

## **Few Wives 321**

Chapter 321 Devourer?

Location: Unknown

Mrs C suddenly appeared in another part of the void. Her eyes were focused on what seemed to be a fracture in the void.

There were cracks all over and chaotic energy rampaged all over the place. Mrs C looked like an ant next to the huge glass-like cracks in the void that leaked red aura.

If she were a normal individual, or even a Monarch, she would have long been killed by being exposed to the energy. Hell, just being so deep in the void was enough to kill Monarchs.

But Mrs C wasn't a normal individual now was she? The lady wasn't even moved by the chaos. Hell, not even her hair flew out of place.

"Sigh. Why did this have to happen now... You really won't let me rest huh?... Devourer..." Mrs C spoke calmly then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Chaotic energy which didn't seem like mana exploded out of her and it was just as intense as the energy leaking from the cracks if not worse.

"Oops..." Mrs C spoke to herself as she drew back her energy a bit.

She had let her emotions get the best of her which almost made the situation worse. Her releasing of her energy so violently made the cracks twice as big as they were before.

If she hadn't reacted quickly enough, she might have doomed the whole universe... And that would have been bad to say the very least. After all, it was the last universe...

Anyway, fortunately, that didn't happen.

Her energy which was silver in colour "attacked" the cracks and began to slowly repair the void.

The process was freaking absurd. Even from the part where the void cracked... Like how could the void crack? How could nothingness crack? Sure, there f it was space which was cracking, it would have been understandable, but the void?

And even more absurd was how Mrs C could also cause it to crack and repair it.

Even Muku who thought that she could do nothing which would surprise him would be more than surprised by what was happening if he were present and understood how everything worked.

"Are you just going to watch it are you going to help me? Can't you see it's worse than all the times before combined? In fact, if it gets any stronger than this I might not be able to stop it... Considering the time intervals between the attacks, I'd say we have at most a hundred years before all hell breaks loose..." Mrs C spoke seemingly to no one in particular.

"What do you mean help you? You know you're the only one who can do what you're doing right? And only a hundred years? Isn't that too little? Will he be ready in that time? It literally took you millions of years to get where you are and you are still struggling..." Suddenly, a familiar voice replied.

The two red eyes from before appeared from behind Mrs C. They were a bit of distance away from her though. This was because the owner didn't want to get caught up in the chaos that only Mrs C could handle.

"Tsk. Don't you think I know that? I'm saying give me your energy so that I don't run out prematurely you idiot! As for whether he'll be ready or not... We'll know then. For now, we can only hope" Mrs C replied as she sucked away the red-eyed being's energy without waiting for permission.

The being didn't resist though. It knew the importance of what Mrs C was doing... It didn't even get offended from being called an idiot...

"Sigh. I guess you're right... We can only hope" The Red-eyed being replied.

"Yeah. Now go back and recreate the trial grounds you destroyed by getting too close. Everything should look as it was before, from portals and furniture..." Mrs C took most of the being's energy then gave it orders.

"Hey, you do know that I'm still The Overseer right?" The being which called itself The Overseer spoke in a calm voice which seemed to hide deeper emotions.

"Yes? So? Are you trying to worm your way out of fixing the mess you created?" Mrs C spoke without looking back.

It was easy for a being of her level to hold a conversation while giving it her all in whatever task she was doing.

"No, no. It's just that... Fine. I'll go. Just don't speak like you're ordering me around next time" The Overseer spoke then disappeared before Mrs C could say anything.

"Hmm, so even it has pride huh? Well, whatever, one must pay for their actions" Mrs C spoke to herself as she did her best to fix the cracks.

And that's right. The trial grounds weren't actually in The Beast World as Muku and Raya assumed. They were actually in a dome in the void.

That was the reason for the portals which seemed random and extravagant to Muku after Raya told him about their use.

If he were to learn that the first portal took him to a middle point in-between the void and space, then the second took him to the void, he would understand everything.

As for why there had to be a mid-point... Well, even for Mrs C, directly connecting the void to a world without a mid-point would be quite taxing...

Even with the midpoint, it was still taxing since the void wasn't supposed to be linked to anything at all. In whatever shape or form. Which was why Mrs C needed the overseer's energy as her's was somewhat spent.

If Muku knew that he would definitely be a lot more loving to his mother. After all, the lady didn't mind doing such taxing things just to interact with him. If such love didn't touch one's heart, then nothing will...

...

Somewhere back on the outskirts of the Beast World...

"Damn it that old thing! Can't she just be normal for once? Like I could literally just walk out... And now we don't know where we are other than the fact that it's still the outskirts. We have to scout the place all over again!... And what the hell! Why's this thing back?!" Muku complained left and right in a low voice while walking through the forest.

Raya quietly let him vent while sitting on his shoulders in her human form. She didn't want him to shift his anger to her by saying some after all.

She couldn't afford it at the moment. So, she just sat there like a well-behaved child being carried by her father.

Of course, she knew that she had to practice walking to get used to her body, but that wasn't something which could be done without scouting the area first.

It would be dangerous to get into the practising mood only to get ambushed and killed by a random beast. So, scouting the area first was definitely the best choice...

....

A week later...

Boom!

"Ahh!" Raya screamed as her body was flung across the sky by Muku's punch.

The dragon girl has finally managed to learn how to control her body after almost a week of practising.

Like any child would do after accomplishing a difficult task... Raya got cocky. And she didn't just get cocky. She started calling Muku and every human in existence slow for taking so long to learn how to walk and properly control their bodies.

She completely forgot the physical and intellectual differences between herself and human babies, but she didn't care. After all, she was now back in control and didn't "need" Muku anymore.

Muku wasn't angered as he expected it from the little beast who looked like a snake at birth.

The man just smiled and asked for a spar. Raya felt that there was something wrong with his smile but she was always fascinated with how humans fought.

It was so refined compared to the brutal way beasts do it. They basically just bite and claw before tossing an energy blast at the enemy if that doesn't work.

Anyway, since a chance to learn had appeared, she wasn't one to miss it. And that was where her downfall began.

Unlike in Muku's memories where the teacher held back when teaching their students... Muku wasn't so nice.

Of course, he held back. But he only held back enough not to break bones. As for causing pain? That seems like it was the man's primary mission with teaching being second.

The guy didn't care that he was fighting a little girl... Or maybe he did, since he only hit her hands and legs. But that was still bad for Raya.

She got beaten black and blue. If he didn't guide her properly and she noticed progress along with the beating, she would have long given up and stopped the training.

The situation made her feel quite helpless. Muku knew exactly how to keep her hooked and she hated it.

She swore reven... Maybe not. Muku was even pettier than she was. So, maybe seeking revenge because of his revenge wasn't a good idea. Who knows what he would do next time?

And so, Raya continues getting beaten up every day for a few weeks by the creepy-looking Muku who still couldn't get the black armour off his body.

Despite the pain, it was actually a great way for Raya to completely get used to her body like a real human would be.

Three weeks later she began focusing on magic. The magic pathways in a human body were different from a beast's body. So that needed practice too.

A while after that, the two returned to hunting and improving their strength...

End of Volume Two...

Chapter 322 Fishman?

Precisely two years later from the time Muku was dragged to the Beast World...

Back on the Blue Planet. The time was around 10PM. It was raining heavily. The mansion rested on the reinforced ice cart in a random part of the ever-expanding forest.

Despite everything, the mansion should have been sitting calmly without being bothered by the outside weather. This was because there was a barrier around it.

And Freya could make it keep the rain out. Which she did along with keeping the noise out too.

However, as was mentioned, that wasn't the case. Everyone was anything but relaxed.

This wasn't because of the terrible weather. But because of the creature which caused the terrible weather.

Sure, the apocalypse had messed the weather up to the point that such weather conditions were possible and common. But this time, it was a creature which caused it.

Just the malicious intent in the rain was enough to kill weaker men from fear.

Anyway, the girls all gathered outside the mansion and were looking up at the sky. There a humanoid creature looked down at them with keen interest in its crimson eyes which glowed eerily in the rain.

It looked like some kind of fishman. It had a fish tail, webbed feet, a shark-like fish head and it was covered with whitish silver scales.

A wide smile which exposed its razor-sharp teeth was on its face. As some might have guessed, the fishman was a R5 beast.

And unfortunately for the girls, none of them had reached R5 yet. None were even close actually. It had been a tough year for them so they hadn't been able to properly focus on hunting and getting stronger...

"So, what do you say? Are you going to let me in or do I have to break through myself? Mind you, I really can do it. It might require a lot of effort, but I have time. So if I were you I would let me in and explain to me how you can manipulate the barrier at will... If I like what you say, I might let you live... Well, maybe not all of you since humans are just too damn tasty, but that's better than all of you dying right?" The fishman spoke in an arrogant voice which wasn't inhabited by the sound from the rain.

Although it sounded arrogant, no one could say that it was wrong to be so. After all, it was a R5 and its opponents were R4s.

The difference between the two ranks was so big that an R3 had a higher chance of beating a R4 than an R4 had of even resisting an R5.

And considering that even the strongest R3 couldn't beat the weakest R4... It was easy to imagine the horrible situation the girls were in.

None of their so-called cheat codes could do anything... Maybe a union spell could hurt the fishman and give them time to escape.

But it was stupid to think that they could create such a slow-to-prepare spell in front of the beast and still hit it with the spell.

Hell, just trying to create the spell might get them killed even quicker.

"No! If you're going to kill us then it's going to be after you destroy the barrier. And you can forget about us telling you anything!" Audrey shouted to the sky in defiance. The other girls quietly supported her with resolute expressions on their faces.

Even if they were out of options and they were in a dire situation, they would never sell each other out. They would rather die together.

After all, if they did sell each other and somebody survived... How would that person face Muku? They didn't even want to think about a scenario where Muku hated their guts. Even without Muku, they cared so much for each other that they could never do such a thing.

"Oh? Is that so? Well, if you want to die together, I don't mind killing you all at once... And I'll start with you chatterbox... Better yet, I'll eat all the others before eating you after I've broken every bone in your body and destroyed your mana core. Then you can only watch helplessly as I devour them one by one without being able to do anything. You won't even be able to commit that thing which you humans call suicide and like doing when you're overwhelmed. Yes, that's it. That sounds delightful. I can't wait. Hahahaha!" The fishman replied.

The things it said made all the girls feel a chill go down their spines. They couldn't help but contemplate committing suicide before they are forced to suffer such a horrible fate.

However, as proud warriors who had survived Monarchs, they refused to let the fear of a mere R5 beast lead them to such a cowardly path.

And so, they banished the thought from their minds as soon as it appeared. While their death were without a doubt going to be horrifying, they chose to stick it out until the end.

They all had one regret in common though. And that was not being able to see Muku one last time.

But their calculations, he should be coming back within the next few days. In fact, they had been expecting him since the previous day. Unfortunately, he didn't come.

In fact, they had actually circled around to the spot he was dragged away from in anticipation of his arrival.

Unfortunately, they didn't see Muku, they saw the R5 which was flying by with a storm following behind it.

As a knowledgeable group, they knew that it was a creature they could mess with. So they immediately retreated into their mansion and made their presence as little as possible.

Of course that wouldn't stop the R5 from sensing them. They only did it instinctually. Though there was a reason behind it. And that was that R5 ignored R4s most of the time.

So they thought that if they made themselves seem even weaker than normal R4s. They would be ignored. And that would have actually worked in a normal situation.

The R5 even ignored them initially as it wasn't hungry or in the mood for a random massacre. It was just enjoying flaunting its strength and scaring all the creatures around. This was a calculated move after not sensing any R5s in the area.

Anyway, just when it was about to pass the girls by, something caught its attention... And that something was a dome which looked like the domes it had seen before. At the same time, it looked different.

That's when it noticed that the dome/barrier wasn't covering a large area like it was supposed to. And it was on a mobile building.

Which was supposed to be impossible since the barrier wasn't connected to buildings but the place. The buildings were only initial deciding factors. But other than that, they were inconsequential to the barrier.

Yet there it was, a barrier moving together with a building. And it was getting pulled by creatures which looked like beasts made out of blood.

It was certain that those creatures were definitely real beasts at some point. Yet now they were they were... It didn't know what they were. What was even more horrifying was how they were still alive underneath their collapsing bodies.

The level of brutality scared the R5 a bit. It felt that even it wasn't so ruthless. Sure, it ripped its targets limb from limb and ate those limbs while the owner was still alive and looking on helplessly. And yet, it felt sorry for the beasts.

Without a second thought...

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The four beasts exploded under the pressure of its mana. It has put them out of their misery...

With that done, it could finally focus on the ruthless but interesting humans....

And so, it told them to let it in. To which they refused. Then it gave them a second chance, which Audrey just refused.

While it was pissed off by their failure to cooperate, it wasn't too surprised. It would have done the same in their situation.

Anyway, since they refused to cooperate, it was time for force.

Huge water fists formed in the sky above the dome as the fishman thought this. Then...

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM BOOOM!...

The huge water fists empowered not only by Advanced Mana and Domain Armour, but also by a domain, rained down on the barrier.

That's right, the combination the Earth Dragon could hardly do before was now being casually used by the R5 fishman. It seemed way too relaxed for what it was doing.

The girls who didn't know that such a combination was possible before the encounter were shocked out of their minds.

However, they noticed something else. Despite how strong the attacks were, they weren't doing anything to the barrier... It so they thought.

Just when the girls were about to sigh in relief. Something scary happened. It wasn't something big but it was scary enough to kill weaker men with a heart attack.

And that something was...

Crack!

A small crack appeared on the barrier! F5s really could break barriers after all!

Yeah, it's true. R5s who have reached at least PR5 could break through the safe zone barriers. However, they usually didn't do it since the power needed to do so was usually too much compared to the reward.

So humans were only safe from them because they didn't want to waste their power.

However, now was different, the fishman was clearly driven and wasn't going to stop until it broke through and killed them all.

Crack! Crack! ..... BOOOM!

After close to thirty minutes of being hammered, the barrier finally gave out and exploded...

"Well, hello there..." The fishman spoke with a creepy smile on its face as it looked down at the girls.

They didn't reply. They just shook with fear as they were drenched by the rain...

Chapter 323 Pitch black creature?

"Oh? Aren't you going to say anything? Weren't you so chatty behind your barrier? Where has all the confidence gone? Come on! You're taking all the fun out of this. At least scream or strug..." The fishman began taunting the girls. However, before it could finish....

Whoosh!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!...

Multiple attacks flew its way and they all hit it dead centre. It was immediately buried underneath the chaotic energy from the attacks.

For a moment, it seemed like the world went silent. Even the thunderous rain was tuned out. Then...

BOOOOOOOM!

The chaotic energy surrounding the fishman was blown away. This left its body exposed to the world again.

And to the girls' horror, their surprise attack didn't damage it at all. Its body still looked as pristine as it was when the beast got there. It was like the devastating attack which could threaten Pseudo-R5s didn't happen at all.

Though honestly, they expected the result. They had been holding to some baseless hope that they would be lucky. Unfortunately, the world wasn't so kind.

That's right, the shaking from before was an act. They were scared but not to that point. They only did that to lower the R5s guard for a surprise attack.

They couldn't create a union spell, but they could attack together. Sadly that wasn't anywhere close to the strength of a union spell. And even if they could cast one, its usefulness was questionable as mentioned before...

Anyway, the fishman didn't immediately kill them off. In fact, it didn't look angry at all. It was smiling instead.

Of course, the smile looked horrific because of its teeth and large mouth, but it was a smile nonetheless.

"Hehe. That's what I like to see. Give me your all. Fall into despair due to your powerlessness. Then I'll throw you into an even deeper pit of despair when I start killing you all off one by one. Hahahaha. What fun!" The fishman spoke those horrible and cruel words with a smile.

As if playing along, lightning struck behind it as it laughed at the end. This made it look even more sinister and evil.

Seeing this, the girls finally gave up hope. There was nothing they could do. Hope has tried to use her Whisperless Death but it got instantly erased by the rain.

Even if it wasn't erased, it probably wouldn't hurt the R5 which could expel it from its body with its mana before it could do anything.

And so, they all held hands and closed their eyes as they waited for death. They each hoped that they would be the first to get killed so that they didn't have to see the others getting killed in front of them. They felt that such a thing would be worse than dying...

"Well, this got boring very quickly. So that was all you had in store for me? And I was starting to expect something from my new toys. Well whatever, since you won't play along. I guess we can only move on to the next step. Now... Who should I kill first?. Hmm, decisions, decisions... I think I'll go with you" The Fishman spoke out loud.

The girls had their eyes closed so they didn't know who was going to die first. So, after hearing that it had made its choice, they all tensed up getting ready to lose a limb or two.

Emily subtly pulled Elsa behind her as they waited for the fishman. She couldn't bear the thought of her sister dying before her eyes.

The other girls tried to do the same but unfortunately, none accepted being pulled back. Elsa was only pulled back because she was weaker than Emily.

Whoosh!

The fishman moved at speeds none of the girls could perceive. It headed for its first target with a cruel smile on its face ready to bite off a hand as a starter...

It reached them in no time at all. Just when it was about to bite off the hand of its target, something happened...

A faint blue line appeared in the space in front of the girl he was about to bite. The girl happened to be Hope...

The fishman faintly sensed danger and immediately backed off. It went back into the sky and looked down warily.

Reaching R5 didn't just require strength and talent. It required brains too. And that's why the fishman chose to back up from an unexplained situation.

It even readied its strongest quick-to-conjure attack, ready to throw down if the situation developed in that direction.

The girls didn't know what was happening and continued to keep their eyes closed. They thought that the fishman was messing with them and would attack the very moment they opened their eyes so that they would see what it was doing.

Considering its behaviour since it showed up, such a thing wasn't beyond its methods. And they weren't falling for it.

However, for whatever reason, they felt their necks heat up a little bit. They didn't pay attention to it in the chaos though...

Anyway, the line began expanding outward slowly until...

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a grey light lit up which blinded the fishman for a second.

By the time its vision was restored, which was only a second or so. The crack in space was gone. And there didn't seem to be anything which had changed because of it.

The girls were still standing there cluelessly with their eyes closed. From their body language, it was clear to the fishman that they didn't know what was happening and had nothing to do with it.

"Weird... Is this an anomaly caused by the pending evolution? Yeah, that has to be it. Well, whatever, it only delayed their deaths by a few seconds. Now where was I? Ah! Right. I was about to bite off an a..."  
The fishman relaxed again after rationalising the situation.

It was about to continue with what it was doing when something forced it to stop talking. Just when it was about to move. It caught something from the corner of its eyes.

It caught a figure in black floating just a few centimetres behind it looking to the side.

A chill went down its spine instantly. It didn't sense the figure at all! Which meant that if the figure had wanted to attack it. It wouldn't have known until the attack landed if it was a purely physical attack.

Just when it was about to make a proper reaction. Which was getting the hell away from there. The figure turned to look at it which was now looking back. Then...

Whoosh!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

A blow it couldn't follow landed on its back and it was tossed into the distance.

Blood sprayed out of its mouth as it flew across the sky. It was horrified by how the blow caused so much damage even when it had its domain armour fully deployed.

Not to mention its thick scales which could tank MR5 attacks with little to no damage. Which meant that if it didn't have its domain armour up... It probably would have gotten punched into two!

The weird part was how the blow didn't cause any shockwaves despite the devastating strength behind it.

Which was a good thing for the girls as they would have gotten killed if there were any shockwaves. Even their strongest combined defence wouldn't have been able to save them. Not to mention that they currently don't have any kind of defence at all.

Even though they wanted to keep their eyes shut. It was hard to do after hearing such a loud sound which was making their ears ring.

And so, all their eyes snapped open at the same time. And the sight which met them was unexpected to say the very least.

The fishman they thought was stalking them was actually wiping off blood a few kilometres away looking like it had just survived the greatest threat to its life it had ever faced. And honestly, that might be true.

In the spot where the fishman was before stood a pitch black fiend. That's right, there was no other way to describe the being they were looking at.

"Big brother?..." Hope spoke softly in a choked voice.

She might have said those words, but she wasn't sure. The creature in front of her might have the same proportions as her brother. But that was it.

The armour vaguely looked like the one her brother had before, but the similarities were minute at best.

His armour looked creepy. But the thing in front of them looked like it had crawled out of a nightmare if not hell itself. And there was no aura, mana or any sort of energy radiating off it. It was almost like it didn't exist at all and their eyes were playing a trick on them...

"No, that's not him. If it were him I would sense it through my blood. He still feels as far away from us as he was before..." Audrey who was standing beside Hope replied to her.

With a distraught look on her face, Hope spoke...

"Then what is that thing?"

"I have no idea..." Audrey replied with her gaze focused on the black creature.

She was wondering why she didn't feel threatened by it or scared despite how it looked.

Could it really be Muku?... No, it can't be. Her blood would have reacted the moment he arrived back on the Blue Planet.

Then what was that thing?...

Chapter 324 Domination...

Just as they were trying to make sense of what they were looking at, the being disappeared.

A chill went down all their spines thinking that it would appear in front of them or something like that.

However, those worries were laid to rest in the next moment as the creature appeared in front of the fishman which was slowly backing away.

There was nothing the fishman wanted more than to get out of there. However, it didn't dare turn away from the being with no aura after the last attack.

In normal cases, even if its physical sense couldn't sense the being, its mana sense should have been able to sense it. Yet there was nothing. It was like the being was a natural and undetectable part of the natural world around it.

And so, the fishman decided to slowly back up while keeping its sight on the being. It hoped that it would be able to get away that way.

After all, there was no malice toward it coming from the being. So it assumed that the being was probably going berserk in a unique way. Or maybe it was a senior who took notice of the girls and wanted them for itself.

Yes! That had to be it. It wasn't anything new for a passing-by senior to like a junior's prey and steal it. It could be because it was hungry or was just trying to flex. Either way, there was nothing the fishman could do apart from retreating. It was obvious that this was a fight it couldn't win.

And so, it was quietly retreating hoping that the senior would let it go without making things hard for it. They were both residents of the Beast World sent there to kill humans after all.

As for what kind of beast the being was in its original state, it had no idea. It had never seen any beast with such a perfected human body. Then there were those glowing grey eyes which seemed to contain everything and nothing at the same time.

Anyway, opposite to what the fishman hoped would happen... The being pursued it instead of focusing on the girls. At that point, it was kind of expecting it from how the being didn't even turn to look at the girls even once. Which the fishman assumed was because they were too weak to catch the being's attention despite being humans which were a delicacy to beasts.

Because of that realisation, the fact that fishman reacted the moment the being disappeared and moved to the side.

It thought that it successfully dodged the soundless attack until it felt a sharp pain in its right hand... Its gaze snapped to the hand and horror appeared in its eyes.

Its hand... Was missing!

That's right, its right hand had been removed from the shoulder. It looked like it was cleanly cut off. As if waiting to be noticed before acting up, blood immediately began spraying out of the wound crazily, like it was a geyser!

"ROOOOO" The fishman began roaring in pain however before it could finish...

BOOOOOOM!

A punch landed on its face and threw it into the distance. It felt its skull crack inside its head. Its head hurt a lot, it felt dizzy and was even confused as to what was going on for a moment.

However, the being which soon appeared in front of it again cleared away all the confusion it felt with pure fear...

BANG! BANG! BANG!...

Big attacks began raining down on it before it could react. It was punched all over the sky. It tried dodging but it couldn't dodge even a single hit.

The two beings moved so fast across the sky that the girls on the ground couldn't see anything no matter how hard they tried. The best they could see was the rain getting disturbed by the exchange in the sky.

But even then, that's something they saw after the two beings had long moved away from that area.

The blows were so loud that the sound could compete with the loud thunder.

Audrey quickly gathered herself together after noticing that there was no point in staying there and ordered the girls to run away.

As for the mansion. They unwillingly abandoned it. It wasn't the time to worry about such things when they could lose their lives at any moment.

And so, the girls ran away on foot without using any mana at all.

Actually, at that point they could all fly, however they wanted to avoid any attention from the two monsters in the sky. So they chose to minimise their use of mana as much as possible.

As for whether that would help anything, they didn't know. But it was better than blatantly exposing their whereabouts by using mana to fly away...

.....

Back to in battle in the sky...

BANG! BANG!...

The fishman continued to be dominated for over twenty minutes.

It tried its best to distance itself from the being, but everything failed.

It tried attacking the being with the water fists it used to break through the barrier before, but they were all punched into oblivion like they were nothing. Then it tried all its quick-to-conjure attacks but they were all also destroyed with single punches from the being which didn't seem to be using mana at all.

Yep, that's right. The fishman didn't sense even an ounce of mana coming from. The being from the start of the fight until now. It was like the being was dead and no longer had mana... But that couldn't be it. Even the undead had mana. Sure, it was corrupted mana, but it was mana nonetheless. And it could be sensed clearly even by R1s.

But the being it was fighting didn't radiate anything at all. Honestly, the fishman felt very creeped out at that moment. It wanted nothing more than to get away from the freak, but escaping was easier said than done.

It had tried running away multiple times but it was punched back each time.

Fortunately for it, the being didn't use punches as strong as the first one or the fishman would have long died instead of just having a mangled body, broken bones and displaced internal organs.

It was a bit confused as to why the being wasn't going all out anymore. But it didn't have the time needed to properly think about such things. It figured that the reason was something sadistic.

After all, the being's creepy look fit the bill for such a tendency. Imagine just how creepy one had to look for a fishman which looked creepy itself to think that you were creepy.

Anyway, the fishman took the beating for another few minutes before deciding to go all out. Death seemed to be certain if things kept on going like this and so....

"ROOOOAAAR"!!!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The fishman roared loudly and its body exploded into a large wave of water which was over a hundred metres high and five hundred metres wide.

The being was forced to retreat as the water was too much for its little fists.

The girls who were retreating in the distance couldn't help but stop and look back. The chaotic scene was not something they could ignore. They had been looking back regularly even before the loud roar and explosion.

A horrifying but majestic scene appeared in front of their widened eyes.

The huge wave of water in the sky turned into a huge shark with spikes on its back and three huge lizard-like legs.

The legs should have obviously been four, but the missing one only had a stump left. It was definitely the one which had been cut off by the pitch black being before.

However, that didn't make the huge shark with legs floating in the sky any less terrifying.

Its aura even became more tyrannical compared to before by at least a third.

The girls began feeling worried that the pitch black being was going to lose. They weren't on its side or anything. But it was a fact that they would have died if it hadn't appeared. And it was also a fact that they had a better chance of not getting killed if the being won instead of the fishman... Or should it be the huge shark now?

Anyway, they hoped that the being had some trump cards. If not, they were all screwed.

"Hehehe. You fool! You forced me to this. Now it's time you pay! I had clearly backed off but you still attacked me! And don't even think of taking your true form. I have cast a disturbance in the area. Now all you can do is quietly let me devour you!" The fishman... Giant Shark(GS) exclaimed madly with its booming voice.

Despite its plan having worked. It was still angry. As for what that plan was, well... It wasn't just taking a beating before. It was trying to lower its opponent's guard so that it could return to its stronger true form as well as disrupt the surroundings so that its opponent couldn't do the same if it were also a beast.

And the plan had worked out. Which it thought was because its opponent was too cocky by not going all out and killing it quickly.

However, despite feeling happy about its success, getting dominated was never fun. For that reason, the GS was mad like crazy and was going to take its time killing off the opponent.

Now it was its time to shine. It will show the being what true ruthlessness looked like...

The being didn't seem to be moved by the GS's words. Its glowing grey eyes didn't even flicker.

Then something even shocking than the shark's transformation happened...

Chapter 325 Nightmare...

The being... It also increased in size!

Right before their eyes, its black figure began growing until it was over a hundred metres tall. It might not have become as big as the GS if length had been measured as it was only slightly taller than the GS's width.

But that was more than to face the shark on equal footing considering their body types.

The most shocking part to the girls was how the black figure still looked the same as it did when it was smaller. It literally looked like an enlarged version of itself with nothing other than that having changed.

Which was odd to say the very least. After all, if the being was a beast, then it would have returned to its beast when it enlarged.

Yet there it was still looking like a human... What made that so unbelievable was the fact that they had never heard of humans being able to do such a thing.

"I'm confused..." Hope who had finally given up on the being possibly being her brother spoke softly in the rain...

"You're not the only one" Emily who also thought that it was Muku seconded her.

"Maybe it's a giant. If giants exist they should be categorised as beasts right? After all, they would obviously not be human..." Layla spoke with her eyes focused on the being she and the others couldn't figure out.

At that point, they even forgot that they were running away and began focusing on the two beasts who were about to clash.

It was like the clash between two titans and they didn't want to miss it. Was that a dumb decision? Yeah, probably... But they just couldn't look away.

And being a few kilometres away, they should be far enough right?

And if curiosity killed a cat which had nine lives, it was understandable for it to kill them right? After all, they were mere humans with just one life... Well, apart from the undying Emily of course... Anyway, it was totally acceptable to be taken in by their curiosity...

...

Back on the battlefield. The two combatants looked at each other silently unaware of the internal battle the girls were having.

One of the combatants was even more shocked than the girls. After all, with its mana having distorted the surroundings which needed to be stable to allow a transformation... It totally made no sense that the opponent was still able to transform.

This was because a beast transformation needed a stable environment to work since it was a delicate thing. Normally, even if a chaotic battle occurred in the area, it wouldn't affect the transformation. But if someone goes out of their way to mess it up like the GS did... Then the opponent's transformation would become impossible.

That wasn't the only problem though...

"What are you?" The GS asked with a serious and semi-creeped-out voice..

This creature had been overturning its beliefs from the moment it appeared! And the surprises were getting too much.

As a R5, it knew quite a lot of things and went to a lot of places. It obviously couldn't go to the central zone or even the deeper parts of the middle zone, but it was still quite knowledgeable.

It was originally an ocean creature after all. And it had left after gaining enough strength and headed for land.

This wasn't because it was outstanding in the sea... It was for the very opposite reason actually. There were way too many strong beasts in the ocean. For every land R5 beast, there were at least a thousand ocean creatures. So yeah, the shark, like many before it, chose to ditch the water for land.

They were strong enough not to need water and could create it whenever they wanted so there was no reason to stay in such a tough situation.

In fact, R5s weren't even legible to reside in the Ocean's middle zone due to there being too many R6s...

So yeah, leaving was the best choice. Anyway, due to that transition, the shark has travelled a lot and learned a lot of things. But it has never heard of the creature in front of it.

A creature which could ignore mana interference and transform like there was no problem at all. And the transformation was different too.

Not to mention that it still couldn't sense any mana from the being... Yes! That had to be it. The being used a different power from mana which was the reason why the mana interference didn't do anything...

But what the hell was that power? It certainly had never heard of it... Of course, there was the stuff of legends known as Beast Aura. But from the tales, Beast Aura was easy to identify and only Monarchs and their closest kin had it.

Was the being a close kin of a Monarch?... No, that made no sense since it literally couldn't sense anything.

Not even a fluctuation from when concealment techniques are being used. In normal situations, there would likely be no fluctuations, but it was common sense that during battle, if a concealment technique doesn't completely break, it at least fluctuates due to the chaotic energy from battles...

Yet there was nothing of the sought from the being...

The GS was greatly confused. And the more it thought about it, the more it felt scared...

As the GS was stuck in its thoughts, something surprising happened...

"NIGHTMARE..." For the first time since it appeared, the being actually spoke.

Its voice sent chills down the spines of all those who heard it. The sliver of hope left in the girls that it was Muku completely vanished after it spoke.

After all, while they heard the being. The language it spoke wasn't human. It was the very same language the GS used. That's right, the being spoke in Beast Language. The weird language all could understand off the bat despite never having heard it before.

And there was no way Muku knew that weird language. So the being definitely couldn't be him. It really must have been a giant like Layla said. That was the only answer which made sense.

The being hadn't used any ability which matched Muku's from start to finish on top of everything. The only similarity was the vaguely somewhat similar armour around the being.

At that point, they weren't even sure if it was armour or the being's weird skin. And that voice... That tone... It sounded nothing like Muku.

For who knows what number, the hearts of the girls were broken in a single encounter...

"Are you from the deeper parts of the middle zo..." The GS continued speaking as it had zero interest in fighting such a weird creature... It was trying to delay until it could escape somehow

However, before it could finish speaking...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!...

Loud and heavy punches began landing all over its body again. Due to their larger sizes, the punches were louder and more destructive.

The blows not only hurt the GS, but they also destroyed the surrounding ground. Deep craters were formed all over the place.

The girls couldn't help but retreat a few more kilometres even though they were more than ten kilometres away already.

That's how devastating the blows were.

The GS regretted its decision to turn back into its original form with every punch.

After all, not only did it not gain any advantages. It literally gave the being more surface area to brutalise.

If it weren't for its stronger defence and great regeneration abilities, it would have long been killed by that point.

The situation got so dire that the Giant Shark decided to throw all caution to the wind and... Go all out in escaping!

It put all of its remaining strength into flying away and buffing its defences. No matter how much it was hit, it no longer fought back as it solely focused on running away.

It had tried fighting back with everything it could prepare quickly and it didn't work. And when it tried to prepare the stronger attacks, it would get interrupted every time.



A large shockwave rose from the movement and ruined the already ruined surroundings even more.

The few remaining trees which were too close to the exchange were all uprooted and thrown into the distance.

The girls were caught by surprise as they didn't expect something like that to happen. The wave reached them before they could properly put up their defence.

They were afraid that they might die from the shockwave after surviving everything else. And that would be a funny and stupid death since they had more than enough time to get away but they couldn't control their curiosity...

However, the expected didn't happen. The wave didn't bombard them into the afterlife. It avoided the area they were... Rather, it seemed like there was an invisible barrier protecting them...

Seeing this, a familiar thought crept back into their minds...

.....

Back on the battle scene....

After the sudden movement which destroyed the sound barrier and earth... An eerie silence soon took over.

The rain had long stopped by that point. The GS couldn't continue wasting power if it wanted to escape after all. Though even that didn't help...

The two beings floated in the air looking at each other in the eyes. Neither moved even an inch despite being just a few metres away from each other.

Those metres were practically centimetres considering their large sizes.

The black being was close enough for the GS to take a bite but it didn't do that. It just continued looking at the other party without doing anything.

The scene made it hard to believe that the two had been at each other's throats just a few seconds before...

The GS was the first to break the silence. The first thing it did was smile with its horrifying mouth before saying...

"Hehe... So you do have mana after all. And you're just a LR5 too. I don't know what to feel right now. Are you a monster or am I trash? Yeah... Even if I were trash, you would still be a monster, you weirdo..." The GS spoke in a friendly tone as if the two of them were friends.

The black being remained quiet, its gaze unmoving from the shark.

"Tsk. You've won. The least you can do is speak to the dying loser right? Or is it that you're so dumb you can only say "Nightmare" in that freaky voice of yours?" The GS continued speaking as it complained to the black being.

Seeing that it was still not getting any replies... Its eyes moved from the being and looked in the distance behind the being. It looked in two locations then with a knowing look in its eyes, it looked back at the being.

"So, they were yours after all? Hahaha. You really fooled me, huh? That means you're a human... I guess that's expected of humans. So cunning. Though you're by far the freakiest human I've ever seen... What? You don't like me chattering so much? Well, I also don't like you sucking away the energy in my Beast Core while I'm still alive. Do you know how degrading and painful that is? So there. We'll suffer together. Or you can speed things up and end it. You can't be so hellbent on torturing me when I'd technically hadn't done anything to them yet..." The GS continued chatting away.

At that point, blood was flowing out of its mouth like a waterfall as it crashed to the ground but it didn't stop speaking.

"So noisy"

Rip!

The black being finally spoke to the GS's glee. However, before it could say anything, the being took its hand back.

And by doing so, it ripped out the shark's beast core which it had been grabbing without taking it out of the shark's body.

The shark immediately began plunging to the ground. Then...

BANG!!!

Its large body soon reached the ground and shook the ground a little.

However, the beast wasn't dead yet. It was close, but not quite. It lay on its side as its exposed eye looked up at the being which was floating in the air holding a blue beast core.

"Hehe. I got you to speak. Which means I wo..." The shark which had gotten really chatty as it faced death began gloating again.

But it died before it could finish. The GS could swear that it saw the being roll its eyes at it before everything went dark. If that was true then everything was worth it since those eyes hadn't even flickered since the battle began...

"..."

The being looked down at the GS's corpse for a few seconds without saying anything then flew away.

The direction it flew was the same as the one the girls had taken.

And the girls immediately noticed it. Despite having their suspicions, they still couldn't help but shiver as the giant Nightmare flew at them.

They felt like they were looking at a death god which was coming to claim their souls...

At the very least, the being's size shrank more and more as it got closer to them. If not, Freya with her weak heart might have fainted from the visual impact alone.

By the time the being was standing in front of them, it was back to its original size... Well, back to the size it was when they first saw it at least...

The undetectable forcefield which protected them didn't stop or delay it at all. This at least confirmed that it was the owner as they guessed.

That confirmation prompted a certain thought...

"Brother?" Hope called out and asked at the same time...

The being didn't react to her words. At the very least, it didn't seem to react as it just continued standing there without saying anything.

Seeing this reaction, the girls' minds were thrown into chaos again. Anxiety hit them all as their guards which they had subconsciously lowered rose again.

"Tsk. What the hell is wrong with you? Why are you teasing them like this? Is this why you couldn't wait to get back?" A white light rose from the being accompanied by an annoyed childish voice.

The girls immediately recognised the bratty voice. The light didn't last long and their suspicions about the voice's owner were confirmed.

The voice's owner was little Raya in her human form. She was now floating in front of the being while looking at the girls.

Whoosh!

Pa!

"Ahh! You bastard! Do you want to fight?! I'll have you know I'm not as easy as that fish!" Raya exclaimed angrily while grabbing the back of her head which had been slapped by the being.

The black armour covering the being changed shape and texture as it took the form of black pants and a short-sleeve t-shirt. This of course revealed the being's face.

And as all have expected or knew, from the obvious hints. The being was Muku in his nightmare armour which had gotten creepier over the months...

"Can't you shut up for once you brat! Couldn't you see that I was having fun making them second-guess what they already knew?! And how shameless of you to claim you're better than the shark after it died. I asked you if you wanted to fight it but you... Oof!" Muku angrily exclaimed while the armour changed form.

However, before he could finish, a strong punch landed on his gut and knocked the air out of him.

Before he could make sense of what was happening. A purple-haired girl was already crying while hugging him tightly.

Obviously, it was Hope. And she was also the one who punched him. He could have dodged but he realised that it was better than getting poisoned later on.

And so, he took it and sold it even though it didn't hurt at all due to their vastly different physical capabilities. Hell, even their ranks were different.

"You big meanie!" Hope spoke after crying a bit.

She tried to pinch him as she did so, but it was like trying to pinch a solid wall. His skin was soft but immovable. It was a weird and frustrating situation for Hope.

After trying and failing for close to a minute. She could only give up and bury her grievances. Their physical differences were so large she couldn't get her revenge even when he wasn't fighting back...

"I'm sorry. It was too much. I shouldn't have done it. I'll make it up to you okay? Anything you want, I, your big brother will do. Even if you want me to poke a hole through the sky!" Muku immediately got into his apologetic but goofy mode.

"Hehe. You're so crazy, big brother. And there's no need. All that matters is that you're back. I really missed you a lot. Please never leave me again!" Hope laughed at Muku's goofiness and expressed how much she missed him.

And Muku could feel how much it was from her tight hug. Honestly, if she were the physically superior one, he was sure that his bones would have been broken by her hug alone and he would have been turned into a cripple soon after returning...

"I missed you a lot too my cute sister. And I promise, I'll never leave you again... Except for bathroom breaks" Muku consoled his sister with a few jokes involved.

"Hehe. Big Brother you dummy. You know that we no longer need bathroom breaks..." Hope replied with a giggle.

And indirectly declared that wherever her brother is, she will be there too.

"What about bathing? You can't possibly want to bathe with your disgusting older brother right?" Muku teased Hope further.

"Well, if it's Big Brother. I don't mind..." Hope shyly said that she doesn't mind.

However...

"Absolutely not!" Multiple voices cut Hope off before she could finish.

Chapter 327: An issue with Jade...

"I was joking!" Hope immediately defended herself after hearing the multiple voices of rejection.

Whether she was really joking or not, only she knew for sure...

"Why are you all so calm about my sudden and cool return? Why's there no hug fest like last time? Did you not miss me?" Muku changed the topic to avoid making things uncomfortable.

Though he really was curious as to why he wasn't jumped like before. He felt like he had prepared for nothing before coming.

"Oh trust me, we missed you more than you know. But we figured that since this time you're back for good and in the flesh. We're going to take our time to properly welcome you back individually. That you can bank on..." Audrey replied calmly.

However, a red light which made Muku nervous flashed in her eyes when she said, "take our time".

Then there was the suggestive smile she shared with the other girls. Of course, it was the usual suspects who had the smiles, not all of them.

Seeing those smiles made Muku feel a little scared. No matter how he looked at it, they didn't look like they had good intentions...

Something quickly stuck out like a sore thumb to him as he looked at the girls...

"Where's Jade?" He asked as a sinking feeling began building up in his gut.

"Don't worry. She's safe... Let's go back to the mansion and spe... Oh, I guess I should say let's go into the mansion" Audrey replied.

As she was telling the others to return to the mansion which was kept safe by Muku during the chaos, she noticed something behind Muku.

It was the mansion and it was floating towards them at a fast speed. This obviously prompted her to change what she wanted to say.

In a few seconds, the mansion had reached them. It didn't have even a single scratch on it despite having its barrier destroyed and being in close proximity to the battle. Muku had done a great job in protecting it without being noticed.

"Home sweet home..." Muku spoke softly as he looked at the mansion he missed more than he thought he would.

It felt like he hadn't seen it in forever...

"Must be great to be a rank five. You can casually move the thing we had to cart around..." Layla spoke from beside Audrey.

Despite her calm tone, she was very happy that Muku was back. Now she wouldn't have to waste her mana on the cart.

"Well, what can I say, I'm blessed. It seems Freya has made a lot of progress. Despite looking the same, this thing is a lot stronger. I almost didn't recognise it" Muku replied as he looked at the mansion.

"It would look different too if you were here when I ranked up" Freya replied in her soft and gentle voice with confidence.

She could have actually used random material to upgrade it since many ores had appeared along with the apocalypse. However, after using Muku's metal before, she began looking down on other materials and chose to wait for his return.

It was rare for her to be like that, but the others didn't mind. They also preferred Muku's metal...

"Oh? I guess I have something to look forward to after we're done with the more agent matter. For now, let's go inside and talk" Muku replied with keen interest then without warning, he grabbed everyone with his Telekinesis and flew them all inside.

The girls couldn't help but smile gleefully as a wave of nostalgia hit them. It has been so long since they experienced his Telekinesis. And once more, it won't just be a memory but reality.

They were so happy that even Layla and Elsa who rarely did it, smiled.

.....

A while later...

"Okay, here we are. We'll do a proper welcome later. First, tell me about Jade. You said she's fine but I can't help but be worried..." Muku spoke after they took their seats in the lounge.

He couldn't wait to learn about the girl's fate. He wouldn't feel completely happy to be back until she was in front of him along with the others.

"I can see that you're impatient. So let me summarise it for now and we can talk about it in detail later. Anyway, what happened is that after our last separation. It didn't take too long before Jade began having serious problems with her Beast Aura. Or bloodline to be more precise. Whether it be during battle or at home, she would randomly lose control and attack anything on sight. Which included us. Fortunately, she had warned us beforehand and is always in the front otherwise who knows what could have happened if she had sneak attacked someone..." Audrey paused for a moment to let Muku digest what she had said so far.

"Okay. So what happened after that?" Muku who still had Hope in his arms asked seriously.

The scene would have looked weird if everyone present hadn't been used to Hope's clinginess. Muku didn't even register it for the time being as he was focused on the jade matter.

"She herself decided for us to bind her most of the time after things began getting too serious. We refused at first but had to agree in the end due to fear of her running off left alone. This continued until now. The episodes got so serious that keeping her in the mansion was no longer an option. And so, wherever we go, we bind her close by... And that's the short version..." Audrey finished telling Muku the gist of what was up.

"Where is she right now?" Muku asked calmly. He wasn't angry at them because it was obvious they did what they did. After all, they cared.

"We were actually heading to where she is. There's usually someone with her. It was Chloe's turn, and she had to come back and warn us about the weird rain since the lightning wasn't natural and she could sense it... We couldn't sense anything because of the barrier. Unfortunately, she was too late to reach us as the fishman reached us soon after she arrived. Anyway, Jade is less than a kilometre from here. Another reason she had to be kept away from the mansion was because she reacts strongly to it for some reason... You can go ahead, I know you can't wait to see her. We'll catch up..." Audrey explained why what was done was done even tho Muku didn't ask.

She just didn't want to leave any doubt in his mind...

"Thanks" Muku said one word then he and Hope disappeared in front of everyone.

Taking them all along wouldn't have delayed him too much but he couldn't wait to see the girl who had been suffering for close to a year...

And he didn't disappear. He just moved so fast it looked like he did.

.....

Less than a kilometre away...

"Hhm?" Hope made a confused sound.

She literally just blinked and their location changed from mansion to forest.

She who was still clinging onto Muku was now looking at a huge tree which seemed somewhat different from those around it.

"So this is where Jade is..." Muku spoke while looking at the tree... More precisely, he was looking into it with his mana sense. He could sense the sleeping Jade inside of it.

"Yeah. She's currently under my poison's effect. It's just enough to make her sleep for a few hours. At first, we used my poison to subdue her. But if it wasn't lethal to her, she would start adapting. If it were lethal, it would obviously harm her. So we resolved to only use the poison to make her sleep when she has an episode. She had one around five hours ago. She should be waking up in an hour or two if left undisturbed. After that, the same dose would work for an hour less... Her body is really monstrous when it comes to adapting." Hope replied even though she knew it was a rhetorical question.

She took the chance to explain to Muku a few more things. She actually replied to a question Muku had. And that was "why hadn't they used Hope's poison to keep her in check?"

The reason made sense. Especially after he had those elemental resistance trials. Those with stronger bodies generally tended to adapt to unfavourable conditions as long as they weren't overwhelmed.

What Hope did was correct. She could have chosen to overwhelm the girl. But that would destroy her body. Which could be healed. But injuring and then healing a companion wasn't something Hope was interested in... And there was a better option anyway.

"You did well. I'm proud of you" Muku spoke while patting Hope's head.

"Hehe", Hope giggled while snuggling into Muku's embrace and shamelessly sniffing his body like a little pervert.

Muku ignored the crazy girl for the time being and focused on Jade.

The others arrived behind him soon after.

Hope dispelled the poison in Jade's body as the others arrived.

Jade's eyes immediately snapped open...

BOOOM!

The moment she opened her eyes, her Beast Aura exploded out of her body and destroyed the huge tree which camouflaged her presence.

The red-haired beauty who was in a berserk state was revealed to the world...

"Hello, Jade. It's been a while..." Muku spoke while looking at the crazed girl.

Chapter 328: Dealing with Jade...

"So, what do you suggest we do to bring her back to her senses?" Audrey asked worriedly while standing beside Muku.

"Hmm. I'm not sure. However, you two should release her first..." Muku replied with his gaze still on Jade.

"Sure" Audrey who was more than willing to leave everything to Muku now that he was back did as she was told.

She and Layla released the bindings they had placed on Jade. They had used their respective elements of blood and ice to lock her down in place. It was very necessary since there was a very high possibility of Jade breaking out if only one person had bound her.

The difference in strength between them wasn't big enough to allow anyone to comfortably lock Jade down.

Anyway, Audrey was probably the happiest about Muku's return. One of the main reasons for that was that she no longer had to be the designated leader. Being the leader was stressful as hell, she didn't know how Muku made it look so easy.

Maybe she made it harder for herself by overthinking things, which he didn't do. Yeah, that had to be it.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

"ROOOOOOOAR!"

The moment her restraints were removed, Jade's Beast Aura exploded out even more and she roared to the sky.

Her eyes immediately found their way to Muku.

When they did, they flickered a bit before solidifying in their madness again.

"I guess seeing me wasn't enough to bring her back to normal... Honestly that kinda stings" Muku spoke with a fake hurt expression on his face.

"Hehe. Big brother you dummy. You know this isn't a movie. Such things don't work in real life" Hope laughed at Muku as she spoke.

"Well, I know now. Anyway, it looks like she's about to attack. Are you going to let me go or you don't mind tanking a Beast Aura attack for me?" Muku spoke to Hope with his eyes focused on Jade.

The other girls had already backed away. They knew that Muku could subdue Jade easily with his Telekinesis. But it didn't seem like he wanted to do that. So they opted to stay out of his way...

"Nope. I won't ever let you go again. And I don't mind tanking it for you. However, would you allow your cute little sister to do such a thing? You wouldn't be so heartless right?" Hope replied with no plan of letting go.

"What are you? A little koala bear? In fact, fine, do what you want. However, at least hug me from the back like the koala you are" Muku replied powerlessly.

At that point, Jade would have long begun attacking if he wasn't holding her back.

As for why he chose to fight her instead of just subduing her. He wanted to exhaust her Beast Aura. Maybe that would bring her back to her senses.

"Well, koalas are cute. So I don't mind being your personal koala. And I'll do as you say" Hope didn't make things too difficult for him as she latched on to his back.

To her, as long as she was hugging him, everything else could be discussed...

Muku rolled his eyes as she tightened her legs around his waist and put her arms around his neck. However, the little smile on his face proved that he didn't dislike what was happening.

After two years, he had missed even the previously annoying part of Hope. This was obviously her unreasonable clinginess whenever something significant happened. After their long separation, he was a bit scared of how long it would take for her to go back to normal.

What if she went on like that for two years?! No... She wouldn't be that extreme... Right?

Well, whatever, it wasn't the time to think about such things. He had to deal with Jade first.

With that thought, he released his hold on Jade...

BOOOOOOOM!

Jade made her move the moment she was released. There was no need to take some time to transform as her berserk episodes automatically forced her to transform into her cat-girl form...

Within less than a second, she was in front of Muku. Her speed was nowhere close to Muku's, but it was top-tier among PR4s. Which was impressive since she hadn't truly reached the peak yet...

She viciously swiped at Muku's neck with her razor-sharp nails. Even in her berserk state, she knew to go for the weak points.

In fact, it was more likely that she would do such things in the state since she was pretty much a mindless beast driven by instinct. And everyone knows such creatures are ruthless hunters...

Pinch!

"Whoa! Going straight for the kill, huh? How Jade-like! Are we sure you're even out of control or pretending?" Muku pinched her middle finger which stopped her whole hand.

Even though she was going berserk and he knew it. That didn't stop him from training her...

"ROOOOOOAAOR!!!" Berserk Jade wasn't discouraged by the show of strength.

She immediately released a red breath attack after her first attack failed.

BOOOOOOOOOOM!

A loud explosion rang out instantly. Muku was actually caught off guard since he was under the impression that she still needed to charge before releasing such attacks. However...

"Wow! Seems someone has improved a lot" Muku spoke after the blast energy cleared up. He and the scared Hope were completely unharmed.

Berserk Jade who had backed away because Muku had released her was angered greatly.

She couldn't think but even she was frustrated by the prey which was not only not dying. But was not getting injured at all.

"Now it's my turn..." Muku spoke more to Hope than Jade.

He wanted the girl on his back to prepare for what was about to happen. Then...

Whoosh...

He and Hope disappeared...

Bang!... Bang!... Bang!...

He didn't appear again. All that could be seen was Jade getting thrown all over the place.

Of course, he was seriously hitting her. He was just hitting her enough to anger her and force her to use more Beast Aura as she tried to fight back...

This went on for a few minutes before Muku appeared again.

Jade was lying limply on the ground out of breath and Beast Aura.

Hope's face had turned green as she felt nauseous from all the quick movement.

"If you're going to vomit, you better get off my back..." Muku spoke as if he had eyes on the back of his hand.

Hearing his words, Hope who couldn't take it anymore was reinvigorated and fought back against the urge to vomit until she overcame it.

"Sigh" Muku sighed and a wry expression appeared on his face. The girl really was determined to stay latched on to him...

With that said, it wasn't the time to deal with her yet. He slowly flew towards Jade and stood just a few meters away from her.

He then picked her up with his Telekinesis. Jade's eyes were still crazed despite using up all her Beast Aura unfortunately.

"That's it... I didn't want to do this but you leave me no choice..." Muku spoke seriously while looking at Jade then...

Pa!

"Roo...Aaaah!" Out of nowhere, Muku spanked Jade once.

The one slap was so strong that all the girls felt an urge to cover their butts lest they got spanked too.

"You bastard! How dare you spank me! Do you want to fig... Muku?" Surprisingly, the slap brought Jade back to her senses.

"Obviously, who else do you know who looks like me? And if I had known that spanking you was all it took to bring you back to normal, I would have done it a lot sooner... What a pervert!" Muku replied with a disdainful look on his face while looking at Jade.

"You're back!" Surprisingly, Jade didn't angrily retort like Muku expected.

She jumped into his embrace then... She fainted...

"Aww man. And here I thought we were done with the fainting arc..." Muku spoke while holding Jade.

"What?" Hope asked.

"Nothing. Let's go back" Muku spoke then flew towards the others with Jade in his arms and Hope on his back.

...

A while later. Back at the mansion...

"So, shall we speak about other things while she rests?" Muku asked the girls after placing the unconscious Jade back in her room.

"Sure. There are so many things to talk about I'm not sure where to start..." Audrey replied while giving the others the platform to express to say something.

"Tell us about the power you used and that weird armour..." Layla immediately spoke after Audrey finished speaking.

"Yeah! We can start there. You're always getting new absurd abilities while we don't get anything. That's so not fair!" Chloe supported her sworn sister.

If Jade as there she would definitely be supporting Layla too. No one got pissed off by Muku's OP-ness more than her.

"Oh, that. Don't feel too bad. It's not something exclusive. At the very least, I'll teach everyone here how to use it. As for how far you can get in mastering it, that depends on you. It's called the Force Technique... Damn, it's more fun when mom is there with that special effect of hers... Anyway, let me get to it..." Muku was about to get into it when someone interrupted him.

"Wait! I think we can wait on that for a bit. Tell us more about your mother who suddenly popped up out of nowhere first..." Audrey who remembered Mrs C after Muku mentioned her spoke.

The others immediately agreed with her. Mrs C was definitely the most important topic to discuss above everything else...

Chapter 329: Caring mother-in-law!

"What do you want to know exactly? She's my mother... What's so interesting about her?" Muku spoke with a confused expression on his face. He was obviously trolling them.

"Oh please. Just tell us already..." Audrey spoke while rolling her eyes.

"Fine. So, it went like this..." Muku didn't troll them anymore and told them what they wanted to know.

From the day he met her to everything significant which happened until their separation. Of course, he skipped the embarrassing parts.

Raya felt an itch to expose him, but one glare from Muku stopped her from doing it. She remembered the time she couldn't properly control her body and she suffered at his hands.

Considering that she wasn't sure whether she would ever be in such an unfavourable position again, she decided to play it safe. The man was a real demon when he wanted to be, and she wanted no part of that side of him...

"So what you're saying is that you met her in a sketchy location and she "adopted" you on the spot then began showering you with presents until you folded and accepted her as your mother without caring about her mysterious background?" Layla summarised what Muku said in the most brutal way possible.

"You know, if you put it like that, it makes it seem like I'm greedy and easily won over by gifts..." Muku spoke with a slight frown on his face.

"Well, am I wrong? Is that not what happened?" Layla continued.

"Well, it is. But instead of saying I was won over by gifts. You should say I was won over by her caring heart. I could really feel her motherly love, which I never felt. And that's what won me over. Okay? Not the gifts" Muku defended himself.

"We both know the truth. She's sketchy and you're greedy..." Layla didn't back off.

"Is that what you all think?" Muku asked while looking across the room.

All the girls avoided eye contact with him when he looked their way. This obviously meant that they were on the same page as Layla.

"So that's how you see it? Okay. Fine. Then I guess you don't need these gifts I got from her. I should just go and throw them aw..." Muku was speaking when he was interrupted.

"Wait, wait. Big Brother" Hope interrupted him.

Hearing her the girls who were getting anxious after hearing what he said cled down. With Hope getting involved, everything will be taken care of and they won't lose their gifts.

They wouldn't have said anything if they knew there were gifts. After all, who didn't like gifts? Especially from peak beings like Mrs C? Even her junk was probably treasure to them.

If that's how they thought, weren't they the same as Muku and were just hypocrites? Yes, very much so. In their defence, they heard a saying before which went like, "Corruption is good. It's only bad when I'm not involved in it".

That's probably one of the most warped statements out there, but it's what many humans live by... It rotted the world more and more each day, but oh well...

"Before you throw them away. You should give me my gifts. I was on your side. I was waiting to support you and Mom, but you didn't look at me. As for the rest of them, they don't deserve anything. In fact, just give me everything" Hope's words destroyed the calm which was settling in the other girls.

"Hope you're going too far!" Chloe shouted angrily.

"Yes! To think that after being close for two years you'd throw us under the bus like this!" Emily supported Chloe.

"So greedy" Even Layla chimed in.

Audrey and Freya wanted to say something too but they were too embarrassed. They couldn't help but admire the shamelessness of the three girls.

Young Elsa just looked on with her face hidden behind her hands. She peeked through her fingers as she was hit by second-hand embarrassment.

Again she asked herself how she was the youngest when the older ones were like how they were.

"You hypocrites. Weren't you saying that righteous people should be able to resist gifts?" Muku asked the girls.

"Tsk. Don't put words in our mouths. We never said anything like that. You rushed to conclusions before we could say anything... We were about to support you by calling Layla out for saying what she said (Hey!)" Chloe spoke like she was possessed by Jade.

After all, such a level of shamelessness was only expected to be found in Jade. Or maybe because her personality was the most balanced, she could fall on any side whenever she wanted...

"To think my own sister would be the first one to throw me under the bus..." Layla spoke with a deadpan expression on her face. Of course, she wasn't happy about Chloe being sick quick to stab her in the back like that.

"Hehe...hahahaha. Oh, how I missed this. How I missed you guys. Hahaha. Now this is what life should be like..." Muku couldn't help but start laughing hysterically as he looked at the girls.

The girls paused and looked at him for a bit then they also began laughing. Without knowing it, they had returned to how they behaved before Muku left. Hell, they were even more open than back then. And it all happened so naturally.

Muku really was the heart of the group.... With him around, everyone was lively. Without him, they were dead...

...

A while later...

"So, are you going to give us the things mother-in-law sent us or what?" Audrey who had at some point come to sit beside Muku asked.

She has switched seats with Raya who didn't care about sitting close to Muku...

"Alright, alright..." Muku spoke while taking some things out of his storage ring.

The moment he did, all the girls were surprised. Not because of what he took out. They didn't even look at that yet. Their eyes were focused on the ring he took the things out of.

"Is that the legendary storage ring?" Chloe the anime geek asked with glowing eyes.

The others who had long become anime fans also guessed the same thing.

"Isn't it cool? The space in this is bigger than five football fields. Which means it's countless times bigger than Layla's creepy-looking Shadow Pocket (Hey!)" Muku showed off the ring as he spoke and casually took a stab at Layla.

He was petty enough to get her back for calling him greedy. She knew that, which is why she didn't make a scene after the initial "Hey!".

"Hehe. And before you ask. No, you can not have it. Any of you. You can not even try it out since I do not trust any of you to give it back. Well, maybe Young Elsa and Freya would give it back, but with Emily's influence on them... Well, whatever. Mom said that there will be a chance for all of you to get your own in the future. I don't know when or how. But you can wait until then. And instead of focusing on this ring, you should focus on the things on the table..." Muku shut the girls down, pacified them then directed their attention elsewhere before they could say anything.

Despite being away for a long time, he still knew how to deal with them. He thought about them every day, so forgetting was hard, if not impossible.

"Fine..." Audrey replied as she and the other girls looked at the things on the table.

There were eight different coloured bags on the table. It was clear to see which bag belonged to whom just by taking a glance.

And so, everyone took their bags leaving Jade's on the table. Muku retrieved it for the time being. He'd give it to her when she woke up.

"Whoa! What beautiful dresses! These are just what we needed!" Audrey spoke as she took out 15 dresses of different colours and designs from the bag.

As for how everything fit in the seemingly small bags, only Mrs C knew...

The others also took out fifteen dresses each with glowing eyes. They couldn't wait to try everything on. Being in the apocalypse after everything was destroyed made it hard to find clothes.

For that reason, none of the girls had more than five different clothes. They had more initially, but the many battles and experiences destroyed everything.

Fun fact, even mana slowly destroys clothes. So clothes were an issue they were really worried about. Mrs C couldn't have sent them the clothes at a better time.

It was great to have a caring mother-in-law!

"You perv!" Emily suddenly called out after finding an unknown number of underwear beneath the dresses. There were at least twenty. And some of them were rather risqué and suggestive.

Out of the girls present, only Elsa and Hope found normal underwear without the risqué ones, but even they were embarrassed by how Muku was the one who brought the stuff.

"Hey! I'm not the one who packed this stuff. I'm only a messenger here! I'm only learning about the contents now since you're showing me!" Muku who felt that his integrity was about to be destroyed quickly defended himself.

"Really?" Emily asked while she and the other girls looked at Muku suspiciously.

"Of course! I'm not a pervert!" Muku exclaimed with a wronged expression on his face.

Chapter 330: Your time is up!

"Fine... We'll believe you this time" Emily let the matter go as she hid the underwear from Muku.

She decided to look at it later in her room.

"Tsk. Just a little separation and my integrity is already almost non-existent..." Muku complained.

"Calling it a little separation is a major understatement but whatever. I'm sorry for questioning your character... I'll make it up to you later on" Emily spoke and finished with a mischievous wink.

"Umm, can you share with the group how you plan to make it up to him? I'm sure everyone wants to know" Layla asked while giving Emily a gaze full of suspicion...

"Yeah! We definitely want to know" Chloe supported her.

"Shut up traitor!" But Layla wasn't having it...

She hadn't forgiven Chloe for throwing her under the bus a few minutes before.

"I'm sorry sis. But I figured that it was better for one of us to die instead of all of us. You understand, right? In fact, I'll make it up to you like Emily is planning on making it up to Muku" Chloe replied without feeling shame at all.

"Ew! Stay away from me you pervert! I'm not into girls!" Layla immediately distanced herself from Chloe who was coming in for a hug while giving her a disgusted look.

"What?! What do you mean by calling her that? What's disgusting about making you a homemade meal?" Emily asked confusedly...

"Wait... You meant making him a meal?" Layla asked to which Emily nodded seriously.

"Well... You really should be clearer with how you say things next time girl!" Layla continued as she sat back down.

"What did you think I meant?" Emily asked with a darkening expression.

"Yeah sis, what did you think she meant?" Chloe added fuel to the fire with a mischievous smile on her face.

Muku just looked on with a smile on his face. He was really happy to see the girls getting along so well.

What made him the happiest was how Layla finally seemed to be completely part of the group unlike before he left. Audrey was just as happy as he was. It was a problem they both thought of a lot back then. Fortunately, Chloe fixed it for them.

Well, it was more of Chloe's terrible situation back then that forced Layla to change but whatever. What mattered was that there was something good which came out of the bad situation...

"I thought nothing. It doesn't matter. I'm sure Muku has more things to say. Let's not delay him anymore. And it's wasting paragraphs too" Layla refused to say what she thought Emily meant.

"Tsk, fine. I'll let it go. But just know that I'm not the pervert here. It's you all for having dirty minds" Emily let it go but she made it clear that she knew what Layla wasn't saying.

Hearing her words, not only was Layla embarrassed, but the other girls were embarrassed as well. They all thought the same. Even Elsa and Hope thought of something only adults did even though they weren't too clear about it.

Emily's words were just too misleading. Hell, she probably knew what she was doing too...

"Okay, with that done. Let's move on... There are still more gifts from mom you have to take a look at..." Muku didn't make the situation hard for Layla and agreed to move on.

"Whoa! Really? There's more? It's official, she's the best mother-in-law ever!" Emily happily exclaimed...

"Wow. You're not even going to pretend anymore huh?" Chloe commented.

"Nope! Why should I? You all know how I feel about him. And the two years he gave us are over so why should I hold back? In fact, I'd appreciate it if you all gave us some privacy..." Emily casually admitted everything.

"Hmm. Good point. There really is no reason to hold back anymore... Also, the privacy thing is not happening. So forget about it" Chloe replied with a thoughtful expression on her face then turned to look at Muku.

Sparks appear in her eyes which scared Muku.

"Wait! Wait! I didn't say you could jump me after two years. I said I'd think about it!" Muku replied nervously.

He was resolute in taking them all a year ago but now he couldn't help but be scared. The girls were just too intense. And this was when they were holding back and the most intense one was missing.

Even though it was only Chloe and Emily who spoke. Layla, Freya and Audrey were also looking at him weirdly.

Audrey was expected. Layla was also expected to some extent but wasn't Freya moving too quickly? How was she already as intense as the others?!...

What Muku didn't know was that Freya had consulted Iris on what to do with her feelings for him. Needless to say, the mischievous fairy turned Freya's budding love into intense desire in the last year.

The current Freya would probably jump Muku at the first chance she got due to Iris' subtle brainwashing.

As for whether there was a hidden plan behind that from Iris... There actually wasn't. Iris has just become fond of her cute and innocent host. Because of that she felt it was better to manipulate her a bit instead of seeing her get in her own way like she would if left alone.

Whether that was bad or good, only time will tell...

"Oh shut up! It wasn't you who was supposed to think things out. It was us. And we've made our choices. We want you and there's nothing you can do about it. Of course, you can try to refuse... But I don't advise it if you want to continue living..." Emily blatantly threatened Muku in front of everyone and none of the girls found it wrong.

Hell, they were even nodding in agreement...

"Is it just me or has everyone here caught Jade disease?..." Muku spoke with a serious expression on his face.

Internally he was scared. It was at that moment that he realised that there was no going back. His choice no longer mattered. They had given him his time and no longer had the patience to wait..

The separation didn't help at all. Maybe if they hadn't separated, they would be less intense... Unfortunately, he wasn't living in the maybe.

His fate was set. He could only take it as it came now.

"Whether we have caught it or not doesn't matter. Just accept your new reality... It was inevitable really" Emily continued.

And the others nodded again. Muku noticed something from the corner of his eye.

"Even you Hope? Aren't you supposed to be on your big brother's side?" Muku asked Hope who was nodding along with the others.

"I am doing this for you brother. We both know you're happy right now. And don't you think you have kept them waiting for too long? Surely you see their longing gazes? Sure, it will be hard with their number, but it's the path you've chosen. So, you can only walk on it while doing everything in your power to make it work..." Hope spoke in such a mature way that Muku and the others were stunned for a moment.

They all tended to forget that under that cuteness and easy-going personality was a smart individual. Despite her being 19 years old already, they still saw her as a child due to how disarming she was.

And out of nowhere she proved to them that she was mature when it mattered. Sure, she had acted mature before, but those were dangerous situations, so they didn't think too much about it. But now... They realised that the girl understood more than she let on...

"... You're right Little Koala. It's the path I've chosen. Thanks for that. It helped me see things clearly and calm down. You're the best" Muku spoke with a smile on his face as he hugged the girl.

"Big Brother, you say that but you're teasing me and treating me like a child" Hope replied in a slightly aggrieved tone while letting Muku hug her.

If she didn't like the hugs too much, she would have pushed him away to express her stance. Well, whatever, as long as she said something, right? There was no need to sacrifice hugs...

"Hehe. I'm sorry. I was wrong. Let's get on with the presents for now. I'm sure everyone can't wait anymore..." Muku spoke.

"Fine. You're right." Hope replied.

"Great! And to the rest of you... Well, to those who care. We'll continue on that matter later on. I won't run away, I promise... Is that okay with you all?" Muku addressed the other girls.

"Sure... As long as you acknowledge your responsibilities for now. Everything else can be discussed. Let's move on to the gifts. I can't wait anymore..." Emily who was the group's unelected but supported representative in the matter replied on their behalf.

"Great! The next gifts are these..." Muku spoke while taking out the phones Mrs C created.

Each phone flew into the arms of the owner.

"Whoa! Phones!" The girls happily exclaimed as they accepted the devices...

Muku quickly told them how they worked and everything relevant about them.

While the phones were only communication devices. The girls were still happy to have them since communication when they were outside and something came up was always an issue. Now it wouldn't be an issue anymore...

"I'm glad you like them... Now it's time I give you all, my gifts to you..." Muku spoke with a smile after the girls finished messing with their phones...

Their eyes which were already glowing, began glowing even more.

Despite how the day started. It was turning out great.

It was by far the greatest day they had had in a very long time...