

Few Wives 431

Chapter 431: Poisoned mind: Rage!

"Oh no!" Rah exclaimed in surprise and fear...

"What's wrong. If you tell me, I might spare your life" Layla asked. She could tell that the situation was taking a turn for the worse.

"Those are berserkers. Beasts that have been dominated and their minds shattered by Monarchs. It improves their strength, but now they are nothing but killing machines that will kill anything in their path that isn't like them. It seems the Monarchs have given up on this portal as well as this part of the planet. They just want to get rid of you all. But these creatures won't stop until they are killed. Which means a large portion of land and creatures will be decimated. And honestly, I don't think there's any creature that can stop them that's below R6..." Rah explained.

He did it quickly hoping that Layla would let him go and he could run away.

"Oh? So that's how it is? Well, from their aura, I think you're right. Thank you... And you're free to go" Layla replied then turned to leave.

"Thank you Ms, I promise you'll never see me aga...gyo" Rah was busy thanking Layla when he started choking on his blood.

Eyes wide, he grabbed his throat, and immediately he felt that the slash from earlier had gotten bigger...

With his last breath of life, he turned and looked at Layla who was a distance away. She had clearly not attacked again, so what happened?!

"Sorry beast, if it was another time, I would have let you go. Unfortunately, we just learned that every life on the planet makes the next evolution come sooner. Maybe if you were weaker and dumber, I might have let you go. Unfortunately..." Those were the words Rah heard last before he died.

He wanted to get angry, but he couldn't. After all, he knew that if he was in her position, he would have done the same. Though he wished she had told him how she had killed him. Oh well, a dead beast didn't need to know anything anyway...

As for how Layla has killed him... It was pretty simple actually. Her attack from before has left some residual energy on his neck.

But because it was so little and the situation was tense. Rah didn't sense it.

That residual energy became the foundation for the attack she used. She roused it and strengthened it before Rah sensed it and splashed his neck again.

If you remember, from R4, evolvers and beasts can create an attack from a distance. Of course, there are restrictions, like not being able to create spells inside another's spell and inside another living being's body... Of course, if the being is weak enough, such restrictions don't matter.

And of course, they applied to Rah, after all, he was technically stronger than Layla.

Unfortunately, he wasn't willing to risk it all. Though honestly, he was a defensive type, and as we all know, defence practically doesn't work on Layla. So maybe that's why he hesitated until his demise.

Not to mention that there were many guns pointed at him from a distance.

If he had risked it all and maybe taken on his true form, even if Layla failed to take him out... Freya would have filled him with holes in seconds. So yeah, if one looked at it that way, with his kind of personality, Rah made the best choice.

And as Layla said, he had just been unlucky, otherwise, she might have let him live... No she wouldn't have. Muku had long brainwash... Cough... Taught them to kill all enemies anyway.

It seems Rah was doomed to die the moment he made them his enemies. Even if it was forced by the Monarchs behind the scenes...

Anyway, he was dead and his page was closed.

Layla was already back with the others as they solemnly looked at the approaching beasts. The weakest ones were peak R5s and the rest were Pseudo-R6.

From their shaky auras, it seemed their strength had been boosted by unnatural means making them stronger than they should be by one stage.

But even then, it didn't change the fact that the girls were just LR5s even if they were stronger than most LR5s. Sure, after all the kills, Freya was closing in on MR5, but that didn't change the fact that even if she reached the peak, she'd still be fighting from inside the mansion...

"So, what's the game plan? Should we call them?" Jade asked.

She was a battle junkie, but she wasn't dumb. She knew that it wasn't the time to be nonchalant about the situation. Things weren't looking too good for them after all.

"No, not yet. For now, let's do it this way. Freya will focus on the stronger ones and the rest of us will create groups of two and attack the weaker ones.

It should be able to give Muku and Raya a little more time to recover. It has already been a day, so who knows, maybe they will come out on their own soon..." Audrey told everyone the game plan.

"Makes sense. I'll take..." Jade was about to agree with Audrey's plan when a voice interrupted her.

"Wait... Before that. Let me try something first" Hope who finally came out of the mansion spoke as she approached.

"Sigh. Wished big brother was here when I did this for the first time on such a large scale but whatever..." Hope spoke to herself then...

"Poisoned mind: Rage!" She shouted and a familiar purple mist appeared in the distance around the portal.

In no time at all, all the beasts were consumed by it.

Of course, by that time there were some that had long reached the girls. But Freya had long dealt with them.

Anyway, the beasts all paused the moment they were covered by the mist and it entered their bodies.

In their berserk red eyes emerged a hint of purple. Then...

ROOOOOOOOOOAR! They all roared angrily to the skies.

In the next moment, to the surprise of everyone watching in the distance... The beasts immediately lunged at the one beside them and started attacking them with everything they had.

At that point, more than five hundred beasts had gathered and all of them were now attacking the one closest to them.

Tails, legs, arms and heads flew...

Everyone couldn't help but gulp some saliva in fear and turn towards Hope who was currently floating in the air, her purple eyes wide open while looking in the distance.

They glowed in the dark like two purple touches.

Just looking at them made the others feel slightly dizzy until they looked away.

Yet again, little Ms Hope had proved to everyone why she was the most dangerous member in the group. Even if she wasn't the most destructive, she could cause the most destruction if she wanted to.

Unfortunately, the spectacle didn't last too long. Just a minute.

But in that minute, more than four hundred of the beasts died. And the remaining ones weren't unharmed.

Hope fell from the sky. Fortunately, she was barely a metre above the castle. So she wasn't injured. She began gasping for air while holding her aching pale head.

"Are you okay?" Audrey asked as she walked over worriedly.

"Don't mind me. I'm just spent from hijacking control from Monarchs for a minute. I will be fine soon enough. Everyone should go and finish off the rest. It seems they are coming in batches so we shouldn't let them gather like before..." Hope spoke as she crouched on the ground.

"You're right. Everyone, with me! Let's go take care of the remaining..." Audrey shouted and flew forward.

The plan of teaming up was set aside for the time being, after all, their enemies were all severely now. So there was no need to team up for now. They were just going to finish off what was left after all...

"Bloody most!" Audrey shouted heroically as she advanced.

Eerily similar to how Hope's purple mist appeared, Audrey's red mist enveloped the injured beasts then...

BOOOOM! BOOOOM! BOOOOM!....

One explosion after the other rang out...

Audrey and the others suddenly stopped before they even reached the target....

After all, there was no longer a need to go... Audrey had killed off the remaining with her random attack.

"I ah... Cough. It seems they were weaker than we thought. Let's prepare for the next round" Audrey spoke in an embarrassed tone.

After all, she had needlessly riled up everyone's emotions only to kill off the remaining beasts herself.

Though it wasn't her fault, she didn't expect them to be so weak after Hope's spell.

Speaking of which, they had been really lucky with that. In normal cases, Hope probably wouldn't have been able to take control of such high-level beasts... At least not on such a large scale.

But thanks to the Monarchs, there was no resistance at all from the beasts when she did. However, the residual energy in the beasts from the Monarchs meant that she couldn't keep that control for too long. And it took everything she had to control them for a minute.

But it was totally worth it when one looked at the result.

While the KP from beasts kept on meaning less and less per beast. Hope had killed enough to at least reach 25%.

(A/N: Pseudo-R6 = 0.1% KP. PR5 = 0.05% KP)

A bit of distance from MR5, but definitely significant. Though she was currently out of power. It was a major win.

Who knows how long she'd need to kill more than four hundred beasts in normal times?...

Chapter 432: Team up and conquer!

"They are coming..." Audrey spoke in a soft voice.

The others tensed up as they watched beasts appear from the portal.

Initially, they wanted to attack them as soon as they appeared. However, unlike before, when they appeared in groups of five at most, they now appeared in tens.

And they were all at least PR5. So the initial plan had to be scrapped. Now they could only resort to the plan Audrey came up with before. That was, team up and conquer!

In no time at all, more than eight hundred beasts appeared... At this point no one was surprised. They had long noticed that the number of beasts coming out per round was increasing.

It seemed the strength of the beasts mattered too. After all, the weaker beasts were in the thousands when they appeared but these stronger ones hadn't reached that yet.

As for why that was, they had no idea. But they weren't complaining. It was better like this even if the situation was tough.

After all, the alternative would be for the beasts to all pour out at once. This would lead to one outcome... Being overwhelmed and retreating...

Anyway, the girls didn't waste time. Jade went with Elsa, Emily with Audrey and Layla with Chloe.

Obviously, Freya had to stay behind and Hope was still recovering. Besides, she wasn't a frontline fighter anyway. Not to mention that, as a healer, she had to be on standby to treat anyone who suffered an injury. Fortunately, she should have recovered enough to heal someone after resting a bit while recovering with a beast core...

As for why Elsa went with Jade instead of Emily... Well, obviously, fire and water are the worst pair no matter how poetic and closely related they are.

And Emily also couldn't work with Layla or Chloe. After all, ice isn't much better than water in its affinity with fire. As for Chloe... She was just as destructive, if not more so than Emily, so their team would be glass cannons if anything.

On the other hand, Emily and Audrey, while not perfect, could work. Audrey will be in front while Emily supports her from behind.

The same with Elsa and Jade. Jade could play both roles, but at the end of the day, she was most suited for fighting up close and that's what she preferred as well.

Then there was Layla and Chloe, an interesting pair. Without Layla's shadow element, they would be a rather unsuitable pair. After all, Chloe is way too fast to be supported effectively from behind.

However, with Layla's [omnipresence] especially at night, they became a dream team.

They both attacked up close supporting each other with their speed. Like, one would distract the opponent while the other attacked. It was a tried and tested method. In fact, all the teammates had fought together a few times before, even if it wasn't specifically organised, so the situation wasn't completely new to them. Just that their opponents were stronger.

Speaking of which, the Monarchs might have been too rash in making the beasts go berserk. On top of what they did allowing Hope to practically clear out the first wave, it also gave these girls an advantage in battle.

After all, beasts in their berserk state don't think about anything. Which can be very problematic when fighting slightly weaker enemies with full access to their thoughts.

It was also why the girls dared fight back. Even if they were weaker, they would use a strategy to win against these brainless monsters.

Of course, Freya was supporting them from the back otherwise they would still be overwhelmed with their strategies...

As for letting Freya do all the work? That was as out of the question. Keeping track of so many targets was rather mentally draining. So soon enough she'll gas out. It was unavoidable really. But they could prolong it from happening by fighting together with her.

Not to mention that it would mean that she's the only one who will get stronger. Something they were definitely not willing to see happen.

They had no problem with her getting stronger... But they had a problem with her getting stronger while they remained weak. To them, either they had around the same strength or none at all!

It could be said to be a quiet competition between sisters...

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Battlefield 1: (Jade and Elsa)

"Hahaha..." Jade laughed like a maniac as she ran circles around a beast which looked like a four-metre-tall ape. Something told her that this thing just took on a smaller version of itself when it evolved to R5. It was smart but a bit too lazy. The bastard probably didn't even try to change anything.

Anyway, it swung its arms left and right as it tried to get Jade who was currently in her advanced cat girl form. Red marks all over her body, clawed hands, glowing green eyes, canines peeking from her cute mouth and a red tail behind her as she nimbly dodged the ape.

Every time the ape swung, she would dodge and rip off a part of its body with her claws.

She felt bad about how her [Empress impact] wasn't affecting these creatures. Likely because their minds had long been ruined. If it worked, while it wouldn't completely disarm them if they had sufficient mental resistance, it could at least put a little pressure on them.

Anyway, it didn't stop the battle from being interesting though. And whenever it caught her off guard with its erratic movements, Elsa would step in with a spell from a distance.

With this tactic. In thirty seconds, Jade had ripped off both its arms before Elsa took out its head killing it instantly.

They didn't celebrate the victory though. They immediately charged at their next target to lessen the pressure on Freya.

Fortunately, Freya had Iris who would aid her with mental energy or even control the battle castle.

So, the situation was chaotic but stable...

The duo's target was a tiger-headed humanoid beast. This one could easily be called a tiger beast man. Its strength was a lot more than the ape's. And as they were employing the same tactic from before, the beast suddenly reverted to its original state.

It seems its instincts were also stronger than the ape's. However, it just made Jade happier, she continued laughing as she ran up the beast's leg then...

"Haaaaaah!"

BANG!

Despite having recently got her avatar. Jade was already adept enough to only summon its large paw and slap the head of the around eighty-metre-tall tiger beast.

It was understandable considering that the girl could summon an avatar embryo even when she was R3. That's right, the green tiger form of hers from back then was actually an avatar embryo. Not nearly as big or strong, but enough to make a difference as well as give Jade experience.

Like a pilot flying a plane simulation before the real thing. It wouldn't be as good as the real thing, but it would definitely count towards their experience.

Anyway, Elsa took the chance to take her avatar form. The legendary Leviathan. It looked like a monstrosity made from the combination of a megalodon, blue whale and mosasaur then made even bigger.

Anyway, the blue creature appeared in the direction the tiger was flying to with its large mouth wide open ready to receive its meal...

Then...

CHOMP!

It bit down with all its might on the tiger's stomach.

Unfortunately, it wasn't strong enough to bite through and split the tiger in half yet. However, it was strong enough to puncture skin with its razor shape teeth and make it hurt. While causing significant internal damage of course.

The tiger roared in pain as it tried to swipe at the Leviathan with its claws. But unfortunately, the angle didn't allow it... However....

BOOOOOOOM!

It released an energy wave from its skin. This would definitely do severe damage to the leviathan if it hit... Unfortunately, Elsa the battle genius had it scouted out. She cancelled the avatar before the energy wave hit and Jade took her away.

After the energy wave passed, the duo attacked again!

Now with numerous weak points created from the leviathan's bite, the battle became easier for the duo.

They started targeting those points until eventually... Jade the crazy girl drilling into one of them after forming a crazy idea in her head then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

She released an attack from inside the beast which obliterated many of its organs. Some Beast Aura leaked out from the wounds but the skin was too tough to be ripped apart even from an internal attack.

However, without its organs, the beast could do nothing but die. Its body immediately slumped to the ground.

Jade came out of the body with blood all over her body then with a little mana wave, she cleaned it all up.

Then without a second look at the tiger beast, she and Elsa went to their next target. Which was always the beast unlucky enough to be closest to them.

Well, that is if it were a PR5. They dared not mess with Pseudo-R6S yet. Those were left to Freya.

Fortunately, most of the beasts around were PR5. So finding their next target was never hard.

While a lot happened, they actually never took more than three minutes to kill their target. After all, to beings as strong as they, a second was as long as twenty seconds at least. And a lot could happen in twenty seconds. Now think about 180seconds(3 minutes)... Each containing at least twenty seconds.

And like that, the duo continued killing...

Chapter 433: Team up and conquer (pt 2)

Battlefield 2: (Audrey and Emily)

The two were doing something somewhat similar to what Jade and Elsa were doing.

That was, Audrey fighting in close combat while Emily was providing ranged support.

But of course, they had their own way of doing things. And the most obvious way was how Audrey was on fire.

She was fighting beasts while completely submerged in golden flames which added fire damage to her attacks.

Obviously, since the flames were Emily's, they didn't harm at all.

They didn't even stop her from using her own spells. But for the time being, she didn't use any spells, they were fighting a beast which wasn't using any spells either, likely a physical type. So there was no need for her to. Emily alone was enough. She just needed to distract it long enough for Emily to take it out.

Just like that, a burning lady with nails longer than blades danced around the beast while slashing and burning it at the same time.

The onlookers on the sky castle were rather amazed. They thought that Jade and Elsa's tactics were amazing and visually appealing but this was a level beyond that.

They also admired the level of trust Audrey had for Emily. After all, one has to really really trust someone to let that person set them on fire. Even if it was guaranteed that they wouldn't burn. After all, you never know what's in someone's heart. They might be secretly holding grudges and suddenly take that chance to take you out.

Of course, only outsiders would think like that. For Audrey and the other girls, nothing new or amazing was happening. It wasn't even the first time they had used this technique. And the last time everyone was on fire.

Anyway, soon enough Emily got the window she'd been looking for.

Whoosh!

A golden arrow of compressed flames flew in the night sky headed for the beast then...

Stab!

BOOOOM!

It dug into the beast's head and exploded. The beast's defence might have been strong, so strong that the explosion only took a quarter of its head... But when did a headshot need to take a large part to kill? It didn't! So, the beast was killed on the spot.

And just like Jade and Elsa, the two didn't wait around to celebrate or catch their breath. They immediately scouted out their next target and attacked!

After killing off a few more beasts, they finally came across one which returned to its true form.

It looked like a cross between a crocodile and a bull. It had dark-green scaly skin and spikes on its back. A large mouth full of sharp teeth, horns and standing on four large bull legs with a lizard bull tail. Flames came out of its mouth as it breathed, so it was fair to assume that it could use fire element breath attacks.

On top of that, they knew that its defence wasn't something which could easily be breached and so...

BOOOOM! BOOOOM!

Both their auras exploded out as they took on their avatar forms. Emily with her majestic golden phoenix and Audrey with her mantichore.

The two avatars immediately jumped on the Bull-Croc. They scratched, bit and hit the beast as much as they could... Unfortunately, it wasn't doing much damage...

And so, they opted for plan B. This was letting Emily stick to the beast long enough until her fire burns through the unreasonably strong defence.

Unfortunately, life was never that easy. Even if the beast had lost its mind, that didn't mean it would sit around while getting burned. And so, raging dark green flames exploded out of its body.

Being on a similar rank to Emily, despite the different stages, the beast actually couldn't harm Emily with its flames. However, it could harm her avatar.

So the flames blasted the unsuspecting phoenix off its back.

The reason this happened was that Emily didn't expect such a result. She thought that her avatar would be immune to the beast's flames like she was. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case.

And so, her phoenix legs were burnt off by the surge of green flames from the beast, it hurt like hell. It was actually the first time she ever felt the sensation of getting burned since the apocalypse began... It still sucked as much as she remembered.

Hell, it was even worse. After all, these flames were countless times more powerful than any flames humans could create before the apocalypse.

Any, though in pain, the girl didn't let it ruin her momentum. After being blown into the sky, she started flying then...

SHOOO!

A golden beam of fire escaped her phoenix's mouth aimed at the bull-croc's head.

The beast immediately sensed the danger and on instinct it...

"ROOOOOOOOOOOOAR!"

Released its one flame breath with a roar.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

The two fire breaths met mid-air and an explosion went off. However, that didn't put an end to anything, after all, both sides hadn't stopped releasing their flames.

A tug of war between the flames began. However, instead of tugging/pulling, pushing was the way to go.

Due to the large difference between their ranks, Emily was quickly losing ground.

The fact that she wasn't quickly defeated was already amazing enough actually. After all, she was still a LR5 newbie fighting a PR5 veteran... Albeit a crazy one.

Anyway, it was all thanks to her superior flames. Otherwise anyway else in her place with normal flames, they would have been instantly defeated.

ROOOOOOOOOOOOAR!

Suddenly another roar rang out. However this one wasn't targeted at Emily, it was for the bull-croc. And it was accompanied by a crimson spear...

WHOOSH!

STAB!

The thick spear appeared in front of the beast then flew towards its face. In less than a second, it was logged deep into the bull-croc's right eye.

"ROOOOOOOOOOOOAR!" A roar of pain was heard from the beast.

The fact that it wasn't dead was already amazing enough honestly. After all, that spear dug deep into its head.

Oh well, that didn't mean anything to Audrey. After all, her mana had come into contact with the beast's blood. Which meant game over for it...

The beast froze as it started losing control of its body. The corruption worked fast. Like a viper's poison...

Emily and Audrey sighed in relief then suddenly...

BOOOOM!

A paw hit the manticore's face out of nowhere and it flew into the distance with a cry of pain from Audrey. After all, she was connected to it.

Emily was taken by surprise but quickly reacted with another golden beam of flames.

The flames weren't targeted at the bull-croc. After all, it wasn't the one that attacked Audrey, it was a new beast.

It looked like... A unicorn? Yeah, a hundred-metre-tall unicorn. And it wasn't even the one that attacked, what attacked was the beast beside it. It looked like a giant blue lion with cold mist radiating from its body.

The reason Emily attacked the unicorn first was that it was about to attack Audrey.

With a beam attack coming its way, the unicorn stopped advancing toward Audrey and faced Emily instead. Then...

PEW!

A rainbow-coloured energy beam flew out of its long horn and met the golden flames in the sky. Well, it would have, if Emily hadn't cancelled the breath attack and got out of the way. For whatever reason, the rainbow beam disgusted her so much she wanted no contact with it in any way...

A grave look appeared on Emily's face inside the phoenix as she circled above the two beasts which were throwing one attack after the other her way...

The reason for this was simple, they had been avoiding using avatars for this very reason. It increased the chance of drawing the attention of multiple beasts at once.

Even if the battlefield had increased to more than twenty kilometres by that point, using avatars would still likely get them in trouble. Not to mention that not only were they weaker than these beasts in their big forms, they were also not very used to them.

So they wanted to avoid using avatars as much as possible. Unfortunately, things didn't always work out as we planned.

There was no use in crying over spilt milk. Now all they could do was come up with a new plan and take care of things.

Fortunately, Audrey had recovered by that point and was also seriously looking at the two beasts.

But unlike Emily, she wasn't too shaken by the matter. After all...

ROOOOOOAR!

A roar was heard from the side then the lion's leg was bitten from behind...

As for the culprit, it was none other than the corrupted bull-croc of course.

That was the reason why Audrey didn't think the situation was too dire yet. While the corrupted and injured bull-croc probably couldn't take out the lion, at the very least, it should keep it busy long enough for the two of them to take out the unicorn.

Even if it's unable to, distracting it for even a minute was good enough. They could do significant damage to the unicorn in that time...

And so, the fighting continued!

Chapter 434: Team up and conquer (pt 3)

The frost lion was occupied by the bull-croc while Emily and Audrey focused on the unicorn.

"NEIGH!"

The unicorn made a sound similar to that of a horse. Though it sounded like a buff horse on steroids. Then...

WHOOSH!

Another rainbow beam shot from its horn. This time, towards Audrey, who was running towards it in her Manticore avatar. A blood wall appeared in front of her... And as expected, it didn't stand a chance against the beam as it was instantly destroyed...

However, the manticore behind the wall was gone.

The horned hors... Cough... Unicorn didn't think anything of it. It immediately changed targets as it refocused on Emily who was still flying above.

Of course, if it still had its thinking capabilities, it would have instantly noticed that something was wrong. Unfortunately, it was nothing but a brainless agent of chaos at that point.

Anyway, on the ground, Audrey was speedily making her way towards the unicorn.

That's right, she had dispelled her avatar and opted for a sneaky advance towards the unicorn.

If the plan succeeds, they'll only need to focus on the lion...

Anyway, soon enough, she reached one of the unicorn's large legs then...

Ta! Ta! Ta!...

She speedily ran up it... She could fly, but that would increase the chance of being discovered.

Currently, she was relying solely on her physical prowess.

In normal cases, the unicorn, would definitely tell that something was running up its body. But currently, too much was happening for it to notice the slight irritation from Audrey running up its large body.

Hell, it might still have noticed it but just didn't care. After all, the threat was obviously in the sky and everything else was of no consequence.

Anyway, Audrey soon reached the beasts back...

At that point, it and Emily had exchanged a few attacks. Emily has dodged its attacks but it has taken her head-on. They didn't breach its skin but they didn't weaken it.

An Audrey who could detect the blood in any being's body could tell which part had been weakened the most by how clearer she could sense the blood in that place..

And so... She raised her hand up into the sky then slowly her silver nails started to grow until they reached around 1.5 metres. Then...

Stab!

She stabbed through the weakest part she could find. With that, her mana came into contact with the beast's blood through her nails...

The little prick barely registered to the beast. And since Audrey coordinated with Emily, she stabbed it when a flame attack hit the same area. So the stab was completely masked as pain from the flames...

Which was easy to sell since Audrey was also covered by the flames...

Anyway, in less than five seconds, the unicorn froze... The corruption had started.

In normal situations, beasts of a higher level could easily get rid of Audrey's mana from her body, effectively stopping the corruption. But it was something that required conscious action... Something these beasts clearly couldn't do.

So they could only powerlessly get taken over by the Vampire Empress. In a few more seconds, the unicorn was completely corrupted.

Now they could focus on the frost lion...

"Huh?" Audrey made a confused sound...

And it was understandable, after all, the blue lion had turned blood-red at some point and was now stiffly standing still beside the bull-croc...

It didn't take long for her to realise what had happened though. She noticed that a chunk of flesh was missing from the bull-croc's shoulder.

And the frost lion's mouth looked bloody. Which could only mean that it ate the bull-croc's meat and got corrupted...

To think such a thing was possible. Audrey had never tried it before. Well, whatever, it was a lucky break.

Not only had they neutralised the problem. But they had also gotten three new fighters.

And this gave Audrey an idea. She wondered why she hadn't thought of it before.

The idea was... Corrupting as many beasts as she could instead of killing them. Not only would it make the fight easier for her, but it would also lift some pressure off Freya and the others.

So, after communicating with Emily, the duo continued fighting. This time, the objective was corruption instead of annihilation...

...

Battlefield 3: (Chloe and Layla)

Unlike the others who had an attacker and their support. Chloe and Layla were a bit different. There was no fixed support nor attacker.

In fact, it could be said that there were both attackers. After all, when they single out a target, they'd come in close and hit it with everything they had.

Speed really was an advantage when fighting brainless opponents. After all, one could easily avoid every attack by simply reading the obvious movements.

While both were greatly effective, Chloe's lightning which could breach through skin like any good electrical power wasn't as effective as Layla's black ice. After all, it literally ignored all defence.

So while Chloe needed a little time to do significant damage considering the thick defence the beasts had, Layla just needed a clear shot and everything would be over.

Honestly, Chloe kinda felt like a close-range support after a certain point.

After all, the most she has been able to do is stun the opponent then Layla would take it out.

It was great that the strategy was working, but Chloe wasn't convinced.

She wanted to do more. Her very being desired to do more. Then a weird scene only Layla noticed occurred...

Chloe's lightning felt heavier. Then...

CRACKLE!

BOOOOM!

A lightning fist flew towards the beast's body and destroyed it in a single hit...

Oddly enough, even Layla who was hiding in the shadow realm was slightly electrocuted...

Something which shouldn't have been possible. At the very least, not at Chloe's current rank.

This reminded Layla of a couple of incidences from the past that they didn't take too seriously back then...

The first one was when Hope made Chloe go berserk with her new spell and Chloe's lightning actually managed to resist Muku's Telekinesis, something that they didn't think was possible until that point. And Chloe hadn't been able to do it again since.

Then there was the time Chloe could move against the green Monarch when even Muku who was stronger couldn't. She wasn't there, but she was told about it.

Anyway, everyone just assumed that the Monarch had been playing with her. But now... It seems there was more to the matter. There was definitely something special about Chloe's lightning.

But it seems it only appears when her emotions are high enough.

Layla immediately wanted to discuss it with Chloe, but it wasn't the time. Not to mention that it could disrupt Chloe's momentum, there but stopping whatever was going on with her. After all, it seemed Chloe herself wasn't aware of what was going on. The girl probably thought she had found a weak spot or something.

And so, Layla continued fighting together with Chloe. Unlike before, it wasn't just Layla giving the final blow, Chloe could do so too now.

Anyway, like the others, they of course came across a beast which took its original form before they could end it despite their speed.

The beast turned out to be a wind-element land dragon. Its body was a lot slimmer than the fire earth dragon Muku fought in the Beast World.

This creature looked like it was suited for speed more than strength. No wonder it managed to react before getting killed off.

And even in a berserk state, it was still cautious. It not only had its domain armour on, but it also had a wind barrier continuously circling around its body. So it has two layers of defence.

Of course, Layla's attacks could still ignore this defence. But it was too fast to hit... She would need to get closer to successfully hit it. But the glowing green mana around the beast dispelled the darkness around it which meant that Layla couldn't appear too close to it.

To think that sheer coincidences brought by the beast's cautious instincts would actually leave Layla completely restrained. The girl literally couldn't do anything to the beast in such a situation...

But what if she took on her avatar form? But wouldn't she become even slower than she was now? And she would probably be the one to suffer heavy hits from the dragon since she couldn't yet use [omnipresence] in that state.

The situation really wasn't looking good for her.

"Don't worry sis. Ice got a plan...." Chloe who ran over to Layla's side spoke calmly.

"And what's that?" Layla asked curiously. She couldn't think of any way to get to the dragon...

"Kamikaze" Chloe replied.

BOOOOM!

With a loud boom, she flew into the air leaving the dumbfounded Layla behind.

Her body was enveloped by her avatar as she flew higher. In seconds, the legendary roc appeared in the sky.

On the ground, Layla finally understood what Chloe meant. Her eyes instantly widened. However, before she could do anything....

Chloe who had flown beyond the clouds reappeared. However, this time, all everyone could see was a blue shooting star aimed straight at the dragon.

Then before they could react...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

The last thing they thought before the impact was... {Muku was wrong. Chloe wasn't the only normal person in the group. This girl... She had just not shown her crazy yet!}...

Chapter 435 Dire situation...

Who would have thought that a Kamikaze attack from a LR5 had the power to take out a PR5?

And it wasn't simply killing it either. The dragon was completely erased from existence by the lightning. All that was left was a beast core.

And it even took out a few unsuspecting beasts that were too close.

As for Chloe? She was dead... Nuh, just kidding. The girl had ejected herself from the beast at the last moment and Layla took her away.

But it wasn't for that, she definitely would have died due to her crazy plan.

.....

A distance away....

"Girl how could you be so crazy?! What if you had died? Don't you know that neither of our stronger members is present? What if I had been too slow?" Layla chided the weakened Chloe while shaking her furiously.

Her hands were even shaking. That's how much the situation scared her. She almost had a heart attack.

"I'm sorry sis. The situation was getting out of control. And Freya seemed too occupied. If I didn't act, we might have been overwhelmed as that thing was attracting attention from the others. And my plan worked right?" Chloe weakly reasoned.

"Don't you think I know that? Promise me that you'll never do that again" Layla replied seriously.

"But... I promise" Chloe wanted to defend herself when a hard stare from Layla stopped her.

She could tell that Layla was really angry this time.

"Good. Don't forget that no matter how dire things have gotten. We still haven't played our strongest cards. Now let me take you to rest..." Layla spoke in a slightly warmer voice after Chloe promised.

Then without waiting for Chloe to reply. She took her away.

Unlike when she saved her from her own attack, and had to use her omnipresence. This time, she just flew. After all, using omnipresence with another person costs her at least ten times more mana than when alone.

With that said, the duo made their way to the mansion.

.....

At the mansion...

"Chloe! What was that move you did? It was so cool! I wish I had thought of that! How did you come up with such an idea? I always thought you were rather bland and boring despite your cool power. But now I see that true experts don't always show themselves. But when they do, none can't compar... Ow! Why are you hitting me? I'm only complimenting her" Jade excitedly spoke to Chloe.

Then of course, Emily hit her on the head.

"If you have nothing good to say, then shut up. What's so cool about a suicidal attack?" Emily chided.

It seems she was on the same side as Layla. Both felt that things weren't even close to being dire enough to require such a reaction. Sure Chloe's move settled a situation that would have gotten troublesome, but even without calling Muku over. They could have run away...

Audrey and the others who were also present quietly agreed with Emily.

As for why no one was fighting beasts anymore... Well, Audrey's corruption ability had pretty much subdued the battlefield. Most beasts had been taken care of already. What was even worse was how it

didn't drain too much of her mana to corrupt beasts. After all, she was affected by Muku's bloodline and there was nothing that could withstand that thing, at least not up to that point.

At that point, more than fifty percent of the active beasts had been corrupted. They were now working with each other to corrupt or kill the rest.

Even Freya got a chance to rest. Everyone couldn't help but regret not relying on this method sooner... Then again, it wasn't like Audrey knew that she could corrupt a beast by feeding them corrupted meat...

Anyway, just as the girls were about to relax, the portal began steering again. Then like before, beasts started pouring out of it....

Not only were their eyes clear... All of them were Pseudo-R6 in strength.

In less than ten minutes, more than five thousand Pseudo-R6s alhad appeared. All of them had their eyes focused on the castle more than 30 kilometres away after being pushed back...

Everyone couldn't help but hold their breath as the mental pressure from so many strong beings looking at them was crushing down on them.

Just then....

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!...

BANG! BANG! BOOOOM! SPLAT!...

Ten beasts made a move and in less than a minute, the small army Audrey had gathered was taken out...

All her hard work was nullified just like that

However, it was better for the beasts to have been killed instead of the girls themselves...

With the massacre, they quickly realised that not only did these new monsters really have their minds intact, but they also weren't weak Pseudo-R6s barely worthy of the name like the ones from before.

These were the real experts on stage. Peak level Pseudo-R6s. The kind of beings even Freya and all her weapons might not be able to fight...

"Can I call him now?" Hope spoke with a pale expression on her face.

"No need. I'm already here..." Muku spoke gravely as he walked out of the castle.

Raya walked beside him with a similarly grave expression.

After all, those creatures were not much weaker than they were individually. Let alone now when they were more than five thousand in number. Things really had gotten to a point they couldn't ignore...

The two of them had been observing things with their mana sense as they recovered. So they appeared the very moment things started looking dire.

But there was still a problem. Because of their stubbornness of wanting to recover naturally. Neither had fully recovered physically nor recovered even a quarter of their mana.

So to say they were nowhere near their peak condition would be an understatement...

"Brother!" Hope excitedly shouted and then jumped into Muku's arms like a little puppy being reunited with its owner after a long separation.

Nobody present even reacted to this. After all, they were all used to such a sight.

"Hey, Hope. We'll talk later. Can you heal Raya and I please? We have guests to receive. And it would be an insult to them not to be in our best physical states when we get acquainted..." Muku spoke softly as he brushed Hope's hair.

His eyes never moved away from the beasts in the distance.

"Finally!" Hope replied then immediately cast her strongest healing spell on the duo...

Just like Muku could sense the strong aura from the beasts, they could sense his. And they could tell that he and Raya were an even higher tier than them. Even in their weakened states, they were threatening to those strong enough to sense their strength.

Muku could have easily prevented them from seeing through his strength. But that would have made them attack a long time ago. Raya too...

While they were stronger than all the beasts before them, they were also rather cautious. Something common among experts. In such a dangerous world as the beast world, one doesn't become as strong as they were without being cautious.

Even the most unrestrained beasts knew when to advance or retreat.

While they weren't scared of being killed off by the duo... They were also certain that a few would be killed off. And no one wanted to be one of those unlucky fellows.

This created the classic situation of "who will bell the cat?"

For the briefest period, both sides were stuck at an impasse.

This was the very reason the previous beasts were dominated by the Monarchs. However, after a batch was utterly destroyed by Hope and the rest was soon dismantled due to their lack of intelligence, the Monarchs dared not do that again.

Unfortunately, having intelligence also came with thoughts of self-preservation.

If the Monarchs were really viewing the situation from the other side, then they must be really pissed off right now.

After all, because of their terrible luck, their portal appeared at the only place it would receive maximum resistance. They still didn't understand how that had happened, since all the portals before it had worked fine.

Then after that, they were losing every round to a little group of humans. No matter what they do, they still lose.

Now even their own side was being problematic. So being angry was to be expected...

After a few moments later...

Muku and Raya had completely recovered physically. Though their mana remained low.

But with their beyond-strong bodies, they weren't too afraid of what was to come. Winning might not be as easy as it would be if they had mana... Well, actually, even with mana, winning wouldn't be easy.

Anyway, although the situation looked dire and definitely was... They felt they could hack it.

"Well now, it seems they finally lost their patience... And from what I see... They want to take turns attacking in groups of a hundred at once from a distance. If they do that continuously... I have to admit it. Eventually, we will fall" Muku told everyone his grave observation with a calm expression on his face.

As if it didn't include him at all. Though he clearly said that death might not be far...

"So how are we doing thi... Shit!" Raya was asking for a game plan when something caught her attention and she immediately cursed out loud for the first time.

"Language! Brat!" Muku chided angrily...

Chapter 436 Lone tree and a storm

"Language your uncle! Can't you see that more beasts are coming out of that thing!" Raya snapped at Muku.

How dare he have the time to call her out when such a thing was happening?

It was already debatable whether they could deal with the five thousand beasts, yet now, more were coming out.

What changed? From what they had observed, the beasts came in intervals of at least thirty minutes or so. Yet now, it hadn't been given minutes.

It seems whatever was wrong with the portal had been fixed or the Monarchs were throwing caution to the wind.

Raya couldn't help but curse their luck. To think that things would become so dire when it's their turn to fight. The increase in challenge level was too drastic and high, this wasn't fair at all!

Then there was this bastard partner of hers who still seemed unbothered. He really pissed her off.

"Calm down child. Take the others away first. I'll hold them off. Teleport them at least five hundred kilometres away. After that, they should find a place to hide..." Muku gave out orders calmly.

"We could do that or we can all escape and hide. After all, if I take them away then come back, I won't be able to teleport a significant distance again for a long time with my current mana..." Raya explained.

The others wanted to say something but Muku raised his hand to stop them...

"Hmm. Then I guess you and I are in for a good time. It reminds me of the good old days in the Beast World. Hurry on back or you might only find my corpse here. Normally I would definitely go with your plan. But I can't help but feel that it would be the wrong move. And I would rather trust my gut, so we can only thin them out as best as we can. It's risky but I'm sure we can escape somehow. Even without Telekinesis" Muku was dead set on his plan.

Again, the girls wanted to protest but Muku suppressed them enough not to hurt them but leave them incapable of moving or speaking.

It wasn't the time to chat after all. While it was definitely reckless, he was more than certain that he could still escape if things turned dire. Something which wouldn't be possible with them present...

"Tsk. Crazy human" Raya clicked her tongue and cursed Muku but a smile appeared on her face at some point.

It was clear that she was looking forward to the tough battle despite proposing that they escape. She probably only said it to clear her name after cursing. After all, while she didn't care how Muku viewed her, the girls were different. She wanted them to see her in the best light possible for whatever reason. Especially her momma Audrey.

So, without warning, Raya covered the castle and everyone on it(except Muku) with her space element and teleported away.

In the sky, only Muku was left facing the army of beasts. At that point, it had increased to over eight thousand and was still increasing.

This wasn't a casual eight thousand either. Each and every beast present was a Pseudo-R6. Beings easily beyond planetary in power if the old flimsy planet was used as a base for strength judgment. And they were still increasing...

In the opposite direction. The lone Muku hovered like a sad lone tree about to be uprooted by a storm.

The beasts that were about to make a move on the whole group were suddenly frozen. They never expected that everyone else would disappear leaving this one human behind.

Was he abandoned? Surely not, he didn't look panicked at all. But if so, why did he stay behind? He didn't think he could take them all on by himself right?

Sure, he was strong. Probably stronger than any of them individually. But that didn't change the fact that there were thousands of them. If they were LR5s maybe he would have a chance if surviving. Maybe even winning. But there was no way that was happening in the current situation.

Even miracles had limits after all. The only thing they could think that made sense was that he was within a doubt crazy. After all, only a crazy person would do such a suicidal thing.

Well, whatever, it didn't matter to them whether he was crazy or not. All they had to do was destroy him then move around the world to expedite the time it would take for the world to evolve again so that stronger beasts could come.

Not to mention that it was rather dangerous to stay close to beasts of equal strength since you could get ambushed at any time even when you're so-called allies.

After all, the alliance only lasts until the human in front of them is dead since the others escaped... After that, it will become a kill-or-be-killed situation like back home.

So it would be best not be surrounded by others.

For that reason, the beasts moved to attack quickly so that they could leave the dangerous place...

"Hehe. They really don't think much of me huh? Well... Let's see if we can change that..." Muku spoke to himself as the nightmare armour slowly consumed him.

By the end, his normal voice was replaced by a familiar creepy one. Then... He disappeared. Together with his aura and all traces of his existence...

The beasts that were quickly approaching him paused again. Before they could make sense of what was going on...

"RO...."

BOOOOOM!

A random beast in the crowd suddenly wanted to roar. But before it could finish. A loud bang was heard and its head was blown off.

BOOOOOM! BOOOOOM!...

And that wasn't the end of it. More heads started blowing up all over the place. All the beasts seemed to sense something just when they were about to be blown up.

Unfortunately, all were too slow to react in time and were killed off with little fanfare.

Just like that, one beast after the other was killed off until more than a hundred had been killed off in less than five minutes.

And this was with their domain armour on.

It goes to reason that all the beasts began panicking and throwing attacks left and right without a care for where they landed. At that point, the fear of getting their heads punched off was what controlled all their actions.

In fact, none were angered when they were hit by their comrades' stray attacks since they were also hitting others.

But was panicking the right move to take? In fact, the fact that Muku could be detected by his targets just before he attacked them meant that he was definitely detectable if they focused hard enough.

Unfortunately, not many beasts realised this since most only cared about keeping their heads on their shoulders.

Some even tried taking their true forms only to get small holes punched through their huge skulls and their brains destroyed.

The ones who tried telling the others to calm down were quickly taken out by Muku. After all, the chaos was exactly what he needed in the situation.

But of course, good things don't last... After around ten minutes, a clever beast with the water element soaked up the blood on the ground with its water then made it rain down on everyone.

Muku was quickly spotted in the bloody rain, which was executed sneakily.

Some beasts then took that chance to calm the others down and tell them about how Muku should be detectable if they focused hard enough.

Which was true. After all, while he himself was undetectable due to the nightmare armour, his mana was still detectable. He had just concealed it to the extreme with his excellent mana control.

He has never been happier than now about not giving up his training after learning how important mana purity and control are.

But all was well, that didn't matter now. He had been discovered, so tactics had to be changed.

And he hadn't even done that much damage. Just around three hundred beasts out of more than ten thousand.

Fortunately, the beasts had stopped coming out after reaching that point. Unfortunately, there were still more than ten thousand beasts that needed to be taken care of.

Things weren't looking too good. Fortunately, he had another plan...

"Now guys... Let's not be rash. Let's talk this out. Whatever the Monarchs are offering you, I'll offer you double if you take them out!" Muku screamed in his creepy voice as he raised his arms in surrender.

Hearing his words the beasts were all bewildered. At that point, they were certain that there was definitely something wrong with the human's head. After all, why would he think that anything he can offer will make them turn against the Monarchs?

Not even the world was enough. Hell, even if he offered them a second set of guts along with the world, one would dare take the deal.

Monarchs are beasts even to beasts. They are creatures that can't even be mentioned in The Beast World. Creatures that could probably kill all of them with just an accidental sneeze.

So yeah, this human was definitely crazy for suggesting such a thing.

They've had enough of him. Now that they could see him, they best deal with him before he says something crazier.

"Well, I guess that's no deal then..." Muku spoke calmly. Then...

Black smoke instantly enveloped every beast present with him being the source...

That's right, the nightmare armour's ability had appeared again. It was time for the beasts to experience something they had never experienced before. And that was having a nightmare.

It just happened to still be nighttime too...

Chapter 437: Old couple?

Unfortunately for Muku. These beasts weren't as weak as the ladies from before. Whether in terms of strength or mental fortitude.

All of them had a tale to tell, like any strong being. For that reason, they were rather resistant to things like mental attacks unless they were overwhelming.

While Muku's [nightmare] could be overwhelming. It wasn't there yet. After all, he recently discovered it and had only used it once. So obviously it wasn't too strong yet.

For that reason, the beasts were only trapped for three seconds before most of them broke free.

As for why it was most of them and not all... Well, for beings like Muku, three seconds might as well be thirty minutes.

And what can someone accomplish in thirty minutes? Well, normal people might not be able to do something significant. But Muku was different.... He was able to take out around a thousand beasts in those three seconds.

The moment they were entrapped, he instantly created a horizontal blade that extended close to two kilometres into the distance. And with one swing.... He took out around a thousand beasts via decapitation.

And this was only because he didn't have enough mana to do more damage. If he were at full power. He might have been able to take them all out.

After all, the moment they were pulled into his nightmare realm, they became completely defenceless. All the defences they might have put up before were cancelled...

Unfortunately, the kills didn't benefit him at all. After all, he had long reached the peak before coming back from the Beast World. He was already close to advancing to R6 with only a few processes left.

He wished that there was a way to keep the KP he would have gotten here and give it to the girls. Unfortunately, the world was never that convenient.

"Well, that worked better than I thought it would. Though I still have around nine thous... Oh come on!" Just when Muku was verbally celebrating his victory, the portal began showing signs of movement again.

As someone familiar with what was going on, he immediately cursed out loud.

And as he expected, more beasts began pouring out.

At that point he was second-guessing himself, he wondered if he really could make a difference when beasts kept on pouring out like this.

After all, every card he played couldn't be played anymore. He couldn't use invisibility or the nightmare ability anymore. Now the only way left was duking it out face-to-face. Something he was sure would get him killed in less than a minute if he were careless. Though no matter how careful he was, he wouldn't live beyond ten minutes.

Which was quite impressive actually, after all, anyone else would die a lot sooner. Most not even surviving for a minute.

Something which would be understandable considering that the beasts were in the thousands. There were now around seventeen thousand beasts after the new batch arrived.

Without a doubt, the situation had gotten way more dangerous.

Fortunately, there was still no R6s for whatever reason.

Well, whatever, Muku was just happy that more than half of the beasts were wary of him after his displays. The new arrivals didn't know what was happening, but they dared not be rash in such an obviously tense situation.

Thanks to this, Muku got a few moments to regroup and think of his next move.

And he was drawing a blank. He couldn't create Mithril without mana. He could at best target one beast with his [erasing gaze] and he was out of form... Well, he had miraculous advances in the force technique to the point of creating his own force but the process was too slow and the force he had gathered so far couldn't do much damage.

So yeah, he was completely out of ideas. Maybe the only option left really was to run away. He had clearly done his best. In fact, many wouldn't be up for such a task after facing what he faced and almost dying.

"I'm back!" Just when Muku was contemplating how to run away, a familiar voice was heard.

"Oh my!" Raya who was obviously the voice's owner exclaimed in surprise.

"About time you brat. Does it take so long to drop people off and come back?" Muku spoke annoyedly.

"Ey, I had to make sure that the place was safe or not okay? You'd probably blame me if I just left them like that. And is this really the time to talk about such things? How did you get surrounded like this? And couldn't you have warned me before I came back? I almost had a heart attack. And what's with these numbers? Did you even do anything?" Raya started speaking on and on.

"Shut up already. I already have a headache and you're making it worse. And why would I warn you? So that you don't come back?" Muku replied.

"Well... Actually, you're right. I probably would think twice about coming back. But still, well whatever. Tell me, how are we getting out of here?" Raya replied.

"I have no idea, I was thinking maybe you would think of something. And why are you already thinking of running before doing anything? At the very least I can say I killed over a thousand beasts before thinking of escaping. Have you no shame?" Muku asked disdainfully.

"Oh? So you took out so many? No wonder they look hesitant. And why are you being so nitpicky? We are linked at the soul level. Isn't that as close as people can get? We're basically one being. An old couple. What is yours is mine, just like what is mine is mine. So if you've killed a thousand beasts then I've also killed a thousand beasts. We're one like that!" Raya replied spiritedly with even a hint of shame.

"I'm sorry to break it to you, but I'm no pedo. So you and I are anything but an old couple. Come talk to me after never! For I would never accept you!" Muku firmly put her down with a disgusted look on his face.

"Muku you bastard! How dare you say that to me after everything we've been through together? Do you think anyone else will dare accept me after that? I never thought you were such a scoundrel, using

innocent maidens like this then throwing them away. Wahh! I'm so hurt! You might as well finish me off" Raya dramatically began fake crying while hugging Muku from the back like a koala baby.

"Let go of me you drama queen, and stop saying such misleading things! Where did you even hear all those words? I've never been one with y... Wait. Being one..." Muku was cursing the shameless brat when suddenly a thought hit him.

Actually, the two weren't even fighting, they were putting on an act to keep the beasts engaged while they thought of a plan. It was something they had done a few times before in the beast world. But of course, Raya was being a bit extreme this time around. So much so, some of his anger was real. The brat really didn't know when to stop...

Anyway, he decided to forgive her since their plan worked. The beasts were distracted and he remembered something.

Which was just in time too since the beasts were quickly losing patience...

"Hmm? You finally admit it?" Raya asked.

"Shut up already. I've thought of something, there's no need to continue acting" Muku shushed the girl.

"Acting? Oh, oh yeah. Acting. That's definitely what we were doing. So what do you come up with?" Raya asked in a slightly awkward manner.

It was obvious to Muku since she was in her human form but he paid it no mind. Sometimes, it was better to just ignore her quirks. And he kinda figured it out himself, that while he was doing it strategically, she was only doing it for the love of the game. She just enjoyed slandering him. That's how malicious the brat was.

He even wondered if, instead of making them close allies, their soul link had made Raya secretly hate him.

Of course, that wasn't the case since their souls were laid bare to the other party. They might not be able to read the other's thoughts without permission, but they could still sense intent. Raya's intent had never been malicious in a serious sense.

She was like a sibling. They'd laugh at you in the hospital the moment they find out that you won't die...

"Get into my mindscape first..." Muku replied seriously.

Raya looked at him for a split second then did as she was told. It was something she hadn't done for a while so it felt slightly foreign. To think that she used to spend most of her time in there...

{Oh. So this is your plan. I had forgotten that this was an option. With this, we might actually make it out of here} Raya's voice was heard in Muku's head after he made her aware of his thoughts. She even sounded a bit excited.

{Child please. We were able to defeat a Monarch when we were weaker. Sure there was some assistance, but I bet that with our current strength... We can wipe all of these beasts out}

Muku replied calmly, with a slight craziness in his tone. Then....

BADUM! BADUM! BADUM!...

His heart started beating loudly. So loudly that all the beasts could hear it. They felt that something ominous was about to happen then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Chapter 438: 1sec = 5hrs?!

A pitch-black ominous energy exploded out of Muku and erased all the beasts within five hundred metres of him.

Unfortunately, only a few hundred were that close. But the way it happened was still super terrifying for those who survived.

The veterans who had experienced Muku's shenanigans couldn't help but wonder what the hell he was doing now.

In fact, of the ones who died, none of them were the beasts from before. They had all kept the maximum distance away from Muku.

They had felt that he was out of moves, but that didn't stop them from being cautious. Now they were all celebrating. After all, if they hadn't been cautious, they might have all been too close and gotten killed...

With that said, something felt different about this attack, it didn't seem like an attack at all.

They were experienced enough to sense that intent was missing in the dangerous energy wave.

Just before they could make sense of the situation, a thick and heavy atmosphere blanketed the area.

They all found themselves shaking uncontrollably. It was like when prey met its natural enemy.

And without exception, they all turned to look at Muku who was still at the centre.

But now, he wasn't the same guy from before.

His height has changed from around 6.7ft to a whopping four metres. It wasn't much for beasts in their true form or avatars and such, but for an untransformed "human" it was absurd.

But that wasn't all, four draconic horns had grown on his head and hair had grown longer. Now it reached his waist. The nightmare armour was still on his body, but now it looked different. The pattern on it now looked like black scales. And the creepy helmet? It had changed into a draconic head. The hollow grey eyes were replaced by piercing flaming yellow eyes with black vertical slits.

And where the hair ended and long thick tail took over. Of course, his arms and legs had long sharp claws. A faint black aura radiated from his being. The same energy which had destroyed hundreds of beasts before.

Even if the girls looked at Muku right now, they probably wouldn't recognise him. After all, even his aura changed and he now looked like a giant lizard man with a draconic bloodline.

And this form wasn't even the same as the one he used against the Monarch. It was an evolved version. Something more refined and stronger. And that was without the mysterious guardians getting involved. If they participated, who knew what manner of monster would have appeared?

Though from how all the beasts were subdued without taking any action... The guardians probably weren't necessary.

Interestingly enough, only a weak aura radiated from Muku at this time. Something slightly stronger than a rank 3.

Yet no beast dared attack. Their instincts told them that doing such a thing would be the stupidest thing ever. And they were inclined to listen to their instincts after what they witnessed accompanied by the dangerous atmosphere...

But wait... Didn't the nightmare completely hide one's aura? So, if even with such an ability, so much aura leaked out. Then maybe the beasts were right not to take action... Yeah, they were definitely right.

But would it change anything?...

....

Tactoa headquarters: Hidden basement room...

The black orb which had been dormant for a while as it tried to reclaim Legion who was attacking its people suddenly shook.

"What's this ominous feeling? Was there another Monarch soul here? No that can't be it. I checked long ago, there were only two of us... Then what's this dreadful feeling?"... The orb's voice rang out as it spoke to itself.

And of course, it didn't receive an answer.

After that, it contacted its people and told them to go check things out.

It couldn't allow for any more variables to appear. The more variables there were, the more its plan was in danger.

So if whatever was going on could be taken care of, it would be taken care of before it was problematic...

.....

Somewhere in the deep ocean...

Numerous beasts that had just arrived opened their eyes and looked in a certain direction before closing them again.

From what they could sense. Some beast was probably making a breakthrough.

That was a situation completely below them, so they didn't bother going to check it out...

.....

On land...

A few beasts that had recently come through noticed the disturbance too. And made the same choice as those in the sea.

What was interesting about all these beasts was that they were all legit R6s. The new overlords of the Blue Planet.

Muku didn't know what a dangerous situation he had avoided due to their disinterest...

...

Back the battle scene...

"Well now... This... This is better than I expected. I feel like I could destroy the world right now..." Muku spoke in a rough monster-like voice as he felt the overwhelming energy coursing through his body.

And this was actually when he and Raya had little mana. What if they had done this in their best condition? Maybe they really would have been able to destroy the world...

He even felt that he had reached R6. Even if he hadn't reached it, he should be close enough. Closer than he should have been. Maybe even close enough to fight legit R6s. Something that should be impossible...

Then again, the two of them were basically the most outstanding members of their races. So a combination of both should yield such a result at least. Not to mention the addition of the mysterious nightmare armour.

All the various elements that led to the creation of the new form are the reason for the weird black energy that could destroy all upon impact.

It actually has nothing to do with Muku's erasure capabilities. That power was more like an absolute law. The black energy on the other hand was simply overwhelming destructive energy created by a combination of many strong energies...

{Can you make your move already? This form is so straining. I don't know how long we can sustain it with our current energy... And honestly, I don't like being one with a man. I feel so dirty} Raya's slightly tired voice was heard in Muku's head.

{Oh right... And what do you mean by one? It's not like we're physically connected, just borrowing your power and qualities so don't make it sound weird} Muku retorted..

At the same time, he made his move. He disappeared in front of all the beasts. His speed was so fast that none of the beasts were able to see him.

One had to understand that the beasts were almost as fast as the speed of light. So for someone to travel so fast that they couldn't see them, the person would definitely be a speed demon.

While to them, if they wished, three seconds could be equal to thirty minutes. To the current Muku, one second could be equal to five hours...

That's how different they had become. That's how much power he has in his current state.

It was understandable why Raya said they couldn't maintain it for long...

Anyway, Muku disappeared and appeared again within the same second...

The beasts were surprised for a split second then all their eyes widened. But before they could do anything else...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

A horrifying scene occurred. More than ten thousand beasts exploded at the same time.

That's right, Muku had killed all of them in less than a second... Now that was power!

However, it wasn't without cost. When he appeared, his body was emitting a thick smoke like he were overheating. At the same time, blood flowed freely from his nose, mouth, ears and eyes. His whole body hurt like hell as well.

This was to be expected after using a power he didn't yet have the authority to use. While his body was augmented to the extreme by the transformation, it still fell short of what was needed for the strength it contained.

Perhaps one needed to be at least LR6 to use it. Something which he was close to, but not quite. In fact, if he were someone weaker, he might have exploded before he could do anything.

But he didn't regret his decision. It was necessary to end the current deadlock.

With the little mana he had left, he gathered beast cores and... Sucked them dry.

Like he opened his huge draconic mouth and bit down on a core. It didn't take more than a second for him to suck it dry and spit it out. Then he did the same to the next and so on..

As for why he wasn't cancelling the transformation yet.... Well, the portal was still open. So he had to hold out as long as he could. Whatever came out, he'd take it out.

Of course, that's if it was something he could take out.

He even considered destroying the portal. But it was just an edgeless, red, mirror-like thing that floated in mid-air.

He didn't know where to attack. And something told him that destroying it might not be possible or could lead to dangerous consequences. So he let it be...

It was better to stick to the safer option of taking out whatever beast appeared.

Unfortunately, despite his fast speed of absorbing cores. He still wasn't gaining much energy. Most of it was spent in maintaining the form and keeping his body from breaking apart while also healing it slightly...

Fortunately for him, no beast appeared in more than ten minutes. This allowed him to recover a bit, but at the same time, it made him slightly worried.

After all, something should have appeared by then considering the previous pattern...

Suddenly his eyes snapped in the direction of the portal.

What he saw sent a chill down his spine.

The crimson colour was gone. In its place, a huge golden eyeball was looking at him from the other side...

Chapter 439: The Variable...

A pressure Muku had never felt before instantly crashed down on him the moment the eyeball spotted him...

He immediately felt like his life was in danger and so, he wanted to get away at that very moment.

However, before he could make a move. The golden eyeball began glowing then...

PEW!

A golden laser which seemed like the enhanced version of Emily's laser eyes shot out.

The portal had a diameter of around a hundred metres. The same size as an average R5 in its true form. And yet, it was almost fully covered by one eyeball.

One could simply imagine how huge the creature behind it was. At the same time, they could also imagine, how large the beam of golden energy was.

Muku looked like a little ant next to the beam. And it was coming at him from the other side...

Something told him that the owner of that eyeball wasn't a mere R6. They might not be a Monarch, but they were definitely beyond R6.

As someone who couldn't even defend himself against an R6. There was no way he could defend himself against what was coming right?

And with how fast the beam was approaching... Getting out of the way seemed impossible too.

Did that mean he could only die? Well from the looks of things, it kinda seemed like that was the only possibility...

He even regretted not running away when he had the chance. If he could turn back time, then he'd definitely run away.

But did that mean he was just going to lie down and die? No! Of course not!

And even if he was willing to die, he was not willing to let the girls go through the same. Something told him that the beam wasn't something that should exist too long on the current Blue Planet.

That something was his shared memory from Raya. If their attack could breach space back then. Then this will definitely do so now.

After all, the world hadn't evolved to the point of handling such strength yet.

Which meant, space would probably be breached and the void would show up again. This time it will probably be worse than before.

And it wasn't guaranteed that that being from the void would help again.

So he had to do something. He had to ERASE IT!

With that thought his yellow draconic eyes changed again. A familiar grey took over again. However, this time, it wasn't a calm grey. It was a glowing and violent grey that erased all!

Muku's eyes were quickly surrounded by bulging veins that mysteriously glowed grey and were visible through the metal scales.

Gracks began appearing all over his body and blood began flowing out freely.

Even the nightmare armour which could resist everything that was thrown its way up to that point began cracking.

Muku was racked with so much pain he almost went insane. Raya wasn't in a better situation since she was sharing Muku's senses at the time.

The duo screamed together as they were getting destroyed as Muku pushed his erasing gaze beyond anything he had ever done before.

What was happening was reminiscent of what happened to Muku when he first used the ability after Emily was "killed".

However, unlike then, he was actively using it and it was at least ten times worse.

Back then, only minor cracks appeared, but this time, it was like he was getting slashed by a thick and dull blade by force.

Anyway, it wasn't for nought as the beam of energy was actually erased the moment it got out of the portal.

Even more amazing was how the portal was erased too.

Before the portal was completely gone, he heard a faint roar from it. Maybe the erasing effect had gotten to the other side. Which would be quite impressive.

Well, that or the unexpected closure of the portal angered the other party. That was more likely actually...

The moment the portal closed. Muku closed his eyes and fell from the sky...

BOOOOOOM!

He was so high up in the air that he made a significant impact when he reached the ground.

He created a deep crater in the land full of craters from all the actions it had seen.

More than fifty kilometres have been cleared out from all the fighting. Not even the littlest vegetation could be seen in the area.

And so, Muku was the only being within that space...

As soon as he fell to the ground, the transformation undid itself. He and Raya were separated.

Raya came out of his mindscape and was met by a horrifying sight.

Muku looked like a butchered corpse from all the gashes on his body. From how pale he has gotten after losing so much blood, he really does look like a corpse.

If Raya wasn't sure that he was still alive from their body, she would have already begun mourning him.

Unlike him, while she suffered the same pain, she wasn't actually impacted physically.

So, other than being physically and mentally drained, she was okay.

In normal cases, she would have looked to administer first aid to Muku, but she couldn't do that. She was so tired she could only lie weakly next to him where she appeared.

She only appeared in hopes that their combined auras would scare any potential threats away until they could leave the area.

That was all she could do at the moment. And just like that, she fainted... Joining Muku in the realm of unconsciousness...

...

In the void....

"Tsk. Future sight really is unreliable. This result is nowhere near what I saw back then. He should have been slightly injured at best instead of almost dead. And I even had to jump in and stop the void from destroying everything, which wasn't supposed to happen either. It's rather frustrating... But then again, it's to be expected from those two. They never follow the script. And I got to flex a little too!" Mrs C spoke to herself with her eyes closed while still blocking whatever thing was trying to break through the realm from coming through...

That's right, it was her humongous finger back then which stopped the void. And she had been observing the battle from the start.

Hell, if she didn't have to block this troublesome fellow, she might have gone to the Blue Planet in person and watched it from up close with some popcorn.

Of course, she'd be hidden to avoid getting too involved in Muku's journey. For the best result, she couldn't get involved more than she had already done...

"Sigh. Son, when are you going to become strong enough and save the world so I can retire huh? Your poor mother is tired after doing this for so long..." Mrs C spoke again.

This time her voice lacked the playfulness from before. She sounded like a weary old lady who wasn't just physically tired but emotionally and mentally too. Hell, even her soul was tired...

But for her child, she would hold on for as long as she needed to...

...

In a hidden dimension in the Beast World...

"What the heck was that? How's the portal already disconnected?!"

A deep, angry and authoritative voice spoke.

"Well, from what we witnessed, there seems to be a being on the other side who could take care of it. Not only did they block that R7 divine beam, but they also destroyed the portal. Truly interesting don't you think?" A sinister and snaky voice spoke with interest in its voice.

"But that should be impossible! After all, the guardians can't get involved yet and no being of such strength should be able to exist yet" The first voice added.

"Well, don't forget that there are those dormant warriors from the past. The weakest one should be R7 right? Maybe they blocked the attack. Though even they shouldn't be able to destroy the portal. It's something even we have to put in some effort to destroy after all" A third voice spoke.

"No, it can't be them. Even if they forcefully woke themselves up before they are allowed to, they would know that getting involved would lead to them getting killed the moment guardians are allowed into the picture again. Not to mention that their presence alone would bring about the next evolution in less time than all those beasts that were killed combined... That is if they don't get the world destroyed... And there's the part about destroying the portal. That still doesn't make sense" A fourth voice spoke.

"Well, then the answer is clear. A variable appeared. A weak being who can display strength stronger than ours when pushed. I wonder how strong they will be by the time we can pass through... Will we even be their match then? Fufufu, it's so exciting!" A charming feminine voice spoke this time.

"Shut your mouth Althea, this isn't the time for your baseless statements" A rough voice spoke.

This voice was quite familiar to Muku. After all, it was none other than Ares' voice.

"Well now. It seems someone is still grouchy from losing their servant to a weak human. Is it my fault my servant is growing by the day while yours rots? Well, whatever, I don't have time for this. I don't even know why I'm here. After all, I care not for what you're doing. In fact, if I ever find this mysterious variable and get a chance to speak to them, I will definitely sell you all out. Hahaha," Althea spoke in a jolly voice while saying chilling things.

Before anyone could say anything, she was gone with an amused laugh.

In the dimension, Ares was left fuming while the previous four beings and six more looked on quietly.

For the first time in a long time, all twelve current Monarchs were gathered in one place.

Unfortunately, they couldn't resolve the issue they had gathered. Though honestly, the more they thought about it, Althea's guess seemed to make sense.

Maybe there really was some variable on that little planet.

With that thought, they all began to think deeply about how they would handle the variable should they meet.

Some had murderous thoughts, others still didn't believe it, others were neutral, and some thought like Althea.

None would have guessed that the so-called variable was actually close to death and might actually die soon if they don't receive proper care....

Chapter 440: Dangerous situation

Back on Muku's side...

"Hang in there Big Brother!" Hope shouted as she used all her power to heal Muku. She was barely holding her tears back as she did so.

After all, she had never seen him in such a terrible situation. If she was still her old self, she would be crying her eyes out from the moment she saw him.

Anyway, it was fortunate that Layla intervened with her [omnipresence] or Muku really might have died.

What happened was that Audrey could tell that something was wrong with Muku and he might be in serious trouble. It was vague since they weren't as connected as Muku and Raya.

But it was enough. Even though they were sent away many kilometres away. Layla still had a trump card. Her omnipresence could travel to any place she had laid her eyes on at any point in her life as long as there was darkness there.

And so, just like that, without waiting for orders, the moment Audrey told them what she felt... Layla grabbed Hope and the two disappeared into the shadows...

They appear on top of the barren land. Not directly on top of Muku but close enough to sense them.

Normally, Layla would then "teleport" to them, but she was completely out of power from that one jump.

Which was understandable, not only had she jumped with another person, she had also jumped a rather significant distance as well.

For that reason, the current Layla could barely keep herself from plunging to the ground.

So, Hope had to drag her along to where she felt Muku's aura.

That was the difference between Space element teleportation and shadow element teleportation. While Raya's teleportation was definitely costly, it still cost way less than Layla's.

The trip which wiped Layla out could be done by Raya around ten times while bringing the castle and everyone on it along. If she's just bringing one person, maybe doing it twenty times would be possible. That's how different they were.

However, in combat, Layla's ability was more suitable as it could be done instantly while Raya's needed a little preparation. It wasn't much, but it was enough to count when fighting strong opponents.

And when alone in short distances, Layla uses less energy...

Anyway, in less than ten minutes she had reached the place. She couldn't have arrived at a better time because a few Pseudo-R5s were actually slowly making their way to Muku and Raya.

The beasts had been scared off initially, but after a while, they turned back. They realised that the auras were weak and somewhat hazy.

This incited the greed hidden deep in their hearts.

They had realised that the situation might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to eat higher rank meat. After all, in normal cases, it was impossible to eat higher-ranked beast meat.

It would either be eaten or destroyed by similarly ranked beasts. And killing a higher-ranked beast was out of the question.

Anyway, Hope was angered to the extreme when she saw the beasts approaching her big brother.

So much so she used a little too much power. The poison she used was so dense that the beasts were turned to dust before they knew what was going on. All that was left were their beast cores.

She didn't spare the cores a glance as she rushed to Muku's side and immediately began healing him.

Fortunately, his wounds weren't like those he got from Ares that one time that couldn't be healed. If it were like that, he might have died from blood loss alone at some point.

Unfortunately, even though he could be healed. It was extremely slow and the chance of dying along the way was still high.

After that realisation, the tears Hope could barely contain couldn't be contained anymore. But that didn't stop her from doing her best.

Layla watched from the side. Instead of her usual lack of expression, there was a deep frown on her face.

She had also figured out that Muku's chances of making it weren't too high.

However, unlike Hope who practically broke down from the realisation and was planning on offing herself the moment Muku died if it happened, Layla started thinking of ways to save him.

Her eyes immediately landed on Raya who was unconscious beside Muku. She then remembered how the dragon girl could control Muku's body when he was unconscious to help him absorb cores and recover.

If she could wake Raya up and have her help Muku... With Raya and Hope working together, they might be able to pull it off.

Fortunately, it seemed that Raya wasn't physically injured. At least, not externally. Her aura was just weak from lack of mana, so they just needed to recover some of her mana...

Luckily, the area didn't lack beast cores. They were everywhere around them.

These were the cores Muku dropped when he was dealing with the golden beam.

Actually, the cores were close, but not close enough. Otherwise, Raya wouldn't have fainted as she could have used them to stop herself from fainting.

Unfortunately, she was too tired to even move an inch back then.

Well, whatever, it didn't matter now. Layla dragged her tired body to the cores and brought a few back to Raya.

The moment the five cores were brought back and placed on Raya's body, they immediately began getting sucked dry.

Within a minute, all five were sucked dry and Raya's eyes snapped open. She was still extremely weak despite having drained five Pseudo R6 cores.

Actually, with her rank, just two should have been enough to completely recover. But she wasn't in her normal state.

The current her still had an evolution to go through. Normally, she'd be sleeping inside Muku's mindscape and stealing a little of his power until she successfully evolved. But now, Muku wasn't in the condition for such.

So her body naturally took the chance get what it needed from the beast cores. Unfortunately, it was so picky that most of the energy was rejected.

That's why many beasts like Raya made Soul-links in the past. If they solely relied on themselves to evolve. Not only might they not survive the ritual but they would need a lot longer to evolve after surviving than those with a soul-link. On top of that, it was safer to evolve in a mindscape than in some cave somewhere.

Anyway, all that didn't matter for the time being. What mattered was that Raya was awake.

"I know what to do..." Raya spoke weakly after seeing the situation.

Layla who has taken the time to absorb a core of her on quietly handed Raya some beast cores.

Raya accepted them and placed them around Muku then began helping him absorb them.

This significantly quickened the healing process. Everyone could see that his chance of making it had improved a lot at that point.

"Thank you" Hope spoke. It was only at that point that she could spare Raya a look.

"No need. I'm doing this for me. He's my partner after all" Raya replied without looking up at Hope.

"..." Hope didn't say anything else as she understood what Raya meant.

Just like how she was healing Muku because she cared for him instead of some obligation, Raya was doing the same. So there really was no need to be thanked by anyone.

On the side, Layla held a beast core as she slowly recovered from it. Her speed was nowhere near Raya's, but in a few hours, she should be back at full strength.

She looked in every direction with caution as she did so. After all, the other two probably won't be combat-ready until Muku is up.

So she had to be the guard until the others arrived. That's right, she has contacted them as soon as she could and told them to return.

If Freya travels at maximum speed, they should be back in an hour or less.

That is if there were no troubles on the way. Which honestly, was highly unlikely.

Especially when the number of beasts on the planet has just been increased again.

So yeah, Layla probably had to guard everyone alone for at least a few hours.

She hoped to recover a bit more so they could leave that place.

The reason why no strong beast turned up was that they sensed the strong auras from before. However, after the situation has been quiet for so long, some curious minds might come to check it out.

So it wouldn't be safe for much longer. The telling sign was how those Pseudo R5s turned up.

Hopefully, the situation won't deteriorate anymore before they can leave.

"Don't worry... As long as nothing too strong shows up. We'll be safe. I won't let anyone get to Big Brother" Hope suddenly spoke without looking away from Muku.

Layla silently waited for her to explain, but no explanation came.

Just when she was about to ask what she meant, she sensed something in the distance...

Her expression hardened... An R5 had turned up.

Fortunately, it was a LR5... However, in their current states, it might be too much for them to take care of.

Just when she was about to risk it all... The R5 fell from the sky, blood coming out of its eyes, mouth, ears and nose.

A chill went down Layla's spine. She had remembered something.

"Whisperless Death" Hope's calm voice confirmed Layla's guess...