

Few Wives 301

Chapter 301: Speak, woman!

Snap!

Out of nowhere, Mrs C snapped her fingers and Muku disappeared from the trial ground and appeared beside her on the ground.

The negative effects of Whisperless Death had been healed and his body was returned to peak state.

Muku who didn't understand what was going on had a confused look as he got up.

The last thing he remembered was kissing the group in the trial ground. As for what happened after that and how he had gotten to Room Zero... He had no idea.

He was about to ask Mrs C what was going on when she pointed toward the screen. It wasn't split in two anymore. But it didn't show Raya either.

What it showed was a playback which gave Muku chills. He actually took a step back in fear just from watching a video.

It was understandable though, after all, the video on the screen was him getting dominated by Whisperless Death without even knowing. His body was slowly being melted down from the inside. The sight made him feel pain just from looking.

He was kinda glad he wasn't in the state of mind to realise what was going on to him at the time. If he had been aware, he might have gone inside and killed himself.

Just from looking at the video at the video made him come to the conclusion that the experience was probably even worse than getting burned alive. Just the visuals alone were horrifying enough.

"I'm sorry" A soft apology from Mrs C brought back from his deep thoughts.

"For what?" Muku asked confusedly. After all, he was already aware of the trials and their dangers, so his ending up in that horrific situation was something he already expected.

Were her mother's instincts to protect her child finally kicking in? Weren't they too late to the party if that was the case?? He had already been roasted for more than two days after all.

"Umm, so, you know how you walked with all the confidence in the world when you left the third level of the flame trial?" Mrs C spoke hesitantly.

"Yes?..." Muku replied with narrowed eyes. At that point, he would be crazy or stupid if he didn't suspect that she had done something she shouldn't have.

"Don't look at me like that. It was your fault for tempting me with your smug expression..." Mrs C defended herself without even finishing what she was telling Muku.

Like those women on UTube podcast, she was trying her very best to avoid accountability.

"Speak, woman!" Muku exclaimed in a slightly raised voice.

At that point, his expression was extremely dark. After all, it was certain from Mrs C's actions that whatever she did wasn't small.

"Okay, okay. No need to shout. You weren't meant to go to poison after fire. It was supposed to be ice, then lightning, then Beast Aura then blood and finishing off with poison. And even if it was poison, Whisperless Death is actually not supposed to be part of the trial since it attacks both the body and mind. And you can't resist mind attacks without mental energy. At least not with the little mental energy you have now which is only good enough to keep you thinking straight... That's why I'm sorry..." Mrs C finally said something.

Muku's expression didn't even change. He might not have been expecting what she did, but it was something he figured she would do.

And all for what? Because he expressed his happiness through a confident walk? Sigh, it seemed she had to be added to the very long list of troublesome women in his life.

The list topper was Jade, followed by Raya, then Emily and so on. Even his cute little sister Hope was on there due to the times she gets clingy to the point of literally clinging onto him. It had happened a few times but he actually had to drag her around all day on those days.

It was cute until she refused to let go even during battles. Which made them even more troublesome than they had to be.

Actually, the fact that it took so long to add Mrs C to the list, was actually surprising. The lady had been troublesome since day one!

But that didn't matter. As long as she made it in the end right?.

"Can you send me back into the trial ground please? I want to finish this thing as soon as possible. Delaying pain isn't my style. And please don't mess with anything this time... We'll discuss what you did after I'm done... Understood?" Muku spoke calmly like a tired father who had gotten used to his daughter's mischief.

Mrs C didn't refute or say anything back. She just nodded her head like a little child who had been caught stealing sugar. She then did what she was told quietly...

And so, Muku was thrown back into the trial ground. This time the order Andi intensity wasn't messed up. So, he found himself plunged into a level so cold that he felt his blood freezing up inside of him.

It didn't completely freeze the blood, but it did slow it down by a lot. Which wasn't healthy. He began feeling dizzy, and he couldn't move. But all that didn't matter.

What mattered was tanking the cold until he builds up resistance. Fortunately, it didn't hurt as much as the flames did. Unfortunately, because his body was semi-frozen, it took almost twice as long for him to pass each level.

At first, he thought that it was easier than flames. But that thought changed after he realised that the pain wasn't decreasing despite the resistance which was increasing. So, instead of the flame's intense and brief pain, ice gave him long, methodical pain which was consistent until the end.

For that reason, he realised why Ice was above flames. It was way more sadistic!

Anyway, despite the struggle, he managed to complete all three levels in around five days. Which was a respectable time.

He then moved on to violence personified. And its name was Lightning. Unlike flames and ice which attacked him from all sides, lightning attacked him from above. Which made sense but made him wish he didn't have a head. At the very least, he wished his brain weren't in his head.

The damn thing was literally getting fried by the violent blue lightning. He couldn't even block with his hands as his whole body was paralysed by the lightning. He could only take it like a man.

Though the mother of all headaches he got made him wish he were dead. Even worse was how his hair actually got destroyed by the first shot!. So he took the whole trial bald.

The scene lifted Mrs C's mood. The lady was back to her laughing ways. This time with popcorn in her hands. She regretted interfering before, after all, there was no need. The original trial was already fun enough for her. There was no need to change anything.

As for why the lightning destroyed his hair when the flames couldn't. Well, it was pretty obvious, the flames were programmed to target only his flesh. However, Chloe's lightning had no such feature.

It could be programmed not to destroy him. But that was it. Everything else was destroyed. Interestingly enough, even the element-proof clothes he was wearing were destroyed.

He noticed it, but he couldn't even cover up. He could just look on as his dignity was destroyed along with his clothes.

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Room Zero...

"Hahahaha. And his clothes are gone! Hahaha. This kid is really surrounded by interesting little friends huh? To think that little girl actually has that attribute. Had I known, I would have put up measures against it. All well, such is life. And it's a bother to resist it even for me if I don't put a little effort into it. Which is saying something considering the difference in strength between us... Well, whatever. Let's just enjoy the show" Mrs C spoke to herself again.

Her eyes were sparkling with delight. She was having the best of times.

Just the conflicted look in Muku's eyes as he looked on at what was happening powerlessly, made her day.

But as a good mother. She snapped her fingers and created a pair of underwear for him which was resistant to the attribute.

It wouldn't last too long but finishing the trial was doable...

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Back to the trial..

Muku had an absolutely horrible time in the lightning levels. His clothes were destroyed in the beginning and he had to finish the thing in a pair of underwear. Mrs C refused to give him clothes no matter how much he begged.

Anyway, despite everything. Everything went well enough. The lightning might have hurt more than the flames. But it was even briefer, so it was doable.

If the flames caused such pain, he would have quit. It wasn't a level of pain one could take for long.

After that Muku stepped into the Beast Aura trial. He couldn't help but gulp down some saliva. He even wondered if Jade was going to suddenly pop out of the dense green energy and stab him in the gut with her claws. Of course, he knew it was impossible, but the way the Beast Aura seemed to have gotten excited when he stepped into it made him nervous enough to expect such a thing.

Fortunately for him, no Jade came out. However, that wasn't necessary. The pain from the Beast Aura was already enough.

Like the previous elements, their masters weren't needed for them to make him feel the pain...

Chapter 302: Quality over Quantity

Despite the pain, it amazed Muku how all the elements had unique ways of hurting him.

You'd think pain is pain no matter what, right? Well, it turned out to be untrue. Muku had experienced so much pain that he could tell that it was different even if it had the same intensity and seemed the same on surface view.

He didn't know how he felt about being so sensitive to pain. It made him feel dirty in some way. Like he was a seasoned masochist or something. Fortunately, he didn't enjoy the pain. So there was still hope for him.

Anyway, Beast Aura like the elements before it, hurt him in its own way. It wasn't intense like fire, methodical like ice or violent like lightning. If he had to describe it, he would say that it was vicious and wild.

It invaded his body and went wild, ripping up his insides left and right. And of course it hurt like hell. The way it behaved, was almost like it was venting all of the grievances Jade had toward Muku.

Of course that wasn't true. Muku was just thinking too much because of the pain.

Anyway, around three days later he was finished with all three levels of Beast Aura. He couldn't wait to see the look on Jade's face when he tanks her Beast Aura without being injured when the time comes.

Unfortunately for him, the scene might be different from what he was imagining. After all, he was only resistant to green Beast Aura. And even then. Resistance wasn't immunity. He would still get hurt after the element's intensity passes a certain threshold.

But that wasn't worth worrying about. After all, as long as the caster is below R5, then he is pretty much immune. And that was without using mana. So it was his win for the most part.

With that said, he moved on to the blood trial. Unlike the trials before, the blood trial was a pool of blood which replaced the floor.

He quickly understood what was going on. So, he jumped his bald and almost naked self into the pool.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

An inhuman scream sounded soon after as Muku's head popped out of the pool and he tried to swim out. Unfortunately for him, the blood seemed to be alive. It was fine until he tried to get out.

The moment he did, it tightened around his limbs and locked him in place. He couldn't move at all. He was completely submerged soon after and couldn't even scream.

Fortunately for him, being Rank Four meant that he could go for days without breathing. Hell, he could probably reach a month if he had mana.

So, he didn't have to worry about the lack of air killing him. He could suffer in peace. The blood from the pool invaded his body and corrupted the body in his body.

He felt the grips around his limbs disappear. However, there was nothing he could do at that point. His body had been completely taken over. But since there was no master, it just stood still as his insides were wrecked.

His skin and blood had long turned red and they hurt like hell. He could feel them slowly failing. Fortunately, the weird energy got into the mix soon after which halted the process.

If not, he would have eventually been turned into a puddle of blood after everything else in his body had dissolved by the corrosive blood. Just like all of Audrey's victims.

Before he felt that her ability was kinda horrifying. But it was only then that he understood how horrific and even beyond that it was. He had thought that the victim's consciousness would get wiped out the moment their blood was corrupted. After all, their eyes always looked soulless.

It was now he realised that, that wasn't the case. The poor fellows were wide-awake. They just couldn't do anything. Not even showing emotions through their eyes. All they could do was just experience the horrible event of having their bodies dissolved as they felt it all. The physical and emotional pain were the only things they had until the moment they eventually died when they were fully dissolved.

What was even worse was seeing their bodies being used by their enemy even when they were slowly and painfully melting away.

He should have known that anything which involved blood corruption wouldn't be a good thing. Even if a goddess-level beauty was the one using the ability.

Then again, just the fact that the victims end up as blood puddles should have been a telling sign... But whatever, such is life. Everyone's luck is different, and who knows what ruthless acts those beasts did before they were caught by Audrey? So maybe it was their bad karma catching up with them.

As for those who think it's okay for beasts to be cruel since their beasts... That does not make sense actually. After all, they are as sentient as humans. So if they do more than they have to do. Like carrying out a massacre for the fun of it, then they deserve to pay for their sins.

It was different from animals and those mindless beasts like sandworms. They operated on instincts most of the time. So their brutality is understandable as it's not a conscious choice.

Anyway, such philosophical questions weren't Muku's problem. All he cared about was passing the trials and moving on.

He also swore to himself that he would never ever tell Audrey what her ability actually does to her enemies. The softhearted lady would definitely give up on it and never look back. Even if it meant disadvantaging herself.

After all, like Muku, she thought that the ability pretty much killed the victims the moment they were corrupted. So they won't suffer too much pain.

For that reason, she liked using it as a way of showing mercy. Which was quite ironic since it was literally the worst torture she could expose her victims to.

It was really just a case of a gorgeous, kind and innocent vampire queen applying her good nature in the wrong situation.

If she found out the truth, it might break her. And Muku would always choose his girls over the world. Hell, if he had to destroy the world to save them, he would do it quite easily.

He never understood the concept of sacrificing your loved ones for strangers. Even if there's only one loved one Vs a billion strangers. To him, quantity can never beat quality...

Anyway, four days later he finished all three levels. He could be wrong, but he felt that his looks improved a bit more after every trial. Like he was going through a painful Beauty Spa treatment.

He didn't linger too much on those useless thoughts since he had better things to do. Though he had to admit that he secretly felt great about it. One had to know that the man was a closet narcissist. Of course, the girls were well aware of his narcissism. There were times he couldn't hold it back in front of them...

With that said, Muku moved on to the last trial... He looked at the area in front of him with slight dread in his eyes.

He was looking at a murky dark green gas which was swirling around in front of him. If one didn't know what it was, it didn't look like much. However, Muku knew what it was. That's why he was scared.

That gas was concentrated poison from the one and only Baneful Healer. That stuff could mess you up. It could erase your body, make it decay, make it explode, make it spasm, weak, uncontrolled and a whole bunch of other fun things.

It made one wonder why the element belonged to such a sweet girl like Hope. She was no different from an angel to Muku. Unfortunately, she could only be an angel of death because of her deadly element.

Sure, her healing element decreased the dangerous aura around her. But the things her poison could do were still undefeated. She was definitely the worst enemy anyone could have.

Anyway, since Whisperless Death or the purple has which targeted the mind weren't present, Muku was able to defeat his fear and proceed.

If Whisperless Death was present, there was no way he would have taken the trial. Not after the video he saw. He dared not tackle that force without mana and all his cheats.

That's right, to him, it wasn't just a spell anymore, it was a force like no other.

He was surprised by how he was able to calmly look on when Hope used it in front of him before.

Then again, seeing and experiencing were two different things.

With that said, Muku entered the poisonous gas's range. His body was instantly immobilised by the element. Which he was pretty much used to by that point. And for the second time. He fell forward and kissed the ground.

And for the... who knowa what number, he was consumed in pain's painful grasp.

He felt weak, hot, cold, numb, in pain, hungry, like vomiting, dizzy and a whole bunch of other clashing experiences. They all happened at once in different parts of his body as the poison went wild in his body. It was like it wanted to make him experience everything it could do to him.

While he could say the pain wasn't as serious as the elements before. It was still the worst experience he had.

And he was sure that the pain only seemed less because there was a bunch of other things going on.

Fortunately, he was close to the end...

Chapter 303: End of trials!

Around four days later, Muku finally completed all three levels of the poison trial. At that point, he was practically a walking corpse.

His body would be returned to peak condition after each trial but still. The mental toll was super high.

Which everyone can understand. The guy had gone through more than two weeks of constant pain. And it wasn't even uniform pain, so he couldn't get used to it.

Despite wanting to do nothing else but sleep. Muku got curious about something. And so, he had to ask.

"Umm, Mom, why is there no water trial or trials of other elements?" He asked Mrs C curiously.

"We'll talk about that after you take a relaxing bath under the waterfall in front of you. And don't worry, I won't peek" Mrs C replied then went quiet.

Seeing that she really wasn't going to say anything else until he bathes, Muku shrugged his shoulders and proceeded forward.

Like she said, he found a waterfall at the end. It was outside the trial corridor. It was surrounded by greenery and looked quite peaceful. Like a slice of heaven. Just looking at it made him feel better.

While still looking around as he walked closer, his gaze suddenly hardened as his steps seized.

An annoyed look appeared on his face as he looked at an unexpected individual in the small lake created by the waterfall.

"What the hell?! How dare you look at me like a piece of gum stuck under your shoe?! Do you want to fight?!" The intruder was instantly angered by Muku's expression and instantly got heated.

However, despite them putting on their most ferocious expression, they still looked cute. Which dispersed any hint of threatening atmosphere they were trying to create.

Seeing the epic fail at intimidation made Muku feel better again. He ignored the little thing and jumped into the lake. He was still in just a pair of underwear so there was no need to restrain himself. And there was no way he was going to remove it in front of the intruder.

His cannonball landed him so deep into the water that he took a while to surface.

When he did, the intruder who wanted to continue their argument paused. Their gaze moved from Muku's face and focused on his head and then back to his face again. Then...

"Pfft hahahahaha! What the hell happened to you? You look like a potato with a face! Even your eyebrows are gone! Hahahaha. It really is the hair which makes sense people look good huh? Hahahaha. I doubt those girls would still like you if they saw you like this! Hahaha. How I wish they were here. Especially that green-haired one. She would definitely say something funny. Hahahaha. Ah! My chest. Hahaha" The intruder, who was obviously Raya began laughing her a*s off as she looked at Muku.

She laughed until her chest hurt.

Just that alone was annoying to Muku. What made it more annoying was how squeaky her voice was as she was in her tiny dragon form.

"What are you even doing here? Isn't this supposed to be a relaxing pool for me? How is this relaxing?" Muku asked Raya with a dark expression on his face.

"Oh shut up. Just go and stand under that waterfall already" Raya who finally managed to regain control of herself replied while rolling her eyes.

She then swam away from Muku with her cute little feet. She was surprisingly fast despite her small size. In a few seconds, she was as far away from Muku as she could be.

Muku's expression darkened even more. How dare the little brat laugh at him then show him attitude?!

However, he didn't pursue her. He was curious about the waterfall she mentioned. There had to be something special about it for her to specifically mention it right?

Well, that or it was a horrible experience and the hateful Raya was trying to make him suffer... No, even she wouldn't be so ruthless as to laugh at someone, show them attitude then make them suffer. Especially when that person is their soul link.

Speaking of which, he sensed no malice from her or anything weird emotions when she mentioned the waterfall. So it must be safe.

With that said, Muku slowly and cautiously swam towards the waterfall. His bald head was shining under the fake sun above.

He could swim faster but he still didn't trust Raya despite the soul link feedback. The brat was the type to kill without an ounce of malice after all.

Anyway, he soon reached the waterfall and extended his hand out to touch it. Goosebumps immediately appeared all over his body. However, they weren't because of something bad. It was because of how good his hand felt under the waterfall.

Without a second thought, he dove into the waterfall and spread his arms out while looking up.

It was undoubtedly a dumb move looking up while under a waterfall, but that was only for normal people. Not Rank 4s like Muku. Hell, even if he was a normal person, the waterfall wasn't like the

normal, natural ones. Despite the large amounts of water falling from above, he didn't feel even a little bit of the crushing force it should have had.

It was actually quite gentle on his skin. In a few seconds, he had found something else which was different about the waterfall. It was actually relieving him of the mental stress he was under.

It somehow felt like Hope's Hallowed Ground but it felt different at the same time. The waterfall seemed a lot more mystical, gentler and worked quicker. In less than a minute, his mind had already returned to its peak condition.

It felt even better than before. It was like he had just woken up from the longest and most refreshing sleep of his life. Even the tension in his mind from the separation from the girls was dispersed. He still missed them greatly, but this time it felt a lot more bearable.

On top of all that, the water felt simply divine on his skin. It was like he was getting massaged by an angel.

If he weren't a grown man with a lot of control he might have been moaning left and right.

But he dared not let himself go in front of Raya. The little dragon had already seen him in many embarrassing situations and he didn't want to add more.

He could already see her gathering the girls and talking about him until all his face was gone. So he would rather not make that talk even longer.

He couldn't help but curse Mrs C a bit for letting Raya in. There was no way she didn't know what the waterfall did to people.

It was a set-up!

Anyway, despite how good it felt. Muku didn't stay too long under the waterfall lest he really couldn't control himself anymore...

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A while later...

Muku and Raya were taken out of the "slice of heaven" after Mrs C saw that they had rested enough. There were still things to be taken care of so delaying too much was out of the question.

Anyway, presently bald Muku and Raya were now sitting with Mrs C waiting to receive her always insightful knowledge despite her usual unreliable character.

Speaking of Muku's baldness, he didn't feel too bad about it after he noticed that Raya's fur was also gone from her back. The dragon dared laugh at him when she was also bald. The nerve!

Even worse was how Mrs C refused to regrow their hair. She said that she couldn't do it. Which was obviously bullshit. The lady could bring people back from the dead and she dared say she couldn't regrow hair?!

Hell, if the people she brought from the dead were undead then Muku would understand, but she could bring them back literally.

It was obvious that she either felt too lazy to do it or just enjoyed looking at his potato-head. Knowing her, it was probably both. The old lady really was the worst sometimes!

Anyway, they did linger too long on that topic. There were many more interesting things they could be talking about after all. Starting with...

"Why weren't there more elemental trials? I'm not saying I enjoyed the pain, but still, the situation is quite vexing" Muku asked his previous question.

He chose to start with the lesser questions and get deeper as the conversation progressed.

"You're really curious about that, huh? Fortunately for you, I'm in a good mood despite what you ruined it before the trial" Mrs C replied.

She casually omitted what she had done to Muku and the fact that most, if not all of their problems had her as the source.

Muku being the mature person he was didn't pursue old issues... Actually, he wasn't mature at all, he was just afraid that she would get moody again and refuse to tell him what he wanted to know. There was nothing he could do in that situation.

So, he chose to eat the loss. It was bitter but it had to be done...

"Ahem. Now, where do I start? Oh, right, I guess that's a good start... Now, the reason why there weren't more trials is because of three things actually. One, some elements like Earth deal blunt damage despite being magic, so there's no need to create a specific trial for them since normal physical trials are enough for them. Then..." Mrs C went on to tell Muku the other two reasons why there weren't more trials...

Chapter 304: Casually dropping bombs

A while later...

"So what you're saying is that not only are some elements like Earth, not qualified for a specialised trial, there are also others which are overqualified like space and time, as they can't be resisted physically? And as for the reason why those like light aren't present it's because of my mental limit for such training as too much would hurt me and I gained minor resistance to some of them from the elements I already did? Like how light burns like fire so I gained minor resistance? Well, okay, that sounds legit to me" Muku repeated what Mrs C said while trying to make sure that he heard properly.

"Yes, exactly, my son is so smart" Mrs C replied while extending her hand out with the intention of pinching Muku's cheek like she did in his "younger years".

Unfortunately it was rudely smacked away by him. He might have let her pinch him when she regressed his body but if she thought he would let her do it again then she was dreaming. Especially when he found out that there was no trauma she was trying to overcome.

Even worse, she had been messing with him a lot since they returned from the mansion. While he couldn't get revenge, he could at least stop her from getting what she wanted, right?

"Tsk. Meanie. You're lucky you're cute otherwise I wouldn't speak to you anymore" Mrs C spoke while touching the spot Muku hit with her other hand. She had a little pout on her face as she did.

Muku just rolled his eyes at her actions and remained quiet. If she thought that he was going to be moved and let her do what she wanted then she was mistaken.

Seeing him not saying anything made Mrs C pout even more but she didn't continue the topic. She would get what she wanted eventually. She always does...

"Now, let's move on to the next topic. You wanted to know about that "weird energy" which makes your body adapt to the elements, right? Well, listen carefully because I'm not going to repeat it. That "weird energy" as you put it is called evolution energy or lifeforce energy if you want a non-specialised term which pretty much binds it together with other parts of your being... Anyway, as you might have guessed from the name, Evolution Energy's main function is to make the individual it dwells in evolve to fit the situation they are in if it's activated..." Mrs C began her explanation.

Muku and Raya listened intently. They didn't want to miss a single part of the obviously very important and insightful explanation...

"Now, let's look at it in detail. I'll start by telling you why it felt familiar to you but you couldn't remember where you came across it before. You see, in every living being, there's evolution energy (EE). However, for humans before the "apocalypse", their EE was mostly dormant due to their absurdly comfortable lives despite all the problems they created for themselves. It was only when mana came into the mix that it was fully awakened as mana was an element from your lifeforce which had been stripped away. While evolution energy can work without mana. It needs a precise situation to activate. Which humans weren't getting... I know you're shocked by what I said about mana having been stripped away from humans but forget about it for now. It's none of your business. Let's stay on track..." Mrs C went on and dropped a big bomb on Muku.

What was even worse was how she immediately refused to tell him more about it before he even asked.

Like who tf does that? She casually told him that humans originally had mana and it was stripped away, then said, "Forget about it"? Who can easily forget about such a thing?!

Like that's literally all the fuel one needs to start having crazy thoughts. Conspiracy theories and whatnot but whatever. It wasn't worth disrupting what was happening.

After all, it didn't directly impact him for the moment, which EE did. So why bother wasting time with it?... While it sucked, and he really didn't want to, Muku gave up on asking about the bomb which was casually dropped on him. He then continued listening intently to what Mrs C was saying.

"Now, moving on. Do you remember that numb feeling you felt all over your body when you killed your first beast and so on until you reached R1? Well, that was actually because of your EE finally coming back into the mix. It reacted to the foreign lifeforce which you took into your body by killing beasts. What you know as KP is actually your opponent's lifeforce. Which is like fuel for EE, mana and pretty much every other part of you. You can say that you devour your opponent's lifeforce to strengthen your own and move through the ranks until you eventually reach the peak... Or die along the way and feed someone else's evolution. Whichever comes first really. And that's where the name Evolver comes from. Again, I know that might be another bomb to you, but shut up. I will tell you what I want you to know. If I don't tell you anything more on something I mention, then that means I'm not willing to say anything more" Mrs C dropped another bomb.

And again she shut Muku down before he could ask. It was as annoying as before but he had experience now, so he didn't hang on to it any longer.

He felt like she was trying to turn him into one of those MC's always chasing secrets they had no business knowing. Well, if that's what she wanted then he refused to bite!

That shih always leads to losing a few loved ones along the way. Or maybe losing oneself. And he wasn't a fan of either. For that reason, he was going to continue being himself. If the information didn't fall into his lap, then F it! He wouldn't look for it.

Even if it did fall into his lap. He would think twice about whether he wanted to know. After all, sometimes, just knowing something was enough to get you into trouble...

Anyway, Muku did continue with his chaotic, wimpy and anti-MC-like thoughts. Mrs C wasn't done after all.

"With that said. Let me tell you about what you just went through in your trials. You see, evolution is omnipotent. It has limits. And those limits are, it requires a specific situation to work and it's very slow. Speaking of which. While everyone has it, the amount isn't the same for everyone. Some have more while others have less. You can refer to a person's class if you want to know how much evolution energy they have. It's not an accurate way to judge, but it gives one a general idea. Which is because those with a higher class usually have more evolution energy. Of course there are exceptions, much like in most things... Oh and in Beasts, you can judge by their bloodline. Which means little Raya here has the highest order of evolution energy..." Mrs C paused a bit as he let the two digest what she said.

She was really spitting knowledge bars after all...

"Anyway, back to the trials. They weren't random situations where you're tossed into fire, lightning and whatnot. Of course, that should be obvious from the different levels. You see, everyone has a threshold for which their EE works on, like I said before. For that reason, I created levels... Cough... I mean, the creator of the trial ground created a trial ground which calibrates itself to the participant's threshold for every level. Which is why instead of just getting burned if the flames were too low or getting burned to a crisp if they were too high, you got burned enough to activate your evolution energy and adapt. Isn't it an amazing creation? You must know that despite their otherworldly beauty, strength and intelligence, it still took the creator a long time to create Floor 2's corridors. For that reason, I think you should thank them for their dedication to making it and give me a hug on their behalf. I will give it to them when they come back. Which will be long after you're gone, so you can't wait for them. Now give me" Mrs C finished off her explanation by asking for a hug.

Muku didn't refuse her this time. It was painfully obvious that she was the creator, but he ignored the obvious signs. He didn't know what game she was playing but he chose to play along.

And it must have been really difficult to create if she mentioned it. So he didn't mind giving her a hug as a thank you.

Only if he knew that it was only hard because she didn't have even a hundredth of her current strength at the time she made it. The current her could create the whole thing with a mere thought.

Of course that didn't change the work which was put into it, but it would have made the whole thing seem a lot less impressive.

A while later Muku struggled his way out of Mrs C's hug. He thought that like any normal person, she would hug him briefly then let go... But since when was Mrs C normal?

After she saw that he hadn't pulled away even after close to a minute had passed by, instead of ending the hug, she greedily hugged him even more tightly.

It was at that point that Muku decided to end it himself. The lady really knew how to take a mile when given an inch.

"Okay, now what's next? Is there something else you want to know?" Mrs C spoke with a happy smile on her face after they say down.

She was clearly still happy from the hug. Which was good for Muku and his many questions...

Chapter 305: What sorcery is this?!

"Hmm, I probably had things I wanted to ask but I can't remember any of them after somebody kept dropping bombs left and right. So, let's just move on for now. I'll ask you if I remember anything. Let's get to the rewards. And you better be generous after the stunt you pulled with Whisperless Death..." Muku who couldn't think of anything decided to move on.

His mind was drawing a blank at the moment. So, instead of dwelling on it. It was better to move on to the rewards. If he couldn't remember what he wanted to know, then it must not have been important... Right?

Well, whatever. He just couldn't wait to get to Mrs C's rewards. She never disappoints in that department. Even then, he still had to urge her to make whatever she wanted to give him better as a way of settling accounts. Which was to be expected from humans... Ever so greedy even when unnecessary...

"Oh yeah, I guess it's time we move on to that and if there are no more questions... That is if Little Raya doesn't have anything to ask" Mrs C replied while directing her attention at Raya who had been quiet from the start.

If Mrs C didn't know that the little dragon was a chatterbox from when she spied on her and Muku, she might have been fooled into thinking that she was a quiet kid.

"N-No, it's fine to move on. I have no questions" Raya who felt like a spectator suddenly pulled into the action stuttered a bit as she replied.

She quite liked being a spectator so she hadn't thought to think of any questions. For that reason, she really had nothing to ask.

"Oh, okay. We'll start with your gift then. Since, last time I gave you some assistance with your bloodline ritual... I wonder what I can give you this time. Do you have anything in mind?" Mrs C who couldn't decide on what to give Raya asked for her input.

"Umm, I can't think of anything... I'm sure anything you can give me will be what's best for me" Raya replied intelligently.

While she couldn't think of anything, she decided to throw the ball back to Mrs C. And the way she put it was basically saying, "give me the best you can", without actually saying it.

Mrs C who understood what Raya meant smiled. She really liked how clever the little dragon was. She was barely over half a decade in age and yet she was smarter than some people who were over half a century. Wisdom and cunning really knew no age.

"Is that so? If that's what you want then okay. For your reward, I will give you a trial run... Don't be afraid child, I'm not talking about throwing you into another trial. Just stand still and you'll know what I mean..." Mrs C replied.

Her words almost gave Raya a heart attack when she said "trial run". Raya imagined herself getting tossed back into the pits of hell known as Floor 2.

While she had finished sooner than Muku that didn't mean she suffered less than him. In fact, with their different starting points in terms of pain resistance, it could be argued that she suffered more.

Fortunately for her, that wasn't the case. At least Mrs C said it wasn't. It was really hard to trust the lady in such situations. She seemed like the type to say she won't do something with a serious expression on her face but then suddenly does it. Taking you completely by surprise just to make you suffer a little more for her amusement.

So, for that reason, Raya was still on the fence. Her guard was up, ready to be suddenly thrown into burning flames or at the centre of a beast tide or something.

"So cautious... But I like it. Never lose that quality. Anyway..." Mrs C complimented Raya's cautiousness. It was a valuable asset in the dangerous world outside

She didn't linger too long on that though. She snapped her fingers immediately after her last word fell and something which made Muku's eyes widen happened.

Raya suddenly began feeling hot all over her body. And without her ordering it, her body began changing from her mini form. It seemed to be returning to her bigger form. Which made her panic since the room wasn't big enough for that form.

However, something weird happened. She only grew a little bit then stopped. She couldn't even grow to Muku's height which was odd since she shouldn't have been able to do that.

Her forms were either the mini form, ten metres tall or fifty metres tall which she didn't like because it wasted her precious mana.

Anyway, that wasn't the only problem. Other than that she felt different somehow. Like she wasn't in the same body anymore. Then...

"Hhm? My tail... I can't feel my tail... Ahhh!" Raya who looked behind her and couldn't find her tail along with her lower body screamed in fear and...

Bang!

She fell to the ground. She immediately tried to get up then she froze. Then...

"Ahhhhhh!" She screamed again.

The panic and fear in her eyes reached the highest levels they could reach.

The reason for that was that when she looked at her hands, what she found wasn't her white draconic claws but a pair of human hands.

She jumped back and noticed the human legs and human body attached to her head.

At that point, she immediately touched her face with her new hands and another scream rang out.

To think that it wasn't just her body which had been switched out. Even her head was different too. But how was that poss...

"What happened?" Raya who remembered how the strange experience began when Mrs C snapped her fingers, looked at the lady for answers.

There was nothing but desperation and fear in her eyes. The question her eyes asked was, "What sorcery is this?!" With great distress accompanying it.

Which was understandable, after all, she secretly looked down on human bodies for being so weak and squishy... Well, actually she openly looked down on human bodies and even bragged to Muku about her superior body whenever she got the chance.

So yeah, her panic was understandable. Just like how a human would panic if they suddenly found themselves with an ant's body.

With the weak mentality of modern-day people... Going insane wasn't out of the question for some. Raya's reaction was actually quite mild compared to the many possible ways she could have reacted...

"Hehe, what a cute reaction. Anyway, like I said before, I'm giving you a trial. As you know, creating a humanoid form is part of the necessities for beasts to reach R5. And it just so happens that the more your form resembles humans, the stronger it is when compared to those on the same level. You remember that ogre you met before right? Well, in your current form, at the same level, you would one-shot it without even trying. Which is because I peeked into your very existence and poked around a bit until everything aligned to create the perfect human body you currently have. It wasn't too hard since the original best form you could get was close to perfection already. It just had horns and a tail. Which you can freely control after reaching R5 and gaining experience" Mrs C went on to casually blow Raya's mind like she did Muku's before.

Like, what the hell did she mean I peeked into your existence?. That sounded like something she shouldn't be able to do. And it also made Raya feel like all her secrets were laid bare in front of Mrs C.

Which honestly was true. Looking through someone's very existence was literally seeing everything they had. Even their deepest and darkest secrets. Even things they didn't know were also laid bare.

Of course, Raya didn't know that. She only suspected half of what it actually meant. If she knew she might have gone crazy. And Muku would have long tried to run away and would obviously have gotten caught...

Fortunately, not many beings could do such a thing. Even Monarchs couldn't do it. Only beings at Mrs C's level could do it and good luck finding another being even close to being as strong as she was.

So yeah, there wasn't really much to fear as Mrs C wouldn't use such information against Raya. Hell, she ignored all these aspects about Raya she didn't need to know in her mission to tweak her transformation. So Raya's privacy was still relatively intact.

Then came the part where Mrs C could actually tweak a living being's body. That was even more astonishing than seeing. And even fewer could do it. Probably only a couple more beings could do it apart from Mrs C and they might as well not exist currently.

"Anyway, moving on. Your current form is only temporary. It has a one-month timer. So try your best to study and get used to it during that time. That knowledge will make your transition from R4 to R5 a lot easier and smoother. So, what do you think? Is it the best reward or what?" Mrs C asked Raya with a smug expression on her face after finishing her explanation.

"... It is. Thank you very much... CAN YOU SHUT UP! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE TALKING HERE?!" Raya thanked Mrs C and snapped at Muku who had been laughing for a few minutes by that point.

She had tried controlling herself but she couldn't take it anymore. He was so annoying!...

Chapter 306: Look away now!

"Alright alright, I'll keep quiet. Gosh, why are you lashing at me? I'm not the one who turned you into a 7-year-old kid" Muku replied complainingly.

How can such a cute-looking kid have such a nasty temper? And why direct it at him?

Sure, he might have gone overboard with his laughing by a bit, but that didn't warrant such a reaction.

"Tsk. Whatever... Now where was I? Oh, right. Thank you for this experience, Ma'am. I'm forever in your debt" Raya didn't entertain Muku anymore.

She couldn't risk making herself look even worse in front of Mrs C. No one wanted to look bad in front of their idols after all. If Muku wasn't so annoying there was no way she would have exploded like that...

"There's no need for thanks child. I just gave you what you earned" Mrs C replied to Raya calmly with a gentle smile.

She completely ignored the little episode between Raya and Muku. After all. It was their matter to deal with. With their soul link, they were practically siblings, and like most siblings, fights between them were to be expected.

With that said, Raya tried to get up from the ground as she wanted to bow to Mrs C. However, her legs wouldn't listen to her.

The structure between beast legs and human legs was quite different after all. So, it took Raya a little time to properly understand how they worked. It was only then that she managed to get up.

However, she still couldn't walk. Just standing was all she could do for the time being. Even that was hard for her, which was apparent from how shaky her legs were.

Pah!

"Hey!" Raya screamed annoyedly after she was hit in the face by a cloth. It didn't hurt but the force it was thrown with was definitely not friendly. And she instantly knew who through it.

"Oh shut up. Unlike you beasts, humans have what's known as decency, at the very least our bodies can't be randomly displayed for the world to see. Put that on quietly already" Muku replied before Raya could shout at him.

His words made the words Raya was about to speak go back down her throat. Her eyes slowly looked down at her naked body and then...

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhh! What are you looking at you pervert!?! Look away now!" Raya screeched as loudly as she could.

What was interesting was how she covered her body with the dress Muku through at her as she screamed. The interesting part was how she shouldn't have reacted so intensely even if Muku told her that she was naked. After all, she was a dragon, she shouldn't have had a deep enough understanding of human culture to act like that. Yet there she was, acting exactly like you'd expect any human girl would do in the situation.

What Muku didn't know was that she had gotten a thorough understanding of human culture from his memories.

While going through the memories, she felt like she lived them along with him but in an invisible state.

Of course that wasn't true. It was just her own feelings getting influenced by the memories. Anyway, it was enough for her to know that human girls shouldn't casually show their bodies to anyone. Only their husbands should see them naked. And that was for when they were at least 18 years old.

She wasn't sure what a husband was since she didn't see all the memories. However, she was certain that Muku wasn't her husband and she was way too young for such a thing anyway.

And that's why she acted the way she did. Instead of embarrassment, it was mostly her reaction to something she thought was wrong.

"Okay, okay. I won't look. Just stop overreacting. You're literally a seven-year-old child right now. What's there to look at anyway? Do I look like a lolicon to you" Muku replied while looking away.

His expression turned quite dark from her reaction which made him seem like some pervert. Couldn't she tell from his stable state of mind through the soul-link that he didn't think of anything in particular when looking at her?

"Hehe" Mrs C laughed to herself while enjoying the show.

She liked how she was never bored when the two were around. And now she was looking on as Raya tried to figure out how to wear the dress and Muku looked at the wall in the opposite direction of Raya as if it had killed his family while cursing under his breath.

After watching for a little bit longer she walked toward Raya then helped her put on the dress and underwear Muku threw at her.

They were too big for the little girl since Muku had them made for his girls during his "childhood month".

But that wasn't a problem since they were magical. So without delay, they shrank to match the little dragon girl's body size.

It was only then that Muku was told to stop facing the wall. And it was Mrs C who said something. Raya seemed to have wanted him to stay like that forever. Anyway, they moved on from the incident after that.

Raya who still couldn't walk flew towards the couch and took a seat. Her time was over, it was time to see what Muku got. Would her reward be better or will his be better?

Or maybe their rewards will be the same and he'll be turned into a beast of something. Speaking of which, did humans gain a beast transformation at R5 like beasts got a human transformation?

Wouldn't it be quite interesting if they did? At the very least, fantasy novel lovers who had survived the apocalypse up to reaching R5 would be very happy. After all, just the idea of changing into something else, like a huge dragon or something, was enough to get them excited.

Well, that information wasn't known to Raya or Muku yet. After all, they hadn't yet come across a human who had reached R5.

There was Mrs C who was definitely way stronger than R5. But they didn't know if she was really human. It was highly likely that she was, but until it was confirmed, it was okay for them to doubt, right?

"Don't worry children, I am one hundred percent human. As for what humans get from reaching R5... I won't say anything and leave it as a surprise. And I have to say, your soul link is quite interesting. To think that one person's thoughts were able to influence the other into thinking the same thing. I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing. Well, whatever, I'm sure you'll figure it out if it's problematic. And it's not my problem so I don't have to think about it. Let's move on" Mrs C who just happened to read Muku and Raya's minds one after the other replied to what she wasn't asked.

Muku and Raya just quietly rolled their eyes at how she was back to reading their minds. Though actually, Raya only thought about rolling them. Even if she didn't think Mrs C would pettily do something to her for that, she still didn't dare. It was better to be safe than sorry.

After that, they both focused on Mrs C as they wanted to see what she was going to give to Muku. At least they confirmed her race from the mind reading, right?

"Before I show you what I gave for you, do you care to guess what it is? I'll give you twice the rewards if you guess right. By that I mean, you'll get both the original reward and one other which will be just as good if not better than the first one. So what say you? You have nothing to lose, after all.." Mrs C spoke to Muku with a mischievous smile on her face and a playfulness radiated out of her eyes.

"You're going to toss me into another trial as a sick joke of a reward?" Muku took a guess while looking at his mother with a wary expression on his face.

"Oh come on! Is that even a proper guess? Am I such a person to you?... Hey! How dare you nod?! Anyway, you're wrong. That's not it. But since you're my son, I'm going to give you two more chances. Try again, and think a bit more seriously this time. After all, there's an extra reward at stake here. And I can guarantee you that the first one will be great..." Mrs C annoyedly replied but still gave Muku two more shots.

She was just enjoying talking to him some more before their looming separation. So she didn't mind the delays. And she was sure he wouldn't guess right even if she gave him ten thousand tries.

Well, he might guess it right with so many tries but it was still unlikely. Anyway, she looked at Muku waiting for his next guess. This time he looked a lot more serious than before.

She excitedly held off from reading his mind, not wanting to ruin the fun for herself.

"Umm, you're good to cut my soul-link with this unreliable dragon with no consequences to me?" Muku tried again with a serious expression on his face.

"Hey! Are you forgetting that you would have died to that green Monarch phantom if it wasn't because of me?!" Before Mrs C could reply, Raya complained from her couch.

"No, that's not it" Mrs C replied while shaking her head.

"Oh... Can you just tell me or do it? I really suck at guessing" Muku gave up. He was really terrible at guessing after all.

"Tsk, fine... Party popper" Mrs C replied dejectedly and then snapped her fingers.

A blinding light appeared in the room which forced Muku and Raya to close their eyes.

Fortunately, it didn't last long. Muku slowly opened his eyes while looking in front of him then suddenly his eyes snapped wide open in surprise.

"Impossible!" He exclaimed in shock...

Chapter 307: Muku's shocking reward...

Muku's mind went blank as he looked in front of him.

He felt the strength in his body leave him. He shakily held his hand out at the figure in front of him.

The figure was somewhat ethereal but he wasn't scared or even cared about that. What he cared about was that the figure was there.

Even if he was scared that his hand might go through the figure which would be the worst. He still decided to try to grab the face he missed a lot.

It looked a bit different from what he remembered. But he was sure it was the same face. After all, other than looking slightly more mature, everything else looked the same.

Soon his hand had reached the figure's cheek and caressed it gently.

"Hope..." Muku spoke the figure's name with a slightly choked and emotional voice.

"Hhm? Big Brother? Why do you look like that? And where are we? Aren't you usually ever smiling in an endless garden in my dreams? And wow! What great vividness, I even felt it when you touched my cheek. And I don't even remember when I slept. Despite everything, this might be the best dream ever" Hope chatted away while letting Muku caress her face and hair. She even walked a little closer to make it easier for him.

"Umm, Hope. I don't think this is a dream" A voice which sounded like it was holding a lot of emotions back was heard from behind Hope.

"Hhm? What do you mean? And how are you even here? It's usually just me and my brother in my dreams... Ow! Ms Audrey! Why would you pinch me like that? It hurt so m... It hurt?... That means... BIG BROTHER!" Hope who finally realised that she wasn't dreaming after getting pinched by Audrey cried as she threw herself into Muku's embrace.

She hugged him so tightly whilst crying her eyes out that you'd think she was trying to merge with him so they would never be apart again.

As for what was going on and how they got there. She didn't care. All she cared about was that she was in her brother's warm embrace again.

Unfortunately for her, she wasn't the only one who missed Muku so much...

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Without delay, four figures threw themselves at Muku without caring about Hope who was already hugging him.

Emily literally squashed her from behind as she hugged Muku with Hope in between. The other three hugged his sides and back.

Hope and Muku could barely breathe while being pancaked but they didn't care. They were still having the best day of their recent life. They had never been so happy since the day Muku was transported to the Beast World.

Audrey just looked on with a smile on her face and tears running down her cheeks. There was nothing in the world she wanted more than to hug him, but she decided to let the younger girls go first.

She could hold herself back a bit more and they couldn't. For the time being, just looking at him was enough. Knowing that he was not only alive but well, put all her worries to rest.

After all, she could only tell that he was alive from their blood link and soul metal necklace. But neither of those things could tell her if he was healthy or not. Which had been something she was constantly worrying about.

After all, there was a possibility that he was alive but barely clinging to life. Which would have broken her heart if it were true...

Beside her were Elsa and Freya who were also emotional from seeing their leader after such a long time.

Freya who was a little romantically moved by him felt those feelings fester in her heart uncontrollably. She had completely fallen for him in less than a minute.

It seems that it's true that absence makes the heart grow fonder. She had been thinking about him so much in his absence that seeing him made her fall instantly.

However, she didn't make her feelings immediately known or lose herself like the others. She felt that unlike them, she didn't have the right to love him.

Anyway, while she was having her internal storm, the group hug with Muku at the centre continued for a few more minutes. Everyone remained silent in the wholesome moment as they let their emotions speak for them.

"Ahem! Are you going to introduce me to my daughters-in-law or what?" Mrs C's teasing voice suddenly rang out in the quiet room.

Hearing her words all the girls including Elsa and Hope who technically didn't have a reason to be scared felt their hearts skip a beat.

The five girls hugging Muku all jumped back and stared at Mrs C warily with rosy cheeks from embarrassment.

At first, they wanted to see who the lady pretending to be Muku's mother in the Beast World was. However, the thought that she wasn't was instantly destroyed in their minds the moment they looked at her.

They felt that if the lady wasn't Muku's mother then no one was. She literally looked like a female version of him. Sure, they might be seeing wrong due to the influence of the hair colour but still, they were certain. The lady was definitely Muku's mother.

While the five were stunned...

Whoosh!

Audrey who couldn't hold herself back anymore jumped into Muku's arms and quietly hugged him without caring about anything else going on around her.

Freya looked on enviously. She wished that she could be so blatant. But then again, Audrey has shared her most intimate moment with Muku and he was her first, so it made sense for her to be a little blatant.

If anyone in the group could be blatant in the group then it was the vice captain who was the only one whose romantic relationship with Muku was confirmed...

Anyway, the five from before barely noticed what was going on there. Their attention was still on Mrs C.

"Hello, little ones. Since your husband won't introduce me, I'll introduce myself. I'm your mother-in-law. And you're all free to call me mother. While you don't know me, I know all of you. Your husband never shuts up about you" Mrs C introduced herself after seeing that the girls didn't know where to start and Muku wasn't saying anything.

How unreliable of him, she thought. Should she give him an extra trial as punishment? Well, whatever, there were more important things to take care of..

"Cough, cough. It's nice to meet you mother-in-law" Audrey who had finally gotten her much-needed dose of Muku replied with an embarrassed expression as she stepped forward.

After all, she had ignored her mother-in-law for the sake of hugging her husband. Sure, it was understandable after the long separation, but still it was inexcusable.

What if Mrs C thought negatively of her because of it? It was never a good thing to be disliked by one's mother-in-law.

Such a thing has led to a lot of sons dumping their wives after all. And if Muku dumped her... That would kill her instantly.

"Fufu. There's no need to be embarrassed girl. I completely understand. Now come give mom a hug" Mrs C replied with an amused look on her face.

She invited Audrey for a hug. Audrey didn't rush into accepting it though. She first looked at Muku and only went for it after he nodded for her to go.

Mrs C hugged her gleefully. She was very happy. Not only did she have a son, but she also had many daughters-in-law! She couldn't wait for the many grandchildren to come into the picture.

"Hehe. This is great. The only thing which can make this better is if you all added a few grandkids to the mix soon" Mrs C spoke while letting go of Audrey.

Audrey and the others blushed uncontrollably.

"Um, m...mom. I'm actually not his wife, I'm his sister" Hope suddenly spoke from beside Muku with a red blush on her face.

Of course, she had long returned to her big brother. Honestly, if it wasn't because she had matured a lot in the time Muku was away. She might have still been hugging him not caring about anything else.

Now she just settled for sticking close to him while holding his hand which made Muku both happy and sad. He was happy that she had matured but he was sad since he kinda liked her excessive clinginess...

Actually, he didn't have to worry about that since she was still the same inside. She just behaved better when there were others around now. If it was just the two of them...

"Are you sure?" Mrs C replied with a teasing look on her face. There was something else hidden behind that look though.

"Y..yes" Hope felt her heart skip a beat again while being looked at by Mrs C.

She felt like the lady could look right through her. Like all her secrets were laid bare in front of her.

It felt so weird that she stuttered a bit in her response. In fact, she wasn't sure of the answer anymore for whatever reason. Well, whatever, it was probably just a passing feeling... Right?

"Is that so? Okay. If you say so. I guess I have a daughter too along with my son now. Welcome to the family child," Mrs C replied with a smile.

Before Hope realised it, she was away from Muku and in Mrs C's embrace. She wanted to struggle at first but the hug felt so warm and comfortable she couldn't.

"Ma'am, I'm also not his wife. My sister is. I'm just his teammate" Elsa who felt that she had to clear things up spoke from a distance.

Mrs C's gaze moved to the seventeen-year-old girl...

Chapter 308: Muku Vs Jade (Pt: Who knows)

"You know, you would be a lot more believable if you weren't blushing so furiously..." Mrs C spoke with obvious disbelief in her tone.

"No, no! You've got it all wrong. That's not why I'm blushing. I'm really not one of his wives" Elsa rejected what Mrs C was saying while shaking her hands furiously.

She could already see her sister's face darkening and she didn't want to get burned because of a misunderstanding. She knew her sister well enough that she really would do such a thing.

"Oh, okay. If you say so. But just know that you're welcome to join in the fun too if you want. I'll take as many grandkids as you can give me!" Mrs C replied with a smile on her face.

Her hand was running through Hope's head who docilely lay in her arms. It was quite surprising to the others that the girl got used to Mrs C so quickly. She had introverted qualities when dealing with strangers after all...

"Hey! Shut up old lady! Shouldn't you seek my permission before saying such a thing? And why are you so obsessed with grandkids all of a sudden?!" Muku finally exploded.

He didn't know what his shameless mother would say next if he remained quiet. He has remained quiet when she said that he constantly mentioned the girls which wasn't true.

He has never mentioned them to her even once. She knew about them from going through his memories with permission yet she shamelessly made it seem like he was a blubber mouth.

He thought she would stop after that but it just gave her confidence to say whatever she wanted. He couldn't take it anymore.

To think he thought that Raya was the one who was going to embarrass him. Yet his own mother was going out of her way to do it instead. It hadn't even been half an hour yet and she was talking like she had known the girls for years.

Then again, when has she ever not screwed him over? He should have expected something like that.

While consumed by his frustration towards Mrs C, he failed to notice that Freya didn't deny being called his wife like the other two. Then again, even if he did notice it, he'd probably have thought that she just wanted to avoid drama.

Freya was the type to avoid being the centre of attention whenever she could after all.

However, the other girls noticed it. They didn't make a scene though. They just quietly gave her a side-eye and looked away. It wasn't the time to discuss such a thing. Not to mention that it was kind of expected that at some point she would fall too.

And they weren't too opposed to it since she was already one of them. However, if Muku dared bring one more girl from the outside his funeral would be held on the same day...

"Oh my! To think you would actually scream at your mother in front of people like this?. What a bad child you are. You see girls? This is what I'm dealing with. He's always screaming and shouting at me for no reason at all. I have no idea how you all love him" Mrs C fake cried while hugging Hope even tighter.

She tried her best to act like a weak old lady getting bullied. But it was obvious to the girls that she was faking it.

However, there's someone who had too many feelings pent up and couldn't hold herself back. She wanted to find trouble with Muku to vent and Mrs C just gave her a perfect reason to do so...

"You jerk! So this is what you have become after leaving home? An animal who bullies his defenceless mother?! Well, unfortunately for you, your reign of terror ends today. I won't let you get away with it anymore! Take my feast!" Jade who was obviously the one who wanted to find trouble with Muku exclaimed as she jumped forward.

It had been so long since the last time she quarrelled with Muku that she felt pent-up. And she was still in an unstable state with her hair still not having gone back to normal.

So it was hard for her to hold herself back. And since it was Muku, she felt no need to hold back. Maybe it was just the experience she needed to calm down her recently restless urges...

Boom!

With no further ado, Jade's slightly ethereal fist hit Muku's face. She didn't use her Beast Aura since it wasn't a serious fight, they were indoors and recently it has been going out of control.

However, just her physical capabilities were enough to destroy a normal R4 Evolver's body.

Speaking of which, out of the whole group. Only she and Layla had reached R4. The others were already at Peak Pseudo-R4 but they hadn't made the leap yet.

It wasn't that they were much slower than Jade and Layla, but the ground took turns reaching R4 after finding out that Pseudo R4s get weaker the closer they got to a breakthrough.

Sure their destructive power is still a lot higher than Peak R3s. But they can't fight for too long which is bad when facing opponents. After all, if they missed then they would be screwed.

For that reason, the girls took turns. The order was done by letting those who reached PR3 go first. And so, Layla and Jade went first...

Anyway, even though she didn't know Muku's rank. Jade was certain that he had reached at least R4. After all, he was in the Beast World. Suitable beasts to kill were everywhere unlike back at home.

And from what she remembered, his physical capabilities were as good as hers, so the situation would probably turn into a spar.

She would probably lose since he had learned some martial arts before the apocalypse but she wasn't after the win but the release. Besides, with all the fighting experience she had gained since the beginning of the apocalypse including some training from Muku, she was sure she could give him a run for his money before losing.

Unfortunately for her, reality was often different from expectation...

Her fist landed in his cheek without being blocked but... It hurt like hell!

It felt like back in her normal human days when she accidentally hit a hard surface like a wall and she was the one who got hurt.

But how was it that hitting Muku who looked rosy and soft hurt so much?! Did he have transparent armour on or something?!... Yes! That had to be it. The bastard had out on transparent armour! The dirty cheater.

He must have hidden it with his Telekinesis which can warp light! The more she thought of it, the more true it felt.

The girl began cursing Muku left and right while blowing on her painful hand. She called him a dirty cheater and gave him the stink-eye like she wasn't the one who sucker punched him.

"Why are you looking at me like I tricked you when you sucker punched me you brat?! To think your shitty personality got worse with time. And here I thought a change in hair colour would maybe change your character too. Ah! How wrong I was. You're lucky you're not physically present here or I would have shown you what's up... In fact, get ready for a spanking when I return. It's the first thing I'm going to do!" Muku exploded at Jade.

His hand felt very itchy from wanting to spank someone. It seemed he had been away too long and Jade had gotten too unruly.

"What! How dare you seek revenge when I'm just defending my mother-in-law?! Are you so beyond saving?! And why is your body so much stronger now? What the hell have you been doing here?!" Jade exploded back with righteous resignation like she was the one getting wronged.

If their physical capabilities were still the same she would have definitely continued to be arrogant. After all, resistance would still be possible in such a situation. If he doesn't use his Telekinesis, she could run away.

If he does, it wouldn't hurt too much. However, now she was scared. Her only hope was to take the righteous position and hope he would give up.

She could already imagine the burning and embarrassing pain she would later feel if she didn't diffuse the situation. So she dared not relax and got to work.

After that, she and Muku debated... Well, it was more of screaming and cursing at each other for thirty minutes. Unfortunately, Muku refused to back down and Jade resigned to her bleak future. At the end, she begged for a little mercy when the time comes.

She figured that if she wouldn't get out without punishment, she might as well ask for a little mercy, right?

Muku just smiled without saying anything. This of course scared her even more. She knew him enough to know that his silence meant that mercy was out of the question.

She then proceeded to cry as she begged but he wasn't moved. After that, she began cursing at him again. After that, she ignored him after saying that since he was so merciless she wouldn't talk to him again.

The others just looked on at the show with smiles on their faces. Tears even slid down Audrey's cheeks.

They weren't tears of sadness but happiness, for in that moment, it felt like they were back in the old days when they were all together. And that made her very happy.

Even if she knew that they were probably going to be separated again after a bit. She was willing to wait for the day when they could be together in the flesh.

The day will definitely be even happier than the current one...

Chapter 309: Boy please

A while later...

With the Muku and Jade's matter temporarily dealt with. It was time for a serious discussion.

And so, everyone sat on the couches that had increased size to match the number of people present.

"Umm, so, before we talk about anything else, can you please explain to me what the hell is happening?" Muku asked Mrs C.

"What do you mean?" Mrs C replied with a fake confused expression on her face. She was clearly playing dumb.

Her hand was still caressing Hope's hair like a little cat. Though Hope didn't seem to dislike it.

She was sitting in-between Muku and Mrs C so she could cling to her big brother and get head pats from Mrs C. So for her, it was a win-win situation.

"How are we here and why are we ghosts?" The filterless Jade asked.

She felt that Mrs C was probably the most dangerous being they had ever come across but she also felt safe around her at the same time. It was really odd but that's what was going on.

In fact, the weirdness began from how she felt that Mrs C was threatening without feeling threatened. Like her danger sense didn't go off but a gut feeling told her that the lady was not to be messed with. But she still couldn't control her personality to sound less rude. It was especially hard with her unstable state.

But since she was also sure that nothing would happen, she didn't try to control herself.

"My, my. You really are as brash and straightforward as I saw when I was peeking into... Cough... When Muku spoke about you. Well, I suppose my daughters-in-law can't be average people or I'd be disappointed" Mrs C replied with an unoffended smile.

"Why didn't you finish what you were about to say? And she isn't your daughter-in-law. I don't like girls like her. She's too much of a brute for me" Muku interjected.

"Pfft. Yeah right. If you didn't like me, then why did your thing get hard when you peeked at my panties when I fough.... Ow! Hey!" Jade laughed like Muku had said the funniest thing ever.

Emily was a little slow in reacting but she eventually hit the filterless girl in the back of her head.

This was why she always felt nervous having Jade around in such settings. The damned girl would randomly say something inappropriate like it was the most common thing to say in the world.

"What the hell are you talking about? I've never done such a thing! How dare you slander me?!" Muku exclaimed with indignation.

What the hell was the brat saying in front of so many people?! Had she really become so unruly in his absence?! It seems he had to rush back lest she get worse. The nerve!

"Oh please. I'm not the only one who noticed perverted tendencies. Do you think we wouldn't notice it when you sneakily checked us out? Especially when we were fighting while you looked on. You practically stared holes in our backs. And do you really think all those flashes were accidental? Boy please, you think way too little of us. It was quite surprising that even Layla the iceberg would do it to... Ahh!" Jade went on to expose not only Muku and herself, but also the other girls.

She was so dedicated to the mutual destruction that she held Emily at bay with her hands while she spouted everything.

She only stopped when Layla who couldn't take it anymore dove at her from the other couch.

Layla was pissed. Why was she suddenly getting dragged into the matter when she was quietly sitting down?

Was Jade smoking something? And didn't she say that she wouldn't talk to Muku again? So wtf was she doing?

Why was she revealing their closely guarded open secret like that?!

Yeah, it was true. She and the other girls excluding Audrey, Hope, Elsa and Freya purposefully flashed Muku from time to time.

At first, it was a mistake by Jade due to her fighting style. But after the others noticed his quite obvious reaction due to his traitorous grey pants, they wanted to try it too and see if they would get the same reaction.

Fortunately for them, they did get the same result. Or was it Muku's fortune? After all, if he didn't react to them and only reacted to Jade his head would have rolled on the ground a long time ago.

Anyway, after that the girls kind of took it as a competition between them to see who could get him to react the quickest.

But they hadn't been able to get a clear winner up to that point. Muku was such a horn-dog that he would instantly react the moment he saw something. Which was understandable considering his young and vigorous age. But still, it made the girls roll their eyes at how easy he was.

After that, it became more of a stroke of their egos than a competition since they would all get the same result.

It was frustrating that he wouldn't do anything despite all that temptation though. Even worse was how Audrey who didn't put in any effort in turning him on was the one who got the spoils and they got slapped with a two-year ban from such things.

Anyway, it wasn't something Muku was supposed to know. Yet because of a certain blubber mouth, everything was out for the world to see. And it came out in front of their mother-in-law too.

What were they supposed to do now? How could they still look her in the eyes after this?

Chloe and Emily were just as speechless as Layla about what to do. She had really screwed them big time.

Was she trying to make up for all the time she had been away from Muku by dropping a big bomb?... Even then, couldn't she throw her own bomb? What did they do?

Audrey who had long noticed what the girls were doing covered her face with her hands trying to hide her embarrassment. Freya did the same, she hadn't seen anything due to their higher realm which made it hard for her to follow their battles but she believed what Jade said. And it embarrassed her a lot. From how red her face was, one would think she participated.

Hope and Elsa who weren't as "informed" as the others were somewhat clueless. They felt that what was being talked about was dirty somewhere, but they couldn't point it out.

Hope never randomly checked Muku's area and the "react" which was being spoken about wasn't something she knew. Elsa was pretty much the same. They were the good kids growing up. They faithfully didn't look into stuff they shouldn't have looked into.

In fact, let's just say they were lucky not to bump into the stuff like the others since it was how they were usually "introduced" to such things. And it would go downhill from there.

"Cough. Cough. Well... That sounds like something I shouldn't be part of. For that reason, let's skip it for now. You all can continue it in the future when I'm not present. I think we should move on to other matters. How does that sound to you all?" Mrs C spoke awkwardly.

She didn't expect Jade to be so "free". The girl really didn't know when to hold back!

"Yes please. And can you mute that girl for us? I don't want her to start another matter" Muku quickly agreed to her suggestion and even suggested muting Jade.

To the girls it sounded like a joke but then... Mrs C snapped her fingers with a smile and said "Done!".

Jade tried laughing it off thinking that it was a joke then her eyes widened in surprise. She really couldn't make a sound!

She even tried screaming after that and nothing happened. After that, she quietly sat back down with the hope that good behaviour would get her voice back. Despite everything, she was smart enough to know when to proceed and when to retreat after all... Well, in most cases.

And outing herself and the others wasn't part of those most cases... Obviously.

....

"Okay, so, where were we? Right. I was about to tell you how these girls are "ghosts" as chatty Jade put it. Well you see, you're not ghosts but souls. You're all currently having what is known as an out-of-body experience. It's an ability you will gain later on in life after reaching a certain rank. Of course, at first, it will be weak and you won't be able to interact with physical beings. But with me here, that's not a problem right now. I took your souls away from your bodies while you slept and dragged them here through space. It's a lot easier than transporting physical bodies but it's quite dangerous without properly understanding space laws. With that said, you can all take it as a tutorial for the future when you have to do it yourself. You'll find it easier than most after this" Mrs C went on to casually tell the girls how she pulled their souls from their bodies which were in another dimension.

Their mouths went wide open with surprise while Muku smiled like an idiot. He was happy that more people were suffering under Mrs C's casual way of speaking about absurd things. Then...

"Wait... Doesn't this mean you rewarded other people for the trial I suffered through? How's that fair?!" Muku suddenly complained.

Mrs C avoided his gaze with embarrassment written all over her face. She didn't know what to say...

Chapter 310: OP Plot Armour!

Mrs C who had been looking away from the glaring Muku for close to a minute, finally turned around.

Her eyes were bright with purpose. She had finally figured out how to escape the situation. And she was certain it would work. She was so certain that a little smile appeared on her face.

"Okay, okay. Please stay calm. Anything can seem negative depending on how you choose to look at it. Like this instance. You can choose to look at it like that or look at it as you trading your hard work for a chance to see your loved ones. Which is something some people would even kill for but still wouldn't get it. You on the other hand got to see, touch, hug and interact with them. So are you saying that your personal benefits are more important to you than reuniting with your loved ones? If so, just say so and I'll apologise right now" Mrs C finished her speech with a wronged expression on her face.

Muku was left at a loss for words. Which was understandable since all the girls were glaring at him angrily. And that was understandable too, after all, from where they stood, it seemed like Muku wouldn't have agreed to use his reward slot to bring them there if he was given other options.

Mrs C looked on still with that wronged expression on her face. However, she felt anything but wronged inside. She was laughing in happiness. She had successfully managed to turn the tide and now Muku was the one facing the storm.

She praised her quick thinking. After all, what she said wasn't the real reason she brought the girls there. She had wanted to meet them for a very long time. She just didn't have a reason before. Dragging souls from another world was a big no, no.

Then a crazy idea formed in her head. Why not justify the action by making it a reward for Muku's trial? That totally made sense... At least to her. As for what would happen after that... She'll take it as it came.

"No, no. I was just thoughtlessly speaking. There's really nothing in the world which I wanted more than seeing the girls again. In fact, I was about to express my gratitude. What you have done for me today is something I'll never forget" Muku tried his best to defuse the situation while sweating terribly.

Fortunately for him, the girls didn't want to make a scene in the little time they had together. They felt that what Jade had done before was enough drama for the whole meeting.

"Oh? Is that so? Okay. And you're welcome. That's what mothers are for, right? If that matter is over I guess we can move on to the next matter" Mrs C didn't make things hard for him.

She secretly knew that she had tricked him after all. And despite everything she wasn't shameless... At least not to that level.

"Ahem! Before we move on. I and the other girls would like to thank you... M.. .mother, for bringing us here. You have no idea what this means to us. No, sure you do, which is why you did it. Thank you again. If there's anything we can help you with in the future, please tell us. We'll do everything we can to see it through if we can do it. Even if we can't, we'll give it our all" Audrey suddenly spoke up before Mrs C continued with what she wanted to say.

She got up and bowed to Mrs C and she did. The other girls also did the same. Even Muku joined in, and he was as grateful as they were.

Mrs C smiled gently and got up too and pushed Audrey and the others back onto their seats lovingly. She then went back to her own seat.

"No, child. We're family, there's no need to thank me. And it's Muku who went through the trials not me. He's the one you need to thank. But if you still feel the need to thank me, you can do so by giving me grandkids as soon as possible. And I'm not just saying that. I'll have you know that the higher someone's rank is the harder it is for them to have children. So the more your rank increases the lower the chance of you conceiving gets. For R3s, it can take three years of constantly trying before anything happens. For R4s it can take up to eight years and so on. While the higher your rank increases, the more your lifespan also increases, I'm sure you all can still agree that eight years is a long time. Even if you can now live for over three centuries..." At some point, Mrs C started, blackm... Cough... Trying to talk the girls into giving her grandkids.

"Oh and since your strength will keep on increasing. I'm sure eight years from now you'll all be at least R6 or R7. If you reach R7 without kids then you might as well forget about having them without putting in effort for at least two hundred years. So yeah... I'm not saying have them now, I'm just letting you all know" Mrs C finished off her informative session.

She was clearly not being truthful when she said "I'm not saying have them right now" after all, she had literally told them to do that multiple times already.

However, the girls didn't catch that obvious sign of manipulation since they were still caught up in her words.

Hell, even Hope and Elsa who had no plans of having kids or had anyone they wanted to have kids with couldn't help but think about her words...

Seeing everyone's dazed expressions made Mrs C feel very happy. It seems her plan was working.

Actually, she knew that even if they started trying at that moment. It would probably take at least a decade for one of them to get pregnant if they were lucky. And with their constantly increasing strength, a few hundred years before the first pregnancy was what she expected.

She only made them aware of the situation so that she could see her grandkids a few centuries earlier. Was it selfish and manipulative? Well, yes, but it was only slightly and wasn't harmful to them so it was okay... Probably.

Anyway, no one was paying attention to her at the moment. Muku wanted to curse at her again but he couldn't do it with the six burning gazes focused on him.

He felt as if he moved even a little bit and showed a little weakness, they would pounce on him and have their way with him. Which would be absurd since they were only souls so doing such a thing would be pointless.

Who knew Mrs C's words were enough to turn them into maniacs so quickly? Was the thought of having children so appealing to girls??

The reaction was a bit expected from Audrey, Emily, Jade, Chloe and Layla. But he didn't expect Freya to join in as well.

Like since when did she think of him like that? Or was he just a convenient choice for her? Was she after him just because he was the only one around?...

That thought disappeared from his mind as soon as it appeared. He knew that Freya wasn't that kind of girl, after all. So while he didn't want to believe it, he had to accept that somewhere along the lines, she had fallen for him as well.

And that confused him greatly. Like wtf did these girls see in him? Were they crazy or was it because he was the MC and girls fell and threw themselves at him with no sane reason to do so?... Yeah, that had to be it. That was always it.

He was a harem protagonist so obviously his OP plot armour extended to girls too!

Enough of that. He had to figure out how to get out of the current situation first. The girls were literally looking at him like hungry predators after finding easy prey.

"Now, now girls. Calm down. Did you forget that you're currently souls? Even if what you want to do was possible right now, which it isn't, it would be pointless since you don't have the physical body which is needed for having babies" Mrs C suddenly intervened right when the girls were about to lose themselves and jump on Muku.

For a split second, Muku looked at her like she was an angel. Then he realised that it was all her fault and began cursing her in his head instead.

Hearing Mrs C's words brought the girls back from the dark place their minds had gone to. They all uniformly blushed as if it were practised.

Speaking of which, it was quite interesting that souls could freaking blush when they had no blood or any other physical organ which worked in that obviously physical mechanism.

They were literally just consciousnesses being supported by soul energy.

In fact, they should have been naked too. Yet they were fully dressed in the clothes they were wearing on their bodies back on the Blue Planet.

You know what, it was better to forget logic when Mrs C was involved. The lady had admitted that the only thing she was certain she couldn't do was create life after all. So it was the same to assume, everything else was within her capabilities.

Actually, that was Muku's philosophy now. No matter what happens as a result of his mother's actions, he wouldn't question it. He would just accept it and move on.

Which is why despite saying, "impossible" when the girls showed up, he still accepted it easily. That was just a surprised reaction.

In his head, he was like, "Yup, this totally makes sense. It's my mom we're talking about, after all"...