lisanna with sympathy. Even so, they all spent the rest of the day as they would any other. And like that, the next few days passed quickly, and Alfonzo, Lucy, and Brandish headed to Hargeon in the S 600 to take on Yajima's S-Class quest.

Chapter 790: The Cooking Quest Begins

"Come on, Brandish~." Lucy said, her exasperation palpable. "Why are you taking so long to get dressed? The guests will be here any minute now."

"Because it's a pain." Brandish replied languidly while slowly pulling on the stockings of the 8-Island uniform. "Why does this uniform have to be so complicated? What I usually wear is so much better."

"What you usually wear?" Lucy scoffed while rolling her eyes. "You basically walk around in lingerie with a coat over top. Most people wouldn't even call that being dressed."

"Whatever." Brandish replied in a bored tone. "Alfonzo doesn't seem to have a problem with it."

"Is that what you think?" Lucy asked, rolling her eyes again. "Well then, you're thinking wrong."

Hearing that, Brandish raised her head to look at Lucy with her eyes narrowed.

"What do you mean?" Brandish asked, her tone much more serious than before.

"Do you really think any man likes seeing his woman showing off the goods for any other man to see?" Lucy asked, rolling her eyes for a third time. "I'm not even a man, and I know the answer to that. The answer is no. But Alfonzo doesn't want to stifle your sense of self. So, he doesn't say anything. Only weirdos like Juvia don't mind their partner showing everything to everyone."

At the same time, somewhere in Fiore, both Gray and Juvia sneezed. Then, Juvia smiled goofily when she realized that she and Gray did the same thing at the same time.

Meanwhile, Brandish's eyes widened to a comical degree when she finished processing Lucy's words. She then looked down at herself, clad in the 8-Island uniform, and saw the large amount of cleavage on display, as well as the little bit of thigh peaking out between her skirt and stockings. She then glanced at Lucy before standing up.

"He doesn't seem to have an issue with what you wear." Brandish said as she reached out with one of her slender fingers and hooked the top of Lucy's uniform. She then pulled, making even more of Lucy's breasts visible. "I mean, you're always showing cleavage and leg. So, what's the difference?"

Smack!

"Stop that." Lucy said, slapping away Brandish's hand with a slight blush on her face before covering her chest defensively. "And of course there's a difference. I'm actually wearing real clothes. There's still something left to the imagination."

"Mhmm~." Brandish hummed dismissively as she turned away. And it was clear she did not take Lucy's words seriously. "Anyway, it's about time to start working. Let's go."

"Ugh! Brandish, you're impossible!" Lucy groaned in annoyance as she adjusted her top. "Hey, wait for me!"

A moment later, with Brandish in the lead, Lucy and Brandish stepped out of the female employees' locker room. At the same time, Alfonzo, dressed in a white chef uniform with his hair under a hair net, stepped out of the male employees' locker room with a tall chef's hat in hand.

"Oh, I don't think I've ever seen you wearing this much clothing before, Brandish." Alfonzo said with a smile while looking Brandish and Lucy up and down with an appreciative gaze. "Either way, both of you wear that uniform well."

"You think so?" Lucy asked, striking a pose that highlighted her best assets. "Then, should I ask Lici to make me an outfit in the same style?"

"If you do, I won't complain." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

Meanwhile, Brandish noticed the way Alfonzo looked her over. And what she saw shocked her. Although Alfonzo always looks at her with a bit of heat in his gaze. And why wouldn't he? Seeing how his eyes glinted with more appreciation than usual, she somewhat understood Lucy's take on dressing properly.

'Maybe wearing something different for him every once in a while isn't such a bad idea.' Brandish thought to herself while listening to Alfonzo's and Lucy's back and forth.

"Good, you're all dressed." Yajima said after stepping out of the kitchen. "The guests should arrive shortly. They'll be dining in the private room at the end of the hall on the second floor. Lucy, Brandish, you'll be in charge of serving them. Alfonzo and I will be in charge of the cooking."

"Sure." Brandish replied in her usual bored tone.

"Got it!" Lucy replied energetically. "And with looks like ours, they should leave some pretty good tips, right?"

"That will depend more on your service than your looks." Yajima said in a professional tone. He then turned to look at Alfonzo. "Oh, and they've ordered the duck as the main course for their meal. Do you think you can take care of the cutting on sight?"

"No problem." Alfonzo replied with a shrug. "The only question is how fancy do you want me to get?"

"As fancy as you can." Yajima replied with a nod. "This guest is the highest-profile guest 8-Island has ever received."

"Now that you mention it, you never told us who the guest is for tonight." Lucy pointed out while cupping her chin with her right hand.

"Oh? I didn't?" Yajima asked, a slightly embarrassed expression on his face. "My apologies. It seems I was so caught up with the thought of making everything proceed properly that I forgot."

Reaching that point, Yajima stopped to take a deep breath. Then, his perpetually squinted eyes opened about halfway as he finally revealed the name of the VIP.

"It's Princess Hisui E. Fiore." Yajima said, his tone filled with solemn gravitas. "She and several of her noble friends are coming to try the food. Apparently, she somehow found out that Alfonzo helped with the menu. So, she decided she wanted to try it for herself."

"Really? Princess Hisui?" Lucy asked in shock. "She rarely leaves the capital. Yeah, I guess I can understand why you asked for Alfonzo and two waitresses to act as added security."

"Exactly." Yajima replied with a solemn nod. "So, I need you all to do your best tonight. Also, I need you to stay on guard just in case any dark wizards get any funny ideas."

Alfonzo, Lucy, and Brandish nodded in understanding, Brandish even changing her expression from her usual bored expression into something that could almost be considered serious.

With that, Alfonzo, Lucy, Brandish, and Yajima split into groups of two. While Alfonzo and Yajima went into the kitchen to start making the different courses for Princess Hisui's meal, Brandish headed up to the second floor of 8-Island to be on standby in the private room while Lucy moved towards the front entrance to wait for Princess Hisui and her entourage.

Like that, time passed quickly. Then, after half an hour, or so, a fairly large precession of knights on horseback and carriages could be heard coming down the street in the direction of 8-Island. Meanwhile, all the citizens of Hargeon, curious to know who would come to Hargeon with such fanfare, lined the sides of the street, watching as the precession passed.

"Who do you think is in that carriage?" A man asked while looking at the central carriage.

"Are your eyes just for show?" A woman, most likely the man's wife, asked while slapping him upside the head. She then pointed at the central carriage as she continued. "Look at the flag hanging there. That's the emblem of the Fiore Royal Family."

"Oh... Then, does that mean the king has come to Hargeon?" The man asked, his tone growing more and more excited with every word."

"How should I know?" The woman asked. "It could be the princess, or both the king and the princess. There's no way to know until the door opens."

"I guess you're right." The man replied while scratching the side of his head as his eyes followed the precession. "I just hope we'll be close enough to see when that happens."

Many conversations like that occurred along the route the precession took to its destination. When the precession eventually stopped, the doors of the carriage in line with the front door to 8-Island, Hargeon's citizens held their collective breath in anticipation of who they would see step out of the carriage.

A moment later, the captain of the knight squadron escorting the carriage dismounted his horse before making his way over to the carriage door. At the same time, two other knights dismounted and made their way to the back of the carriage. They then opened a compartment on the carriage and pulled out a rolled up red carpet. Then, just as the captain reached the door, the two knights laid down the carpet and unrolled it, its end stopping at the threshold of the 8-Island restaurant.

Click!

Then, once everything was in order, the captain held the handle of the carriage's door before gently pulling it open.

A moment later, a tall female knight with long, braided blonde hair stepped out of the carriage. She then stopped just to the side of the carriage door before holding her hand out to assist those in the carriage as they climbed down.

"Are you serious?" Lucy asked herself breathlessly. "They actually let her assist the princess?"

As though she could hear Lucy, despite the distance and the closed doors of the restaurant, the blonde knight, Darkness, blushed lightly as she shivered minutely. A moment later, however, she shook her head and returned to her senses just before a slender, hand wrapped in a white glove reached out of the carriage and took hers.

"Thank you, Lady Dustiness." A female voice said just as a green-haired head poked out of the carriage.

"It's the princess!" A young woman shouted as she recognized the first person to step out of the carriage.

"Oh, my God!" A young man shouted at nearly the same time. "Princess Hisui is so beautiful!"

"Princess Hisui! I love you!" Another young woman shouted.

Just like that, the area surrounding 8-Island exploded into a cacophony of cheers, screams, and shouts for order. All the while, the other young noble ladies continued to climb out of the carriage as if they were already used to scenes like this.

Meanwhile, Lucy watched the scene outside the restaurant closely.

"So, there are five of them." Lucy muttered to herself. "Well, at least it shouldn't be too hard to serve them. And with Princess Hisui's personality, even if some of them are spoiled rich girls, she'll probably keep them in line as long as we don't make any major mistakes. Hold on... I think I've seen that one before."

At the end of Lucy's line of sight stood a pretty young woman with waist-length brown hair, a single lock of which hung over the right side of her face, and light blue eyes wearing a blue and white calf-length dress with brown boots looking around at everything with child-like curiosity.

"*Sigh* It really is her." Lucy muttered with a fond smile on her face. "It's still hard to believe how much she changed after falling down and bumping her head when she was a child. But now, she actually works in the Ministry of Magic. I bet her father, Duke Claes, must be proud."

The young woman who caught Lucy's eye, Katarina Claes, was someone she met years ago while on a trip to Crocus with her father. In fact, she met her the same night she met Elicia back in x782. And the two hit it off quite well back then, despite the fact that Katarina was three years younger than Lucy, who was only fifteen back then.

However, there was a secret about Katarina that Lucy had no way of knowing. In fact, the only people in this world who might have an idea about that secret were Alfonzo and Elicia. But for now, Katarina was known to everyone as a kind, charismatic young woman who is not afraid to express her feelings on any matter.

While Lucy was thinking about Katarina, the group of those intending to eat at 8-Island started walking down the red carpet, with the captain of the knight squadron, Darkness, and two other knights moving as the protection unit for Princess Hisui and her four noble friends. Then, after a moment, the group reached the doors of 8-Island, where the captain opened the door.

"Welcome to 8-Island." Lucy said with a sweet smile and a bow as the group of nine stepped into the restaurant. "Your private room has been prepared. Please, follow me."

Immediately, most of Princess Hisui's group recognized Lucy. She had been in Sorcerer's Weekly on several occasions, after all. Plus, she was a member of Fairy Tail, Fiore's strongest guild.

"Lucy, I wasn't expecting to see you here." Hisui said with a pleasantly surprised smile. "I would assume that Yajima put in a request for more wait staff."

"Yes, he did." Lucy replied. "But it wasn't just for wait staff. In fact, the extra wait staff was just secondary. The actual request was for a certain cook."

Hearing that, Hisui's eyes lit up. Meanwhile, Katarina was looking at Lucy with a slightly star struck expression in her eyes. Though, only she knew the reason for that.

"Does that mean Alfonzo is here?" Hisui asked as she could feel saliva gathering in her mouth. "I've eaten at the Sixth Sense Restaurant and Lounge in Crocus and spoken to the head chef, Erina Nakiri. And she said that all the dishes there are those that Alfonzo created. Erina even says that he is a better cook than she is. Though, she does grit her teeth every time she says it."

Reaching that point, Hisui could not help but giggle from the memory of Erina pouting and gritting her teeth when admitting that she was a worse chef than Alfonzo.

"That's right." Lucy replied with a smile. "In fact, he actually helped Yajima finalize the menu here, as well. So, when Yajima heard that you wanted to visit his restaurant, he made a request for Alfonzo to come and help out. He has even planned for Alfonzo to put on a show for you that involves the main course. So, I hope you're all looking forward to it."

After that, Hisui and Lucy exchanged a few more words. Then, Lucy led everyone up the stairs to the private room. Finally, once everyone was seated, she left the room, leaving Brandish to take drink orders while she headed down to the kitchen to pick up the first course of the meal.