

## **Few Wives 261**

Chapter 261: Team A

A few minutes later...

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

"You idiot! You almost got us all killed!" Layla screamed as she threw one ice spear after another at Jade.

"Calm down Layla! Let's talk about this. I didn't know the explosion would be so exaggerated" Jade replied as she dodged the ice spears.

She knew she was in the wrong so she didn't dare try to fight back. She was certain if she did, the other two would join in. She wouldn't be able to escape a beating if such a thing happened.

"I am calm. Calmly trying to end your life! Now stand still and die you menace!" Layla replied as she increased the number of ice spears she tossed at Jade.

One might think she was overreacting, right? After all, they made it out alive.

However, such a thought would disappear from the mind of whoever was having it the moment they saw the damage Jade caused.

The dome of black energy actually extended for three kilometres! Everything within those three kilometres was erased out of existence. All that was left was a deep hole.

If the girls had been caught up in the blast, they would have definitely been consumed as well.

And the world would have probably been destroyed when Muku returns and learns of their death. One had to know, his bloodline probably could achieve such a feat if he lost control. He would definitely die too, but would he care?

Anyway, Layla eventually stopped after venting a bit. At that point, she just felt like getting away from Jade. The girl seemed to be really set on making her break character that day.

The ground then continued its journey home. This time Jade walked a few metres in front of everyone. It was what Layla decided. She even threatened to freeze Jade on the spot if she dared do anything other than walk.

The tactic seemed to have been the right one since they made it home without anything else happening.

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Back at the explosion site...

Water suddenly began bubbling out of the ground from the centre of the large hole. The explosion seemed to have hit a water vein.

As for how much water was going to come out onto the surface. Only time would tell...

What was certain though was that all traces of NL Base had been erased from existence. From the main building ruins to the collapsed secret room.

Everything was wiped clean. All that was left was the three-kilometre-long hole. Though if one looked hard enough. They might find some beast cores from a few beasts that were unlucky and couldn't escape on time...

It would be low-level beast cores though. There were no live R3s close by when the explosion occurred.

Anyway, no beasts dared come close to the hole to check things out. The reason was the remnant energy from the explosion which made the danger senses of all who saw it scream.

For that reason, the black-gas-spewing hole was left unbothered. As for what would become of it. No one knew...

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Somewhere many kilometres away from the hole: Inside what appeared to be a command room.

"Ma'am, we have just lost the gun signals from all ten people we sent to investigate that base in the south" A man who was sitting in front of what appeared to be a computer reported to a lady who sat behind him and nine others.

From the setting, it seemed that the man and nine others were monitoring certain things and reporting to the individual.

"Hmm. Is that so? Did that base's leaders really go rogue? Have they forgotten the power the headquarters has? Sigh. Why did they have to be under me? Anyway, if they want force. Then that's what I'll give them. Tell Team A to go over there. They are to kill anyone and everyone except the leader. We need him to offset the heat from headquarters" The lady gave her orders after complaining for a bit.

"Yes, Ma'am!" The man from before acknowledged the order and immediately sent out the message.

While he felt that sending Team A was overkill. He didn't say anything against it. He wasn't paid to express his opinion... Well, he wasn't paid at all. But he got to eat his fill and live in safety with his family in the apocalypse. And he saw no need to jeopardise that...

And so, the orders were sent to Team A through the computer-like(desktop) device.

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Somewhere in the forest close to the command centre...

Beep! Beep! Beep!

"Hhm?... Tsk. Okay ladies. Fun time is over. It seems we have a mission to take care of!... Damn! I hate this thing. I miss the days when missions waited until we returned instead! Who would have thought that technology was an unkillable monster? Even in the apocalypse, it's finding a way to come back" A handsome middle-aged man called out to his team in the distance. He then began complaining to himself as the team came over.

"Aww. Come on Captain. I'm really starting to have some fun here. What's the mission? It better involve some killing otherwise I refuse to go" A pretty lady with a seductive body complained immediately after arriving in front of the man she called Captain.

She had brown eyes and pitch black hair. She was wearing a tight, black body suit which clearly displayed her hourglass figure which would inspire lustful thoughts in any man's mind.

"Yes, Captain. We can't let that lady walk over us so much. Why don't we delay by a day as a way of protesting?" A hotheaded-looking man spoke in support of the seductive lady. His eyes would trail over her body from time to time.

He was clearly interested but too scared to speak up. He probably thought that supporting her would get him noticed. Unfortunately for him, the lady seemed to only have eyes for their captain.

Two more individuals came and joined the three. Unlike the noisy two. They didn't say anything. They just quietly waited for the captain to give his orders.

One was a lanky man who had his face covered and the other was a burly man holding a giant axe.

"Scarlet, James... Shut up! Can't you two just quietly wait for orders like Gnoth and Pete here? Are you two allergic to being quiet for a change? Ah! Whatever, we don't have time for this. If you've gathered everything... Let's go" The man rebuked the two trouble-causers of his team then jumped onto the back of the giant beast which stood behind him.

The beast turned out to be a PR3 Griffin! The difference between it and the random beasts the team from before had was pretty huge. Not just in rank but bloodline power.

Anyway, it was definitely not a beast one would mess with easily. Just its aura alone was probably enough to scare some R2s to death.

"Hehe. It seems Captain is still as lively as ever" The lady known as Scarlet giggled as she jumped onto the beast as well. She was clearly unaffected by his harsh words.

The other three soon joined her and the captain on the Griffin's back. The group of five then took off into the distance. Their destination was obviously NL Base. One has to wonder how they will react when they find nothing but a big hole there.

Something which stood out from the group was their clothes. They weren't dressed weirdly like Andy's group.

Either they were rebels or they had enough power to allow them to dress however they wanted.

From the sight of their playground, one would favour the latter possible reason.

The reason being the twenty-plus dead bodies of MR3 beast which lay all over the "playground". Then there was the body of a PR3 the captain had been sitting in before.

One would think it was all possible due to them having a PR3 Griffin on their side right? If so, one would be wrong. The Griffin stayed in hiding until the fight was over.

The group of five killed the twenty-plus beasts all on their own. And the captain killed the PR3 beast on his own.

So, it was safe to say, the group definitely has enough strength to wear whatever they wanted in whatever organisation they were part of.

It was the apocalypse, after all. Strength ruled all!

And that strength was moving in the direction of Muku's girls. Will they be able to come out on top like they have always done or will they fall?

No one knows. After all, if the two groups do meet, it would be the first time the girls would face humans of equal strength outside of their team. In fact, the humans might be even stronger than they.

Well, whatever happens. If the two groups meet. Something interesting was going to happen...

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Back at the mansion...

"Hello everyone" Jade greeted everyone the other girls awkwardly. She had overlooked her long disappearance when she decided to come back. And now the situation was awkward...

"What is she doing here?" Emily didn't respond to Jade's greeting. She looked at Hope, Layla and Chloe as she asked a question.

Despite accepting Jade's path, she was still not happy about it. And she wasn't going to pretend otherwise...

Chapter 262: Moving preparations

A while later...

"Oh, so that's what happened? And she's here to help us move? Well, thank you, Jade. I always knew you wouldn't really abandon us" Audrey spoke after Hope told them about everything that had happened.

She had stepped in when it looked like Emily was ready to start a fight and calmed everyone down.

She then directed everyone inside where they spoke. It was then that Hope told them what had happened. Everything from Tactoa to the huge hole Jade created.

When the huge hole was mentioned, Jade dared not look Emily in the eye. She could feel her burning gaze but refused to look at her.

Emily could only give up on pursuing the matter for the time being. There were other things to worry about, after all.

"Umm, yeah. I'm happy to help" Jade replied awkwardly. She wanted to add that she would leave immediately after everything was taken care of but she dared not say it with Emily around. Who knows what the blonde would do to her?

"Good. So, what's your plan? I think we should go as soon as possible. And since everyone is here and it's still so early. We might as well go now. It's quite fortunate that we all decided to stay home today. Otherwise, we would have had to delay until tomorrow. Which could have been catastrophic depending on how the other side chooses to react" Audrey asked what Jade's plan was. After that, she expressed her relief that everyone was present.

"Right, my plan. It's quite simple actually. We'll round up a few beasts and make them pull the mansion away. I'll round them up and make them stand still with my "Beast Suppression". After that, you will corrupt them turning them into loyal horses. My suppression ability isn't sustainable and can't properly control them, otherwise, I would do it. As for how the mansion can be pulled without damaging it. Layla can create a huge ice cart to carry it in. While I can't carry the mansion for a long distance. I can certainly lift it up and onto the cart if need be. And we can take turns scouting ahead so that we can avoid strong beasts. We don't have to worry about creating trails since there are many trails already created by large beasts all over the place..." Jade explained her surprisingly detailed plan to the others.

Considering the time they had and their abilities. Jade's plan was pretty good. None thought they could come up with anything better for the time being. It also seemed like the only possible plan anyway.

"Hmm, I think I can speak for everyone when I say, I like it! Right, everyone?" Audrey expressed her agreement to the plan and asked for the others' standpoint.

It was just her being polite. After all, it was clear that they were all on board. Even Emily who was looking for any chance to discredit Jade. It's not like anyone had a better plan anyway...

And so, like she assumed. They all nodded in agreement.

"Great! Let's get started then. Jade and I will go look for the beasts and Layla can start on creating the cart. The rest can do whatever they feel is helpful or just wait for everything to be taken care of" Audrey gave her orders and everyone did as told.

She and Jade immediately set out as Layla tried to figure out how to create the cart.

While creating a cart seemed simple. It was something new to her. After all, it was always Muku who made things like that with his better-suited metal element. He would have been better for the job she was doing as well. Unfortunately, he wasn't around, and they wouldn't have had to do it if he were.

Not to mention that ice wasn't exactly a stable building material... Unless you were making an igloo at the North Pole or something. Fortunately, it wasn't normal ice. It was R3 ice which was many times stronger than the strongest steel humans have ever created. It was also harder than diamonds if anyone was interested in creating jewellery from it...

Anyway, it didn't take long for her to figure something out. The slightly troublesome part was making sure that parts which weren't supposed to stick together didn't. Which was pretty much just the wheels. If they froze stuck to the ice pole which held them. They wouldn't be able to turn. Which would make moving forward troublesome...

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A few hours later...

Audrey and Jade came back with four buffalo-looking beasts. They were lucky to have found a herd of them after looking for a bit.

If they had time to spare. The herd would have been a good level-up opportunity for the whole group.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. It wasn't too much of a big deal though. R3s were quite easy to find in the current world.

And pushing such a large herd to the brink might not be a good idea anyway. So, getting four beasts for their desired task was good enough...

The four beasts had long been corrupted by Audrey. Which was obvious from their unnatural blood red colour.

The group didn't waste time after getting everything in order. The large cart had already been created so the four beasts were tied to the structure with thick vines Jade created.

Freja's expression turned dark the moment Jade displayed her vine ability. She assumed that she would be the one to shine only for the spotlight to be stolen by Jade.

She wasn't mad at Jade or anything like that. She just felt disappointed. She was one of those people who disliked sitting back without doing anything. So, losing her only chance to help really disappointed her.

She didn't make a scene though. After all, she understood that Jade's vines would be way stronger than her own. Even though her's would probably be strong enough, it was still better to go with the better choice...

The cart was obviously not a normal one. And that didn't just cover its huge size. Even the shape was different. It looked like a huge cone on wheels. The reason for that was simple. The bottom part of the mansion which went into the ground was shaped like a cone.

And so, to make sure that the mansion sat properly. Layla decided to make a bigger cone which would be perfectly filled up by the mansion.

She would then freeze it in place. This would undoubtedly make the mansion quite cold. But it was the only option they had... If things got too chilly, Emily could just set herself on fire to provide heat to the others or something...

Anyway, after the cart and beasts were properly dealt with. All that was left was to put the mansion inside.

"So... How are we going to put it in there?" Audrey asked Jade as she and the other girls looked at the redhead.

"Don't worry about that. Leave everything to me. While the method is way too wasteful, it's enough for the task at hand" Jade replied while walking toward the mansion...

Audrey and the others just quietly looked on. They were all curious to see what Jade was about to do.

Of course, Emily was ready to burn her hair off the plan was unreliable...

Jade who sensed Emily's bad intentions nervously gulped down some saliva. Although she was certain her plan would work, she still felt apprehensive after looking at Emily.

She didn't delay any longer though. Soon she was standing beside the mansion then...

**BOOM!**

Intense Beast Aura burst out of her body and practically reached the skies. Of course, that's an exaggeration. The beast aura only reached around the mansion's height...

It was so thick and intense that everyone present was impressed by her strength. Freya and Elsa couldn't help but take some steps back as they found it hard to breathe. It was only after Layla protected them with her mana that they could relax again.

That's how tyrannical Jade's red Beast Aura was. They could all clearly sense the wildness and brutality hidden within... Maybe that's why Jade was so wild.

Anyway, Jade didn't stand around aura farming, she had a job to do and she was focused on doing it.

The Beast Aura which reached the sky surprisingly split into multiple giant hands. Four hands to be precise.

The hands then grabbed different sides of the mansion wall and pulled it up...

Of course, such an action would have destroyed normal walls. But the mansion's wall wasn't normal now, was it?

In fact, the whole mansion was basically a R2 artifact. From the very soil the structure was built on, everything had long been refined into one by Freya.

So, unless Jade was specifically trying to destroy it. It wouldn't be destroyed easily. And Jade wasn't planning to destroy it. For that reason, no one was alarmed by her actions.

They were actually awed by her ability and control. It really took precise control to do everything she was doing. Control they didn't know she had...

Anyway, the mansion perfectly came out of the ground and Jade placed it into the cart. Layla was ready to reinforce the cart if it wasn't strong enough. Fortunately, nothing went wrong.

"Done! Phew! That really took a lot out of me" Jade expressed her relief as she sat on the ground.

While it didn't seem like what she did took much effort. It actually took a quarter of a Beast Aura to carry out. On top of that, it exhausted her mentally due to the high level of concentration needed...

That's why she said it wasn't sustainable...

Chapter 263: Deadly encounter

"Wow... That was unexpected. Good job Jade. Such great control!" Audrey praised Jade as she walked over to her.

She then helped the young lady up as she looked at the mansion which had been successfully placed on the cart.

She could see Layla's ice binding it in place. Which was the last step. And with that, the group was ready to go. Which they did.

They all climbed up the stairs that Layla created. Audrey immediately ordered the beasts to proceed with their destinationless journey.

They weren't planning on going back to familiar places. There was a reason they left those places after all. And without Muku, they dared not go back.

As for how he would find them when he returns, it wasn't a major issue. Audrey could track him as long as he was in the same world. So, she'd know when he returns.

And he probably had ways of tracking them too. So that wasn't a major problem.

Anyway, Jade took the scouting position. She would go ahead of the cart and see whether there were any dangerous beasts ahead. If there were any, she would come notify the group and they'd change their path.

Audrey was in charge of controlling the corrupted beasts... Well, she was the only one who could do it. So, it was pretty obvious that it would be her.

Although the mansion still had a barrier which would protect it from beast attacks or even human attacks.

Both moving away and avoiding beasts were necessary...

Moving away was necessary due to their issues with Tactoa. While the Tactoa members couldn't get inside. They could easily camp outside. Which would be problematic for the girls. Such actions would significantly affect their progress. Something they didn't want.

While they could probably fight off armies with ease, that was in the case that the armies were not as strong as they were. But from the information they learned from Andy, Tactoa had several R3s. Not to forget those weird guns.

If Tactoa sends enough people with those guns. Then the group might really get killed.

Dodging was only possible when there was a place to dodge to, after all...

As for avoiding strong beasts. That was simple. They probably couldn't even kill a PR3 beast unless they worked together. Which would be a waste of time and energy considering the KP they'd get. Even though none of them knew how much KP a PR3 gave, they were certain it wasn't much...

Then came even stronger beasts like Pseudo-R4s and legit R4s. Such creatures were not ones they would dare mess with currently. Just escaping from them would be a problem. So, hunting them was out of the question. Which included facing them.

If they went around all willy-nilly there was a chance of bumping into a strong beast and getting their cart and beasts killed off.

They could take refuge in the mansion but the situation would still affect them significantly. Mental energy didn't recover as quickly as Mana or Beast Aura, so they'd be stranded for a while before Jade could lift the mansion up again...

Anyway, those were the reasons the girls did what they were doing. By the time night came, the ground had travelled at least one hundred kilometres.

Which was quite a lot considering how dangerous the forest was and the detours they had to take...

Since travelling at night wasn't a good idea. They decided to stop at a relatively safe spot and proceed the following morning.

There was really no need to be too anxious after all. It's not like they were already being pursued. The enemy was probably not aware of who they were yet anyway...

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Somewhere on the way to NL Base...

The A Team was seated on their Griffin as it flew forward. Unlike the girls, they weren't too scared of travelling at night.

Their Griffin was a PR3 beast a hair's breadth away from reaching Pseudo-R4. It could detect Pseudo-R4s from a distance away and avoid them.

As for R4s, they don't have to worry about those. Those beasts seemed to disdain attacking beasts below R4. So, as long as they avoid them. They would be okay.

They had travelled at night many times before. So, they really had nothing to fear...

They wanted to get the mission completed as soon as possible. From the information they received, it wasn't going to be anything fun.

Just dealing with a few people with trash classes who had gotten too big for their britches. Then Tactoa would send new people to proceed with the Monarch resurrection project.

"How much longer Captain? I'm bored. This sucks!" Scarlett complained again.

And the captain ignored her again. He knew her well enough to know that she just wanted to start a conversation with him. If he dares respond to her, she'll immediately turn into a chatterbox. He would indulge her from time to time. But he didn't feel like talking at that moment.

"Tsk. You're a real mood destroyer, Captain. Can't you at least talk to me after ripping me away from my fun?" Scarlett didn't stop talking just because she wasn't getting replied to.

She was long used to her captain's cold personality. And she had long decided not to let it get to her. It was quite fun breaking through his defences.

Even if she hadn't made much progress yet. She was still not disheartened. She had all the time in the world to make him her's, after all.

"I'll talk to you if you want!" James like always, chimed in. Eager to be noticed by Scarlett.

"Ew, no! Why would I want to talk to a disgusting thing like you?" Scarlett replied disdainfully. She then stopped paying him attention.

Gnoth and Pete couldn't help but chuckle at the brutal reply Scarlett gave James. It wasn't the first time she had been so brutal, yet James kept on coming back.

It was almost like he was a verbal masochist or something. If not, heust really like Scarlett otherwise there's no way he'd take such verbal abuse with a smile on his face.

He also seemed to be selectively blind since it seemed like he didn't notice that Scarlett was only interested in the captain. Maybe he knew but just didn't care. The captain didn't seem interested after all.

"Everyone... Jump!" Just when things had quietened down. The captain suddenly told everyone to jump from the back of a griffin mid-flight.

They were at least two hundred metres up in the sky. Yet their captain told them to jump. It was definitely a crazy order.

But none hesitated. They immediately jumped off the Griffin's back. That's how much they trusted their captain.

And it didn't take long for their trust in the captain to prove that it was well placed...

"Screeeech!" The Griffin screeched in pain.

The group of five looked up at it as they fell. And the sight which met them chilled them to the bone.

The Griffin had died immediately after letting out that one screech. It didn't get to fight back or even resist. Its screech was pretty much just its way of saying "goodbye world!"

The reason it was dead... A huge bird-like leg with its five talons dug deep into the Griffin's body. The size difference was so big that the over fifteen-metre-tall Griffin fit into the creature's grasp. It was almost like a dead little mouse being held by a big eagle...

Though the ground couldn't tell what the creature was though... All they could tell was that it was bird-like from its legs. When they looked above the leg. All they were met with was pitch blackness.

The creature was gone before they could look anywhere else.

As for trying to fight it... Bullshit! It was a legit R4! And it didn't seem like it was just a LR4 either.

They had been too unlucky to meet the beast. While R4s seldom attacked lower rank beasts... "Seldom" was the key word. It meant that sometimes they did attack weaker beasts. And Team A had been unlucky to be part of the "sometimes"

Fortunately, they only lost their mount due to their captain's quick response. Otherwise, they might have been crushed along with it.

To think their strong and imposing Griffin was killed off so easily. It was like a wake-up call to them who had gotten cocky as of late.

Anyway, they had bigger issues to worry about... They were still falling to their deaths, after all.

"Scarlett!" The captain called out.

"Right!" Scarlett who was still trying to adjust to the sudden event was brought back by his shout.

She replied and immediately cast a spell. The ground of five was instantly consumed by an airborne twister.

Their fast plunge to the ground was immediately slowed. They continued falling after that, but with the aid of the twister, they were falling like weightless feathers.

And soon enough they reached the ground and the twister faded away...

To think Scarlett actually had the wind element. With how she looked and behaved, one would think she had some kind of seductive ability or something... Well, like they say, "looks can be deceiving".

The ground of five didn't talk for a while after reaching the ground. They were all still shaken up by what just happened.

"What was that thing?!" Scarlett suddenly exclaimed while still shaking in her boots.

Chapter 264: Ultimate close-combat fighter!

"It doesn't matter what it was. We need to find a place to rest for the night. Gnoth, can you scout the area for us?" The captain gave out his orders calmly.

"Sure, Chris. I mean, Captain" Gnoth acknowledged his long-time friend's order.

He then turned into a lizardman and ran off into the distance. His presence completely vanished after the transformation. Even his teammates who had been looking at him until he went out of sight couldn't sense him.

He was, without a doubt the deadliest assassin in their base. And what made him even more scary was how he wasn't a glass cannon like most assassin-types. He was both fast and strong. His lizardman form turned him into the ultimate close-combat fighter.

If he could use long-range attacks. He would be even deadlier. Fortunately, the world wasn't that biased... To most people anyway.

The others suppressed their presence as much as possible while waiting for his return. They dared not be as arrogant as they were during the daytime.

After all, no matter how much humans evolve, beasts will always be better than them when it comes to acting at night. At the very least, most people couldn't freely move at night. Such actions would simply be asking for death.

"So, Captain. How did you know the beast was about to attack? We all didn't sense a thing" James asked curiously. He was also trying to lift everyone's mood in the bleak situation.

While he was arrogant, petty, narrow-minded and such. He really cared about those close to him. Which prompted his question.

His curiosity was also understandable. After all, Chris told them to jump a few seconds before the beast attacked. A few seconds might seem like a little time to normal people. But to Evolvers, especially R3s like them. A few seconds were plenty of time.

It was even more time if one considered it from the R4's perspective. That thing could easily cover a kilometre in just half a second. Of course, it wasn't really trying much when it attacked them. But still, Chris' reaction speed was still quite impressive.

"A thin transparent barrier around us a kilometre away" Chris explained with the least amount of words as he could.

It was something he did from the to time. Everyone had gotten used to it so they didn't mind. What mattered was that he got the message across.

They immediately understood that he realised that they were being attacked after his barrier was destroyed.

As for how he knew it was broken by a creature they couldn't fight off. It was pretty simple actually. The barrier didn't offer any resistance at all. It simply melted away.

Which was something not even a PR3 could do. After all, his class was a Pseudo-Legendary Barrier Master. That's right! The girls weren't the only ones with Pseudo-Legendary classes(Obviously).

Yet, despite that, his barrier instantly melted away upon contact. Hell, the beast probably didn't even come into contact with his barrier. The lingering mana around it was enough to break through his defences.

The reason why he instantly realised what it was after that was because he had fought a Pseudo R4 before. He instantly lost and had to make a quick retreat. But, from that encounter, he learned of Advanced Mana. The next level of mana.

He was only able to escape because the Pseudo R4 was already adopting the mindset of not bothering with weak creatures. Otherwise, he would have definitely been killed off even though the beast's advanced mana was still not solidified and was still mixed in with normal mana.

Anyway, that short battle made him realise the effect of Advanced Mana on normal mana. The two weren't comparable at all. It wasn't even a fair match.

He felt quite fortunate that he had had the experience. Otherwise, who knows what would have happened. Maybe he would have been confused by what happened and before he could make sense of it. He and his crew would be dead. It was a real possibility...

The others who already knew of that encounter managed to piece everything together. They were all smart individuals, after all.

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A while later...

"Oh, so there aren't any significantly strong beasts close by? And you even located an abandoned cave close by? Okay, let's go and rest there for the night" Chris gave his orders after repeating what Gnoth who had come back reported. He was just making sure that they were on the same page.

It was mostly for Scarlett's sake. The lady, for whatever reason, sometimes tuned out everything the others said. He was the only one she always paid attention to.

So, while he didn't think she would do something so random. He chose to repeat it just to be on the safe side.

The group acknowledged his order and they began their march towards the cave. Gnoth was obviously the one in front.

"With all this screen time, we can't possibly get killed off as soon as we meet the MCs, right?" Scarlett spoke to herself in a low voice as the group proceeded forward.

"What?" James who was just behind her asked confusedly.

"Shut up, trash!" Scarlett immediately snapped at James and went silent.

James had completely made her lose her train of thought. She was certain that she had realised some fact of life, yet now she couldn't remember anything...

Well, whatever. It probably wasn't anything too important anyway, right?...

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The next morning at the place the NL Base once stood...

"What the hell is that?. What a creepy-looking lake! And I don't remember there being a lake here in the Old World. Especially a pitch black one... Well, then again. This is the apocalypse. So anything is possible.

I think it's best to stay away from this place... Hey! Are you even listening to me?!" A random R2 man who had come across the area with his group screamed.

He and his group were what people called Apocalypse Wanderers. People who relied on their weak but good at camouflaging abilities to wander all over the apocalyptic world.

It was actually the only option they had left after the places they once inhabited were overrun by strong beasts. This happens after all the weak beasts are killed off by both them and the stronger beasts leaving only the powerful behind.

So, instead of fighting to the death in battles they are destined to lose. They chose to move away.

Despite the obvious danger, it was actually a viable move in the apocalypse. At the very least, those who chose to stay in the barriers without food would die before the Wanderers do.

And as if people all over the world had somehow told each other to do it. Many Wanderer groups existed everywhere.

In fact, Muku's group could technically be called a Wanderer group. Although they weren't weak, easily being amongst the world's strongest. They did travel all over the place like Wanderers did.

Anyway, the reason the random Wanderer group leader screamed was because a few of his group mates didn't heed his warning. Instead of listening to him and staying away from the lake, they actually moved closer and were poking a weird-looking black blob with a stick.

"Chill out leader. This thing is clearly a slime. And as we all know. Slimes are the weakest creatures in existence. So what if it's black instead of blue like we expected? That can easily be explained by the polluted water over here. We haven't watched television or had any significant entertainment for months. Let us have this little entertainment at least. We just want to see what this thing will do. Will it toss water balls at us or will it attack us with tentacles or something" One arrogant-looking youngest replied.

"Fine. But don't come crying to me if something bad happens. I'm going to scout for a bit. I'll see you in thirty minutes or so..." The leader who didn't want to argue relented. He then took two people who weren't interested in the slime and went scouting.

While he was the leader, he didn't hold much sway in the group. Most people in the group only listened to him when it was convenient to them. This was mostly when they were travelling and they needed his "plant whisperer" ability. This allowed him to learn if any strong beasts had passed by that plant recently.

The ability had kept them safe from many possible certain-death scenarios. Yet, most still didn't appreciate him. He wasn't too interested in power, so he didn't bother with them. He just let them do what they wanted.

As long as they pitched in when it was time to look for food. Everything was okay...

.....

Soon after the leader left...

"Tsk. He's always trying to order us around that arrogant bastard. Does he think we're his subordinates he can just order around?" The arrogant young man from before spoke after clicking his tongue.

"Yeah. If it wasn't because of his useful ability. We would have kicked him out of the group long ago. If anything, we're his boss. While we play around he has to go around scouting for us. Haha. The idiot actually thinks we mean it when we call him leader" Another man spoke.

"Ye... Hhm? When did these things multiply? And are we surrounded?!" The arrogant young man was about to add some more insults when he noticed that more black slimes had appeared and they were surrounded.

His expression immediately turned serious...

Chapter 265: Black Slimes...

"Pfft... Hahahaha. Is this what our leader was talking about? Are they going to gang up on us and bath us to death with water balls?!" The arrogant young man laughed hysterically as he mocked their leader.

His serious expression had just been an act. He just wanted to make his joke funnier. And it worked. All ten people who were left laughed out loud with him.

A big grin appeared on his face after seeing that his plan had succeeded.

What no one knew was that he harboured ambitions of leading the group. All his actions up to that point had been for that goal.

And seeing how everyone was laughing with him and agreeing with him. He was sure that his plan was working. He just needed one more push and he'll become the leader.

He had nothing against their current leader. He just thought that the man was too soft. A leader shouldn't be soft, it leads to disrespect... At least that's what he thought.

And from how things were looking. It seemed that he was correct. If their leader were strict, no one would dare refuse his orders...

While the young man was somewhat correct in the way he thought. He seemed to ignore that he and the ten who stayed with him all had shitty characters.

And the thing about people with shitty characters, no matter what you do for them. They will always think that you should do more. They casually ignore the good you do and focus on what you don't do... Their leader had long noticed that and had silently given up on them.

Anyway, due to being lost in his thoughts, the arrogant young man failed to notice that the slimes were preparing to attack. The rest of them had also lost interest in them, they had begun chatting with each other.

They were completely disregarding the encirclement. Though, even if any of them noticed that the slimes were about to attack. They would still not pay them much attention.

In fact, some of the idiots had noticed something but remained quiet. They were preparing to dodge the water balls then laugh at the ones who will be hit. A move they were about to regret...

Whoosh! Whoosh!...

Ten-plus black slimes released black water beams all at once. Only three of the people present managed to dodge the beams. The rest, including the arrogant young man, were caught off guard and splashed with the black water.

The ladies present all screamed in surprise. But they began laughing soon after realising that it was just attacks from the slimes.

It seemed the attacks were as useless as they assumed they would be. Other than getting them wet. Nothing happened to them. They were even considering jumping into the water at that point.

The remaining three were soon also hit by water beams when they began laughing at the others. The whole group began laughing until suddenly the first people to be sprayed began screaming in pain.

And to the horror of the three who were sprayed after the others. Everyone else around them began melting in front of their eyes.

It was without a doubt the scariest thing they had ever seen. And what made it even scarier was the fact that they all knew that they would soon also start screaming like the rest...

With that thought, the three hurriedly removed all their clothes and ran to the nearest tree. They then began rubbing the leaves on their bodies trying to dry themselves.

Even though, the three were one man and two ladies. They felt no shame as they were rubbing leaves on their naked bodies in front of each other.

All they cared about was living. Everything else didn't matter as long as they managed to preserve their lives.

Unfortunately, their attempt to save themselves didn't work. They too began screaming in pain as their bodies melted. Large pieces of melted flesh fell off their bodies as they could only look on helplessly in pain and fear. All they could do was scream.

It was then that their leader and the two people who accompanied him came back. They heard the screams from a distance away and thought the group had been ambushed.

And since they were screaming, instead of dying off quietly, the enemy should be manageable, right?... At least that's what the leader thought. Unfortunately, that wasn't it. What met him was a horrifying sight which sent shivers down his spine.

He and the other two dared not get any closer after seeing what was happening to the others.

"Leader! Please save me! You were right! The slimes were dangerous! I should have listened to you. Please save me and I'll be your most loyal subordinate. No! I'll be your slave! Please save me!" The arrogant young man from before called out in pain.

After hearing his words. The others also spotted the leader and began pleading as well.

The leader looked on from a distance and shook his head without saying anything. He and the two people beside him then turned around and walked away. There was nothing he could do.

And after hearing that it was the slimes which had attacked them. He and the two at his side dared not stay any longer. The slimes were already making their way toward them after all.

As for the suffering group he was leaving behind... He could only abandon them. If there weren't any slimes around, he might have put them out of their misery.. unfortunately the number of slimes in the area kept on increasing. And the three of them dared not stick around.

"You ruthless bastard! Are you really going to leave us like this?! I always knew you were trash! I should have killed you when I had the chance. Ahh!!!!" The arrogant young man madly cursed at the leader after seeing him retreat instead of helping.

He screamed even worse than before after finishing his cursing. The reason was that his melting body had reached a critical point. All the skin had melted off. All that was left was flesh and organs which were also melting.

Most of the people around him had long died. He was only alive because of his slightly high strength. Only he and the three who were sprayed last were still alive.

One of the three suddenly made an unexpected move as they grabbed their own neck and twisted their head violently. The action broke the person's neck and killed them instantly.

The other two didn't hesitate after seeing what the first did. They chose to end it also.

They all thought that it was better to die quickly than slowly when death was guaranteed.

The arrogant man ended up being the only one left alive with his pain and regrets.

His eyes had already turned blind by the time the three committed suicide. So, he saw nothing. He continued suffering and screaming in pain until he couldn't scream anymore.

He, like everyone else, apart from the three who committed suicide was so much in pain that he didn't think to commit suicide.

Though by that point his body had been destroyed so much that he couldn't move his hands anymore. He couldn't commit suicide even if he wanted to.

Fortunately for him, his suffering didn't last too long. He died soon after that.

Were he and the others, bad people? Yes, definitely. But did they deserve such an end? No. They were just unlucky.

Unfortunately, they had no one to blame. They could only blame themselves for underestimating the slimes.

Like, the slimes were back and were coming out of black water... What idiot would think they are normal?!... Oh yeah, they did.

Anyway, their bodies soon completely melted into a meaty slug-like substance..it was then that the slimes moved in and began absorbing them.

The area was soon cleared of the messy remains. The sight would send a chill down the spine of anyone who witnessed it.

After finishing their meal. The aura of the slimes which partook in the meal all changed from Unranked to R1! Some even made it to PR1 just like that!

The slimes all jumped back into the black lake after finishing their meal. The area returned to silence again. They were waiting for the next group of idiots who would underestimate them only to become their meal...

As for how the slimes came to be. No one knew yet... The random leader just assumed that they came out of a portal like everything else.

But Jade and the others would definitely not think that. After all, they had lived in the area for a while and they were certain that slimes didn't exist in that place.

However, even they would be confused as to how the slimes came to be. Though after a little investigation, they would probably figure out what happened.

And the realisation would shock them to the core. After all, it was absurd! It shouldn't be possible. Yet it was...

From the look of things. If no one takes care of the slimes, they might end up becoming a really big threat to everything in the area...

## Chapter 266: Deadly encounter

One week later...

Chris's team had finally made it to NL Base's location. It wasn't surprising that they took so long on foot.

After all, unlike the Old World. One couldn't simply walk wherever they wanted all willy-nilly. Their encounter with the R4 was one of the reasons why one couldn't just casually travel...

Although they didn't have any other close encounters with R4s. They still encountered many dangerous beasts. This obviously delayed them by a lot.

However, they didn't mind. After all, they improved their strength a little with every encounter.

"Umm... Are you sure we're at the right place? I mean, I'm not the only one seeing the ominous-looking black lake, right?" James spoke while he and the others looked at the black lake from a treetop in the distance.

They wanted to first spy on the base before making their move. Yet, surprisingly, they were met with a lake...

"This is the right place... And doesn't the faint energy coming out of the lake remind you of something?" Chris replied then pulled the group's attention toward something...

Unlike the weak Wanderers from before. Chris and his group could actually sense the faint energy radiating from the lake if they paid enough attention. Of course, their being familiar with it played a part.

"Hmm... I don't think so. I do sense a weird energy but I don't think it's surprising for a weird lake to have weird energy. In fact, I'd be surprised if there was no weird energy radiating from it" The ever-sloppy James replied in confusion.

He vaguely felt that he had come across the energy somewhere. But he couldn't remember where. So, instead of stressing over it. He chose to give up on thinking about it.

"Tsk. Trash. The energy is clearly similar to that from the guns which are carried by the organisation's weakest members with random classes" Scarlett disdainfully spoke.

This James fellow always managed to make her dislike him more and more every time he spoke.

"Yes. Scarlett is correct. I'm not sure what exactly happened here. But I'm certain it involved a battle of some sort. And the result of that was the explosion of quite a few Lifeforce guns. The explosion created a big hole which was filled with underground water after a while. Although I'm certain that no one close to the explosion survived. Maybe some people were far enough and managed to escape. Let's go check the lakeside for anything which can point us in any direction" Chris reinforced Scarlett's words.

He then went on to pretty much explain everything that had happened exactly as it happened. It was almost like he was present.

Of course, he wasn't there and for that reason, he was off in some areas. Although there was a battle which took place... It was more of a one-sided massacre.

Then there was the part of the explosion killing off everyone on site. That would have definitely been true if Jade had made the guns explode before the ground moved away. They would have all been killed off. Fortunately for her and the others, she did it after they moved some distance away...

Despite that, Chris's hypothesis was still quite amazing. Maybe the others would eventually come to think that as well. But he was able to do it right there and then... His mind worked quickly. He wasn't any worse than Muku in that regard.

With that said, the group went to investigate. They separated and searched different parts of the lake.

...

A while later...

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!" A blood-curdling scream came from Pete who was searching in the opposite direction from Chris.

The others immediately ran over to help. Horror immediately appeared in their eyes after seeing Pete.

The big man was melting right in front of their eyes. All their minds went blank unaware of what they should. Even Chris who was always above things couldn't think of anything.

He had never come across anything like what he was seeing. The sight was way too eerie. And there was nothing he could do to help Pete. None of them had any powers which could help.

"S...lime... W...ater... G...et a...way" Pete spoke a few words before breathing his last.

He wasn't resentful that his teammates didn't do anything. After all, he understood that there was nothing they could do...

"Slime? Water?... James look out!" Chris repeated Pete's last words then screamed after noticing something.

A huge slime-like creature had quietly surfaced from the water and shot out a black water ball at James.

Fortunately, James managed to dodge in time due to Chris' warning. The way he did it was pretty interesting.

He, who had his back toward the water folded into a bundle on the ground.

A black water ball passed by him and fell into the distance after being dodged by Chris who had seen it coming.

He didn't try to block it with a barrier because... The giant black slime radiated with concentrated energy from the lifeforce guns. Your support at MV^\*L&E!M^P+^YR! k&ee-p\$# the s^erie#s# g#oi\*ng#!

He had tested them out before by having a person who had it shoot at his barrier. And just like with R4s, his barrier offered zero resistance.

So, instead of gambling with his and James' lives, he chose to have them dodge instead.

After that, he and the other three made a quick retreat. They wanted to take Pete's remains with them but they had already turned into a horrifying red blob on the ground.

For those who were wondering why Pete's end came so quickly despite his MR3 strength when the arrogant young man took a while to die... Well, the slime's strength was already at a startling PR3!

So, obviously, its attacks had become more potent. It had gathered more of the pitch black energy from the lake into itself. It had also consumed all the other slimes in the area.

On top of that, it had killed off a significant number of beasts in the last few days.

It had been quite lucky actually.

A herd of social beasts passed by a few days before. The adults in the group could tell that there was something sketchy about the lake. So, they stayed away from it. Unfortunately, there were a few naughty brats. They ran to the lake and jumped in.

Of course, they immediately began screaming in pain. Their parents, being the very loving kind jumped in to help. And soon after they were all screaming in pain.

Unlike the water balls from the slimes. The lake was a lot more potent and would quickly begin melting away at the skin of even the toughest R3s.

Anyway, the event provided the remaining slime with enough food to reach PR3 and eventually kill the unsuspecting Pete.

"What is that thing?!" James asked in fear. He knew that none of them knew that information, but he was so shaken he had to ask.

"It doesn't matter what it is. All that matters is that it killed Pete. And for that it has to pay!" Gnoth replied angrily. He was getting ready to go back and attack the black slime.

"I agree with you. But we need a game plan. That thing is somehow made up from that weird gun energy. I don't think we can harm it through normal means. In fact, you who doesn't have any long-range attacks shouldn't even get close to it" Chris blocked Gnoth's path with a barrier as he spoke.

Bang!

"So what?! Are we just going to let it go free without even trying? Is that all Pete's life meant to you? Has your power made you so cold? You're not the Chris I know. He would have long charged in by now. Yet here you are trying to preach logic to me. Does this look like the time for that? Instead of telling me what I can't do. Tell me what I can do! Isn't that what a leader is supposed to do?" Gnoth punched the barrier which was blocking his path in anger.

He immediately exploded into a flurry of angry words after seeing that he couldn't shake the barrier even a little bit. It was expected since Chris was a lot stronger than him. But it still pissed him off.

He was already angry and looking for a way to vent. And Chris happened to come in the way at the worst possible moment. And so, for the first time, the usually calm and collected Gnoth exploded.

He, Chris and Pete were old friends who knew each other from childhood. So, his emotions were understandable. Which was why Chris wasn't angered by him.

"At least let me finish speaking before coming to a conclusion. I said that you should stay away. But I didn't say I will" Chris continued speaking after Gnoth stopped.

Boom! Boom! Boom!...

Then, suddenly, without warning. Countless blades made out of Barrier Magic appeared in the air above the lake and plunged deep into it. They all targeted the spot where the slime was last seen before it sank back into the lake.

It seemed to have gained significant intelligence as it didn't try to pursue the others after killing Pete. It was like it knew that it would be disadvantaged if it left the black water...

So, after that one sneak attack on Pete. It lingered in the water for a bit before sinking back down.

The lake was like its domain. It was completely safe in there. After all, anyone with half a brain would know that attacking it when it was in water would be pointless... Yet, there Chris was.

He didn't stop after the first wave of blades. He kept on throwing one after the other nonstop.

Just like Gnoth said, Chris throws logic out of the way when his teammates are involved. He only used it before to prevent Gnoth from getting killed too.

Now he was madly attacking while Scarlett unsuccessfully tried to make him stop.

.....

A distance away...

"So, is that the unfinished business you were talking about?" Emily who was standing beside Jade asked in a grave tone. The two had witnessed everything from the moment Pete was killed...

Chapter 267: Wild Beast Aura...

The previous day...

The ice cart was steadily progressing until suddenly, Jade, the team's scout came on board.

The others thought that she wanted to switch with someone. Which they weren't against. However, the words she said surprised them all...

"What do you mean that you feel like there's something you have to take care of back there? And the feeling has been getting stronger and stronger? Are you trying to ditch us again?" Emily asked Jade with an angry look on her face.

She knew that Jade was probably going to leave again. But she didn't think it would be so soon. She thought it would be after they all successfully relocated to a safer location. Yet, there Jade was, wanting to leave just a few days later...

"I'm not going to argue with you. If you don't believe me. You can come along" Jade who was speaking the truth didn't mind taking Emily along.

The feeling had been getting stronger each day. She tried to ignore it initially, but it was getting rather annoying. So, she decided to bite the bullet by going back to see what exactly was happening back there.

"... Sure. Let's go right now. The sooner we get there, the sooner we come back. Everyone else can continue going forward. I'm sure you can easily track them right?" Emily who realised that Jade was being truthful didn't make things hard for her friend. She even decided to go as well, as backup in case it was something serious.

"Okay. Thanks. Let's go then... See you later everyone. We should be done in a day or two" Jade said to the others.

"Sure. Be careful. And if you see any suspicious individuals like the ones from before. Avoid them if possible..." Audrey replied on behalf of the group.

And with that, Jade and Emily set out. Jade left with a smile on her face while Emily looked grumpy. The reason was that Jade could fly, but Emily couldn't. For that reason, Jade created a large hand with her Beast Aura which she then used to grab and drag Emily along.

She would sometimes shake on purpose just to rattle Emily's feathers. If Emily complains, she'd tell her to walk if she wants to. This, of course, forced Emily to shut her mouth while bottling up her grievances.

The duo quickly made their way back. Soon after they left, the rest of the girls noticed that Layla was missing. They tried looking for her all over the place but couldn't find her.

They weren't too worried though. Layla was a big girl who could take care of herself.

She probably felt too lazy to say anything and would return soon. So, they just let her go...

....

The next morning...

It had taken Jade and Emily all night to reach their destination despite flying. The reason was obviously the deadly Apocalypse nights.

If it wasn't for Jade's extremely good senses. They wouldn't have even travelled at night. It was countless times more dangerous than during the day.

Anyway, after reaching their destination. They didn't immediately act. They weren't sure whether Tactoa had already sent people over. So, they had to be careful in their actions.

To that end, they slowly and quietly made their way to the "hole" with their presence suppressed.

As fate would have it. They happened to arrive at the very moment a big black water ball hit Pete in the face. Then with horror in their eyes, they watched as he began melting under the watch of his helpless teammates.

Then Chris began attacking the water like a madman.

Speaking of which, they were quite surprised by the black water lake. Especially Jade who had created the hole.

Her surprise was to be expected though. After all, the hole was not only filled with water, but it was filled with black water. And in that black water lived a huge slime which could easily kill off R3s!

Emily was even considering backing away. The slime wasn't something she wanted to encounter without Hope close by.

Unfortunately for her, Jade didn't agree. She could sense it. Something was wrong with Jade. There was a change in her from the moment she saw the big slime.

She looked like she was doing her best to hold something back. Her Beast Aura began leaking out of her.

Emily was about to ask Jade what was wrong when...

Boom!

Jade suddenly jumped out of her hiding place and...

Bang!

Plop!

She punched the slime which was about to sneak attack the mad Chris. Her fist was coated in Beast Aura when she did it.

Surprisingly enough, instead of her Beast Aura being destroyed and her hand being melted on impact. She succeeded in punching it. This made the Slime fall back into the water.

Chris and his crew immediately jumped back and looked at her with a wary expression.

Which was expected. The weird red-haired girl appeared out of nowhere. And her power was weird. It wasn't mana. Something they didn't think was possible. Weren't all humans supposed to have mana and only mana?!

The most surprising thing was how she managed to land a solid hit on the slime he couldn't even scratch.

While it seemed like he was attacking madly before. He was actually feeling the slime out. He would track its movements in the water then attack that spot. Yet, no matter how much he attacked. His attacks didn't seem to be doing anything.

He was about to get a little more serious by deploying his domain when Jade showed up. His thought process was, {So what if the slime can ignore my base attacks. I want to see if it can remain so unbothered after I try something stronger}

Though, even then. He wasn't sure he would be able to do much to it while it was in the water. Maybe even his strongest attacks would be useless. But still, he had to try.

He owed Pete at least that much. He owed him his best in seeking revenge.

Yet, just when he was about to do exactly that. A weird red-haired girl appeared in front of him... And she seemed familiar for some reason...

"It felt like punching a slimy marshmallow. To think that's the thing which called me here... Disgusting" Jade to herself softly as she stood at the lakeside... Completely ignoring Chris and gang.

She knew from the moment she saw the slime that it was the reason why she was "called" there. The moment she saw it she got the urge to attack it with everything she had.

Which was a familiar feeling. It's how she felt the last time a Monarch "was in town". It first happened with Abel who was linked to the Monarch. Then the Monarch itself. The feeling only went away after she killed it.

And it was that feeling which forced her Beast Aura to partially awaken and leave her in her current unstable state.

After killing the Monarch. She felt like a certain edge in her Beast Aura had been removed. And now she knew that she was correct. Unlike all the times before. Her Beast Aura was glowing and seemed a lot more wild than before.

Which made her come to the conclusion that the slime was connected to a Monarch... Though that was kinda obvious. And every time she comes across a being connected to a Monarch, her Beast Aura will react.

And the reaction, whatever it was gave her the capability to actually harm the slime she wouldn't have been able to harm with her normal Beast Aura.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!...

Suddenly multiple water balls shot out of the water targeting Jade. She was expecting the attack so, she easily dodged everything.

Then she got bored and began destroying the water balls with her punches instead.

The slime soon gave up after noticing that its attacks weren't effective against Jade. If it were a person, it would probably be throwing a tantrum by that point. After all, its omnipotent attack wasn't working anymore.

Anyway, it went completely quiet after seizing its attacks. Maybe it was thinking of a different attack method. Or it hoped Jade would get bored and leave.

"Hhm? Are you done? I guess it's my turn now" Jade spoke again.

Furious red flames began burning on her hands as she spoke. If the slime wasn't going to come out of the lake. Then she was going to burn the lake away!

Chris, his crew and Emily who had come out of hiding at some point just looked from the side. They felt like it was a battle they shouldn't intervene in.

At the very least, Emily thought so. Scarlett was who was pissed off by Jade's disregard was about to say something when Chris raised his hand to stop her.

She looked at him in confusion and was met by a look of surprise on his face as he looked at Jade.

"Jade..." Chris spoke in an emotional voice.

It was so emotional that Scarlett's heart skipped a beat. She then looked between Jade and Chris. And an uneasy feeling rose in her heart. She wondered if this weird redhead was the reason Chris was so cold to her. Was her pursuit doomed to fail from the start?

"Little Sister!" Chris suddenly called out.

"What?!" Scarlett who was sinking deeper into her dark thoughts suddenly exclaimed in surprise.

It seemed she had jumped to conclusions...

Chapter 268: Domain: Beast World

"What the hell? First, this weird slime which made me come all the way here. Which sucks. And now there's a rando calling me sister... Whatever, I have no time for crazy people" Jade spoke to herself after hearing Chris calling her from behind.

She wasn't moved though. After all, she had no brother who looked or sounded like that. As for how he knew her name and could identify her even after her different hair colour... She didn't care. It could have been a lucky guess for all she cared...

What mattered to her was getting rid of the slime so that the annoying "kill, kill, kill" thought which rang in her head would stop.

Despite having gotten some information after her forced awakening. She still didn't understand why she had to go through such annoying mental torture. Sure, he understood that she was from an ancient Monarch slaying line of Evolvers, but still, was the forced killing necessary??

The worst part was that the urge would keep getting worse until she did what it wanted.

It was highly impractical too. Sure, she could fight the slime. But what about last time when her target was that Monarch which had strength that rivalled the strongest R5s and maybe even leaked into R6 strength.

While her Beast Aura got an edge then and now. It simply wasn't enough. She would have been killed instantly if Muku hadn't been there. That sneak attack was all she could have done at that time. And fortunately for her, it worked otherwise she would have definitely suffered if it failed.

Anyway, she put her chaotic thoughts aside for a bit. She had finally built up enough firepower. It was time to destroy the lake.

Honestly, she felt tired. Her Beast Aura was finally showing its limitations. If she had realised fire manipulation like Emily, she would have just created a huge fireball and thrown it into the lake or cast her domain and burnt the lake away within a second.

Unfortunately, she could only use minor fire attacks, even after consuming a few more Beast Cores. For that reason. She had to create countless little fireballs until she eventually had one huge fireball.

The control such a fireball needed was countless times more than just creating one big one... Well, whatever, so what if it was troublesome? As long as she gets the job done. Who cared about everything else?

A huge fireball which covered a kilometre of the sky above the lake soon appeared. It looked like a miniature red sun. And it covered a third of the lake.

Jade had made sure to provide it with as much Beast Aura as she could. It was pretty much countless small and fully charged fireballs attacking at once. So, the result would be pretty catastrophic for the lake.

There was a high chance it would be completely dried up. After all, even before impact. It was already steaming all over the place...

"Die..." Jade spoke her favourite word and the fireball instantly began descending. It would reach the lake in less than ten seconds.

That's when...

Wuuuh!

The slime which had been silent for a while finally made a move. A huge wave rose from the lake aiming for the huge fireball.

The attacks would probably meet halfway...

"Oh? So you had other moves you were keeping hidden huh? It seems you're smarter than I thought" Jade spoke as she watched the attacks collide...

BOOOOM! TSSSSS!...

The fireball exploded upon impact.. however, before it could spread and burn away the water below. It was smothered by the huge wave.

This diminished the fireball's effectiveness. It only managed to burn away the Wave before it ran out of power and disappeared. All that was left was a foggy area.

Shuuu! Shuuu! Shuuu!

Suddenly, countless black water arrows shot out of the fog targeting the lakeside.

And this time the attacks weren't just aimed at Jade. They were aimed at everyone present.

"And here I wanted to play with you a little more.... Domain: Beast World" Jade who didn't feel like playing along with the slime anymore cast her domain.

For the first time "on camera" too!

A red dome which covered four kilometres instantly appeared. The arrows immediately faded into nothingness after being exposed to its majesty.

She wanted to hold back due to the strangers present. But, she suddenly felt that the longer the battle went on. The harder it would get for her. And as someone who always trusted her senses, she immediately went from zero to a hundred.

Since she had created a four-kilometre-long domain. Emily, Chris and Chris's crew were all within the barrier with her.

Emily was completely fine since Jade made it so. As for Chris and his crew, while they weren't being attacked. They had to expend a bit of mana to stay on their feet. Jade's barrier was quite impressive even when she wasn't attacking.

They were also fighting the urge to just go wild and attack everything around them. Which was another effect of the domain.

Jade was clearly making things hard for them on purpose. They didn't do anything though. After Chris called her sister, the rest couldn't possibly attack her.

Not to mention that they were all certain that Jade would easily body them all if they made a move. Only Chris and his higher-level class could possibly stand a chance. But it didn't seem like he was going to do anything.

So, all they could do was stand there awkwardly while struggling to stand. Scarlett even had a weird forced smile on her face... It was almost like she was trying to win Jade over... Yeah, that's definitely what she was trying to do.

After hearing Chris calling her sister. A plan instantly formed in her mind. She thought that if she couldn't directly win Chris over. She might as well win him over through this sister of his who randomly showed up.

So what if the sister didn't seem to like them very much? As long as neither side directly attacks the other, then everything can be discussed...

"Little Slime... Come out. Don't you want to talk to this big sister?" Jade spoke floating on top of the lake.

Emily rolled her eyes after hearing Jade's words. Can't the girl just take care of business seriously? Why was she taunting a slime? Doesn't she know that she's embarrassing both of them?!

Emily wanted to find a place to hide. But there was none. So, she could only harden her face and look on.

Anyway, as expected, the slime didn't come out just because Jade wanted it to. It tried to send out a few more arrows but the arrows instantly turned to nothing soon after leaving the water. They didn't even go further than ten centimetres into the sky before they were no more.

"It seems you don't want to come out. Okay. Let me show you why my domain has such a name. I'm sure everyone is interested to know too" Jade spoke calmly then...

Snap!

"ROOOOOOAR!"

Countless beastly roars were heard immediately after Jade snapped her fingers.

Then a scene which sent a chill down the spines of everyone present occurred.

An unknown number of red beasts appeared in the sky above the lake. The beasts ranged from Unranked to MR3!

There were all kinds of beasts, from giant insects to giant reptiles and giant mammals. Even the lakeside was soon covered with beasts.

Only the part where Emily and the others were standing was clear of beasts. The spectators were instantly awed and scared... They all immediately understood why Jade's domain was called "Beast World". It really was that, without a doubt...

"Die" Jade said her favourite word again. This time there was more power to it. Then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

All the beasts lunged at the suddenly pitiful-looking lake. A devastating explosion went off immediately after...

Jade made sure to protect everyone though. While she didn't think she knew Chris, she was curious to know why he called her sister. For that reason, she protected his crew alongside Emily.

None of them thanked her though. Not because they were ungrateful. But they were still in shock. They were still looking at the devastation in front of them. Their eyes reflected nothing but red.

That's right, all they could see was Jade's Beast Aura which had consumed the lake and its surroundings.

Even Emily was surprised by Jade's destructive capabilities. She was still under the impression that Jade's most destructive attack was her breath attack... but it seems she was mistaken. There was a new ruler in town, and its name was "Beast World"

Chris and his crew were even more shocked. They had never seen such a destructive evolver in their lives.

Even Chris, their best, wasn't nearly as destructive... Then again, his magic was Barrier Magic, so his destructive capabilities were very limited. Even still, Jade thoroughly impressed them.

James even gulped down some saliva as he internally sighed in relief. He was glad Chris stopped them. Otherwise, who knows what would happen if he, a simple "Bubblegum man" at one of those "Beast Worlds"?

They'd definitely be nothing of him left!...

Anyway, Jade waved her hand after a while and all the Beast Aura dissipated.

All that was left was an almost four-kilometre-long and half-a-kilometre-deep hole.

She had actually destroyed all the water and increased its size!

"Umm... What's that?" Jade asked no one in particular while looking at the centre of the whole.

A beach ball-sized pitch black orb floated there...

Chapter 269: Mercy?

The black orb just eerily floated there. It didn't emit any energy. So, Jade who thought that it might be an unreasonably big beast core immediately dismissed that thought. After all, beast cores always emitted elemental energy.

And there was the feeling of danger she was getting from it. Because of this, she didn't dare get any closer to it. She just looked on from a distance.

She had also dismissed her domain. It really took a lot out of her to use her domain's main ability "Beast World". So, she was mostly spent and couldn't sustain the domain...

Crack!

Suddenly a cracking sound came from the orb. Then...

BOOOM!

Thick black mist exploded out. It didn't spread into the surroundings but gathered together instead. It then formed two huge eyes in the sky which stared at Jade for a few seconds.

A chill went down Jade's spine when the eyes looked at her. The urge to attack had long vanished. Which meant that her Beast Aura had returned to its normal state.

On top of that, she was mostly spent. For that reason, she, herself, wasn't interested in attacking.

So, she just looked back at the eyes defiantly. Though she was subtly shaking from fear.

Even Emily and the others were shaking from fear despite not being the focus of the eyes. Their shaking increased even more when the eyes shifted to them.

James the embarrassing man peed himself when the eyes glanced at him for less than a split second. It was all it took for a weak-willed person like him.

"You have disrupted my plan. However, since it was something which randomly fell into my lap. I don't feel too strongly about its failure. For that reason, I will let you all live. Just don't get in my way again for I will remember you all. And there will be no second chance" A cold yet calm and detached deep voice sounded in the heads of everyone present.

Its source was untraceable but they all knew that it originated from the eyes. That's what their gut feelings were telling them and it made sense.

None of them dared say anything after the voice finished speaking. They were afraid of offending it by saying something they shouldn't.

After all, it was obvious that the voice's owner was a Monarch. All of them were in the know. So, they knew what was going on.

Though the voice's owner didn't give them much chance to speak. The eyes instantly dissolved into nothingness after the voice finished speaking.

No one moved for the next minute. They were afraid that it might be a twisted test or something...

Even though the Monarch clearly said it won't do anything to them. Humans generally didn't trust others. So, there was no way they would easily trust the words of an alien ruler.

Even Chris and his crew who technically worked for the Monarch didn't trust it. After all, they were from a branch of the organisation. They barely knew anything about the Monarch. So, who knew if it was a sadistic being?

Not to mention that it killed Pete. That's not something which they would easily forget...

...

A minute later...

"Well... It seems it was being truthful. This is a step up from that hateful Ares" Jade spoke after mustering up the courage.

She then flew to Emily's side. After that, Chris and his crew walked over to them.

"Jade! It's me Ch" Chris called out to Jade emotionally. However, before he could finish. Jade raised her hand to stop her from speaking.

"Listen here rando. I know it's still early but I've had a very long day and I don't want any more trouble. I only have two brothers, and you neither look nor sound like any of them. So, please, don't call me sister

again, it's creepy. If it's some apocalyptic pick-up line that you use. Don't try it with me. Not only does it not work but I'm already spoken for, and my man is the jealous kind even if he tries to hide it. But, if you really consider me your sister, then please, just stop. And also, I'd appreciate it if you and your gang here keep quiet about all of this. Just pretend like you didn't see us, okay?" Jade who was tired from the nerve-wracking experience told off Chris and his crew.

Scarlett and the rest were instantly angered by her words. They felt that Jade was too disrespectful to them. Even if she might be Chris's sister. That didn't mean she could be so disrespectful. After all, they were all older than her by a few years.

However before the group could say anything, Chris stopped them by raising his hand. And so, they unwillingly kept whatever they wanted to say to themselves.

"Firstly, believe it or not, I'm your older brother Chris. The same one who took you to school every day as you cried not wanting to go. The same one who had to wash your blankets when you wet the bed. The same one who left for work in another city three months before the apocalypse with your brother. And secondly, who's this man of yours you're talking about? I'm really interested in knowing him. Where is he right now? Is he hiding in the bushes like a snake? Tell the bastard to come out. I want him to tell me who gave him permission to date my sister?" Chris explained his identity to Jade.

She wanted to interrupt him when he mentioned her embarrassing past behaviours but he stopped her by raising his hand. The same as she had done before, the same as he would always do in the past. The same as what she copied from him... He didn't say too much, but she was certain that it was him.

While his body had changed exaggeratedly, his mannerisms and body movements were still the same. Which was something she only noticed after she started paying a little more attention to him.

Then there was the way he was talking about "her man". Only a real brother would hate someone they've never met so much.

"... You're really my big brother Chris aren't you?... Brother!" Jade spoke softly after a moment of silence as she let everything sink in. She then shouted "brother" as she jumped into Chris's arms... At least tried to.

Bang!

"Ow! Brother you meanie! You're still a jerk even after everything that happened! Can't you be a little more loving to your sister?" Jade complained while rubbing her head which hit Chris' barrier which he suddenly erected between them.

Scarlett who looked on from the side wiped a tear which had slid down her cheek as she heard Jade's words. She felt like she had finally met a kindred spirit who had also suffered under Chris's coldness.

Emily looked on in awe. Not because of Jade's switch in personality from a dispirited girl who just came out of a troublesome situation to a hyper younger sister. This side of Jade was something she was already familiar with after all. She had been to Jade's house and had seen her interact with her brothers.

What awed her was Chris. He looked nothing like the Chris she remembered. That Chris was short, thin, average looking and had black hair.

The Chris she was seeing, looked nothing like that description. He was tall, muscular, good-looking looking and had blonde hair. He was practically a different person. His voice was different too! Well, after listening to it for a bit, she realised that it had only changed a bit. She only missed it before due to not associating the person she was seeing with Chris.

"I asked you. Who's this man you're talking about"? Chris spoke again, coldly. His barrier was still up. He was clearly not going to let Jade touch him until he got his reply.

"No, before that. Tell me how you got the way you are brother. What happened? You were short and ugly before. I was even embarrassed to call you my brother but now... While you're still just average looking compared to the best I have seen, you're still passable when compared to normal people. And did you dye your hair? I didn't know people went through rebellious phases even in their twenties. Or are you just an exception? As expected of my brother, always going above and beyond..." Jade refused to speak about her man yet. She first wanted to know what happened to Chris.

And before long she was pretty much ruthlessly dissing Chris. His face got darker and darker the more she spoke. As for everyone else. They had quite odd expressions on their faces. They didn't know whether to laugh or cry because of this sister of Chris's. The girl just didn't know when to stop.

"Shut... up! How many times have I told you to mind what you say to others? Didn't you listen to me at all? And you dare call your brother ugly with such a straight face? Have you no shame?! And didn't I ask you before if you thought I was ugly? You said no, but I should have known from your weird expression that you weren't being truthful. God! What do I do to deserve such a ruthless sister? You want to know what happened to me right? Well, let me tell you, you beat!" Chris exploded before Jade could say anything more hateful.

He then proceeded to tell her what happened to him. He wanted to get it over with so that she would tell him about this man of hers. He knew she wouldn't say anything otherwise.

He was afraid that this dumb idiot sister of his had gotten together with an old man or something...

Chapter 270: Old pervert?!

"So what you're saying is that due to a complication from back when you were still in your mother's womb. Your body wasn't fully developed as it should have been and that was rectified when you reached R1? Sounds like something from a science fiction movie but okay... What about your hair though? That wasn't underdeveloped too was it?" Jade spoke after Chris told her what happened to him.

"Umm... I always liked blonde hair and I happened to pass by a shop which had the products. So, you know. Enough! That doesn't matter. What matters is that I told you what you wanted to know. Now you have to tell me what I want to know" Chris replied with a slightly awkward expression.

He felt quite embarrassed by his childish actions, after all. He had always behaved like a mature big brother before. So, doing such a thing made him lose a little face...

His face burned a little when he heard Scarlett giggle behind him which prompted him to change topics.

So what if he changed his hair? That didn't matter. What mattered was that Jade had to tell him what he wanted to know since he told her what she wanted to know.

He was serious about knowing who the bastard was. If it really was some old dude he was definitely going to beat him up. Hell, even if it was a young good-looking person. He was still good for to beat him up. After all, no one was good enough for his sister.

If it were up to him, she would die alone. Who cares if she's lonely? That's the price she had to pay for being too good for the scum of the world. And he was confident in keeping her too occupied to even care about love. After all, she was his little sister, she had grown up in front of him.

He literally only needed to get her some good meat to keep her occupied. Such was Jade's personality...

Honestly, Chris's thoughts weren't wrong. If Jade didn't meet Muku. She really might not have cared about love and all the stuff. As long as she had some good food and entertainment, she'd be happy.

Unfortunately, she has already met Muku. And separating her from him was pretty much impossible by that point. Which was something Chris knew despite not knowing the guy she fell for. It will definitely cause him a great headache to make her give up on him. But he was determined to succeed no matter what!...

"Tsk, fine. I'll tell you about him. Firstly, although I called him my man before. He is technically not my man yet. He keeps on rejecting my advances the jerk. But, I know he'll be mine soon enough. I just have to keep working with him a little longer and everything will work out. So, I might as well call him my man... Stop looking at me like that! I'm telling the truth. He really will be mine! And you!, Emily, why are you shaking your head?! Do you want a fight?!... Sigh, whatever. Anyway, New Chris, I know what you're thinking. But I advise you to give up on wanting to beat him up, you'll only embarrass yourself. My man is quite OP after, all" Jade finally replied to Chris's question.

His expression got darker and darker the more he heard her speak. However, he was also relieved. It seemed his sister still hadn't done anything with this mysterious man of hers. It seemed he didn't even want her. Ha! He should have known, that a sane man would want a girl with Jade's personality even if she were beautiful.

While he didn't want to admit it. He knew his sister was the type to become an obsessive lover. The kind who might stab you with a knife just because she suspects you of cheating. And that was before the apocalypse, it was even worse now. After all, she was a R3 Evolver. So, instead of stabbing you, she might just toss a "Beast World" your way and kill you on the spot. Then she would cry about it saying that she didn't mean to...

Again, he wasn't wrong to think that. Jade really had the potential to do such a thing. But again, Muku the anomaly diffused her without even trying. Such a thing would never appear in her current mind no matter what. She had made peace with not being Muku's one and only even before they got together.

Not to mention that stabbing someone with the Metal Element with a knife is just asking to suffer yourself. As for hitting Muku with "Beast World", she wasn't sure she would be able to do it if he really gave it his all. And she would definitely get a spanking afterwards. And she didn't want to suffer that humiliating pain which made her feel weird again...

Anyway, while Chris was glad the man hadn't accepted Jade. He wasn't happy yet. He was a man as well, and he knew that at some point, a man would fold to a beautiful girl's advances even if her personality is somewhat flawed...

For that reason, Chris still had to meet the man and teach him a lesson. He wouldn't rush into it though. After all, Jade already gave him a heads-up, and the girl hardly ever lies. Not because she was honourable, no, she was just too lazy to come up with lies which almost always lead to more lies.

For that reason, Chris thought to dig around for some information first. He would first learn as much about this man before he attacks...

"Okay, I won't do anything for now. But you should stop calling him your man. Aren't you embarrassed to say that after saying he rejected you? And who are you calling New Chris?! I'm still the same, you brat!. Sigh. Anyway, tell me more about him. What's his name? How strong is he? What's his element? Where did you meet? And where is he right now? Oh, and what's his age?" Chris immediately got into detective mode after rebuking Jade for a bit.

"Fine, I won't call him that anymore... For now. As for your questions. His name is Muku, such a good name. He's really strong, stronger than you by a lot! His element is classified. I'm not telling you so that you can prepare something against him. Though I doubt you'd be able to do anything significant despite that. But Emily won't let me say anything. What's next again? Oh right, I met him at school. He was my teacher. We have been together since the apocalypse began. Our love must have been meant to be for us to meet so early, right?..." Jade went on to answer Chris' questions. She kept on adding unnecessary comments which pissed Chris off.

Not to mention that she was being pretty vague in some of her answers. He ignored what she said about Emily. He understood that teammates would obviously want to keep such information secret from other parties. So, he kept quiet. He can just find out about everything himself...

However, he couldn't take it anymore when Jade said that Muku was her teacher. And so, he exploded...

"Shut up you idiot! I should have known. You really fell for an old man. Ah! My head. Why are you so stressed even in the apocalypse?! Tell me! Where's the old pervert! Call him here! Why is he still hiding like a rat? Muku! Come out, you sick bastard! Come face your death" Chris who had completely lost it shouted.

How outbursts even shocked his team who had never seen him lose his cool so much.

BOOM!

BOOM!

Two auras suddenly exploded out with hostility targeted at Chris. And surprisingly, or not surprisingly at all, one of them was Jade. The other was obviously Emily.

And Scarlett could swear she saw Emily's shadow flicker with hostility leaking out of it as well. But the event disappeared as soon as it appeared, so she was unsure. For that reason, she didn't say anything.

"Brother. I know you're just looking out for me. But please, refrain from saying such words about Muku. You don't know what he and I have been through. Bow let me clarify what I said. Firstly, he isn't an old man. He is only two years older than me. He was a genius who finished school very early. And he isn't here right now. If he were, he wouldn't be hiding. He would be facing you with a smile on his face. And you would know what a great man he is. You wouldn't have dared to say such things. I will not say where he is but I will say that he won't be back for a while. But until then, please, take back your words brother. If not, I won't ever forgive you" Jade spoke coldly as her eyes were laser-focused on Chris.

He felt like he was being looked upon by a beast which was ready to attack. And he was certain and surprised that Jade really might attack if he didn't take back his words.

Her expression and mood had completely shifted from goofy to dead serious.

Not to mention her friend who was eyeing him from the side. She was also looking at him with anger ready to attack.

While his group would win the exchange, it would probably only be because Jade was tired and they would mostly be fighting the friend. Otherwise, who knows who would win? Which was a shock considering the numerical difference...

"Sigh. I'm sorry for that Jade. You're right. I went overboard. I shouldn't curse someone I don't know. So please retract your aura and at least talk calmly..." Chris spoke softly.

He backed down. He didn't want the situation to turn hostile. She was his only sister, after all...