

Few Wives 411

Chapter 411: New girlfriend?

Rip!

"Sigh... Even if you didn't want to get tortured to death. You could've at have looked for another way to go. How dare you try to destroy my beast core?" Raya spoke calmly while holding the toad's beast core.

Her hand was bloody since she had ripped it out before it was ignited. The explosion was definitely not something she could take without serious damage even at her best. So she acted quickly even if it meant the giant toad would die in less than a minute.

The toad could now feel the life quickly draining away from its body... Sure, it hurt like hell. But it was a lot better than the alternative and it will end a lot sooner. So its eyes were actually full of happiness instead of pain...

"Hehe. You think dying in less than a minute means you won't suffer anymore right? Well, let me just squeeze hours of torture into those few seconds then..." Raya spoke in an eerie voice then...

Absolute pain...

So much pain that the goblin was brain-dead before its body was actually dead. It suffered such pain that its brain was overwhelmed in a single second and it short-circuited and died.

If it had been given time to think, it would have definitely chosen to go out slowly...

Not the soul-scarring pain it felt in that second...

"Well... It seems I went overboard... I was planning on making it suffer for ten seconds at least... But alas... Oh well. At least now I know, never attack every aspect of a being at the same time if you don't want it to die too quickly..." Raya spoke to herself as she retracted the only black energy that had completely consumed the giant toad...

She then looked at the body for a little bit then shook her head and...

"Cleansing light" Raya cast a light spell and the toad's body was erased out of existence...

She had considered eating it, but it looked disgusting. In her "wild" days she wouldn't have minded. But she had lived with humans too long.

Plus her spell corrupted the meat. It wouldn't do anything to her. But it wouldn't taste good. She had tried eating corrupted meat before and it wasn't an experience she wanted to relive... Like ever...

"Yeah, the beast core is enough... Hopefully this place recovers soon..." Raya spoke to herself while looking around at the destruction they caused then left the scene...

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Freya's advancement ground...

She has finally finished the synchronisation with little fanfare.

Currently, she was running around the place and jumping over like an excited child with a new toy...

Muku just looked on with a wry smile. He wished he could have done what she was doing when he advanced too.

Unfortunately, he had been made aware of the infamous Beast World rules. So yeah, there was no way he was gonna invite trouble by doing something like that...

Plus his dragon avatar was restrained soon after making its appearance so...

And it really sucked how he could only remove the armour from his body but not his avatar...

"Well, it looks like someone is enjoying her avatar..." Raya spoke after appearing beside Muku...

"Yeah... So how was the fight?" Muku asked.

"Easy-peasy as expected" Raya replied cockily.

"Hmm. And yet I smell burnt dragon" Muku teased.

"Oh shut up! I let my guard down for a second. It was nothing serious" Raya annoyedly replied.

"If you say so..." Muku didn't feel like arguing so he agreed with her...

"Hmph! Is your new girlfriend still not up yet?" Raya asked.

As soon as she did Freya who was dancing around in her avatar in the distance while shooting elementless energy beams into the sky suddenly froze and looked in Muku and Raya's direction.

With just a couple of steps, she covered more than seventy metres of space and arrived in front of the duo.

She then cancelled her avatar form and landed in front of Muku with a suspicious look in her eyes...

"What did Raya mean by "new girlfriend"? Did something happen between you and Lisa? Please don't brush me off this time. I've already finished my advancement. And I don't think there's anything more which needs to be done right now..." For the first time ever, Freya was confrontational with Muku in the way she spoke.

And Muku could feel a headache coming on. If the nicest and calmest member of his "harem" was like this, then what about Emily and Jade? Even Layla was a silent killer.

Muku couldn't help but give a resentful gaze to Raya. The brat was the reason he was in this situation.

What made him madder was how she looked at him innocently, seemingly not understanding what was happening. And yet the schadenfreude in her eyes was blindingly apparent.

"It's not like that. This brat just likes stirring up trouble. You know that. Anyway, here is what happened... I arrived here and..." Muku began explaining everything that happened to Freya.

He could tell that there was no brushing her off this time. Though he wasn't planning to anyway. And so, he told her everything. Of course, it was a beautified version which showed nothing but his kindness. From what he said, he was just a man going through a lot in life who came across women getting attacked and helped them.

Then he rewarded their leader after remembering an old promise. That reward happened to lead to an opportunity for the leader then after a whole day of suffering, he took her to his home to rest after finding out that she didn't even have a room in her own base...

And of course, the temptation and groping session was omitted. There was no way he'd off himself like that even if Freya was one of the nicer ones.

After all, he hadn't officially made her his. So what if she backed out because he groped her friend? Wouldn't that be a loss that could never be made up for?

Was he morally correct? Hell no! But then again, if he cared about being morally correct he wouldn't want a harem in the first place... Well, he probably would still want one, but he wouldn't actually have one.

Fortunately for him, Freya was one of the ones who trusted him unconditionally no matter the situation. So she bought his tale. Sure, it was mostly true, but anyone who thought about it objectively would realise that some things seemed off.

Hell, Iris and Raya could tell that he was beautifying the tale. But neither tried to tell that to Freya. They just rolled their eyes and moved on since there was no way of convincing a girl in love that the person she loved wasn't being completely truthful with her.

If you tried, she'll likely see you as an enemy to her love...

"Oh, of that's the case then I guess it's fine. I'm happy Lisa. She always seemed to dislike her class level and envy our group. Though unlike in the beginning, she was only envious without hatred. So now she should be happy too. I wonder if she's up yet. Let's go and see her" Freya happily spoke after eating up everything Muku told her. The trio then made their way back to the mansion...

With their speed, it didn't take long to arrive...

Just when they were about to enter the mansion Freya suddenly paused...

"What's the matter?" Muku asked while looking back at her...

"Well, you know that time I asked you to give me metal to upgrade the mansion?" Freya replied.

"Yes?" Muku acknowledged.

"Umm, I need some again. And considering that I wasn't able to upgrade it when I advanced in the last two years since there was no material... I need a hundred times the metal you gave me before..." Freya continued...

"Oh my! Fortunately, I'm strong enough for that now otherwise you would have sucked me dry (Pa!) Ah! What was that for?!" Muku commented in amazement only to be slapped in the face by Freya a second time that day... Third time if we counted the slap from the couch.

So, of course, he had to know why he was getting slapped...

"How could you say such a thing? What do you mean I would have sucked you dry?" Freya replied in embarrassment.

Couldn't he not use such embarrassing and easily misunderstood language?

"Oh... Sorry. So are we doing it now or?" Muku apologised after semi-understanding why he was slapped.

It was "semi" because he spoke innocently then got punished for Freya's dirty mind. Anyway, he was too mature to hold grudges for such petty matters...

He was definitely not letting it go because he planned to settle scores in bed...

"Yeah, let's do it now..." Freya replied with a little blush still on her face.

And so, Muku waved his hand the invisibility spell around the mansion was cancelled.

A majestic sight was revealed to those on the ground...

Out of nowhere, a silver disk which covered at least three kilometres of the sky was revealed and blanketed them all.

As for why it looked like a disk from the ground. It was because Muku had created a training ground around the mansion in all directions which was enough for the R5s to let loose physically...

While the people on the ground were still marvelling at the wondrous sight... The disk was ripped apart and sucked into what appeared to be a miniature black hole.

{Wtf is going on?!" Was the question which was going through all their minds...

Chapter 412: Do what you want...

Soon enough, all that could be seen was a magnificent mansion, a miniature black hole and three figures floating in the air.

Suddenly, one of the figures began creating metal and feeding it into the black hole which was seemingly being controlled by the brown-haired figure.

The metal created was sometimes silver, sometimes gold, then black and so on... It was clear that the figure was creating different types of metal.

The scene was rather surreal and comprehensible even for the apocalypse...

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At the fortress...

"Look! Look! It really is Freya!"

"Whoa! It really is her! I'd never have believed it if I didn't see her face"

"But what are they doing?"

"Why don't you go up and ask them?"

"Yeah right. Like anyone would question Mr Muku again. And besides, none of us can fly anyway..."

"Then shut up and watch like the rest of us! Why so noisy, damn!"

"Tsk"

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At Klaus's camp...

"That lady... That mansion. I know them..." Chris spoke slowly while looking at the mansion in the sky and sometimes at Freya.

"Don't tell me..." Klaus who has been told a few things about their sister's situation by Chris was quick on the uptake.

"Yes... That's likely our sister's base. And that man... He must be the mysterious leader who was missing last time. From how gloomy they got whenever he was mentioned, I assumed he was dead and they just didn't want to acknowledge it..." Chris confirmed.

"Well now. Then things just got a hell lot more interesting. To think the random new brother I made was actually my brother-in-law. Hahahaha. Fate is truly a wondrous thing! Hahaha," Klaus was instantly excited by the situation.

"What are you so happy about? From what I've gathered during my stay with them. He's a lecherous bastard who isn't satisfied with one woman. And our sister is one of his unfortunate victims. How can you be okay with that?!" Chris chided Klaus.

What was wrong with this brother of his? Where was his overprotectiveness for his sister from the past? Where was the guy who said he was going to rip the guy her sister was interested in apart when they met?!

"Calm down brother. While I'll admit that not pleased by the idea of our sister being with someone who has more than one woman. More than anything, I'm jealo... Cough, I mean, I'm willing to respect our sister's decision. She's grown up enough to make her own decisions. And honestly, if she's to be in such a situation, I'm glad it's with Muku. I can trust that he won't mistreat her even with her less-than-perfect personality... I can see that you're not convinced with my reasoning brother. So, I'll say this. I've only stated my stance on the matter. You're free to state yours. And if you want to fight it out with him, then, more power to you. I won't stop, nor assist you. Do what you want..." Klaus clearly expressed his stance on the matter.

If he hadn't gotten acquainted with Muku and had gotten along so well, not to mention the assistance they got... Maybe he would have been like Chris is right now. But after everything that has happened, he just couldn't bring himself to be angry.

He was someone who valued relationships after all. So if the other party didn't do anything extremely bad like betraying him, he was willing to swallow any negative feelings towards issues like being an overprotective brother.

Plus he also took Muku's strength into consideration. That man was by far the strongest person he had ever come across. He couldn't see through the other party's strength. But of that much he was certain.

And in the apocalypse, strength reigned supreme. So knowing that Muku was super strong, nice enough and fancied his sister... He was okay with giving a thumbs up to the relationship for just those reasons alone. Even if the relationship wasn't as perfect as he would have liked...

"Fight it out?... Don't joke with me Klaus. I do not have a death wish" Chris replied defeatedly after a quick glance at Muku.

Just like Klaus, he had also rated Muku as someone he couldn't stand up against. Even if he used all his trump cards, he might not even scratch the other party.

Just from seeing how quickly Muku was feeding the black hole without looking like he was doing anything noteworthy gave Chris the feeling that Muku's power was even deeper than a bottomless abyss.

Of course, he knew that such a notion was impossible and he only felt like that because he didn't know enough about Muku. But even then, just bringing that feeling on was enough to show that Muku wasn't to be messed with.

"Then shut up and let what is, be. If I remember correctly from what you said, even our sister warned you against even thinking about going against that man. That warning should have made you realise that you were out of your depth. After all, Jade calls it how she sees it without any bias...". Klaus began mocking his brother.

"..." Chris didn't know what to say. He's never felt so powerless before. Not even when he lost his teammates while being unable to do anything...

His wife Scarlett stood beside him while patting his shoulder silently. That's all she could do for this husband of hers who was beaten before the fight even began.

As for why they called each other husband and wife even though there were no churches or courts left in the world... They had actually gotten married at Tactoa before everything fell through. There was a man there who was once a priest. And they took the chance to seal the deal even though it wasn't actually necessary as long as they loved each other and stayed together...

On the side, Klaus was trying to coax Genevieve into forgiving him after he almost slipped into saying that he was jealous of Muku.

The reason for this was that he had been pursuing the lady for quite a while now.

And since he wasn't one to use his power to pressure her into agreeing, she was free to reject him as many times as she wanted.

In fact, what he didn't know was that the lady liked him first. And it was thorough her subtle seduction that he fell for her too.

Now she was just making him sweat a bit before sealing the deal. But in her heart, the two of them were already a couple.

In fact, everyone in the group apart from Klaus himself knew that Genevieve was already his.

Hell, even Muku and Raya who didn't know them for long knew this... Klaus really was just too dense. This prompted Genevieve to set everything into motion... Which was no different to Chris' situation. The two really were twin brothers...

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Back in the sky....

"Umm, are you sure this won't affect the others inside?" Muku asked worriedly.

He wanted Freya to upgrade the house, but it didn't mean that the others should be inconvenienced because of it. He had been too excited about the prospect earlier, so he only remembered after they already begun.

"Yes. Don't worry. My control is way better than before... I'm actually upgrading everything around them. So while it's definitely chaotic around their rooms. The inside is as calm as ever..." Freya replied assuringly.

"That's good then... Should I speed up the feeding process?" Muku asked after his worries had been put to rest.

"No, if you go any faster I might get overwhelmed..." Freya answered

"Okay..." Muku acknowledged.

After that, they worked quietly for over thirty minutes.

And as they did so, the mansion miraculously changed from completely in front of everyone's eyes...

Firstly, it tripled in size. Then the wall around it which had been taken down was rebuilt in a threatening black steel with multiple energy guns mounted all over. The barrier was also temporarily turned off.

After another thirty minutes, the mansion was gone. What was left in its place was a grey battle castle. As for what it looked like... Just think of an amazing battle castle and that's it. (^_^)

"Whoa... Now this I can get behind..." Muku looked at the castle with glowing eyes then to the speechlessness of everyone present, he flew forward and gave the castle wall a hug.

What was even more amusing was how a close by gun shot him as soon as he touched it with an energy beam strong enough to kill all the people on the ground.

And yet he tanked it and began laughing happily while the brown-haired lady came beside him and started apologising for forgetting to turn off the auto defence.

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Seeing what just happened, Chris completely crushed the last bit of interest he had in fighting Muku. The dude just tanked an attack a thousand of him might not be able to resist...

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"I feel weird" Freya spoke as soon as she stepped through the mansion, or rather, castle gates...

"What's wrong?" Muku asked worriedly while touching Freya's head with the back of his hand like he was checking for a fever.

It was stupid considering that even R3s don't get sick, let alone R5s. But it still made Freya feel happy and embarrassed... Truly, a girl in love was hopeless...

"I didn't mean it like that. I mean that I feel a resonance between my avatar and the castle..." Freya explained after regaining her composure...

"Oh? It seems our Freya came out before me. Though that's to be expected I guess..." Before Muku could reply. A voice came from the direction of the castle...

Chapter 413: Experts! Please save us!

"Oh, Audrey. You're done too!" Muku called out with a smile on his face.

It was to be expected that Audrey would come out next.

After all, after Freya and him, she was the most adept with her mindscape...

"Yeah... But to think Freya was so much quicker she had time to do all this... I'm truly impressed. I even thought that I had been kidnapped along with my room when I got out. And even more amazing was how my room was upgraded as soon as I left..." Audrey told the others about the experience she just had...

"Hehe. I'm sorry about that. Maybe I should have waited until everyone was done..." Freya spoke embarrassedly.

"No, no. It's fine, it's not like we were disturbed right? And it's not bad waking up to an improved base" Audrey replied while patting Freya's head like an older sister proud of her little sister's work.

"If I heard correctly. You said you felt weird in relation to your avatar and the mansion? What's wrong?" Audrey asked Freya curiously.

"Oh, that. It's fine. It can wait until everyone is out. I feel that if I pursue it right now, everyone will definitely be disturbed..." Freya replied while waving her hands to show that it wasn't a serious matter...

"Okay, if you say so..." Audrey didn't pursue the matter.

Nor did Muku. Both were really curious to know what she was talking about, but they were patient enough to wait. It was unavoidable considering that the others were still using the mansion after all...

"Now Ms, don't you have something you need to do?" Muku directed his attention to Audrey who was now happily talking to Raya and Freya as they surveyed the castle...

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Audrey asked confusedly. She tried to think of what she should be doing but nothing came to mind. Though she felt like there really was something she should be doing...

"Oh, I don't know. Maybe finishing up your advancement? Unless maybe you like being neither R4 nor R5" Muku reminded her teasingly.

"Uh, oh! I had completely forgotten about that! I got caught up in Raya's cuteness and the castle" Audrey finally remembered that she had actually come to finish her advancement more than anything else...

And so, she embarrassedly flew into the distance while covering her face. Which was comically rather similar to what Freya did before her...

"Sigh. These girls are going to be the death of me one day" Muku commented tiredly then followed after Audrey to watch over her.

Freya and Raya wanted to deny his accusation but they remembered that they really weren't easy to deal with sometimes. Some more than others, with Raya being at the top of the list and Freya being at the bottom. But no matter what, they all had their moments...

The two didn't follow after Muku. Raya had already seen the process for that day and was no longer excited even if the avatar would be different. She was going to see it in action eventually anyway, so why not continue the tour she was already doing?

After all, the mansion didn't just upgrade to a castle and become stronger. There were also new interesting functions she was learning about from Freya as they proceeded...

As for Freya, she wanted to go check out Audrey's advancement but under Raya's cute eyes practically begging to continue the tour, she couldn't refuse. She could only console herself by knowing that there were going to be many more chances to witness the advancement process. After all, everyone else should come out soon enough...

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Sometime later...

A creature which could only be described as a behemoth appeared in the distance. From what people could see, it was around ninety-metres-tall.

It had the body of a lion, the tail of a scorpion, the wings of a bat and had blood-red scales all over its body instead of fur... Its aura was overwhelming, even though it was still some distance away. In fact, before they even saw it, its aura had already made its way to them. Everyone below R5 could barely stop themselves from messing their pants and running away...

The creature looked threatening and was huge. So their reactions were not unusual...

Fortunately, it was flying instead of walking otherwise some buildings might have fallen. Unfortunately, it was flying directly at them...

Just when everyone was about to start panicking.... They remembered something. And as if on cue, all who could still think properly turned to look at the mansion...

Their meaning was clear. And that was, "Experts! Please save us!"

I mean, so what if they couldn't fight that thing? They had people who could! There was no shame in relying on someone else when you yourself were powerless... Though honestly, even if they had the power. They might not have necessarily stood up to the thing. They freaking looked like bugs next to it!

Who cared if a bug was potent? It could still be stepped on and killed!

The reason they thought like this was that none of them knew about avatars.

Klaus's group had seen pseudo-avatars, but they thought they were just abilities. After all, they weren't as imposing as the real thing...

And since even Klaus, their strongest hadn't reached the point of learning about avatars from the IA, they had no way of knowing...

Even Chris who was a member of Tactoa didn't know about avatars. Tactoa saw no point in telling low-rank members like him about such things. Yeah that's right, even at Level A in the organisation you were still a grunt.

Anyway, as some might have guessed. What was approaching wasn't a beast at all. It was an avatar... Audrey's avatar to be specific...

That's why Freya or Raya hadn't made any moves to intercept the other party... They figured Audrey was just showing them her new avatar.

It was something Freya understood quite well. After all, she also took her's for a spin... Just that she just jumped around in a small area. After all, she knew that it would scare people if she brought it over...

Who would have thought that Ms Audrey was so unrestrained! She didn't care about causing a commotion at all!

Of course Audrey cared, it was Muku who had talked her into showing off. But Freya had no way of knowing that without being told...

Soon enough the gigantic manticore reached the castle... The creature was actually even larger than the castle.

Which was understandable since the castle wasn't too large. Hell, the mansion has already been too big for the number of people on the team. So making it larger wasn't very practical.

If Freya didn't have to make it larger to fit all the new functions and the vision she had. She would have kept the size from before...

At this point, everyone on the ground had seen Muku standing on top of the beast's head.

So, even though they didn't understand what was going on. They were both longer panicking.

And its aura had been reigned in too. Actually, it was Muku who had suppressed it.

Audrey still couldn't control it that well..

Anyway, what surprised everyone on the ground was how the creature suddenly disappeared and a gorgeous lady who was enough to drool over was revealed.

She was the very definition of drop-dead gorgeous.

They had missed Audrey when she left since it had happened too quickly and they hadn't been paying attention to the castle anymore. Their necks couldn't take such dedication.

Anyway, they momentarily forgot about the beast when they looked at Audrey's face.

Even Klaus who prided himself on being above such things couldn't help but be stunned. He couldn't help but think of how great it would be to have her as his...

"Don't even think about it brother. That lady is supposedly Muku's first wife. So unless you want to fight it out with him..." Chris's smug voice suddenly came from beside Klaus.

He has seen Audrey a long time ago. So he had taken his time to get used to her. Though he was also stunned for a moment when he saw her again. Fortunately, he quickly collected himself before Scarlett noticed him otherwise he probably would have slept outside that night...

And so, after recovering, he took the chance to take a jab at his brother. He was actually settling scores since Klaus had also suggested for him to fight Muku even though he knew that there was a zero percent chance of winning...

"Argh!" Klaus suddenly screamed in pain and looked behind him angrily.

However, that anger all disappeared when he was met by an even angrier Genevieve.

"Hmph!" Genevieve snorted and then turned around to walk away.

"Gene please wait. I swear it's not what it looks like. Please let me explain!" And so, Klaus ran after her while apologising.

"Hehe. That's what you get for staring at the most beautiful woman in the world without enough self-control like me" Chris gloated and enjoyed Klaus's suffering like a proper sibling would.

"Most beautiful woman in the world huh?" A sweet voice suddenly came from beside Chris which made a chill go down his spine.

What followed was him running after Scarlett screaming, "Let me explain!"

Everyone admired how the twins were so in sync...

Chapter 414: Tournament junkie

Inside the castle...

Audrey was congratulated by Freya and Raya.

Tracy who had been asleep also came down and congratulated Audrey and Freya. She could barely keep up with the changes though.

Not only had the mansion been transformed into a castle, but Audrey and Freya had also advanced! Such big things happened while she was still asleep!

At that point, she was afraid that if she had woken up a little later, everyone would have ascended and gone to heaven, leaving her behind.

Of course, that was just her overthinking, influenced by the novels she was reading on Chloe's phone, which she had borrowed.

That's right, Chloe hadn't only downloaded anime back then. She had also downloaded novels because why not right? And novels lasted way longer than anime so it was a no-brainer...

"So. Audrey... Where did you come across a manticore?" Muku asked curiously...

"Just know that the two years you were gone weren't easy..." Audrey replied vaguely as if not wanting to remember some things.

"Well, that certainly doesn't make me even more curious. But okay" Muku replied seriously.

But his reply was anything but serious. And of course, the girls laughed. Yet even then, Audrey didn't clarify...

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"Hello everyone..."

Suddenly a voice came from the stairs while the others chatted away.

"Look at that! It really is Elsa! It looks like Muku won. But how did you know? Not to sound rude, but she wasn't particularly outstanding in the mindscape training" Tracy asked Muku curiously.

They had at some point begun betting on who would come out next.

At first only Muku and Raya the hooligans of the group started betting. It was only after Muku laid down some enticing rewards for the ladies that they decided to participate.

Audrey and Freya were easy since he only needed to offer spending the whole day with them alone away from the others. As he expected, they both folded instantly while silently apologising to their comrades whom they had betrayed for a man. But they were sure the others would have done the same. So they didn't feel too bad about it.

Then there was Tracy, he didn't know what exactly to tempt her with since he wasn't familiar with her, so he offered her a favour.

While she didn't have any particular need for a favour from Muku. She wouldn't pass up a chance to get one. After all, like everyone else, she could tell that Muku was going to be something big in the future.

And it wasn't just him. Everyone in his group practically glowed with great destinies.

As for Raya... Of course, she wanted another favour from Muku. She was planning on using a few later on. So of course she'd need to restock.

Yup, to her, collecting favours from Muku was no different from shopping...

After hearing the benefits, everyone joined in and made their bets. Muku chose Elsa. Raya chose Jade. Freya chose Emily. Audrey chose Chloe and Tracy chose Layla.

Hopefully for Muku, Hope never finds out about this bet. After all, no one chose her, not even her own brother. That would make anyone feel bad, let alone her.

Even if she tended to usually be at the bottom end of advancement, she knew it. She would still be hurt. That's how complicated people were...

"Wait, we never discussed what you'd get if you won..." Audrey suddenly caught on to a detail they had missed in the excitement before.

"Oh, that. That's simple really. Since it was unspecified. I can ask for whatever I want. I can even ask for your very love Mwahahaha! That was my plan from the start, now all of you die!" Muku replied exaggeratedly while acting like a mastermind.

"Can you be serious. You know that I'd die for you even without being tricked" Audrey replied seriously after slapping his shoulder lightly.

"Tsk. Can't you play along? And who wants you to die for them? Instead of dying for me, I'd rather you live for me. If one of us has to die, it most certainly is going to be me!" Muku refused Audrey's proposal of dying for him.

While he spoke in a light-hearted tone. Everyone could tell that he wasn't joking.

"Okay, then we'll both live for each other and never die!' Audrey refused to have him die for her as well.

If you think about it, dying for your partner might sound romantic, but what would come after that was nothing but pure torture for the one who remained alive. If you loved someone with everything you had then they died for you... Because of you... Would you be able to live with yourself? Of course not!

"Okay, that's enough of that you morbid lovers..." A spirited voice came from the stairs...

It was Jade. She was barely slower than Elsa in advancing. Interestingly, she wasn't the only one who had come. Behind her were Layla, Hope, Chloe and Emily...

It was almost like they had talked it out and decided on when to come out...

"Well... This is unexpected... But hey, I still won, even if it was close. And as for what I want... I'll leave it up to you. Get me something you think is worth as much as what I was offering. As for Raya, just cancel one favour of your list..." Muku told the girls what he really wanted while the others came downstairs...

He had enough time because they were taking their time to come down as they checked out the improved mansion which was now a castle...

Freya even made the stairs mimic an escalator just to show off. And. Everyone was impressed. Hell, Raya even teleported over to the stairs to enjoy the ride even though she had already experienced it.

It couldn't be helped. The dragon girl had only seen the thing in anime and memories....

Everyone just looked at her with parental love... Except for Muku, he looked at her maliciously. He was definitely going to use this during their next fight and call her a country bumpkin.

So what if she was a child and he as the grown-up should be more tolerant? This was the apocalypse! If someone dared start a verbal fight, then they must be able to take the heat!

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"It looks like we are really going to have a mass breakthrough! Why don't we make it a tournament and see who's (NO!) (DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!). Okay, we won't do that, gosh..." Muku was excitedly pitching a tournament when all the girls rejected him.

They literally just had a tournament a few days back and Audrey has dominated them so much that they were traumatised. They needed time to recover. Not to mention that the World Evolution could start at any moment.

So there was definitely no time to waste on a tournament. Even Jade and her hot blood didn't want the tournament.

The reaction made Muku feel extremely embarrassed. He even started wondering if he might be a tournament addict...

{Tsk. Are you only wondering that now? You really have no self-awareness do you?} Raya's disdainful voice sounded in Muku's head.

{Shut up! And get out of my head! Do you want me to block you? I might have no issues with you peeking in every now and then. But keep your comments to yourself brat!} Muku angrily exclaimed in his mind.

{Tsk. Fine... But you really should be more self-aware you tournament junkie} Raya relented. Of course, she had to take a final jab at him before doing so.

Muku ignored her. He might vomit blood out of anger if he kept listening to her...

"Also, there won't be a mass advancement. Such a level of commotion would definitely be noticeable from who knows how far away. And it will lead to unnecessary trouble" Audrey shut down another one of Muku's plans.

"Oh come on! You know I'm strong enough. I can take on most of the beings on this planet easily! Plus it will give you all some KP right? It's a win-win" Muku tried to defend his point.

While what he said made some sense... The others all knew that he probably just wanted to see a show when they advanced together. So none were moved by his words.

"What about the ones you can't take on? Have you forgotten about Ares and Tactoa? Sure, we know Tactoa's means quite well by now. But what about Ares? Did you forget how he almost successfully assassinated you?" Audrey reminded Muku seriously.

"Oh... Oh yeah. I had forgotten about him" Muku embarrassedly admitted that he had been too rash.

While a single person's breakthrough would cause a commotion. It wasn't too big..

But it many advanced at the same time... That was practically telling everyone who knew you were you! After all, strung beings will be able to recognise whose auras belonged to...

"Well, we haven't" Hope replied emotionally before Audrey could. Tears were already close to falling from her eyes.

As the one who had to heal Muku's wounds after every injury. She knew more than anyone else how much he suffered.

Considering that Muku was unconscious during most of the injuries. It was Hope who knew more than anyone how serious his injuries had been and how close to death he was.

So hearing about how he wanted to risk his life again just to be entertained, of course she got emotional. She could already see him getting hurt again.

"I'm sorry Hope, I spoke without thinking. I won't do it again. I'm sorry to everyone else as well, I almost put your lives in danger" Muku apologised while getting up to hug Hope...

"Good" Audrey accepted the apology on everyone's behalf. There was no need to make things hard for him after all...

Chapter 415: Freya dropped the ball

"So, how are we doing it? The order for the advancement? Who's going first?" Muku asked.

He figured that he might as well give up the reins for now. At least in this matter...

"That's simple. We'll do what we always do... Rock-paper-scissors. It's simple but effective" Audrey immediately replied.

The others agreed with her. Although some had terrible luck, they did not necessarily dislike playing the game.

And so, the rock-paper-scissors rounds commenced. This time it was elimination-based. Whoever got eliminated by losing five matches would be the last to advance. The one who loses after them will come after them and so on...

Soon enough the final results were in. Elsa would advance first. Which was good since she kinda shouldn't have participated in the contest after coming out before the others.

After Elsa the standings were Jade→Hope→Chloe→Layla→Emily

"Sigh. I knew it" Emily who was the first one eliminated lamented from the side.

But she wasn't too sad about it either. Maybe after observing everyone else first, her advancement will be smoother. Yeah, she was just trying to console herself...

"Don't worry sister. I promise to win every time you lose. I'll always avenge you" Elsa consoled her older sister.

Though it honestly just made Emily feel worse. But she could only smile at this clueless baby-sister of hers. After all, she meant well.

The others quietly looked on while trying their best not to laugh...

....

More than four hours later....

Everyone successfully advanced...

Their avatars were expected in some cases while completely unexpected in others...

A completely expected result was Emily's golden phoenix avatar. It was a majestic-looking titan of a bird made out of burning flames.

And since she couldn't completely control it yet, she almost caused a forest fire. Fortunately, Elsa contained the flames with one of her new spells, "rainstorm". It was something she copied from the fishman who attacked them before.

Muku couldn't help but joke that the reason why Elsa awakened the water element was to be Emily's personal firefighter. The joke pleased Elsa greatly but Emily almost wanted to fight it out with him.

How dare he suggest that she had terrible control of her power? She had only lost control because she wasn't familiar with the avatar yet okay?!!

On a completely different note. Hope's avatar was unexpected. It was a Qilin!

Actually, everyone else expected something amazing like that. It was Hope herself who was surprised. She was almost certain she was going to get a winged serpent.

After all, that creature fit well with the image of a baneful healer. But it seems the heavens had a different plan.

She had sat down thinking about the serpent for a while with nothing happening. She then thought of a bunch of other beasts before giving up and asking for assistance from the Heavens. Surprisingly the feedback came rather quickly as the information on Kirins was soon sent into her mind.

After that, the creation process began. While she was surprised, it was a pleasant surprise. After all, even if the serpent had made sense, she as a normal human girl didn't particularly like snakes... Actually, she was a bit terrified of them.

It wouldn't stop her from fighting one when necessary. But she definitely didn't want to be related to one in any way...

One of, if not the most intriguing avatar of the group was Elsa's. She got the legendary Leviathan. The most dangerous creature of the sea. Even more dangerous than the Kraken.

Of course, the young girl didn't think that such a creature was the one for her. She thought of all the beasts she could but none made the cut. So, she took the same path as Hope. The feedback was also quick...

Chloe's avatar was also a legendary mythical creature she didn't think of. It was the ruler of absolute speed and impact, The Rock!... Cough, the Roc, also known as peng. A humongous bird-like creature which looks like the ancestor of eagles, hawks and falcons.

While noone thought of it specifically. They thought that it had to be a speed-type beast with impact. Some expected the beast version of a cheetah but this was better... Lightning was a sky thing after all. Besides, no matter how fast a cheetah is, it will never beat a true speed demon in the form of birds...

Layla's avatar was another legendary creature.... Though honestly, everyone expected another legendary creature at that point. And they got one in the form of the one and only Hydra!

It was blue in colour with black patterns all over its body. It had six heads. Half had pitch black eyes that stared deep into one's soul while the other half were an ice cold blue...

Jade's avatar was probably the most predictable one of all. Well, maybe not more than Emily's phoenix, but definitely on the same level of predictability... It was a white Tiger... Though since it was red, calling it a crimson tiger was better.

The shade of red was a lot brighter than Audrey's manticore which was a darker shade of red like blood...

So, all in all, everyone's avatars were like this...

Muku → Grey Western Dragon (suppressed by Nightmare armour)

Audrey → Blood Red Manticore

Jade → Crimson Tiger

Emily → Golden Phoenix

Chloe → Blue Roc

Hope → Light green Qilin (darker shades of green in some areas and purple eyes.

Elsa → Dark Blue Leviathan

Frey → Female Optimus Pr... Cough, Multicoloured Gundam? Well, it looked like a giant humanoid robot...

Freya couldn't help but feel depressed after seeing the lineup. She was clearly the odd one out. And it wasn't by a little bit too...

It took some time for Muku to convince her that it was okay to be different. After all, avatars were just a means to an end and didn't change anything about the person. It was just a superpower she happened to have, not something she chose.

She even reminded her of how he dominated the fishman turned giant shark with a humanoid form. So there really was no need to be sad.

The others also chimed in, supporting Muku's points. Layla even said she was at an advantage since it would probably be easier for her to control her avatar than it would be for them.

After all, hers was humanoid and she was a human. So there was a certain level of familiarity.

She only needed to learn how to fight with it while others needed to start from scratch. They literally needed to learn how to properly walk before even thinking about fighting.

It was like how Raya could barely do anything with her body when she was turned into a human by Mrs C.

"Hey, is it just me who thinks they are only missing a black tortoise at this point?" Raya took the initiative to speak to Tracy for the first time as they looked on from the side.

"You know what... I didn't think of it. But you're right. Freya really dropped the ball..." Tracy who had read a few Chinese novels by that point agreed.

She was also happy to talk to Raya who ignored her most of the time.

"Hmmm", Raya made a thoughtful sound while looking in a certain direction but didn't say anything more...

"Now that everything is settled, why don't we go down and see everyone? I'm sure the ladies from the fortress can't wait to see Freya. And I also want to introduce you all to my new brother and his crew..." Muku remembered that he hadn't spoken to the people down below that day.

They must all be confused by what was happening. While they didn't need to clarify anything, it was better to do so to put their minds at ease.

"What about that thing Freya wanted to do with the mansion? Everyone is up now so..." Elsa spoke before everyone decided to go.

"Actually there's still someone who isn't up yet... Oh wait, she's stirring. It seems she's about to wake up... Should I go to check on her alone or?" Freya replied before Muku could.

Then she took a peek into her room to see Lisa's current state and coincidentally caught her about to wake up. And so, she asked Muku what their next step should be.

"Hmm, yeah. You go. I'll stay behind and tell everyone else what happened before the curiosity kills them..." Muku agreed to let Freya go alone.

It was probably better for Lisa to see her old friend than a dude who groped her recently, when she woke up.

He also needed to tell the others about Lisa's situation. Their curious and inquisitive eyes were practically burning into his skin at that point. They really didn't like not knowing what was going on.

Considering that Freya was now the same level as everyone, it was no longer easy to penetrate through the castle walls with their mana sense. It would require a lot more effort than it was worth. And the more walls in between them and their target was the harder it was to detect anything.

So, they couldn't detect Lisa on the third floor...

Anyway, after Freya left, Muku told everyone about Lisa's situation.

Considering that some weren't easy to fool like Freya, he didn't sugarcoat the situation like before. He kept it as straightforward as possible.

But of course, he dared not mention the temptation and the groping. That would be no different from seeking death...

Chapter 416: Deciding Lisa's fate...

Upstairs...

"Mmhn". Lisa moaned in discomfort as she woke up from sleeping too long...

She was in a confused state, which worsened when she looked at the roof, then the whole room.

She didn't know where she was. It was so luxurious that she wondered if she had been kidnapped by a lecherous king with bad intentions. But since when were there kings in the world?

She tried to use her mana sense to scout the situation but unfortunately, she couldn't pierce through the walls.

Which was understandable considering that they were created by R5 Freya while Lisa was only MR4.

Just when her grogginess was about to disappear, something which left her completely awake happened...

[Class upgrade successful]

[Advanced from rare class Black Earth Knight to Pseudo-Legendary Dark Paladin (Earth)]

[Body, soul and talent have been improved to match the class]

[Rank has fallen from MR4 to LR4 due to energy used in the upgrade process. However, offensive capabilities have improved instead of regressing]

Only four simple prompts from the IA. But those four prompts meant the world to Lisa.

Before she knew it, she was wide awake and tears were streaming down her cheeks.

Of course they were tears of joy. How could she not be happy? After all, after a long struggle, she finally got the capital to one day be truly strong.

While she had died and regressed in a different timeline. Her talent was still the same. And as sad as it was, even all the training in the world can't defeat talent....

Sure, one can get far, but as long as those with talent do the same level of training, or even half, in some cases, none at all... They will catch up and surpass you.

That was the case with Lisa in her last life and this one. No matter how much she trained. She could only be a C+ at best. That's right, not even B.

While she revered Muku and his companions, she still couldn't help but feel a bit bitter at the same time. After all, she, as a returner had experience they did, and she probably trained even more intensely than them.

And yet, the gap between them was only getting bigger and bigger with time instead of reducing.

As for those who might think that she and the girls were actually in the same rank with a little difference in strength... Well, they should be reminded that the girls had been under the pursuit of Tactoa for over a year while Lisa didn't have to deal with serious problems for most of that time. Yet they were still stronger than her.

Hell, even if she and they had the same exact rank stage, she would still be defeated in a few moves because that's just how talent worked.

It's like how one can study left and right in school for the exams only to be number ten for a naturally smart(talented) person who only browses through their notes to be number one.

It was a very common thing in the world. Of course, there were exceptions, usually driven by too much complacency from the talented, but in most cases, the less talented people can only be trampled on...

And now, after everything. Lisa won't be part of the trampled anymore. She will now also get twice the results with half the effort. She will be trampling on others for a change...

So of course she was happy...

Just then, the door was gently opened and a familiar face appeared.

It was Freya, Lisa's good friend. The girl she once hated in her "darker days" but later befriended.

Without a thought...

Whoosh!

Lisa disappeared from the bed and lunged at Freya.

Freya was startled by Lisa's sudden actions but didn't panic. Being a higher rank being, she could pretty much perceive the other party's actions in slow motion if she wanted to.

So she was able to discern Lisa's actions with a mere look and a smile appeared on her face. She opened her arms and received Lisa in a warm embrace.

Honestly, there was so much momentum in Lisa's charge that if she were weaker, she might have been slammed into the door.

But she understood Lisa's emotions. The girl has been overwhelmed by happiness and couldn't stop herself from wanting to embrace her friend.

And so, the two stayed like that for close to ten minutes while Lisa cried out all her grievances from the past. It was a necessary step for her to move forward. Like a caterpillar shedding off its skin to become a butterfly...

.....

Downstairs....

"Why are you all looking at me like that? I swear, what I told you is what happened" Muku spoke uneasily after seeing the looks the girls were giving him.

It was almost like they didn't believe him. And he felt aggrieved. To think that they didn't trust him after everything they had been through together. Do they know how hard it was not to fold to Lisa's body even when his bloodline was urging him to?

Sure, he did do a few questionable things. But everything could be discussed as long as you don't go all the way right?

"Hmm. If you say so. But what's your plan with Lisa now? Let's say she has successfully upgraded her class to Pseudo-Legendary?" It was Emily who asked.

After all, Audrey was a bit too accommodating of Muku's actions. So even if he really did do something with Lisa, as long as he still treated her and the others well, she probably wouldn't care too much.

But Emily wasn't like that. She begrudgingly accepted that she would have to share with the others. However, she was definitely willing to accept more competition.

"Simple. I'll invite her to join the team. Before you get angry, I'm not saying I want to poach her from her group. I'm saying, since I made a deal with her and promised to take them with us this time. With her class, it would be a waste to keep her with her group. She can stay here and be part of the meetings. That should cultivate a sense of belonging in her. Which is definitely worth the effort considering that with her new talent, she might not be weaker than any of you after a while..." Muku clearly explained his plan but...

"When did you promise to take them with us? And even if we have space for over fifty people in here. It's not enough. And since when did we open our doors to just anyone?" Emily asked seriously while the others nodded in agreement.

Even Audrey didn't like the idea.

They were all used to the mansion turned castle being their personal and exclusive base after all...

"No, no. You misunderstood me. I didn't say everyone will live in here. Just Lisa. The others will stay in their fortress..." Muku quickly cleared up the misunderstanding.

After all, he also detested having randos in his home...

"But isn't the fortress on the gro... Don't tell me you're planning on taking it with us?" Chloe chimed in.

"Yup, that's exactly what I plan to do. With my current strength, it's rather easy. I can extend the platform and place them a distance away from us. I know it seems like unnecessary trouble but if you think about it. There are some things a small group can't do. And even if there isn't. It would be a lot easier to take care of matters with our own force. We can also deploy them in some mundane matters like gathering herbs and fruits. The pros outweigh the cons in my point of view. Oh, and we can even have some become farmers. I'm sure many with random classes wouldn't mind the opportunity. Sure, we don't particularly need food. But it connects us to our humanity and it would be good to have something other than meat and juice even if they are good. It can also be a way of doing humanity a favour. Even if we don't care about our race that much, it would suck if they were completely wiped out right?" Muku continued.

Honestly, he hadn't really thought of it that deeply before. It was only now that he was realising that maybe it really wasn't a bad thing to keep them around.

It was just a coincidence that he was conveniently using it as a way to draw specific attention away from Lisa.

"Sigh. Fine. You seem hellbent on it anyway. But does she have to stay here?" Emily along with others relented.

Unfortunately for Muku, they circled back to Lisa.

"Yes, absolutely. Even if it's not for the reasons I mentioned. Think about Freya. While she has completely merged with the group, wouldn't she be happy to have someone she knows from her past around? After all, everyone else here is linked in some way with at least one person or has been part of the team since the beginning..." Muku ruthlessly used Freya as an excuse.

And it worked. Emily was extremely close to Freya so there was no way she could say no now.

Besides, it wasn't like Muku was overly lustful to go after every cute girl he saw.

Hell, even among their current group. Despite most being technically his and willing to go all the way, he hasn't made any moves as he was just letting things flow.

It was frustrating for some but there was nothing they could do.

With those thoughts in mind, the girls weren't as opposed to Lisa's presence anymore.

"Now that that's dealt with. What about the other group?" Layla reminded everyone.

"Wait... There are two groups?" Jade who hadn't paid any attention to the people down below asked...

She then scanned the area down below with her beast sense (mana sense variant) and her eyes widened in surprise...

Chapter 417: This side chick is a little too strong!

"Aren't those my brothers?!" Jade suddenly exclaimed.

"Brothers?!" Muku was startled.

He was wondering where the hell Jade's brothers suddenly popped up from. With that thought, he scanned the people below and couldn't find any new ones...

So, where were Jade's brothers? Unless...

"Don't tell me your brothers are part of Brother Klaus's group?!" Muku asked Jade.

"Brother Klaus? Why are you calling my brother Brother?. You know what, I have no time for this, I have. To go see them. It has been too long" Jade replied in confusion then put the matter aside for the time being as she couldn't wait to speak to her brothers.

Especially Klaus she hadn't seen close to three years. Even before the apocalypse, she hadn't seen him for a few months after he left the city. While he looked extremely different from the last time she saw him, she'd always recognise her brother.

Even if he switched bodies, she'd always recognise him. Actually m, with how different he looked, he might as well have gotten a different body. Unlike Chris, his hair remained black, but it was now a lot longer, reaching his back. His body had gotten a lot bigger and more muscular. Then there were his seemingly pseudo-exhibitionist tendencies from how his yukata was worn in a way that exposed his chest with four claw-mark-like scars on it.

It was like he was telling everyone, "Come on, look at my cool scars. Where are yours?"... And honestly, while he had never been so shameless before, Jade knew that he was definitely capable of it. It just made her more certain that he was her brother.

Then there was Chris standing beside him looking up... It seemed they had sensed that they were being watched.

Which was only natural since Jade didn't try to hide it...

.....

Down below...

"Who could be so blatantly scanning us from up there? Have they shame?!" Klaus exclaimed angrily, but one could see no anger in his eyes.

He was clearly just acting. As for why that was... He had an idea as to who would do something like that...

"You already know who..." Chris who recognised Jade's energy signature replied.

They had already seen Jade pass them by a couple of times after all. But since she seemed to be busy, they didn't call her.

As for why she didn't even look their way? Well, they knew their sister. While she wasn't a bad person, to her, unrelated people weren't worth her time.

She was like that even before the apocalypse. It would have gotten her in trouble with those who unreasonably got angry from being ignored if she weren't fierce.

After all, earlier some random guy was embarrassed by her when he called her but she didn't even bother looking.

They were still young and impulsive at the time so he angrily swung his fist towards her and as if she had eyes at the back of her head, she dodged and what happened next... Well, the boy had to miss school for the rest of the term as both his legs were broken and some teeth were broken.

This of course led to Jade getting kicked out of school. That's when she went to the school she met Emily.

But even then, word of her past deeds made their way there. So no one dared mess with her. It was only Emily who didn't fear her in the first days... Not because she was braver, but she was informed.

By the time she found out, the two were already best friends and the others had realised that as long as you didn't bother Jade, she wouldn't bother you, so she was no longer scary and just the resident school's "tough kid"... Yep, she had stolen the title usually reserved for boys.

Then there was how she was extremely good at sports. So by the end of it, people actually looked up to Jade as some sort of school idol. But they still dared not approach her.

After all, even her friendship with Emily was initiated by Jade when Emily was the only one who helped her out when she started school there and didn't understand many things...

Anyway, the point was that the brothers knew that their sister wouldn't easily look around for no reason. This led to her not noticing them...

"Klaus!" An excited feminine voice was heard immediately after Chris confirmed Klaus's suspicion.

"OOF!" Klaus had the air knocked out of him before he could react and was almost thrown to the ground.

He definitely would have been thrown too if the person who suddenly jumped him hadn't stopped him.

He couldn't help but grimace lightly in pain but he didn't pull away. In fact, he hugged the person who hugged him back with a happy smile on his face.

He didn't know anyone with such bright red hair, but he was certain he knew the identity of this person.

Genevieve who was a little distance away narrowed her eyes as she looked on.

She suspected that this girl who suddenly appeared and hugged Klaus was his long-lost sister... But the last time he checked, she had green hair. So what was going on?

And even if she wasn't his sister and some homewrecker... There was nothing she could do. After all, this homewrecker was a bit too strong if she was one.

She didn't want to experience that embarrassing situation where the main wife goes finding trouble with the sidechick only to be beaten up.

As for when she became Klaus's wife? That happened the moment she decided Klaus was hers. Everything else could be discussed but that was already set in stone as far as she was concerned.

Anyway, since she was uncertain if what was going on... She went to ask Scarlett. This sister-in-law of her's should be more informed right?

"Sister-in-law... Who's that girl?" Genevieve asked Scarlett in a low voice after making her way to her.

"Oh right, you haven't met yet. That's Jade, Chris and Klaus's younger sister. You should go and say hie" Scarlett replied with a little smile on her face.

She had noticed how Genevieve was troubled by what was going on but didn't know what to do. It reminded her of her past self, so she didn't mind easing Genevieve's nerves.

"Oh... That's good. But wouldn't it be a bit too forward of me to do such a thing before our relationship is confirmed? As you know, I'm not that kind of girl" Genevieve replied in a relieved voice before refusing Scarlett's suggestion.

{How can you claim not to be that kind of person after calling Scarlett sister-in-law?!} Everyone who heard the exchange screamed in their minds.

Actually, pretty much everyone relatively close to the duo who wasn't occupied with something heard them.

And that was pretty much everyone from Klaus's camp.

Genevieve seems to have forgotten that whispering was no longer as secure as before since everyone's senses had been heightened a thousand times more by the time they reached R3.

It was a very common mistake among humans those days. After all, whispering for secrecy had long been ingrained in human nature to the point that it sometimes became a thoughtless process.

Anyway, since everyone in the camp heard what she said. How could Klaus and Jade not hear what she said too?

Klaus was overwhelmed with joy but didn't dare show it. He was a virgin with zero experience with girls despite his looks.

So he was actually starting lose confidence in his pursuit of Genevieve. He was starting to think that she didn't really like him and was just entertaining him because he was the group's leader...

After all, if she were to reject him and he let her be without doing anything. The others who adored Klaus a bit too much probably wouldn't let it slide even if he told them to back off.

But now, Genevieve practically confessed everything. And he now had the confidence to be a little bit more unreasonable in his approach. It couldn't be helped, he had pursued her for too long without results.

Maybe she was already close to saying yes, but he couldn't wait to hold the girl he loved in his hands.

He couldn't help but ruffle Jade's hair then hugged her again in thanks. If it wasn't for her, he wouldn't have known.

As expected, his little sister was the best wingman even without trying.

While he was happy, Jade was not. Everyone knows how much she doesn't like anyone touching her hair. And yet, Klaus didn't just touch it, he even messed it up. Did he want to die?!

And so, she pushed him away grumpily. If he weren't her big brother and she knew why he had done it, she might have beaten him up.

But it was the only time she'd spare him. Next time, he might have to say good bye to his long hair.

"Sorry, sorry, I didn't mean to do that. I was just overwhelmed by emotions. It's so good see you again little sis. How have you been?" Klaus immediately apologised after realising what he had done.

He was even a bit fearful in the way he spoke to her after that. After all, the last and only other time he touched her hair, she bit his arm until one of her teeth fell out.

Although the tooth was already loose and she was seven, it still scared him. After that, other than their mother who was allowed, no one dared touch Jade's hair...

Chapter 418: Mrs Chisen?

"Tsk. Do you think I don't know why you got overwhelmed? You know what, whatever. I won't be bothered with you. Now get out of the way, I want to greet my nicer brother" Jade replied while pushing Klaus out of the way even though it was completely unnecessary.

"Hello Jade" The taciturn Chris greeted Jade after patiently waiting for her and Klaus to be done.

"It should be more than nine months since we last met so I only have one question for you..." Jade ignored the greeting and started another matter.

"And what's that?" Chris asked curiously, completely unbothered by how she ignored his greeting.

"Where's my niece or nephew? Or both, I don't mind" Jade asked something which would have made Chris choke if he had been drinking something.

Unfortunately, he wasn't. So the cliché scene couldn't happen...

Scarlett who had been quietly observing from the side was also greatly surprised. Her face instantly turned red as she shyly stole glances at Chris. Behind that shyness, there was a raging fire waiting for the right moment to burst out.

Chris noticed how she was looking at him and knew that he might not be able to sleep properly for a while.

He couldn't help but look at Jade with some resentment. It was all this brat's fault. She definitely knew that her words would likely give Scarlett, baby fever and yet she still said it. In fact, from the smug smile on her face, she probably intended for that to happen.

"Why are you doing this?" Chris couldn't help but ask.

"No reason. Does a girl need a reason to make her brother's life harder?" Jade replied innocently.

After replying she left Chris and Klaus behind as she went to greet Scarlett.

Scarlett happily greeted her back. After all, this sister-in-law of hers knew ball. Chris really was slacking! They should have had two kids by that point! But now, she had been shown the way and won't let him off the hook anymore.

A little craziness appeared in Scarlett's eyes as she thought of this. Chris grimaced from a distance away. The situation was getting worse by the minute.

Everyone else smiles knowingly. Klaus and Jade even had schadenfreude in their eyes, which was to be expected from siblings. Clearly, no one enjoys your suffering more than your siblings do.

"Hello Ms Jade, I'm Genevieve. One of Klaus's closest subordinates. It's nice to meet you" Genevieve stepped up to introduce herself.

While she would have preferred to call Jade sister-in-law as Scarlett did, it wasn't time yet.

"Hello, Ms Genevieve. It's nice to meet you. I hope you take care of my brother. However, you addressed me wrong" Jade replied.

"What do you mean?" Genevieve asked confusedly.

Wasn't this girl called Jade? So how could she be wrong?

"In the past calling me Ms Jade would have been okay, but these days, I go by Mrs Chisen. Mrs Muku Chisen" Jade corrected seriously.

Chris almost had a heart attack from what Jade was saying. Even Klaus's smile stiffened a bit.

While they had accepted that their sister was now taken. It still wasn't easy to stomach. Especially when she was advertising it left and right like that.

Muku and a few of the girls who had just arrived almost tripped after hearing Jade's words.

The girls looked at Muku waiting for him to deny Jade's claims like he always did in the past. But to their surprise, he didn't. He pretended like he didn't hear the words and ignored their gazes.

Internally Muku was sweating buckets. After all, Jade wasn't wrong. They had sealed the deal already. And they tacitly agreed to take the experience as their wedding night.

It was the same with Audrey. So, Muku had two confirmed "wives" (albeit, Jade was kept secret for the most part)

In their world, people weren't as "open" as on Earth. So to them, doing it, was no different from getting married. Doing it before marriage was even illegal...

So, yeah, Jade said nothing wrong...

Currently, Muku has come down with Emily, Chloe and Layla. The others had stayed up since Lisa had to be dealt with too.

Besides they could meet Klaus at any time...

Anyway, from Muku's reaction. The girls behind him understood something. And their eyes all widened... Of course, Emily was only acting since she already knew, but Chloe and Layla were thoroughly shocked.

Which was understandable. After all, Jade was the last person they thought would do such a thing with Muku. After all, the two were always at each other's throats until recently. And when did they have the time to do it?!... Wait, could it have been around the time Muku's treatment of Jade mellowed down and Jade also became less wild?

Speaking of which, they hadn't seen Jade for a bit back then. Muku gave them a reasonable excuse but now they were questioning it.

Their gazes burned into Muku's back as if trying to see through him and get all the answers they wanted.

As for why Emily pretended not to know? Obviously, so that she doesn't get ripped up along with Muku and Jade by Chloe and Layla.

After all, keeping such a thing secret is no different from doing it too. And it was obvious that she likely got some benefits for keeping it secret...

She was even sweating about how they might find out that she's been sneakily sleeping with Muku on some nights. Nothing other than sleeping and maybe a little kissing and groping happened but if they knew that she was sleeping with him they'd never believe that nothing happened.

It was a benefit she got from Muku... Actually, it's something she got over two years ago. But obviously, she couldn't cash in with him being absent. Now she was just making up for lost time.

And tormenting Muku by leading him on until the very edge was quite fun. It eased her heart from all the losses she had taken.

She wished that it happened a lot more often. But unfortunately, there were too many things going on since Muku returned, so she had only slept with him three times. But it was better than nothing...

With that thought, Emily resentfully looked at Jade. Because of what this idiot said, she probably had to stop sleeping with Muku lest she get caught. After all, Muku will definitely be under close watch from now on.

Her heart ached considering she had sweet-talked Hope for over a week to get those days. Yet it was all ruined by Jade.

Truly one shouldn't fear god-like enemies but pig-like allies!

"Cough. Brother Klaus, Mr Chris. It's been a while. To think that you two were actually Jade's brothers. Who would have thought... The world really is a small place even after increasing in size" Muku spoke up when everyone looked in his direction.

"Hello Mr Klaus and Mr Chris, I'm Chloe and this is Layla, you should know Emily already. We're all in the same team as Jade here. We wish we could talk for a while longer, but we have some urgent matters to take care of. And Mr Muku here is also needed, so please excuse us. Well definitely return for a proper introduction later on" Chloe introduced herself and the others while placing her hand strongly on Muku's shoulder.

After all, it was clear to everyone present that he wanted to escape. Layla placed hers on the other shoulder.

Emily could only hold his hand in line with the other two. She was resolute to keep her knowledge hidden until the very end. Even if it meant acting against Muku.

Besides, this might be for the best. Audrey and Jade shouldn't monopolise Muku like this! He belonged to all of them!

As for what she was doing... It didn't count. As long as there's no penetration, everything else can be discussed!

And so, without waiting for anyone to say anything, the trio dragged Muku back up to the mansion.

Of course, Muku could easily free himself if he wanted to. But did he dare? Of course not! That would just make things worse!

"..."

Everyone looked on with wry smiles on their faces. Those who had been jealous of Muku for having so many beautiful girls around him realised that it might not be as good as it looked...

At the same time, they couldn't help but think that his kidneys must be made from diamonds. After all, how else could he possibly keep all of them so engaged?

.....

After Muku was dragged away...

Klaus and Chris looked at Jade with wry smiles. They were smart enough to know that this sister of theirs said something she shouldn't have.

After all, even her own expression didn't look too good after Muku and the rest appeared and left.

She probably slipped up in the moment. Or maybe she wanted to show off her status to her sisters-in-law.

Well, whatever the case. She has messed up and got herself and Muku into trouble.

But hey, at the very least, it seems she was doing great in the group. Her skin was even glowing.

The gloomy aura around her that Chris noticed last time was also gone. Maybe it was because she missed Muku, now that he was back, she was okay again.

"Sis, why don't we talk inside? We have so much catching up to do" Klaus ushered Jade into their newly made lounge.

Jade who knew that a storm was waiting for her at home, was more than willing to stay...

Chapter 419: It's happening!

Back at the mansion...

"..." (The girls)

"..." (Muku)

"..." (The girls)

"..." (Muku)

"Don't you have something you want to say to us?" Chloe who couldn't take the silence anymore asked.

Freya and Lisa had also come down but neither said anything. It was clear that something was going on.

"Something like what?" Muku refused to admit anything.

After all, it was all suspicion until it was confirmed. And there was no way he'd confirm it himself. That's no different from digging his own grave.

"How..." Chloe was about to continue when she was interrupted.

"Muku, it's happening!" Raya's urgent voice rang out as she ran down the voice.

"What's happening?" Muku asked.

However, his heart skipped a beat. After all, there was only one thing that could be happening right now...

"My bloodline is advancing! I probably only have an hour left until the tribulation!" Raya replied uneasily.

While she knew that it would come soon. It came too suddenly. She was chilling upstairs watching an anime when her bloodline suddenly went crazy.

She knew she shouldn't have eaten so much recently, but she couldn't help it when the food was present...

"Oh shih... What are we waiting for then?!. Let's go somewhere far from here!" Muku replied agently and stood up from where he was.

Then in front of everyone's gazes, he grabbed Raya's hand and ran out of the castle.

"Everyone, I'll take Raya a distance away from here. It shouldn't be too far. But it won't be too close either since the ritual attracts beasts of the same rank as hers. We might be able to fend them off, but the damage would be significant and those on the ground won't survive. So you stay here and look after the castle!" Muku shouted back then he and Raya flew into the distance.

As for why he was acting like this when they still had close to an hour left... Well, he wanted to get away from the girls for now.

While Raya's bloodline awakening ritual wasn't a good thing in how dangerous it was, at the very least it was a good excuse for Muku to escape a troublesome situation for the time being.

Sure, it wouldn't make the problem go away. But it gave him enough time to think. So when the matter is brought up again, he will be prepared unlike now...

"...." The girls looked at Muku and Raya's departing figures silently for a moment then...

"I'll go after them. And Layla should come too. That idiot forgot that he and Raya will be weakened after the process is over. And R5s are a lot more cunning and harder to kill than R4s and below. So without help, they might not make it..." Emily suddenly spoke up.

"Yeah, you're right" Layla who was about to bring up the same points agreed.

Actually, they all knew that Muku probably realised the problem too. He was probably just going ahead to avoid the conversation that would happen if they went together. After all, there was no way they would let him and Ray go through such a dangerous process alone.

For a second they even considered not going just to spite him, but then thought otherwise. If he died, how would he answer their questions?

"Wait everyone. I think I've got just the solution for this. We can protect the mansion and those two at the same time. It should only take twenty to thirty minutes..." Freya suddenly spoke up when everyone was about to split up.

"Well, if you're certain then let's do that. Someone call Jade and notify her of the situation. Freya, we leave the rest up to you" Audrey agreed to Freya's plan without knowing it.

That's how much she trusted Freya. The others didn't disagree. Emily called Jade and notified her of everything.

Jade replied by saying that she'd already gone after Muku. So even if they took a little longer, it should be okay.

While catching up with her brothers was important, following after Raya and Muku who seemed to be flying away urgently was more important. So Jade had gone after them without a second thought.

Klaus and Chris weren't offended either. They'd have done the same...

....

"Ms Lisa. I think you should go see your people for a bit. It's been too long since they last saw you. They should be rather uneasy right now. As for the talk about where to go from here, we can have it after everything has been dealt with" Vice leader Audrey gave a directive to Lisa.

Lisa happily did as she was told. She had actually been wanting to go see her comrades but didn't know how to bring it up. And she wanted to thank Muku for everything as well, but as someone who could read the room. She didn't say anything for the time being.

Anyway, Muku wasn't present anyway, so she might as well go back for now.

After casting a curious glance at the phone in Emily's hand, she left...

...

More than twenty kilometres away(and counting)...

Muku and Raya along with Jade who had caught up flew forward.

The last upgrade destroyed a few kilometres of land and Raya was barely R3 back then. This time, she was Pseudo R6. So yeah, going more than twenty kilometres away wasn't overreacting.

The trio only stopped around fifty kilometres away. That should be enough distance right?

"Well, it seems like we have some company..." Jade spoke while looking around.

There was nothing but trees no matter where she looked... But that was only to her. To beings like them, they could "see" more than trees.

More than ten R5s had already gathered and were greedily looking at Raya who was now in her dragon form.

She was in the shrunken form which was just around ten metres in height.

She could have used her biggest form which reached over 110 metres by that point, but she decided against it. That would just make her a bigger target without any visible benefits. After all, the attacks resize themselves according to her size...

"Just leave them be for now. It's not like they'll do anything until after the advancement... They are smart enough to know that attacking now would likely only benefit those who come later since mutual distraction is almost guaranteed now... Well, that is if they were dealing with normal people. We could easily wipe them out. But why should we? Let the KP gather a bit more. It should be enough to fill the gaps between your teeth at least, right?" Muku spoke calmly.

He had created a sound barrier around the two of them. So there was no risk of scaring the prey that thought it was the predator away...

"Hmm. I guess you're right" Jade agreed. She couldn't wait until the fighting started.

She hadn't tested out her R5 strength yet after all. She couldn't wait to whip out her avatar and decimate the enemy troops. Just thinking about it made her giddy with excitement and battle intent.

"As we wait. Would you like to tell me why you suddenly exposed everything when it was your idea to keep everything a secret?" Muku suddenly asked something which made Jade freeze.

"Cough. Well, you know how sometimes situations progress too quickly and you get caught in them to the point of losing yourself?" Jade replied in embarrassment.

If they had spoken up earlier, maybe the others wouldn't have been so pissed. But now, after finding out for themselves, things weren't so simple anymore.

"No. No, I don't" Muku replied in a deadpan manner.

"I... Oh. Well, nevertheless, that's what happened to me. I promise it was a mistake and it won't happen again" Jade apologised.

"Yeah, it better not. And don't think you're getting away without facing any punishment" Muku replied while grabbing Jade's waist and pulling her closer.

Then he gave her a deep long kiss while his hands went places they shouldn't.

Jade tried to resist at first since the location and situation weren't ideal, but being a Beast Empress... Her desire for her emperor was always just one step away. So it didn't take long for her to get into the mood and start kissing Muku back. Her hands were also going places they shouldn't...

Soon enough, the duo was engaged in a quicky... Well, it was a quicky to them. But to many, it was a full session since it lasted around thirty minutes.

They both wanted to continue but it wasn't the time and place. Honestly, Muku wouldn't have done such a thing in normal times, even if he blocked the surroundings (Raya included) out, and made the two of them invisible, it was still risky considering the situation.

However, the episode with Lisa after not getting any for a while had brought him to the edge and he couldn't let go of the opportunity.

But honestly, it was kind of thrilling. Just as those manhwas said, outdoor sex was always quite thrilling.

"That was great" Jade said with a smile on her face and flushed cheeks as she hugged Muku on the Mercury bed he made which was pretty much as soft as a real bed to them.

"Yeah well, this wasn't the punishment. That will come after this is all done. You'd better prepare because I will not let you go for at least 24 hours, no matter how much you beg. Your body is stronger now right? So you should be able to take it right?" Muku replied evily while pulling Jade closer.

Jade's eyes widened in surprise and fear. Before, they had gone for seven hours at best. And even then, she felt like she would have died if they had continued. Now he was demanding a day?! Did he want her to experience the famous, "Death by Snu snu?!"

She thought that only happened to men!...

Chapter 420: MVP Freya!

"Looks like they have arrived..." Muku spoke again, before the shocked and scared Jade could.

Jade also sensed what Muku was talking about at that moment. She looked in the direction they came from and saw a rather familiar yet unfamiliar sight.

Familiar, in that the castle was flying over, unfamiliar in that it was clearly not being flown over by Muku since he had been here all this time and he didn't drag it over... So wtf was going on?

She looked at Muku for answers only to see that he was similarly shocked. It was clear that he also didn't know what was happening...

"This aura..." Muku couldn't understand how the castle was flying over. But he noticed something.

"Hmm? What about it? Isn't it Freya's aura?" Jade asked confusedly.

They had already dressed and put a little distance between themselves after destroying all the traces of their activities so there was no resistance against the approaching group.

"Yes, but it's not her usual aura, it's slightly different. This one is new... I only felt it before when she deployed her avatar..." Muku explained.

"Oh..." Jade replied, unsure of what to make of the situation.

She has also sensed that a person's aura changes slightly when their avatar is deployed... Like a sign of the different mana wavelength or something. But she didn't think too much of it. Hell, she wasn't thinking much of it even then. Why bother thinking about something she can ask about?

Soon enough the mansion reached around a kilometre away from Raya...

A few of the girls then flew over to Muku and Jade. Freya was one of them, which was fortunate since Muku was really interested in knowing what was going on...

"Hey" Muku greeted them and they greeted him back...

For close to a minute everyone stood there quietly not knowing how to proceed. They had been in quite a conversation before Raya's matter after all.

Freya wasn't present but she could sense the awkwardness in the air.

It was only she, Layla and Chloe. Emily dared not come. She felt that the less she shows herself, the less likely she'll be discovered.

Layla and Chloe quietly and suspiciously looked at Muku and Jade after the greeting.

While the duo had successfully erased all the evidence. They couldn't change Jade's rosy cheeks and feminine air which had intensified after the act. It was something which happened to many women if not all actually.

Fortunately for the duo, Chloe and Layla were still not well-informed in such matters. So they couldn't be sure, they suspected that the duo had maybe kissed at best.

After all, who would have sex just before such an important event and in front of so many enemies? Wouldn't they be afraid of getting caught in the middle by the event or getting found out by someone? Besides, what level of shamelessness would they have to have to be capable of it in the first place?

For that reason, Muku and Jade luckily escaped having another charge added to their records.

If Audrey were present, she would have easily discovered their act though. But she likely wouldn't say anything anyway, so it was fine...

"So...the castle..." Muku spoke after being unable to take the silence any longer.

"Yeah, that..." Freya replied still feeling awkward without knowing why.

"Is this the result of that weird feeling you were talking about?" Muku continued.

He didn't hold Freya's reply against her. After all, he knew that she was easily affected by the atmosphere...

"Ah, right. Sorry for not explaining. To answer your question. Yes, this is the result of that feeling. I sensed an affinity between my avatar and the castle and so, I summoned the avatar. Then made it come into contact with the castle. What resulted was a blinding light and the result was the castle getting twisted to look like the solid version of the avatar. But that was just the battle mode. There's the base mode, battle mode, and battle castle mode... That is the base mode. But it does give some offensive capabilities. Just not as good as the other modes. Do you want to see a little display?" Freya got more and more excited the more she spoke.

She didn't know if it was caused by her class, or if she had always been interested, but she really loved talking about her castle and all its cool capabilities.

"Oh? That sounds great... And sure, go ahead. I'm sure the others are interested as well..." Muku replied with a smile.

"Great!" Freya spoke enthusiastically. Then...

Snap!

One of the large guns mounted on the walls of the castles moved at lightning-fast speeds, pointed in a certain direction then....

Foosh!

And almost silent concentrated energy blast flew into the distance then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

More than ten kilometres away, a loud explosion was heard...

Prompts of successfully killing five LR5 beasts rang out in Freya's hand.

"Oh my!" Muku couldn't help but exclaim in shock as his and everyone else's eyes widened in surprise.

And that was understandable, after all, Freya had just advanced and could barely be called R5. Yet she just managed to one-shot five relatively senior R5s albeit still just low-ranked.

Even with her superior class that should have been impossible. Killing them one by one in a relatively quick fashion should have been doable, but taking care of five at once with one shot? That's madness!

The reason none had a heart attack was that they soon realised what had happened. The attack gave off of a MR5 fire element aura.

This cleared things and reminded them that Freya had definitely used the power from a beast core acquired by Muku.

But even then, the majesty of the attack wasn't reduced, after all, it seemed, that as long as she had the beast core. Freya could even display PR5 or even Pseudo-R6 strength.

Considering that Muku had gathered hundreds of those cores from The Beast World, Freya was effectively the third strongest in their group following Raya and Muku.

And considering that she had attacked with the base mode, which was supposedly the weakest mode. Who knows what destruction she could do with the other two modes?

Well, one thing was certain. In the upcoming defence of Raya and Muku, she was definitely going to be the MVP.

Chloe and Layla couldn't help but feel a bit jealous. While it could be said they had a lot more mobility... What could mobility do in front of absolute strength?

For the time being, they could only resolve themselves to being Freya's assistants in battle. At the very least, it wasn't Jade with this power or they would have definitely had a terrible time with the taunting.

Especially Layla who was always at odds with Jade. She couldn't help but shudder from the mere thought of it.

"Well... It seems that with you here everything will be okay. After all, I don't sense any auras above MR5 around us. It seems we were lucky and the R5s close enough to sense Raya's advancement weren't too strong. And with what you displayed, some might even back out and others will be more cautious. At the same time, they'll probably think that you used your best attack to scare them off which will make them subconsciously complacent thinking that they already know what to expect. So don't use the few PR5 cores until a critical moment. That way, the result will be much better. If it goes according to plan. You might come out of today with personal strength infinitely close to MR5" Muku complimented Freya as well as advised her on how to act.

He wasn't ordering her. Simply giving her suggestions like he usually does. After all, while he's "the leader" the girls aren't his subordinates but partners instead.

And orders could have a restraining effect too. This was because battle situations are ever-changing, so letting people act according to their own discretion was always best.

Actually, he only spoke so much because Freya hadn't been involved in nearly as many battles as the rest due to her class. So a little advice wouldn't be too bad.

"Hehe. Don't worry. You can count on me! I'll won't let even a single one pass through... If I do, everyone else is there too" Freya replied a little shyly but confidently at the same time.

After all, in most cases, she had to rely on the others. She has always been waiting for a chance for them to rely on her. Even just a little bit was okay. Especially Muku, after all, without him, she could have likely been rotting away at the fortress unable to realise her full power...

Sure, she'd gain some power, obviously. But that power wouldn't be anywhere near what she currently had. While others thought that her Unique Class was OP no matter what like Pseudo-Legendary classes... She knew that that wasn't the case.

Her strength was directly proportional to the materials she had for her "domain" which is the building she controlled...