

Few Wives 181

Chapter 181: Somebody else?

"Really? That's all he did since day one? He didn't touch you inappropriately? No? Is he into rainbows?" Tilda asked what she really cared about after Chloe told her how she had been doing up to that point.

It was clear to see that she didn't care about what Chloe went through as long as she was safe. What she wanted to know was whether if Muku was the scumbag she thought he was. How could he not be with such good looks and have such a naive girl around him?

Anyone else in his situation might have long since turned into an animal. Especially after Chloe's evolution-driven glow-up that stunned even Tilda, who was no slouch herself.

So, finding out that Muku had been a gentleman from start to finish was rather surprising to her. Tilda was someone who was rarely wrong. For that reason, she got really irritated whenever she was wrong. Which led to her no-so-subtle dissing of Muku by accusing him of a certain thing that made his expression go dark.

Honestly, if she weren't someone important to Chloe. She would have been regretting her choice of words by that time. Tilda has no idea that she was messing with someone who could literally wipe her out of existence.

"Aunt, I'd appreciate it if you didn't unprovokedly curse my leader", Chloe spoke with an icy cold voice, told Tilda for the first time ever.

Which caught Tilda by surprise. So, she didn't know how to respond. Even when talking to strangers, Chloe tended to be timid, but never cold. For that reason, Tilda had to reconsider how she viewed and treated Muku from then on. However, firstly...

"You're right, I was being unnecessarily childish. I should apologise. I'm really sorry, Mr Muku, for being so unreasonable. My love for my niece blinded me. I'd like to have a spar with you later on if you accept my apologies," Tilda apologised.

Though it was obvious to Muku that it was a shallow apology. The woman still didn't think much of him. It seemed her position and 30% Half-step R3 strength had gotten to her head. She no longer put

strangers in her eyes as if she were the peak of the world. Only if she knew that even Chloe was significantly stronger than her, even without looking at class power boosts...

It wasn't her fault for underestimating them, though. Her group has gone through quite a few major events to reach its power level. Not to mention that Chloe hadn't been completely truthful with what she said. She might have only spoken the truth, but she left out many things that shouldn't be known by outsiders.

While Chloe loved Tilda and trusted her with all her heart. She wouldn't let her emotions compromise the group. So, she didn't say anything that she shouldn't say. Which Muku and Audrey appreciated. It was one of the best qualities of Chloe's balanced personality. She knew how to moderate.

With the lack of information and the fact that Muku's group were super adept at hiding their auras. It was understandable that Tilda, who couldn't fathom the idea of there being people stronger than her outside their base, was easily misled.

"Sure..." Muku only replied with the bare minimum. He never liked people like Tilda who were full of themselves, even if they weren't bad people.

As a businesswoman. How can she not apply one of the most important attributes to have in the business world in her personal life? That attribute is not letting personal emotions guide your decision-making. Especially when dealing with new people.

"Great! I'll notify you later on then. For now, let me go with Chloe and show her something. Someone will come and show you to your room. There are a lot of people here. So, I hope you two are willing to share a room. Sadly, we can't respect the barriers between men and women in the apocalypse" Tilda then gave the three an outline of what was going to happen next.

"No, we understand. It's fine, thank you," Audrey was the one who replied behind her veil. She spoke quickly as if afraid that Muku would say no. Which, luckily for her, no one caught on to.

"Great!" Tilda replied. While it was just one word. It was a lot warmer than how she spoke to Muku before. She even cast a curious gaze toward Audrey as she spoke. She was really interested in seeing the face of the lady under the veil.

Audrey wore a rather loose black dress. One could vaguely tell that there was a great body beneath, her voice also being quite pleasing to the ear and gentle. So, without realising, one would expect to see a beautiful face under the veil. Which was the pattern Tilda fell to, even as a fellow woman.

However, she couldn't be shameless and impolite by asking Audrey to remove the veil. Especially after the issue with Muku. Chloe would definitely not forgive her a second time if she tried such a thing again.

"Chloe, can we go now?" Tilda asked Chloe after shifting her attention from Audrey.

The way she spoke was a bit more measured compared to before. She was no longer certain about how to act around Chloe after the previous episode. Especially with Chloe's expression still cold even after she apologised.

She couldn't help but wonder what Chloe really went through with Muku to stand by him so firmly. She wasn't dumb enough to believe that Chloe told her everything just because she asked. Especially in the apocalypse, where you can't be certain if old friends are still friends after a long separation in such a twisted world.

So, while she was certain that Chloe didn't tell her everything. She didn't think there was much that was left out. However, it seemed she might have to reconsider that conclusion.

"... Sure, however, I'm going to stay with them after everything is said and done", Chloe replied neutrally after looking at Muku, who gave her a nod.

Tilda was quietly surprised. Her perceived position for Muku in Chloe's mind was increasing by the moment.

Even Muku was surprised. Chloe, like the other girls, had never been so dependent on him to make such simple decisions. It seemed like she was trying to make a silent point to Tilda that Muku was above her in position. Which made Muku's heart feel rather warm.

However, he did feel rather bad for Tilda, considering how close she seemed to have been with Chloe before. He couldn't help but wonder whether it's what parents go through when their kids ditch them

for their spouse... Then again, Tilda had been an a**hole to him from the moment they met. So, maybe there was no need to feel bad for her.

"Sure... Whatever you want," Tilda replied with a wry smile on her face.

It seemed she had thoroughly ruined Chloe's perception of her because of one mistake. However, what she didn't know was that Chloe could tell that her apology before was insincere. On top of that, her "spar" with Muku was clearly a way of trying to humiliate him.

All that was the reason Chloe's perception of Tilda took a dive. She could disrespect anyone else but not Muku. He had become Chloe's bottom line a long time ago.

With that, Chloe was led away by Tilda wherever the surprise she was talking about was located. Muku and Audrey were soon taken to another room by a lady who came soon after Tilda and Chloe left.

The room was just a cleared-out stall. The glass front wall and door were covered by curtains. Which was the best they could do, considering that it was a mall instead of a residential building.

It felt as awkward as the stadium to Muku and Audrey, who were used to their high-class rooms. Again, they were reminded what a great idea it was to save the mansion...

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On the other side of the mall...

"So, what's the surprise you're talking about?" Chloe asked Tilda. Still lacking the previous warmth in her voice.

"Don't worry, we're almost there", Tilda replied without looking back at Chloe. She was internally sighing in regret for not controlling herself.

"Okay..." Chloe replied, then went quiet. This made Tilda, who was expecting a few questions on how she had been, feel quite sad.

Soon, the two were standing in front of a room that had "Manager's Office" written on it. Immediately, Chloe figured out that the surprise was probably another person she knew.

A certain blue-haired middle-aged man came to her mind. However, she quickly scrapped that idea since she was supposed to be abroad. Maybe it was one of his associates who took over and had some news from him or something.

As Chloe was stuck in thought. Tilda proceeded to knock on the door. She did it so carefully that one could see the respect she had for whoever was on the other side. There was no reply for a few seconds then...

"Come in", a slightly aged, tired-sounding, and magnetic voice sounded from behind the door.

Chloe's eyes instantly widened. For the voice was one she would always recognise, no matter how much time passed. After all, it was her father's voice. However, that shouldn't be. The man was supposed to be abroad when the apocalypse began. Where he had been for more than a year...

Maybe it was somebody else. Who just happened to have the same voice as him. It had to be... Right? Her heart was pounding intensely, her mind filled with confusion.

As if knowing about Chloe's doubts. Tilda opened the door widely at the moment Chloe was doubting herself.

And there he was. The man from whom she got her hair and eye colour. Her father, William Galloway...

Chapter 182: Chaotic reunion

"Is there something wro... Chloe?!" William, who had been busy with some paperwork, froze in surprise after he looked up mid-speech.

His tired-looking eyes widened so much that one might think they were going to pop out. It was clear to see that he was caught completely off guard by Chloe's appearance.

"Father..." Chloe spoke the word that had almost become foreign to her with some emotion charged behind it.

There was relief, resignation, love, hate and a bunch of other emotions behind her voice. She was relieved that he was alive and seemingly doing well. She felt hurt that he seemed to have been living his life comfortably without worrying about her. Soon all the emotions were replaced by one...

"HOW ARE YOU HERE?! WERE YOU NEVER ABROAD ALL THIS TIME? DO YOU HATE ME THAT MUCH? DID YOU EVER LOOK FOR ME?" Chloe suddenly exploded as she angrily asked her father one question after the other.

Some were questions she had wanted to ask even before the apocalypse, but never had the courage to. Now, everything just exploded out all at once. Her eyes were burning with anger and hatred as she looked at her father.

Sparks of lightning were subtly crackling on her body as she struggled to control her power. Her aura was vaguely leaking out. Just the traces of it shocked both William and Tilda.

They couldn't believe that she was so strong. Tilda was even more shocked than William. She had been close to Chloe to the point of even hugging her at some point. Yet she didn't sense anything.... Wait, she didn't sense anything?

How could she miss such an obvious thing? If she was stronger than Chloe, who was clearly an Evolver from her improved appearance. How was it possible for her to not sense Chloe's power then?

She really had been blind from the start. Her thoughts then drifted to Muku and Audrey, whom she also couldn't sense the auras of. Cold sweat immediately drenched her back. To think she had been playing with death without even knowing it.

"Calm down, Chloe... Do you want to destroy the whole base on our reunion?!" William hastily called out to his daughter, who was about to go berserk.

He felt quite helpless. He was completely unprepared for their sudden reunion. Yet, there she was, his daughter he had practically abandoned.

He couldn't help but give Tilda a hateful look for not giving him a heads-up. She always spoke to him before making any decisions that involved him in the past. What went wrong?! The idiot really chose the wrong time to exercise her free will.

Which had led to the current situation. How was he supposed to stop her without making the situation worse? All he could think of at the moment was to use force... That was definitely a big no, no.

"Chloe..." Suddenly, a young male voice sounded from behind Chloe and Tilda.

Chloe's rampage immediately stopped. Her mana and aura started to stabilise until she was completely back to normal. Though she still gave William a hateful look.

William ignored all that for a second. His attention was on something else. That something was a handsome grey-haired young man standing behind Chloe with a wry smile on his face.

Of course, the young man was Muku. The reason he smiled wryly was because of how he got there. He had to use the new ability he got from his Telekinesis Domain. That ability was invisibility!

That's right, his Telekinesis Domain allowed him to manipulate air particles! He used that to create an air pocket space that absorbed light. This made him invisible when he was inside the domain.

It was definitely not an ability one would want to show to people they just met. However, it was out of his hands. It was the only way he could quickly get there after sensing Chloe's impending mana explosion.

While he was super fast, so fast that the guards in the mall wouldn't be able to see him. That kind of speed would pretty much destroy everything behind him. The wind force generated from it was just that strong. So, it was out of the question...

There was no way the guards would have let him through to that special location if he had asked them. So, without hesitation, he bit the bullet.

Of course, he was only so civil because he sensed that Chloe wasn't in any danger, otherwise... Anyway, it all made sense to him after seeing William. He immediately knew who it was.

He had seen William's face on a picture before Chloe destroyed it in frustration once. So, he was well aware of the complicated feelings she had towards her father.

"Who are you? What's your relationship with my daughter?" William asked in a commanding tone.

His "Father's Aura" that was missing before exploded out as he looked at Muku. It was obvious from the glare on his face that if Muku's answer wasn't to his liking, he would pounce on him.

Who was the brat that dared to have so much control over his daughter? To dare excise that ability in front of him! Did he even put him in his eyes??

Such thoughts went through William's head. He had completely forgotten that if it wasn't for Muku, the situation might have gone out of control.

The more he looked at Muku. The more he disliked him. He was regretting leaving Chloe behind, even if it would have been quite troublesome doing what he wanted to do with her around.

"Why are you being rude? He's my former teacher. Someone a lot better than you. He didn't abandon me even under terrible conditions!" Chloe was angered even more by her father's behaviour.

He hadn't explained himself to her. Yet, he dared show his attitude like that? Did he think so little of her?

"Oh, so he's your former teacher, huh? That's all right? He didn't try anything with you, did he? If he did, I'll end him right now!" William spoke again. It seemed he only heard what he wanted to hear as she immediately went back, glaring at Muku after learning his identity.

"Umm, I think I should go back for now. This seems like a family matter I shouldn't be involved in," Muku spoke awkwardly. Trying to back out of the murky waters he was about to step into.

"No, you don't have to leave... You know what, you're right. Let's leave. I don't want to be associated with people who ditch me, then keep on disrespecting the person I owe my life to," Chloe spoke to Muku. She was basically ignoring William and Tilda at that point. She felt that she had given them enough chances to treat Muku better.

Muku didn't know what to say, so he just remained quiet as Chloe grabbed his hand and dragged him away. William and Tilda stood starstruck. They didn't think Chloe would go that far. This prevented them from reacting immediately when Chloe said she was leaving.

"WAIT!"

Woosh!

William called out from the office. In the next moment, he was standing in front of Muku and Chloe.

While they both clearly saw how he did it. They were still shocked by his strength. He was definitely the strongest person they had ever seen outside of their group. What surprised Muku was how he was actually LR3 like him!

While his hunch that whoever ran the base was quite different was proven true. However, that wasn't of any importance at that time. There were other things to deal with at the time...

"No, please don't go. I was wrong. I don't know what came over me. For that, I apologise. Let's go inside and talk," William spoke after blocking their way.

Unlike Tilda, he was actually being genuine. Which both Muku and Chloe noticed. However, she was still unwilling to stay. Her emotions were still high.

"Sure, we accept your apology. It's understandable for a father to act like that. I'm sure everything will be clear after we talk," Muku spoke before Chloe could refuse again.

"Thank you for your understanding and forgiveness. I must have been really blind before," William spoke while leading Muku and Chloe back inside.

He didn't even try to speak to Chloe, seeing her silence. It was already clear to him that the girl wouldn't speak to him unless he showed his sincerity to Muku. An apology was not enough for her to forgive him, it seemed.

"Tilda, you're excused. Close the door behind you. Also, tell the others not to disturb us," William addressed Tilda after they entered the room.

"...Yes, Sir!" Tilda replied after a moment of silence. It was obvious to her that he had as holding a grudge because she didn't notify him about Chloe's arrival first. It was actually the first time he had practically kicked her out of an important meeting.

What made it even worse was how Chloe was unshaken. Had her relationship with her really fallen so low due to one man?

With such thoughts swirling in her head. Tilda left, closing the door behind her. Leaving the three people to their discussion...

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In another room in the mansion...

"So, the lost princess has appeared on her own, huh?. I wonder... Is she going to make things a little more fun around here, or will she be as boring as the rest? I guess time will tell..." A white-haired young man spoke to himself after receiving some information from his assistant.

It was obvious that the strong people in the base would notice Chloe's little episode from before. The only reason they didn't make a move was because of the location where it happened.

After all, their leader was a beast in human skin. There was no problem he couldn't take care of himself if he wanted to...

Chapter 183: Reconciliation!

In William's office...

"Firstly, let me apologise to you again for my less-than-ideal behaviour before. I don't react well when surprised. Secondly... Chloe, my daughter..." William, being the crafty old man he was. He started the conversation by addressing Muku, then switching to Chloe midway.

While it left a bad taste in his mouth. It was the only way he could lower Chloe's guard. He even trailed off a bit before really getting into it. This was a way of indirectly telling Chloe that if she didn't want to talk, she could stop him.

Fortunately for him, while she was still angry at him. He was her father, who had given her everything he could apart from his presence. So, she still wanted to hear him out. Because of this, she remained silent, signalling him to continue.

"Right... You see, it's not that I wanted to leave you behind or not keep in touch," William started speaking with a smile on his face. He was happy she was willing to hear him out.

The situation back then was such that I couldn't interact with the outside world that much. Including you, my daughter. Being away from you hurt more than you can imagine. Which is why I ordered Tilda to look after you. I'm not saying she didn't love you, though," William continued, making Chloe aware of something she never considered.

This was how Tilda only started showing a lot of affection to her after her father left. Things started to make more sense now. At the beginning, Tilda didn't seem too thrilled about interacting with her. It was only after a while that she started showing real care for Chloe, which didn't seem forced.

"Anyway, while I cannot tell you the details of what I was doing. I can at the very least tell you that it was for both of us. Which you will understand sometime in the future. The matter is close to being done. It could have been done a while back if there weren't some changes that needed to be made" William made her aware that there was a reason why he had to leave.

Seeing his sincere expression and truthfulness in his eyes. Chloe believed him. As a reasonable person, she didn't ask about whatever kept him busy since he said he couldn't tell her. However...

"Did you try to look after me after the apocalypse began. Or was it just Tilda who bothered to?" Chloe asked what she cared about most.

If he says no to the question. Then everything else he said would become pointless. She could understand him staying away during the pre-apocalypse era for whatever reason. Since she was safe. However, if it was still enough to keep him away after the apocalypse, then they would have cut ties right there and then.

You can't say that you're doing something for someone while at the same time ignoring their situation. Caring about someone just didn't work like that.

"Of course, I looked for you. I even did it before Tilda. I just didn't tell her so that she also does it. When I did it. Your school was still standing. There were only two middle-aged men left there. I "nicely" asked them some questions. However, they seemed to have lost their minds, so nothing productive came out of the encounter. Then I went home, but you weren't there either. After that, I was out of ideas, so I just prayed that you were okay, then came back here since I couldn't stay out any longer," William clearly explained himself.

It seemed he met Mr Swindon and the other dude who had no name. What confused Muku and Chloe, however, was how there were only two people there. However, considering the state of mind William had found them in. Anything could have happened to the others.

Muku's attention was drawn to something Chloe missed. Which was how William spoke like he was already strong enough at that time. Which couldn't have been the case... right?

Well, whatever. There was no point in thinking about it. If he was meant to know, he would know. It wasn't like it was something he could ask William, especially at that time.

It was already awkward enough that he was there during such a conversation. Witnessing William lose all his cool, manly aura while apologising to his daughter. Yet, whenever he wanted to say he should leave. Either William or Chloe seemed to sense it and gave him a look that said, "Please stay". The father-daughter pair had become so disconnected that they'd feel awkward if they were left alone.

"I was surprised when Tilda searched for you after the world evolution and said that she didn't find the mansion. Not even its rubble. She said that it looked like it had been uprooted. Which I had to go check myself. Oddly enough, it really was uprooted. While it was quite surprising. It gave me hope that my prayers had been answered, and you were okay. Which, by your presence here, was true. I'm so happy right now, I don't know what to do," William continued after another moment of silence as he gave Chloe time to digest his words.

"So, what you're saying is that all this time you cared?" Chloe spoke in a calm voice while trying to maintain the façade that she wasn't affected by his words. However, the tears falling from her eyes sold her out.

William, who had also gotten emotional, stood up from his chair and walked over to Chloe. He then opened his arms just a metre away from her.

"... Dad! I missed you so much," Chloe hesitated a bit. However, with a little nudge from Muku, the girl ran into her father's arms and burst into tears.

She cried so much that it was heartbreaking. It was obvious she had been holding onto a lot of emotions from the many years that had passed.

Which was understandable, really. The day she lost her mother, she practically lost her father as well. He was never the same after that. Barely ever present until he was basically never present at all.

It was surprising that Chloe grew up to be a normal girl with no mental issues after all that. However, even her stable personality wouldn't shield her from the pain caused by all that.

Muku felt so awkward at that moment. So much so that he unconsciously used his domain and made himself invisible and closed his eyes. "Out of sight, out of mind, right?"

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A while later...

The father-daughter pair had finally stopped hugging each other and were back in their seats. Muku was visible again. The atmosphere in the room was a lot more present compared to before. Both William and Chloe were feeling better after making up.

Muku was getting more confused, however. After meeting William and interacting with him. The man didn't seem like a bad guy or give off such a vibe. Yet, the nagging feeling that there was something sinister going on behind the scenes just wouldn't leave his mind.

He couldn't help but wonder if his gut was wrong for the first time ever. It would be surprising, but not too much considering that it was just a gut feeling after all. Or maybe it was because of the slight anomaly he sensed in both William and Tilda's mana?

It was the apocalypse where anything could happen, so that wasn't too surprising to him. Even normal people can have some differences after all. Maybe it was just his mana type rejecting a variant different from it?

As someone who went with the flow whenever he couldn't figure things out. He didn't stress over it. He just left it to fate. Like before, if he was meant to find out, he would eventually.

"So, Muku... Right? What are your plans with my daughter?" William literally circled back to his initial question after all that. Just that he did it more civilly this time.

Instead of a glare, he just narrowed his eyes at Muku. Chloe's reaction was also different from before this time. Instead of getting angry, she blushed furiously while hiding her head behind Muku.

Seeing her reaction, Muku almost got up and ran on the spot. What the hell was the girl doing?! Was he trying to get him killed? What kinda of easily misunderstood reaction was that?!

Cold sweat went down Muku's back. He slowly shifted his gaze from Chloe to William... He was met by William's smile that didn't hold even an ounce of the emotions one would associate with a smile.

He honestly looked like a serial killer who killed his targets with a smile on his face at that time.

Boom!

Just when Muku was wrecking his mind for an answer that wouldn't lead to a beating. An explosion rang out from somewhere within the base. Everyone's attention was instantly drawn to it.

"Let's continue this talk later. It seems someone is causing trouble again. Do you want to go check it out with me?" William's expression turned serious as he spoke.

"Sure, let's go", Muku was quick to agree. Internally, he was even thanking the troublemaker. At least he was spared for the time being. He'd also have time to set Chloe straight. How dare she try to set him up when he thought she was the most upright member in his team?!

With that, the trio left the office, heading for the explosion site...

Chapter 184: Sagely John!

At the explosion site...

"What happened here? To dare do this when you know I'm around. Do any of you still put me in your eyes?!" William exclaimed in anger the moment he arrived.

How could he not be angry when the floor and walls in the area were cracked? Which was a lot more troublesome in the apocalypse for obvious reasons. The materials to fix such problems weren't as easily available as before.

For that reason, William had set a rule to never get into physical conflict inside the mall. If people had an issue that needed fighting, he wouldn't stop them. They'll just have to go outside and settle their matters.

"It was her Boss, he caused all this, " a muscular-ruffian-looking fellow replied while pointing at a veiled woman.

"John! It's you again?! Do you think I won't kick you out just because you're one of the base's strongest? And who the hell is this?! Why is her face covered in front of me?" William's anger instantly increased.

It was obvious from his reaction that John was the kind of book you can judge by its cover. He looked like a troublemaker and really was one.

"That's the problem, Boss. I heard that there were some new people in the base. As an upstanding citizen, I decided that I should confirm their identities. After all, we had an issue with spies from the Gvt Base before" John was quick to reply before anyone could.

His reason for showing up probably had no connection to being a good citizen. However, William was willing to hear him out.

"So, I politely let myself into the room. After seeing that the other party had a veil. I got suspicious, then politely asked her to remove the veil. However, she was unwilling. So, I sagely, with no hidden intent, reached out to remove the veil. As John continued speaking, trying to make himself as innocent and harmless as possible. The listeners found their mouths twitching a bit. They could all tell that the man was definitely lying about his intent or behaviour. However, no one interrupted.

"Then she pushed me out of the room with so much force I almost crushed into the wall behind me. Of course, I was angered and maybe lost my temper for an instant as I sent out a punch in her direction after she came out. That doesn't really matter. What matters is that I think she's definitely a spy. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been able to stop my punch so easily with one hand. It was the generated force from that which caused the noise and damage. Boss, please, you must avenge me!" John finally finished spinni... Cough... Speaking his tale.

"Right... So that's what happened, huh? Okay, you're not going to get any support from the base for a month for your use of force indoors. You had no right to investigate someone's identity. Not to mention that from your words, you were being disrespectful to her. So it's understandable she'd behave the way she did. Also, it's Tilda who gives people rooms here. For this lady to get a high-floor room, it means her identity was confirmed. Yet, you had to come and cause trouble. You even tried to trick me with your words," William spoke continuously. Not allowing John the chance to interrupt.

"But Boss!" John called out in grievance. However, that's all he did. He couldn't think of anything to defend himself with.

"What? You have nothing to say, do you? Anyway, this is your last warning. If anything like this happens again. I'm kicking you out with no chance of coming back. Now get out of my sight," William spoke while glaring at John.

Honestly, if John weren't one of the strongest people in the base. And also very effective in hunts. He would have kicked him out long ago. While those advantages had protected John up to that point. He couldn't keep on forgiving him, otherwise everyone else would start rebelling, thinking that they'd be forgiven anyway.

"Understood, Boss. This won't happen again," John declared passively. However, there was obvious hatred in his eyes. It wasn't directed at William, though.

Which was obvious from how He glared at the veiled woman. Who was obviously Audrey, with hatred in his eyes. He was even thinking of lunging at her. However, as soon as that idea appeared in his mind, his body froze.

He tried to move, but he couldn't. Only his head could move. He subconsciously turned towards a certain direction. The direction was just behind William. There, his eyes met a grey pair of eyes that were a shade darker than the veiled woman's.

The moment the two people's eyes met. John was overcome with fear. He wanted to scream, but he couldn't. Cold sweat flowed down his back as he stood frozen.

It continued like that for a few more seconds until the owner of the grey eyes looked away. Though it was after giving him a little smile which made everything clear. John understood clearly. The message was, "try something with her and you're dead"

After the grey eyes, which were Muku's, of course, looked away from him. John could move, and he immediately ran away from the scene. He ran to his room and closed the door behind him. Then his body lost all strength from fear, and he fell to the ground. The plan of revenge against Audrey he was cooking up was instantly scrapped. He even hoped not to see her again, lest he have that monster as a reason to end him.

What he didn't know was that Audrey actually had the capabilities to end him herself. Which was part of the rest, William chose to punish him instead of telling them to go fight outside. He couldn't lose one of his strongest to a guest after all.

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Back at the scene...

William gave Muku a brief look of disbelief before looking away. He was the only one who sensed what Muku had done to John without moving.

It seemed his daughter was exceptionally lucky to find herself in the same team as such a monster. He had suspected that Muku was R3 from his invisibility display before. However, he wasn't sure because Muku hadn't completely activated his domain. Which made it seem like it could have been a spell he was using instead of a domain ability.

William knew for a fact that no one should have been able to reach R3 so quickly under normal circumstances. So, Muku had to be both extremely talented and lucky. Which were the two things one needed most in the apocalypse?

He didn't have those, so he had taken a rather dark shortcut to his strength. Which he hoped was never reviewed to the outside world, otherwise he'd be done for. Yet, Muku was a pure R3. Well, that was a story for another day.

"Everyone, go back to your business. Don't bother this lady anymore. She's a guest here. So, don't be rude like John, or you know how you'll end up," William ordered everyone after putting his chaotic thoughts aside.

Most of the residents did as told. Only six, apart from Tilda, remained. The white haired young man from before was one of those who remained. There was a slightly mischievous smile on his face.

After all, his plan has worked. He had found out what he needed to. He was the one who had manipulated the muscle-brained and lustful John to find trouble with Audrey through spreading gossip.

He wanted to see the capabilities of the new arrivals. Chloe's mana leak wasn't too pronounced from far away. So, no one outside was able to accurately judge her strength based on it.

This led to his bold plan. If Audrey was strong, then he'd think of a way to get acquainted with them, since one can never have too many allies. If she were weak, he'd get involved, then use it to improve his relationship with William. So it was a win for him, no matter what.

He preferred the first outcome, however. After all, the old man, William, was known to not favour people easily, no matter what they did for him. So, it was too much of a gamble. This made the first outcome more appealing. Luckily for him, that's what happened.

"Why are you all still here? Didn't you hear me?" William gave the group that stayed behind a dissatisfied look as he spoke. They were usually obedient, so he couldn't understand what was wrong that time.

"Don't misunderstand us, boss. We're not trying to rebel or anything like that. We just want to know who our new friends are. Will you not introduce us?" The white-haired young man was the one who responded. His voice was calm and charismatic.

With his handsome looks, he only seemed like a devil that had come to steal the souls of young ladies away.

"Abel, I don't have time for your games right now. Go back, I'll call you all when it's time to introduce you all. Our guests have travelled a long way, and they would like to rest first," William spoke while giving Abel the stink-eye. He didn't like the white-haired brat who was always plotting behind the scenes.

Only if he wasn't his strongest general. He would have gotten rid of him a long time ago. Even before the troublesome John.

It was better to deal with someone overly dumb than someone overly smart. The dumb one is predictable and easy to read most of the time, while the latter...

Chapter 185: Mana corruption?

"Well, you're the boss", Abel replied while backing down.

He didn't want to give a bad impression to his targets. He then smiled at Muku and left with the others. As a patient plotter, he didn't mind waiting.

.....

A while later. Back in William's office...

"Hello, Ms, I'm sorry for my subordinate's poor behaviour. I hope you can forgive him just this once. It won't happen again," William apologised to Audrey on John's behalf after he had her join them in his office.

As for why that was... He had instantly noticed that Audrey was way stronger than John when he arrived on the scene. She had gone easy on him. Otherwise, he would have been seriously injured at the very least if she had taken him seriously.

He was certain that she wasn't a spy. Even though Tilda hadn't told him. Which was because, for whatever reason, her mana signature was similar to Muku's to an extent. Which wasn't something he'd ever seen before.

Everyone's mana signature was like fingerprints, all unique. So, for two people to have a somewhat similar mana signature. They had to be related in some way. Which wasn't natural either. He (William) knew a bit about unnatural mana signatures after all...

Anyway, that wasn't any of his business. Just as he didn't want anyone to pry into his secrets. He wouldn't pry into other people's secrets as well.

"It's fine. Thank you for being objective," Audrey replied while taking off her veil.

It was easy for her to figure out that he was Chloe's father. From his looks to all that had happened up to that point. So, she felt that it would be rude not to remove her veil. He seemed like a steady man. There was no way he'd be too affected by beauty... Right?

"Oh my! No wonder you wear a veil around strangers. Honestly, thank you for doing so. I don't know what would have happened if you didn't..." William was completely caught off guard by Audrey's looks.

However, he quickly regained control of himself. He then proceeded to compliment Audrey's looks without actually saying the usual words.

Audrey just smiled slightly at his indirect compliments. She then gave Muku a sidelong glance. It was like she was silently asking him why he never complimented her.

Muku noticed her look and understood what it meant. However, as a seasoned gaze-ignorer. He pretended not to see it.

Of course, Audrey, who had been looking at him, noticed what he did. She rolled her eyes and looked away. She had gotten used to him doing that. While he never complimented her. She would catch him sneaking peeks multiple times every day. Which wasn't any worse than compliments. So she wasn't too unhappy about his unwillingness to say anything.

William noticed the duo's silent exchange, and he wasn't sure how he felt about it. He liked the fact that Muku seemed to be more interested in the grey-haired girl than in his daughter. However, didn't that mean his daughter, who was madly in love with him, was doomed to have a broken heart when the time came?

As a father, he wanted his daughter to be happy. Which was obviously linked to Muku. However, at the same time, he didn't want her to be involved with anybody, even when she turns eighteen and older. No man was good enough for his daughter in his eyes after all. Which left him feeling conflicted.

Luckily, it seemed he had some more time. He could tell Muku was that kind of virgin dude who was confident in everything else but was slow in making moves.

If it was a certain kind of genre, Muku would have gotten screwed by his own delay. However, fortunately for him, Author-san wasn't sick. So it was all good...

....

A while later...

Much to Chloe's disappointment. William didn't continue his previous topic. He just spoke about mundane things.

Which included asking about Chloe's well-being. How she had been doing since the apocalypse began. If she was missing anything she needed his help with, among other things. Just the general things a father asks about.

Then he made small talk with Muku and Audrey, trying to get to know them better. He was happy to know that his daughter had been lucky enough to be accompanied by such good people from day one.

Though he wasn't completely happy. That was because Chloe and the other two refused to stay for the night. Or even lunch, for that matter.

They said they had their own place with people waiting for them. So, they couldn't stay longer. Especially without talking to the others first.

He did try to talk Chloe into staying, but she gave him a hard no. Which he understood. While they were mending their relationship. I wasn't there yet.

Then again, after giving it a second thought. He felt that it might have been for the best...

So, with mixed feelings. William saw them off. Tilda hadn't made another appearance. Likely dealing with something else.

...

On the way to the mansion...

"Did you sense it too?" Muku asked mid-flight.

"Yeah, they were all like that... Whatever that was", Audrey replied.

"Even my father... Especially my father," Chloe added.

The trio then turned silent. No one said anything. However, they all had hardened expressions on their faces. It was clear to see that there was definitely something going on at the New Life Base. Which they had discovered.

.....

Back at the mansion...

The trio was happily received by the others. Hope reattached herself to Muku, and the group had their lunch.

They then got into the discussion that the ones that had stayed behind had been waiting for...

"So, what did you find? Why does Chloe look both happy and sad?" Jade asked immediately after lunch.

She was out of patience after cooking all the meat while Emily looked on. Which was the second day in a row. Emily suddenly came to her and said that it would be easier for the stronger Jade to do it. So she'll just look on until she ranks up as well.

This was supported by everyone else. So, Jade couldn't refuse. The worst part was how it seemed like Emily was holding out on improving her strength just so that Jade had to cook on her own.

"Well, let's start with Chloe's matter first, then..." Muku went to tell the others about how they found Chloe's father at the base. Then about the other matter...

"So, what you're saying is that. Chloe's father is not only at that eerie place,, but he's running it? On top of that, every person you met there had corrupted mana caused by whatever reason, with him still

being the most corrupted. And you sensed a hyper-concentrated corruption source down below?" Jade summarised what Muku said.

That's right, while Muku and the two girls behaved normally throughout. They had been ignoring something very wrong with the base people for the longest time.

It had not been too pronounced when they arrived or spent a little time there. However, the longer they stayed there, the more pronounced it got.

It was an eerie energy mixed into the mana of everyone at the base. With a purer version of it radiating from what they assumed to be the basement, down below. They decided to call it corruption energy until they found out what it was.

On the bright side, while it was eerie and likely very bad. It didn't seem to be doing anything to the corrupted for the time being.

Which was obvious from their free will and happy expressions. It maybe it was so good at manipulating them that no one was able to tell.

"Yeah, and don't forget that everyone is in the base. No matter how young they seemed to be, they were all at least a MR1 Evolver. Which is rather odd for a group with more than a few thousand people so early in the apocalypse," Muku reminded.

It seemed the things William thought were well hidden were actually clear to Muku and the girls.

Honestly, William was just unlucky. Muku and the girls shouldn't have been able to sense the eerie energy. However, they had been exposed to something which gave them that ability.

And, on the matter of the unreasonably high-levelled residents. Normal people wouldn't have travelled in-between bases. So, they wouldn't know what power level was normal for the average person to have at that time.

Which obviously Muku's group had done and knew. It was almost like Muku's group was created to see through everything William tried to hide.

"Oh yeah... So, what are we going to do next?" Jade asked Muku. However, she was looking at Chloe.

Her intent was clear. While she said something else. She was actually asking Chloe what she wanted to do, knowing what situation her father was in.

"Well... Let's observe for now. I told him I'd visit in a few days. If anything has changed by then. We'll think of how to react to it. No one has to go with me if they don't want to," Chloe spoke. She got Jade's indirect question.

"We'll do it like that then, but... You're crazy if you think you're going alone," Muku replied while the others nodded in agreement.

They had all long agreed to stick with each other no matter what after all. So, that much at least was expected. Even Jade wouldn't have let Chloe go alone.

"But... Okay, thank you," Chloe wanted to say that it was her problem and they didn't need to put themselves in such a troublesome situation. However, after seeing their threatening gazes, they dared her to continue what she wanted to say. She ended up thanking them instead.

It felt good to know that she had such reliable people to lean on.

Chapter 186: Helping Audrey (16+)

"So, are we going to ignore the tail you brought back?" Layla asked calmly.

"Oh, him... Let him be as long as he doesn't get too close. Understandably, someone got curious about why the princess didn't stay at her father's base," Muku replied with an unbothered expression on his face.

Only Elsa and Freya, who weren't strong enough yet, didn't understand what they were talking about. Everyone else had already sensed the person who followed the trio from the base.

The person seemed to have some kind of tracking ability. He hadn't immediately followed them. Which they would have definitely noticed.

Another reason why Muku wasn't quick to attack was that he wasn't certain who sent him. It could have been William. So, attacking the man would be very disrespectful to his future father-in-l... Cough... His teammate's father.

"Well, if you say so. Now, if you'll excuse me. I have something to do. I hope no one disturbs me," Layla replied, then left for her room.

It was obvious that she was going to focus on ranking up. They probably wouldn't see her again until she reaches R3...

"Me too!" Chloe spoke up. She was also going to focus on ranking up. She felt that she needed to be as strong as she could be for whatever mess her father had gotten himself into.

After her, the other girls also left with the same intent in their minds. Soon, only Muku and Audrey were left there sitting quietly.

Jade had also left. She was going to stalk the spy. She was curious to see whether he would be able to discover her or not. He had become an interesting new toy in her eyes.

"... I'm sorry we couldn't get any blood element cores for you", Muku spoke after a slightly awkward moment of silence.

"No, it's fine. There was nothing you could do. However, I think there's a way to help me rank up if you are interested..." Audrey replied. She sounded a bit hesitant and expectant at the end, which was new to Muku. It had been a while since she had hesitated to say anything to him.

The hesitation was mixed in with some expectation, no less. It seemed she really hoped that he would agree to help her.

"Hhm, sure. Anything for you. What do I need to do?" Muku asked curiously.

He noticed her gaze getting a bit more heated the moment he said sure. However, he was certain that she wouldn't do anything bad to him... Probably. So, he didn't backtrack.

"Let's go to my room first... No, let's go to one of the guest rooms. The furthest one from everyone..." Audrey replied. Her voice was getting slightly laboured.

"O...kay? Let's go," Muku replied in a slightly confused manner. However, his heart was already racing.

While Audrey's sometimes weird way of speaking had caused him to misunderstand her once. It didn't stop his thoughts from wandering.

So, he practically pushed Audrey to the furthest guest room. Audrey couldn't help but wonder when it became him taking her there instead of the other way around. She didn't complain, though. As long as she got what she wanted...

...

In the secluded room...

"So, what now?" Muku asked Audrey while standing by the bed.

"Umm, can you sit on the bed please?" Audrey replied shyly. However, her eyes weren't in line with her tone. They were looking at him with unmasked desire. The grey eyes had actually turned red!

Honestly, looking at her at that time made him feel a bit scared. And very hard somewhere, at the same time. His mind and body weren't in sync at all.

"Okay..." Muku replied as he did what he was told.

"Can you close your eyes? I need to take off my dress so it doesn't get creased," Audrey spoke shyly again.

"... Sure. As long as it helps you get stronger," Muku spoke to express his agreement.

He was almost certain that the plot was definitely developing in the direction he thought it was. Otherwise, why would she take off her dress??

The second sentence he spoke was more for himself than for Audrey. He had promised the four girls that he wouldn't do anything with anyone until two years later. Yet there he was, less than three weeks later...

So, saying that it was all to help Audrey rank up was his way out. He very much wished to have stopped her. Saying that they shouldn't be doing it, but... Audrey was way too gorgeous for any straight man to refuse. It seems he'd just have to come up with a grand way of apologising later on...

While he thought that she might be using ranking up as a way to attack him. He didn't stop her. What if she really was doing what she said she was doing, and he was the one who misunderstood?

Wouldn't it be more embarrassing than last time if he stopped her then?...

"Done. Now I'm about to get on top of you. Don't move or open your eyes, okay. If it hurts you can tell me though and I'll stop..." Audrey spoke again. Injecting Muku from his messy thoughts.

"What are you talking about?? I'm a man, there's no way I'd be hurt by such a thing. I'm actually worried that you'll be the one to get hurt since you've never done this before..." Muku was offended by her words, so he defended his manliness.

Like, what did she mean that it might hurt him? When did doing that hurt the man?

"Well, if you say so. And since it's really my first time. I really don't know. Let's find out together then" Audrey replied.

Then in her sexy underwear, which Muku was unfortunately not seeing. Audrey slowly got onto Muku's lap. Cowgirl position...

"I'm not heavy, am I?" Audrey asked softly right beside Muku's ear. While hugging him. Her chest pressed up against his...

"N.. No, not at all. Please continue," Muku replied. His voice was shaky. He felt goosebumps all over his body when she spoke.

"Okay. I'm starting now..." Audrey spoke for the last time, then Muku felt her soft lips on his neck.

All his strength left him. Even an unranked person could sneak up on him undetected at that time. At the same time, it was taking all his strength not to grab her, throw her on the bed and go crazy.

His chance would come. So, he let her do what she wanted for the time being. They think he was going to lose his v-card so suddenly like that. It wasn't unwelcome though...

That moment when he was in peak mind heaven is when he was suddenly thrown into hell. Audrey, who hadn't moved away from his neck from the start, suddenly bit into it.

He felt two painful fangs sink into his neck. It was so painful he almost screamed. However, it was that pain that cleared his mind.

It was then he remembered that Audrey's class was actually a freaking vampire. One that could survive without blood in normal cases. However, it seemed there were more exceptions apart from using blood to heal.

Tears almost came out of his eyes from the pain, and he realised that he had misunderstood her again. To think it would happen again! And so painfully too.

He silently swore never to assume anything sexual when Audrey spoke to him. Even if she said "let's have sex", he won't believe her until it has already been done!

Audrey kept on sucking his blood while cursed himself. Which went on for thirty seconds, that felt like forever. Her aura was rising quickly. She was already close to a breakthrough in just thirty seconds!

He had to deploy an isolation barrier lest her aura draw the others over. Then he'd probably be beaten up for something he didn't even get to do.

Another thirty seconds later, Muku felt that it was enough. Even though she hasn't actually sucked that much of his blood she would suck a little bit. Process it, then suck more. Which took a few seconds.

So, other than the pain. Muku hadn't gone through that big of a loss. It was then, however, that he started feeling good.

His whole body felt euphoric. His pent-up feelings exploded out of his body. His eyes started glowing as his consciousness got a little blurry.

With no warning, he grabbed Audrey's head and then removed it from his neck. When he did so, Audrey's mind cleared up a bit.

However, before she could make sense of what was going on. She found herself getting tossed onto the bed, then Muku climbing on top of her.

She wanted to ask him what he was doing, but before she could. Her lips were blocked by his. That's right, he kissed her...

Audrey's mind instantly went blank. She had imagined it happening so many times. Yet, nothing she could think up came close to the real thing.

Another one of his actions quickly brought her back to reality. Which was him ripping her bra off and cupping her large breasts with his rough hands.

"Mmhn", She couldn't help but moan a little when he squeezed her cherries.

Everything was moving so quickly. She had gotten overwhelmed, so she was just going to let him do what he wanted.

"Please, leave... I don't think I can stop myself for longer!" Muku suddenly spoke in a rough voice. Clearly struggling to control himself.

Which cleared Audrey's mind, she had lost again. It was then that her memories of what happened when she bit him came back...

Chapter 187: Muku and Audrey (18+ish)

"No, it's my fault you're like this. I should have expected that there might be side effects. I'm willing to accept the consequences!" Audrey exclaimed defiantly.

It was obvious that her biting him had something to do with his situation. So, as someone responsible. She chose to face the consequences for her actions. Her eyes looked directly into his resolutely.

She seemed rather heroic at the moment. Even to Muku's blurry state of mind. Though he couldn't help but think that there was something else hidden in her eyes.

It kinda looked like anticipation or excitement? Nuh, that couldn't have been it. He must have seen wrong... That was the last thing he thought of clearly before he completely lost control over his body.

He could vividly see what he was doing, but he couldn't control his body. All he could do was watch as his hands travelled all over Audrey's body. As he kissed her all over. Sucking on her breasts like a starved child.

Then one of his hands slowly travelled down her stomach. It stopped just above her garden. Then, without delay, he ripped the drenched underwear off.

Audrey was clearly enjoying every moment of it. She had been moaning loudly from the time he sucked her breasts. Luckily, the barrier he set up also stopped sound.

He was certain that she had climaxed a few times already. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been that much liquid flowing out.

He began to gently rub her garden. From top to bottom, side to side, but never going down. It drove Audrey crazy, she even tried to push his finger inside. However, she couldn't compete against his strength.

"P... Please!" Audrey begged angrily. If she weren't stuck under him, she would have definitely pounced on him long ago.

Which was obvious from how she had long ripped off his t-shirt. His upper body was scratched all over. With some bite marks here and there, too.

"Sure..." Muku surprisingly replied while taking off his pants. Audrey didn't think about it at the moment. There were more important things to deal with.

She just looked on in anticipation as his "snake" drew closer to her "cave". Soon, the two "players" kissed, and she felt electricity go through her whole body. Her eyes rolled to the back of her head for the fifth time since they began.

However, it was the first time Muku saw her climax. His snake got even more furious than it was. He almost rammed it right in on the spot. Fortunately for Audrey, he stopped himself.

He then slowly slid it into her cave.

"Ahn..." Audrey moaned again. She was still feeling the after effects of the climax. So, she was extra sensitive.

Muku almost climaxed from both the feeling and her moan. However, his self-respect wouldn't let him release his load after putting just the head in. He had to take a few seconds to regain control of himself before he could continue.

Then he continued. Proceeding with caution until he reached a barrier...

"Are you ready?" He then asked Audrey softly.

"Mhmn", Audrey moaned as she nodded. Her eyes were closed tight from embarrassment.

"Ahh!" Audrey screamed in pain, soon after nodding. Muku had broken through immediately after she agreed.

Knowing that it would soon stop hurting if he continued. Muku didn't stop. He started to slide in and out rhythmically. He was slow at first. Adjusting based on the sounds Audrey made.

Soon, Audrey's painful moans were gone. All that was left were primal moans of pleasure as she hugged Muku tightly, not letting go. Scratching his upper body more and more.

"Ahn! Ahn! Ahn!..." The whole room was filled with Audrey's moans of pleasure.

Her's and Muku's lewd juices having drenched most of the bed. Even the scent in the room screamed "lust!". That's all that was on their minds at the time.

Muku would switch from kissing her lips to kissing her neck then sucking her cherries. Then they would switch positions. From doggy, cowgirl. Reverse cowgirl and more.

They kept it for more than an hour. They both climaxed an unknown number of times. Muku who so caught up in the moment that he didn't know that he had creampie'd her everytime he came.

The chances that he was going to become a father in nine months were pretty big. And it was getting bigger.

The two were showing no signs of stopping. They had both been pent up for a long time. They had both eyed and desired each other's bodies for a long time. They both hoped it lasted forever...

.....

Three hours later....

"Umm, so... When did you regain control?" Audrey asked in a low and embarrassed voice.

They had finally stopped after four hours of doing it. They could have gone for a lot longer, but that would have risked it too much. She was now lying naked on Muku's chest as he rubbed her back.

She honestly didn't know what to do in that moment. She was too embarrassed to even get up and run. Not to mention that she'd have to wear her dress first before she could actually run.

She only started the conversation as a way to maybe end her embarrassment.

"I regained control the moment I was certain I wanted to do it..." Muku replied somewhat vaguely.

He had regained control just a minute or two after they began. Which he'd rather not have her know in detail. Because that would mean they didn't have to do everything they did since he was back in control.

"Okay... So, what are we going to do now?" Audrey didn't ask for details. She had an idea of when he regained control anyway. She moved on to the next question instead.

"I... I'm not sure," Muku spoke with uncertainty in his voice. It was actually the very thing he was thinking about in that moment.

In the heat of the moment, he couldn't control himself. However, now with a clear mind. He realised how much he had messed up. It happened so suddenly that he didn't even have enough time to react properly.

If he has been in control throughout the whole experience. He might have been able to stop himself from going too far. However, the moment when he wasn't in control basically left him in a position where his willpower alone wasn't enough to stop him.

"Don't overthink it. I know you promised something to the girls, which you've been trying to stick to. I bet it had something to do with you staying single until they are old enough for you all to decide your next step. I feel rather bad for still doing this while knowing that. However, I had been suppressing myself for a long time. When the time came, I just couldn't stop myself. For that, I'm sorry. Sometimes I

feel left out, so I guess I rebelled. I'm also a terrible mother," Audrey spoke. Tears were even flowing out of her eyes as the end

Her words surprised Muku. From how she knew knew more than he thought she did without anyone telling her. To how she felt behind her gentle smile. He never suspected such a thing. He had always tried to include him in everything.

Maybe it was how he hadn't been overly casual with her like he was with the girls that got to her...

"There's no need to apologise. It's natural for humans to have desires and be overcome by them sometimes. You're not a terrible mother. Please don't cry. While what you said about the girls is true. It's only half true. I only spoke to them because they were unstable factors. You have always been reliable, so I never thought it necessary to speak to you for the time being. I'm sorry for that. I should have done the same with you, too. I'm the terrible one here. I'm both greedy and inattentive. I don't deserve you," Muku replied to her softly.

He genuinely berated himself at the end. He has finally realised his mistake. He knew that Audrey also liked him like the girls, yet didn't bother to talk to her.

While the girls had to wait for obvious reasons. Why did she have to? She was already a grown woman. It was obviously unfair to make her wait like that. Yet he had been so blind!

"No! Don't be like that. Let's put it this way. We're both to blame for the situation. Let's both aim to do better from now on, okay?" Audrey spoke. She didn't like seeing Muku beat himself up like that.

"Okay, let's do better from now on then..." Muku spoke as he hugged Audrey tightly. He felt lucky to have her. Especially when he was lucky enough to be her first as well.

"Hehe", Audrey giggled foolishly. She was clearly enjoying the show of affection.

"We should probably get up soon..." Muku spoke after a moment of silence, just enjoying each other's company and warmth... While ignoring a certain scent that filled the room.

"Let's stay a little longer, please? I also wanted to talk about the girls. What are you planning to do when the time comes? Are you going to take them all?" Audrey held him tightly as she asked another question.

She wasn't particularly interested in knowing the answer to such a far-off matter. However, it was the only thing she could think to ask to make him stay...

Chapter 188: Got away with it?

"What do you think I should do? I'm open to suggestions..." Muku spoke while settling back down.

Audrey's plan has worked. They had sort of spoken about it before. However, they had gotten derailed by rising emotions. So Muku hadn't given a clear answer... Not that he has one by the look of things.

"Well, normal mothers and ladies my age will probably hate me for saying this, but... I think you should take them all. They seem fine with the idea anyway. I'd go as far as to say that if you chose one, you won't get any of them. Not like you don't want them all anyway. You greedy and lustful man. Just don't forget about me when the time comes..." Audrey gave her take.

It was both surprising and expected. Surprising that she'd actually straight up say it. Expected in that she hadn't shown any disgust while talking about it. She was definitely a messed-up lady for wanting to be in the same harem with her daughter and other girls.

However, the world as they knew it had ended. So, she was free to do whatever she wanted without any social judgment. And what she wanted was for them to always stay together. While she could probably use her experience with Muku to keep him to herself. That's not what she wanted...

"Did you have to call me greedy, though? And have you seen yourself in the mirror lately? Who would ever forget about you? Not to mention that a man's first will always be special and unforgettable. If anything, I'm worried you'll forget about me!" Muku indirectly agreed to what Audrey said.

He really was planning on taking all the girls if it came down to it. He just wasn't sure if they would be willing to share him. Audrey's words about their willingness to share put most of his worries to rest.

Then he moved on to Audrey herself. Just as she joked about being forgotten, with some real insecurities behind it. He also joked in his response. However, she could feel the seriousness in his words. Which made her really happy.

"Hehe, as long as you treat me well. You'll always be my one and only... Though I don't think I can actually fall for anyone other than you, even if I wanted to..." Audrey teased him even more. Then joked about how his bloodline literally made her unable to like anyone else.

"Well, that's fortunate for both of us then. I plan to pamper you always and you can't escape me.... Can we do it one more time? Hugging you while naked was a terrible idea" Muku spoke while his hand slid down Audrey's back until it landed on her bubbly butt.

"Well... just one more round is fine, I guess", Audrey replied shyly. In truth, she had gotten into the mood even before Muku. Hell, she never got out. The situation still felt unrealistic to her. Like she was in a dream, she didn't want to wake up from...

And it was a dream... Realised into real life. Which made her extremely horny. While her little sister has long gotten sore from the hours of being rammed. She still wanted more. So what if she won't be able to walk for a while afterwards? As long as she was happy in the present, she was... Happy.

And so, another round of primal pounding accompanied by lewd moans commenced. What was supposed to be one round turned into multiple rounds. It was only an hour later that they managed to barely separate from each other.

Muku quickly helped Audrey into her dress. He then created a thin about for himself since Audrey had ripped apart his t-shirt. He then literally destroyed all the evidence in the room with his Erasing Gaze. Who knew one could clean sheets, floors, dresses and bodies with it! Other than missing a few clothes. The two had actually gotten cleaner than before... Talk about misuse of power.

"Wait! Let's do something first just to be safe..." Audrey spoke just when Muku was about to leave. Muku turned around, and he was met with Audrey's red eyes.

He immediately knew what was coming. It seemed her eyes turned red whenever she wanted blood.

They had realised that her bite just unshackled his pent-up feelings. So the chance of him going berserk again was practically nil after everything...

...

A little later on...

The two got out of the room cautiously. They then quietly proceed towards their rooms. It seemed they were in luck, and the others were busy with their advancement. So their absence at dinner time was unnoticed since no one else went for it

Well, that's what they thought anyway...

"Where are you two coming from?" A voice suddenly sounded from a room they passed by.

The speaker was Jade, who had quietly opened the door. She was nibbling on a piece of meat as she looked at them suspiciously. It almost seemed like she was saying, "Come on, give me your best lie", but with her eyes.

The hallway was properly lit by Beast Core lights. It was one of the many useful and convenient household abilities Freya had come up with. She'd just take a beast core. Press it into the mansion, and the mansion would create space for it.

Then the core would start glowing brightly. Slowly using its stored-up mana. Conveniently enough, it would take a few years for a LR2 core to use up all its mana!

Anyway, with such light. Muku and Audrey could clearly see the look in Jade's eyes. It would definitely take something extraordinary to convince her that they weren't doing what it seemed like they were doing.

"From that room we recently designated as the 'assistance room, ' of course. I guess I forgot to tell you all about it. Anyway, I had to help Audrey rank up. Which was better done in the designated room. As

you can see from her R3 aura. It was a success. Do you have any other random questions to ask?" Muku replied seriously and overbearingly.

It was almost like he was trying to scare Jade into backing off. Or at the very least, trying to put on an act which would prove that they didn't do anything wrong.

"Oh, is that so? Well, if that's the case. I understand. Now, if you'll excuse me. I have to go check on that spy for a bit..." Jade seemed to have successfully been fooled. As she backed off. She then headed for the stairs, going about her business.

Maybe it was because of her personality that she didn't like thinking too much, that she was so easily fooled. Well, whatever the reason was. Muku and Audrey were glad they weren't caught. It would have caused quite a catastrophic situation in the team if it were to be exposed on the spot. It wasn't time for that yet...

Muku gave Audrey an appreciative look for her quick thinking before. If they hadn't finished her rank-up process. It would have been quite hard to come up with a believable lie.

The two gave each other a last awkward smile, then entered their individual rooms. The moment they did, Audrey slumped down to the floor just inside her room.

Muku had actually been helping her walk with his Telekinesis from the start. Her legs were numb from all the activity. Though even if she could feel her legs, it probably would be too painful to do. For some reason, drinking Muku's blood didn't heal her wounds. Maybe different blood had different uses.

Well, whatever. What she was worried about was how she might still not be able to walk the next day. How will she explain the situation to the girls? That's when she finally realised something...

"Oh no! What if he got me pregnant?!" Audrey exclaimed to herself, barely stopping herself from screaming.

Her whole body felt even weaker despite having just reached a higher rank. It only hit her in that moment that Muku had creampie'd her from start to finish. With how much they did it and how full she felt down there. Didn't that mean they were definitely screwed??

What excuse could she give when her stomach starts bulging?? The girls were definitely going to find out a lot sooner than expected now.

Oddly enough, while she was panicking. She couldn't help but be a little happy at the back of her head. The idea of having Muku's baby was rather appealing to her despite the situation.

With that, Audrey got stuck in her chaotic thoughts while sitting just by the door of her room...

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On the other side in Muku's room...

"Phew! That was close!" Muku exclaimed while cancelling his amour spell.

He was quite surprised by how Jade didn't ask about it. However, since everything worked out in his favour. He didn't dwell too much on it.

All that mattered was that he was home free, and he scored big time! Just thinking about it made him want to run back to Audrey and do it some more. However, it was too risky. Not to mention that Audrey probably couldn't take anymore.

They might have gone too far when it was the lady's first time. If he could turn back time, he wouldn't have done it as much... Pfft, bull! He'd still do it as much as he did. That's just how good it felt.

"Was it though?" A familiar, yet uncharacteristically calm voice sounded from behind the curtain.

It sounded just when he was about to lie down on his bed to relax. His body instantly froze as a chill went down his spine. Only one thought dominated his mind.

Which was "{F*ck! I'm screwed!}"

He slowly turned in the direction of the curtain. His eyes reflected the voice's owner coming out from behind the curtain.

It was Jade, the very same Jade he thought they had successfully fooled!

It seemed like they were the fools for thinking they would fool her so easily!...

Chapter 189 She knew everything!

"How did you get in here?!" Muku asked a rather obvious question in panic.

He was also trying to buy time. Maybe with a few more seconds, he'll figure out a way to lie himself out of the situation.

"Well, I'll admit that Freya's pseudo R2 burglar bars are pretty steady. However, they can't really stop a legit R3 from breaking through, don't you think?" Jade spoke as she walked over.

Without asking for permission, she took a seat on Muku's bed. She did it confidently as well. With a little smile on her face. She was clearly very aware of the advantage she held over Muku at the moment. There was no way he could make her get off at that time.

"True, but it's rude to destroy someone else's hard work just because you can. Don't you think?" Muku asked another time, pushing a question.

He was even contemplating making a break for it. However, he could tell that Jade was prepared for such a thing. If he did so, it. She'd likely cause a commotion which will involve everyone in the matter.

With that realisation, Muku out that plan to rest. She had him in check, and they both knew it. The best he could hope for was that she wouldn't be too demanding in whatever she wanted.

"She can fix it with just a thought... A d stop trying to lead the conversation away. You know why I am here. Are you going to confess or should I expose you?" Jade replied. Streering the conversation back on course.

"Umm, I don't know what you're talking about..." Muku decided to deny everything first. Maybe it would work, who knows.

"..." Jade didn't speak. She just looked at him with the same smile as before.

He was still standing a bit of a distance away from the bed. The two had their eyes looked onto each other. This was rather controversial, considering that Muku was shirtless and Jade was sitting on his bed. With a suggestive smile on her face. Of course, it was suggesting something else, but it was easy to misunderstand if anyone were to see them.

"What do you want?" After seeing that she was really serious about knowing some things. He dropped the act and cut to the chase.

"Hhm, let me think... What do you think I want?" Jade replied. She was basically running circles around Muku at that time.

She was clearly enjoying the situation. He was quite amazed by how instead of blowing up in anger. She was actually calm and smiling instead.

The calm Jade always scares him when she appears. He has won thousands of different types of battles against normal Jade. However, he has never won against calm Jade.

It was almost like the girl usually operates in a semi-detached state. Where she just lets her instincts lead. She only shows her full personality when something significant occurs. And when she does, she never loses.

"If you don't tell me, how am I supposed to know? Stop wasting time and tell me already. Just don't ask for anything absurd," Muku refused to be played around with.

"Tsk, you're no fun. However, aren't you being hypocritical to limit me when you yourself are greedy and want us all?" Jade didn't immediately say what she wanted.

She just gave Muku a little information to show him that she really knew everything. Her words had the intended effect as Muku's heart skipped a beat in shock.

He thought she just caught some lingering scent or something. However, from her words, it was clear that she was a lot more informed than he thought. Maybe, too informed actually.

"How do you know about that?!" Muku asked seriously. He had to figure out how much she knew to determine how much to give.

"Hehe... To think you only made a barrier that blocks off normal R3s. Completely forgetting about me. You must have been in quite the rush..." Jade answered his question indirectly.

Hearing her answer, Muku's face turned pale. What Jade's response meant was that she heard everything from the very beginning. He was definitely screwed! How the hell was he supposed to get out of this one?!

"..." He couldn't think of anything to say. So, he remained quiet. Created a chair where he was and set his weakened body down. What Audrey hadn't managed to do after so many rounds. Jade had accomplished with just a few words.

"As for what I want... What if I want your "assistance" right here, right now?" Jade spoke while slightly opening her legs.

She didn't open them all the way, so her underwear was still hidden. However, with the short shirt she was wearing. That sight alone was quite stimulating. Muku's little brother immediately stood at attention. Ready for whatever battle thrown his way.

If he was still as pent-up as before. He really might have lost control and pounced on the daring girl. Did she have no idea of the dangerous situation she was creating for herself?... Actually, from her smile, she seemed well aware of what she was doing.

Muku was about to open his mouth to refuse her after a little struggle. However, he found himself locked in a kiss before he could react.

That's right, Jade had taken advantage of his shaky state of mind and caught him off guard. She then pulled away before he pushed her away.

"That's for breaking your promise. As for buying my silence... I'll tell you when the time comes..." Jade said to the still-stunned Muku and left his room.

Muku remained frozen on the spot. Even a minute after she left. He still didn't move. He just couldn't believe that she actually did that.

The worst part was how he couldn't even punish her for it. He was so lost he decided to sleep and think about things on the next day...

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In Jade's room...

"OMG! I actually did that! And he didn't punish me for it?! Does he really feel that guilty about it? Should I have been a bit bolder then?... No. One has to do things in moderation. That was enough for now," Jade spoke to herself while lying on her bed.

She would scream into her pillow from time to time as she recalled what she did. Her face was red with embarrassment. She was actually embarrassed from the very start of her conversation with Muku. She was just good at hiding it.

As for why she wasn't angry? It's pretty obvious, really. Her senses allowed her to come into contact with things normal evolvers don't.

She could actually sniff out someone's horniness through their pheromones. Through that, she has quietly known about how heavily pent-up Muku and Audrey were for a long time.

She was actually surprised that they hadn't done anything sooner. As for Muku's promise to wait for them. She felt that it was okay for Audrey to be an exception. After all, Audrey was even more pent up than Muku, by a lot too.

Which Jade didn't want to see. So, while it saddened her that she couldn't be the first anymore. It was acceptable. With the information she has, she can easily blackmail him into doing it with her before the other girls when the time comes. So it was fine.

"So that's how a kiss feels? I wish I could have done it a little longer... Maybe I can get some in secret from now on. That much should be acceptable, right?" Jade kept on talking to herself, stuck in her fantasies.

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Somewhere else in the mansion...

In Freya's room, to be exact. Freya was sitting on her bed. Her face was practically blood red.

{What's wrong, girl?} Iris, who sensed that there was something wrong with Freya through their link, asked worriedly.

After all, in her current situation. If something happens to Freya. She would be screwed and would likely die soon after. She wasn't getting pursued for her sins because she now had a host. So she had to make sure that Freya was okay. For her own well-being.

"I'm fine, don't mind me. I just thought of something embarrassing," Freya replied audibly.

{Oh, okay...} Iris didn't push for a clearer answer. Even though she knew that Freya wasn't telling her the truth. She wasn't such a busybody. If Freya didn't want to say it. Then it shouldn't be something serious.

After Iris backed off, Freya got back to her thoughts. She... had actually seen it all!

It happened like this... She was busy trying to realise her potential. Then a sudden idea popped up in her mind. She wondered if she could "see" everything within the mansion.

So, she immediately put it to the test. She first focused on herself. Failed a few times. Then figured it out after a while. The ability was sort of like echolocation. She would make the mana in the walls make inaudible sounds which would bounce around. Then, create a mental image in her mind. The general idea was borrowed from bats.

The ability was so good that it helped her advance closer to Rank Two.

She was so happy she wanted to share the news with Muku. She could find him with her mana-signature-location(MSL) ability. However, she felt it was more fun to use her new ability instead.

It was also because there were times when her MSL didn't work. Which was when Muku and the girls purposefully hid their mana signatures after sensing her first. It was just a way they played around with her.

Anyway, the girl excitedly used her ability. Which she instantly regretted doing when she found Muku after a little search...

Chapter 190 Peeping Freya and Emily's eerie calmness

Apparently, for whatever reason. Her new ability wasn't blocked by Muku's barrier.

Maybe because the barrier only blocked natural sound from passing through. Or maybe being practically the mansion's admin gave her some undiscovered privileges.

Well, whatever the reason. What mattered was that she was able to "see" everything. At first, she was shocked, then she quickly cut off the ability.

However, her disbelief and curiosity made her look again. She had to be certain that it wasn't just her ability malfunctioning. Fortunately, yet unfortunately, at the same time, her ability was fine.

She wanted to cut it off again. However, like any stereotypical girl who found people having sex in manhwa... She just couldn't look away.

Fortunately, the images were something only she was seeing in her head. So, Iris was completely in the dark. Her face kept on getting more and more heated the more she watched.

After a while, she found herself feeling weird all over her body. Then, without noticing, she had subconsciously moved her hand to a certain place. She only realised what she was doing when she touched herself. She instantly blocked off Iris' perception of what she was doing.

Which went unnoticed since Iris was watching some series. She was also only interested in seeing what Freya was seeing when something significant was going on. So, most of the time, she would ignore what Freya was doing.

With that, Freya, the pervert, continued peeping while touching herself slightly. She didn't do anything too intense. Focusing more on being a spectator. She was afraid she would draw the others' attention if she let herself go.

After all, she didn't possess Muku's insulation abilities. She was still weak for such things. So, the walls' soundproofing ability was still easy to bypass for the stronger ones. Which was almost everyone...

She guiltily watched from the start to the finish. With keen interest at the same time. She'd even have mini-orgasms from time to time.

Unlike the other members. She, like Elsa, didn't see Muku romantically. She only saw him as an amazing person who took pity on her. A powerful being beyond her reach.

However, after seeing what age saw. A seed was planted in her heart. A seed that will likely germinate slowly, then bloom one day. As for what would happen then... Only the Author will tell. Time ain't got nothing on him...

Anyway, by the time Muku and Audrey were done. Freya had long run out of mana. So, she couldn't keep watching while she recovered.

A while later, she bit the bullet and used one of her Beast Cores. Which were supposed to be used in training, but she couldn't help it. So she only used a little of the core's mana to recover.

Unfortunately, Muku and Audrey were done. She felt quite disappointed, and so, like any addict. She looked for Muku again... Indirectly hoping he was doing it more.

However, she was disappointed. Muku and Audrey had just separated, both going their separate ways. She saw the funny moment of Audrey falling to the ground, unable to walk.

Then her attention moved to Muku's room. She was surprised to see Jade in there, who had broken through the burglar bars. Her ability didn't transmit sound as well. So, she could only look on in obliviousness of what they were talking about.

It was Muku's unsettled expression that kept her from looking on. Along with Jade's confidence, she clearly taunted him with whatever she was saying. Which she thought she would never see.

So, she kept on looking curiously despite not hearing anything. That's when something shocking happened. Jade kissed Muku, then ran out of the room!

She wanted to follow Jade and see what she would do next. However, something that scared her silly happened. Jade looked up at the roof before entering her room. She looked directly where Freya was "looking" from.

Freya instantly cut off the ability. She wasn't certain of Jade actually perceiving her presence or if it was instinct. She hoped it was a false alarm.

However, she couldn't help but think of something she didn't consider before. What if the other two were just too preoccupied to notice her?. Wouldn't that mean she could have possibly been caught peeping? Would they still keep her after that?

She felt a cold chill go down her spine. She really hoped that none of the three detected her. That, Jade's case was just a false alarm. She swore to never use the ability so arbitrarily ever again.

However, soon enough, she was back to thinking about what she had seen. Which caused some intense activity in her consciousness. Which Iris finally couldn't ignore anymore...

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The next morning...

Only Emily, Elsa and Hope showed up for breakfast. Everyone else was missing. The three could understand Chloe and Layla being missing for obvious reasons. However, the rest confused them.

Jade and Muku were already R3. Audrey and Freya shouldn't have been so serious about ranking up like Layla or the situationally motivated Chloe. So, why weren't they present?

Hope immediately ran up to Muku's room to check. He always woke up before her in the past. So she never had to go to his room early in the morning.

However, when she got there, he was actually still sleeping. He looked so peaceful, she couldn't bear to wake him up. She felt like there was something different about him, though. She couldn't put her hand on it, however.

She then went to Audrey's room. Again, she found her sleeping. However, Audrey's case was actually a bit different. She was sleeping on the floor just behind her door instead of her bed. Which was rather weird to Hope.

After all, there was no way she would think that Muku had hit it so much that the poor lady couldn't move. Audrey had actually fallen asleep suddenly while stuck in thought. Otherwise, she could have used her abilities to get to the bed.

While that was rather surprising, it wasn't that unusual for some people to prefer sleeping on the floor. So, Hope wasn't too surprised. She was, however, surprised by Audrey's R3 aura. Which shouldn't be possible since they didn't have any Blood Element Cores.

"Did Big Brother help her somehow?... That has to be it. Maybe that's why he's still sleeping. It must have been a tiring method..." Hope spoke to herself while going downstairs.

She was slightly scared of Jade. So she didn't go check on her. What if she got beat up for bothering her? She'll let Emily go. As well as to Freya's room. She absolutely Freya weren't too familiar with each other yet...

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Downstairs...

"Oh? So the two are sleeping?... Okay. As for the other two. Let's leave them be. I'm sure they will come when they are ready," Emily replied to Hope while going to the kitchen.

The other two only nodded in silence. For some reason, they felt that Emily's aura had somewhat changed after hearing about Muku and Audrey being asleep.

They were confused. What could be the problem with that? Didn't she find it offensive that they weren't there to join them for breakfast or something? She didn't even acknowledge Audrey's breakthrough. Which was rather odd for Emily, who seemed to always be the happiest when one of her teammates advanced.

The two who literally needed Emily to have food didn't say anything. They just hoped that whatever was bothering her would get fixed.

Emily then proceeded to prepare breakfast for the two. She said she wasn't hungry, so she didn't eat. Which wasn't weird for beings of their power level. As long as they haven't used their mana. They could go weeks without food.

They mostly ate because the food tasted too good to resist. Anyway, she then went to Jade's room with a plate of food in her hand. Which she never did before.

While they weren't certain before, Hope and Elsa immediately realised that something had happened... Their naive brains just couldn't think of anything that could have been the problem. So, they stopped trying...

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In front of Jade's door...

Knock! Knock!

"Jade, it's me... I've brought you some food," Emily spoke sweetly after knocking.

The door was instantly swung open from the inside. Jade sprang out. Grabbed the plate and ran to her bed with it.

Emily just looked on expressionlessly. Then she went inside after Jade. Closing the door behind her.

She then sat beside Jade while she ate. Jade didn't seem to mind. All she cared about at that moment was the food she was eating...

A while later, Jade had finished eating. She destroyed the oil on her hand from the meat because she was too lazy to go wash her hands.

She and Chloe just sat there looking into each other's eyes for a while. At first, Jade was confused. However, the more she looked into Emily's eyes. And the more she thought about the special treatment. A look of realisation flashed in her eyes. Then, surprise, wondering how it was possible. Then nervousness...

All this happened while Emily looked on calmly. Her expression was not changing even a bit.

"Good, you've caught on. Now... Tell me everything you know," Emily spoke.

Her question practically exploded in Jade's head. Rocking her mind. The little hope she had that it wasn't the case was dashed!...