

## **Few Wives 461**

Chapter 461: Audrey versus Freya (final)

All the blood mist in the air quickly gathered together into one gigantic bomb. A bomb so huge it was almost as big as their avatars. And it all happened so quickly she couldn't stop it.

Even worse was how it all happened right in front of her. Her first instinct was to create as much distance between her and the bomb as possible.

And so...

BOOOOOOOM!

The rockets below her feet exploded out in energy as she tried getting away. However...

BANG!

She crashed into a huge blood wall that suddenly rose as if having been waiting for her to make that very move. The wall was actually made from the blood pool Audrey created at the start of the battle.

If she had created the wall right there and then, the energy fluctuation would have been so huge that Freya might have easily dodged it. But when it was from something that had already been present, it was negligible...

This meant that Audrey had likely foreseen how the battle would go even before they began fighting. After which, she prepared countless steps ahead. Or she had set a trap and manipulated Freya into falling for it.

Either way, Audrey had shown superb battle awareness and intelligence. The others were actually worried for her, since her biggest trump card, which was blood corruption, was off the table.

After all, avatars were mana constructs even if the pilot felt their pain. So Audrey could forget about corrupting anyone's blood.

Of course, she was still super deadly without the ability. But the others were used to her spamming the ability, so it was hard not to think she was nerfed.

Anyway, she just proved them wrong with her latest move...

When Freya crashed into the wall, it first caused her damage with its hardness then it turned into a semi-liquid state as it stuck to her and held her in place.

The ability to turn her element liquid or solid was something only she could do in the group. Sure, Muku could summon mercury, and Jade could summon water from her stolen abilities, but neither could change the states of what they had already created in that way.

Then again, if it were normal to do that, Elsa would be able to create ice while Layla would be able to create water. But neither could do that.

Anyway while Freya struggled to free herself from the blood. The bomb quickly made its way toward her. Then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

It exploded around twenty meters away from her. And that was international on Audrey's part.

She knew that Raya would save Freya in time even if she hit her dead center with the bomb. But the pain it would inflict wasn't something she wanted an ally to suffer through...

Even though the bomb exploded a distance away, the destructive force still reached Freya within a second. Barely having lost any power.

However, the distance did give Freya enough time to react and focus all her energy on self defense as well as cutting off her control of most of the body.

Immediately after they did that, more than fifty percent of the avatar was destroyed in the blast. Both legs and hands along with wings were destroyed in the protection of the core area she resided in.

Honestly, if she hadn't cut off control from those parts, the pain she would have felt would have been excruciating to say the very least.

Even after destroying those parts, the energy was still rampaging. So Audrey actually had to help her neutralize it before it did actual damage to her or Raya had to intervene.

And so, after a round of a minute of destruction, the situation was finally neutralized.

"I surrender!" Even though it was obvious that Freya couldn't continue fighting from the avatar torso she had left, she still surrendered.

It felt right after the leniency Audrey had shown in the last moments.

After that, the Manticore and robot torso were dispelled and the two beautiful ladies inside them were revealed.

Both were huffing, but Freya was doing it a lot more than Audrey. This was because it had taken her a lot more effort to stay in the battle than it did Audrey.

From her plant element, which was weaker as a borrowed element to her lack of experience in such battle formats.

"I hope this doesn't sound sarcastic but I'm really proud of you. Despite being used to only fighting long range until now, you actually gave me a run for my money. I'm sure that after gaining more experience, the winner between us will depend on luck more than anything" Audrey praised Freya while patting her head.

Freya accepted the patting with a happy smile on her face. Like all the other girls, she respected Audrey greatly and would never turn down a head pat from her. Along with the praise of course.

"Hehe. Thank you. While I don't know if I'll ever catch up to you when you can dictate how the battle goes from start to finish, I agree that I need more practice in fighting like this. In the future whenever possible, I hope to fight with only my avatar while leaving the castle aside. Of course, if it's necessary to fight with the castle, then I will do it instantly" Freya replied.

"Great! I'll support you all the way. Now let's get out of here before we're booted off stage..." Audrey replied with a smile.

Freya laughed then the two left the arena...

"So, did it go according to your predictions?" Muku asked the duo that sat with him.

"Well, personally I wasn't familiar enough with either to choose one. I have seen them both in action but one was using the battle castle and the other one was controlling an army. Neither had those this time so I couldn't tell who was better. From the initial manaless exchange, I actually thought Ms Freya might take due to her humanoid avatar. However as the match went on, I felt that something was wrong. It was only when I saw the blood wall checkmate that I realised what was going on. Ms Audrey had been controlling everything from the start. Not only within the arena but here too. I doubt many saw through what she was doing... Truly an amazing and rather scary lady" Klaus replied with awe in his voice.

"Hey! That's my wife you're calling scary!" Muki defended his missus with a proud grin on his face which showed that he wasn't the least bit offended.

Klaus raised his arms in surrender.

"I knew Momma Audrey would win" Raya spoke.

However instead of sounding cute like when she looked like a child, now it looked odd. After all, Raya now looked like Audrey's younger sister at best.

This was because Audrey hadn't changed at all since she got her look. In fact, the other girls also stopped changing after they reached their peak beauty and physique.

Now if Layla were to call Audrey mom in front of those who didn't know the situation they'd think she's either weird or joking. After all, she and Audrey looked around the same age.

In fact, it wasn't just them who stopped aging. Everyone else did. Just that Audrey's body regression was a bit too exaggerated. Some would need to rise from R1 to at least R6 to regress so much while she got at from the very start.

Another thing was her unparalleled beauty, which only Raya will parallel in the future. They also felt that Mrs C might parallel if not surpass it if she wasn't controlling how she looked.

Anyway, even the beauty the other girls had, it was super uncommon. Likely due to their super high class levels...

"Eww. Can you change how you address her you shameless old thing" Muku mocked Raya with a disgusted look on his face but pleased one in his eyes.

"You know, we happen to be on tournament grounds, so we might as well fight too right?" Raya replied calmly...

"No no, there's no need. I wouldn't want to bother our busy Raya with something so pointless and beneath her station" Muku immediately backed out with no shame at all.

Agreeing to fight Raya?... Bullshit! She was a legit R6 and he was a pseudo R6. He didn't even have his erasing gaze at the moment. So why would he dare fight her? They were simply asking to be embarrassed in front of everyone.

"Hmm. It's good that you know your place... Which is beneath me" Raya spoke in a pleased voice.

"Of course. Of course. Im nothing in front of you" Muku completely accepted the loss.

So much so that everyone couldn't stop themselves from rolling their eyes or cringing.

They were wondering where the unrelenting warrior who fought for just an inch of his life went.

On the other hand, Klaus looked at him with praise in his eyes. He had always thought that he was shameless. But clearly, he wasn't shameless enough. He needed to learn a thing or two from Muku...

Anyway, Audrey and Freya soon got their praises and consolation. Then the next combatants stepped up.

The last fight of the first round.

Chloe versus Lisa.

Lightning versus Earth.

It was definitely going to be a peak fight...

Chapter 462: Chloe versus Lisa...

In no time at all, the combatants were already in the arena. The crowd was going wild.

Obviously, the fortress ladies were supporting Lisa. Just to spite the other group, Klaus's side supported Chloe.

And for the first time that day, the crowd was almost equally divided...

"For a change, let me ask you brother Muku, who do you think is taking this one?" Klaus asked first.

"Chloe without a doubt" Muku replied instantly.

"Whoa. No hesitation at all. But are you sure? She's basically fighting against her direct opposite after all..." Klaus added.

"You're judging her based on general lightning... The last mistake you'll ever make if she were your enemy" Raya spoke before Muku could.

"What she said... I don't know if you've noticed, but none of the girls in my group are normal. All of them have special powers. So never think of them as simple Evolvers. I'll admit that Lisa isn't bad either. In fact, she'll probably catch up to them in no time at all. But right now? Nuh" Muku added. His confidence was increasing more and more as he spoke.

"Hmm. I'm still not convinced. After all, I fought beside Ms. Lisa before she surpassed me in just a week... which really sucks. Anyway, because of that, I doubt she's any less impressive than the others" Klaus still defended Lisa.

It wasn't because of romantic interest or something like that. It was because of the respect he had for her which formed when they fought together.

Even though he didn't want to admit it, she was definitely as good as him if not better in a fight. So hearing that she was still a noob felt like a jab at him as well.

He wasn't the only one who wanted to defend Lisa. Her squad wanted to do the same. But they were afraid of Muku. So they could only quietly support Klaus's words...

Muku just smiled while Raya rolled her eyes. They preferred to let him witness what was about to happen rather than say anything.

After all, actions spoke louder than words...

"Are you ready Ms Lisa?" Chloe asked Lisa.

"Please, just call me Lisa. I'm not that much older than you after all. And yes, I am. Are you Ms. Chloe?" Lisa replied politely.

"Okay, Lisa. And you can just call me Chloe too. I'm more than ready... Oh, a little advice, please don't depend too much on your strong defense..." Chloe spoke in a friendly tone.

"...Okay?" Lisa replied. She didn't understand what Chloe meant by her words but she chose to keep them in mind.

And so, the two summoned their avatars.

A gigantic Roc even bigger than Emily's Phoenix appeared. The bird of prey was covered with lightning from head to toe. It almost looked elemental like a Phoenix. However, it seemed to have a solid body beneath the lightning, so it looked a lot more real...

In the opposite direction, the dragon tortoise appeared. It was about as large as the Leviathan.

Its pitch-black shell and scales along with its long scaly tail made it look like a creature from someone's nightmares instead of a supposedly Earth element avatar.

After all, aren't earth element creatures supposed to look somewhat earthly in some way?? Well, whatever, no one could deny that it looked like an absolute tank despite everything.

"3...2...1...Fight!" A voice was heard. This time it was Raya's instead of Muku.

She had beaten him to the punch...

Well, who said it didn't matter anyway?

And so, the duo in the ring charged at each other. At the very least that's what Lisa thought they were doing...

Instead, Chloe took to the skies and disappeared behind the clouds... which instantly enough was still part of Raya's domain. Then again, as an R6, her domain could probably cover most of the planet if not all of it.

The reason no R6 did that was because it was simply asking for death when they weren't the only R6s around.

After all, it was easy to understand how such an act would anger the other R6s...

Anyway, just as Lisa was trying to figure out what to do next... a low sound started ringing out in everyone's ears.

At first, it was a light "boom! boom!".

As the milliseconds passed the sound kept on increasing until...

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!...

It became so loud that some people's ears began bleeding.

Before anyone could react, the clouds blocking them from seeing what was happening beyond them all turned blue.

Just then, everyone's hair rose into the sky.

Those who knew what happened when lightning was about to strike began panicking.

After all, natural lightning only makes a few strands rise up. However, currently everyone's hair rose up. All their strands were pointing to the sky.

"Raya..." Muku spoke softly.

"On it" Raya replied then disappeared and reappeared in less than a split second. She had brought someone with her.

Before anyone else could react or even notice what was happening, the clouds disintegrated. Then....

BOOM!

An explosion so loud that it burst the eardrums of most of the people present despite Raya's protection occurred.

As for the destruction it did. None saw it. All they saw was a blinding blue light that literally left them blind and screaming in fear.

Some people fainted, some wet their pants while others simply froze, unable to do anything at all.

It was only around a minute later that everyone regained their vision. The sight that greeted them scared all of them stiff. The humongous and intimidating Dragon Tortoise was completely gone.

In its place, no, it was better to say that in the place of the arena, a bottomless pit stood.

Blue lightning tendrils kept on sparking all over the hole menacingly.

"Noooo! Leader!" Suddenly someone from Lisa's camp screamed in anguish after realizing that there was no way Lisa could survive that. The fact that not even a trace of her could be seen proved her thoughts.

"Calm down. She isn't dead. I have her here... Though it will be a while before she wakes up. I mean, she's up. But the shock must have short-circuited her brain..." Raya spoke calmly before anyone else lost their cool while poking Lisa who was currently frozen beside her.

Lisa's eyes were focused on the hole from start to finish. She probably didn't even hear Raya speak.

Currently her mind was overwhelmed by one word...

{Impossible! Impossible! Impossible!...}

It kept on repeating like her mind was a broken record.

And honestly, it was understandable. After all, she and Chloe were the same rank, same class level, and yet... why was the difference so large!

How was this fair? How was she supposed to fight back against that?? Was there even a point in fighting back?...

"Wait, where's Chloe?" Audrey asked after getting over what she just witnessed.

After all, this wasn't the first time they had seen this happen.

Beside her, Layla stood quietly. Cold air is seeping out of her body. Her eyes were focused on the sky.

Audrey noticed this and looked up also.

And there she was... Chloe. She was visibly gasping for air with sweat falling from her forehead as she slowly floated down.

It wasn't that the attack had taken all her power. In fact, she actually still had more than half her mana left.

She was gasping for breath because of the level of control and concentration she had needed to do what she did.

It had almost fried her brain. Which was understandable for an attack that would have likely reached the planet's core and destroyed everything had Raya not neutralized most of it.

As for why Chloe used such an attack... It couldn't be because she hated Lisa and wanted to take her out right?

No, of course not. The only ones in the group remotely capable of thinking then doing such a thing were Jade and Emily... Maybe Layla too is she was pushed far enough.

But Chloe was too nice for such a thing. She had just misjudged the situation that's all.

She had seen how dense Lisa's defense was and thought to test out her mastered [Kamikaze] on her.

However, she had gotten too excited and gone all out. Something which had almost cost her her brain and Lisa's life.

Fortunately, she managed to not to go too far and Lisa was saved. If something bad had happened to Lisa. She wouldn't have been able to live with herself.

Grab!

Chloe suddenly found herself being pulled into a warm hug.

She didn't know who it was or even sense it due to her wozzy state. However, it didn't take long to realise that it was Audrey.

"Oh, baby. Why did you go so far? I was so worried!" Audrey spoke while hugging Chloe tightly.

Someone as experienced as her easily figured out how dangerous Chloe's attack was for both parties. Since Lisa was confirmed to be fine, she now only had to worry about Chloe.

Before Chloe could reply she felt a chill behind her. Then a freezing cold hand grabbed her shoulder.

"Why did you use the [Kamikaze] I thought you promised me that you'd never use it again... Was that a lie?" Layla's cold voice was heard behind Chloe.

This time it wasn't an emotionless cold but a coldness overflowing with emotions instead. Overflowing with anger to be exact...

Chloe's mind instantly cleared up from fear alone. Then she slowly turned around to look at Layla.

What met her were two hollow pitch-black eyes and a chill went down her spine.

She immediately realized that if she didn't have a good reason, Layla was definitely going to make her regret it...

Chapter 463: Disqualified?

"I ah... I only promised not to do it if Muku or Raya were absent. However, both of them were present and I successfully ejected myself a lot sooner than before so I wasn't in any danger. Which you can see. I'm completely fine" Chloe immediately tried to defend herself with reason as Layla's angry big sister pressure crashed down on her.

She subtly pulled Audrey in front of herself as she spoke.

"Can you let it go this once Layla dear? What she's saying makes sense after all. If she had done it without supervision, I would have been just as angry. But that's not what she did. And everyone's okay" Audrey defended Chloe.

She could understand where Layla was coming from but she felt that it wasn't worth getting too worked up over the matter.

However, she did like how much Layla proved to love Chloe like a real younger sister.

She had always wanted to give Layla a younger sister in the past. Unfortunately, she could never find a man worthy enough to do that with. Though she was okay with it after meeting Muku. The wait felt like it was worth it.

And now, even Layla got herself a younger sister. So it worked out for everyone... Layla could relax a little more. But it was fine. She should get better with time.

"Okay..." Layla agreed to let it go.

But from how she looked at Chloe. It was clear that she hadn't completely let go. She was probably only agreeing due to Audrey's intervention and would look for a chance to strike in the future.

Yup, she was definitely a tough older sister to have. Well, whatever, that will be dealt with when the time comes...

"Why hasn't anyone declared Chloe the winner yet?" Audrey suddenly asked after noticing the problem.

"That's simple. It's because she didn't win. She's disqualified for voluntarily exiting her avatar before the match was over. This is an avatar tournament after all. Muku finally spoke. His voice was serious which shocked everyone present.

They didn't expect such a twist. Since when was he a stickler for the rules? In fact, such a rule was never put in place.

They all wondered what happened to him. Since when did he start behaving like a typical shady government that randomly spat out laws that didn't exist before without warning?

"What do you mean? That's bullshit and you know it! Since when did we operate so rigidly like that??" Surprisingly... Or unsurprisingly really, Jade was the first to explode.

She even looked ready to fight it out with Muku.

He didn't say anything only looked at her with a little smile. His gaze shifted from her eyes to her lower body. A chill immediately went down her spine and she took a step back in fear.

This action was normal to the other girls but it made Klaus and Chris narrow their eyes.

They even wanted to ask about it. Like, what could Muku do to her or had done to her to make her react like that with just a look?

However, before the two clueless guys could embarrass their sister, they were stopped by their wives.

Scarlet and Genevieve, being girls noticed more than the two brothers did. They noticed that Jade's fear wasn't the typical kind.

There was a tinge of red on her cheeks with shyness and even desire being terribly hidden in her eyes.

It was clear that whatever Muku could do to her had done to her was something not for the public to know, especially Jade's brothers...

"... No, it's fine. I'm okay with his judgment. After all, I did go overboard. So this is sufficient punishment" Chloe agreed with Muku after a moment of silence.

It was then that Lisa who was still out of it suddenly regained herself again.

"No! She won fair and square. She might have exited her avatar during the battle but it was her final action. She didn't act against me after getting out so she broke no rules. And besides, even if this wasn't a tournament and real life. She would have neutralized me completely. Which I think is the whole point of this tournament right? I mean, we're supposed to figure out how to end our opponents right? This time she was the better evolver and I admit that. In fact, she showed me what I should aspire to. So please, don't strip her of her much-earned win" Lisa spoke spiritedly.

It seems she had completely gotten over what happened.

"...Hmm. If that's how you see it. And I admit it makes sense after thinking about it again. I don't know what I was thinking. I guess all I can say now is congrats Chloe. You just advanced. And I'm sorry for what I said before" Muku spoke with a smile on his face.

Almost as if what happened before had nothing to do with him.

Some of the people present rolled their eyes. They had noticed his act from the start. It was clear that he had been targeting Lisa from the start.

He had noticed how devastated she was. So he used suppressing Chloe as a way of bringing her back to normal.

Which was only fair after it was Chloe who put her in that state with her over-the-top attack. Like what the hell is wrong with Chloe?! Fighting Lisa normally would have still granted her the win with little to no struggle at all, so why try out such an absurd attack at that time??

Wait... Had Chloe been waiting for a chance to try it all along? After all, it seemed way too random. Especially with how it seemed like she was targeting Raya's domain instead of Lisa.

Yeah, knowing Chloe, she probably wondered whether her special characteristic could break through the domain so she tried it.

Sure, she was told that with enough intent she could break through anything. But she wanted to witness it for herself.

Anyway, after that, all the winners were announced again. And they were Elsa, Layla, Audrey, and Chloe.

The losers were Emily, Jade, Freya, and Lisa.

Now it was time to draw lots for the following rounds.

First, it was the losers...

The fights were:

Emily versus Lisa

## Jade versus Freya

The fights should have been held the next day but the fighters felt ready to fight. Especially Lisa who hadn't done anything.

Unfortunately for her, her enthusiasm didn't translate to a win against Emily as she was severely trounced by the fire mage. Her summoned earth was turned into magma before being completely erased from existence along with her avatar.

It happened so quickly that Lisa only felt pain for a split second before it was over. Of course, that was when the backlash from getting her avatar destroyed wasn't counted.

This loss didn't make her feel too bad though. After all, she had managed to at least make a move this time. Even if it all amounted to nothing.

Though she was left wondering why she was so much weaker than the others. Was it because her pseudo-legendary class was artificial?

It was then that Muku let her in on a secret. Those who never stop their mana purification and control training will always be better than those like her who stopped after meeting the requirements to advance forward.

After that, she felt like a bomb had exploded in her head. But it wasn't a bad bomb, but a bomb of enlightenment. No wonder she seemed like a fake PR5 next to the others. They were simply not in the same mana purity category.

And so, she ran off immediately to fix that. Better late than never right? The loss didn't bother her at all.

After that Jade and Freya stepped into the ring.

Their fight was a little longer than Emily versus Lisa but not that much longer. This was because Jade didn't go easy on Freya as Audrey did initially.

The result was Freya's resounding defeat. And that was only understandable considering the difference between their battle experience.

Jade always gets close and personal in battle while Freya usually shoots from a distance.

So when her battle castle was taken out of the equation, she wasn't much of a threat to a veteran.

Honestly, Audrey could have done the same to her. But as the gentle mother of the group she was. She had to teach her child a few things before going in for the kill.

Unfortunately, Jade wasn't like that. If she hadn't lost a match already, she might have been willing to help Freya improve her battle techniques. Unfortunately, she did lose and wasn't in a nice mood after that.

All she wanted was to win all her matches from then on and hopefully, Layla does the same and they can meet again...

After those two battles, everyone called it a day. The following day will have a match between Emily and Jade in the morning.

In the afternoon, it will be the winner of that versus Hope. Who didn't know how to feel about finally having to participate. Watching from the sidelines was a lot less stressful after all.

Unfortunately, her brother wouldn't let her lounge around like that. Not to mention that she still wanted to prove herself to him.

So, it was set in stone. She was going to fight.

After that battle, lots will be drawn again among the remaining people.

It was going to be a fun day just like the present day....

## Chapter 464: Emily versus Jade

The following day...

Everyone got up early due to excitement. The time was around 7 AM... at least it looked like it. The days had gotten a lot longer at some point. Daylight lasted twice as long as before. And yet nighttime was still as short.

It felt like nocturnal creatures were being shortchanged but such was life.

Anyway, Emily and Jade were already in the ring getting ready to fight...

"Aren't you nervous?" Emily asked Jade.

"Why would I be?" Jade replied confusedly.

"Hmm, I don't know. Maybe because I won our last duo" Emily replied simply.

"Oh, you're talking about that tournament fight we had years ago? Girl did you forget that I defeated you in my emo days when you tried to bring me back? As far as I'm concerned we're currently drawn" Jade replied nonchalantly.

"Oh? I guess that did happen. It's a draw then. Well, it doesn't matter because I'm about to put an end to it right now" Emily replied.

"Wow, so cocky! Do you think you'll be safe in the sky or something? You know it can also do that right?" Jade replied smugly.

Reminding Emily of how she could change her form. If she wanted to.

"Yeah, I admit that you have an interesting party trick there. But... Do you dare do it again after it went horribly wrong last time? In fact, I dare you to use it. Go ahead, make this easy for me" Emily replied.

Like Layla, and probably everyone else in the group who knew about Jade's power. Emily had figured out the drawback of Jade's transformation ability.

Just like she knew Jade couldn't use the elements she copied freely. Her transformations seemed to be limited as well.

From what they saw, Jade likely couldn't use Beast Aura when she's transformed into another person's avatar.

Which hopefully was the case otherwise it would be unfair to everyone else if she could copy avatars thoroughly.

Which would explain why she was so easily taken out by Layla after her Leviathan form was caught.

In a normal situation, she should have been able to break out of that in less than a second.

Though honestly, if her plan had worked out, Layla might have been taken out. She probably wouldn't have stopped bragging about it for weeks. Calling the move, [Leviathan fall] or something.

Anyways, all that didn't happen, and Emily hoped that her conclusion was correct or she might suffer.

"Tsk. Enough chitchat. Let's get this over with. I want to wipe that smugness off your face already" Jade replied in an annoyed voice.

She didn't wait for Emily to reply as she immediately summoned her avatar.

Emily could only do the same...

"3...2...1...Fight!" Raya started the match again.

Emily immediately took to the sky... Well, at least that's what Jade thought was going to happen as she released a breath attack aimed just above Emily. Which was where she would have been if she had taken off.

"I knew it" Emily smugly said.

Just as Jade knew her well, she also knew Jade well. In fact, she probably knew Jade a little more than Jade knew her. After all, she was the more observant between the two when interacting with friends.

Jade was more observant of enemies than friends. It wasn't exactly a bad thing, in fact, it made her seem more genuine than most. But it did mean that those around her knew her more than she did them.

It wasn't that they were bad either. After all, most people take notice of whatever they can even when interacting with friends. It was just a natural thing people did.

So the situation could be blamed only on personalities.

Anyway, Emily took advantage of Jade's misjudgment as she charged forward...

A huge fireball appeared in front of her as she advanced. By the time she reached Jade, which was almost instantly. A huge fireball almost half her size had formed then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOM!

She hit Jade with it point-blank. She hadn't given her any time to adjust to the situation.

In fact, when she said, "I knew it" she was already advancing forward.

And she did use a random fore ball. She used an exploding fireball. The difference was how normal one exploded solely based on coming into contact with something. However, exploding fireballs have extra juice which makes them explode on Emily's command.

This meant that the explosion was at least twice as strong as usual.

And so, Jade was knocked back a few meters.

Emily didn't stop there. Flaming meteorites were already forming in the sky. While that happened, a firestorm appeared around Jade.

In no time at all, she was completely surrounded and submerged.

BOOOOOOOOOOOM! BOOOOOOOOOOOM! BOOOOOOOOOOOM!...

Numerous golden flame meteorites crashed down on Jade.

Some spectators screamed in fear thinking that Emily was genuinely trying to kill Jade.

However, all those who knew about Emily's special ability didn't budge at all.

Hell, even if Emily had used the same move Chloe did before, Raya wouldn't get involved.

After all, Emily's power only hurts what she wants to hurt. And currently, that was only Jade's avatar. Jade herself wouldn't even feel the heat... Well, her real body wouldn't feel it anyway. She will feel like she's getting burned from the link she had with her avatar though.

"ROOOOOOOOOAR!" A beastly roar was heard from within the flames.

Immediately after, Jade jumped out. And... she was actually hurt!!

Yeah, she hadn't been aura farming by tanking the flames.

She had really been caught off guard and was bullied even more after that.

But it was hard to believe that she couldn't do anything at all. After all, she was known for her peak reflexes that were better than anyone else.

Yet she was so sluggish in her actions. Not to mention she was already sweating buckets inside the avatar. Which felt odd since she felt nothing but a gentle heat which kinda felt good. So how was she sweating like this??

The situation made her feel like she was forgetting something. Something really important. Something which could likely explain the whole situation.

Unfortunately, Emily wasn't giving her enough time to think about it as she immediately started attacking after Jade came out of the flames.

What was happening surprised many. Jade was getting dominated. Sure this was all because of the mistake she made at the start, but still, shouldn't she have regained herself by then?

Even if she couldn't quickly turn the tables, she should have at least returned the fight to a neutral situation. Yet that wasn't happening.

Because of this, the arena basically went dead silent.

As they watched the fight progress. They began noticing that something was wrong with Jade.

She was basically botching at least half of the moves she was making. If she had gotten at least a third of them right, she would have regained control of the situation. Unfortunately, that wasn't happening.

What was even worse was how she didn't seem to notice that there was something wrong with her.

There were even a few passionate spectators who wanted to scream out to Jade and tell her to inspect herself. After all, there was clearly something wrong with her.

However, just when they were about to scream it out, a terrifying pressure would crash down on them almost making them sink into the ground. And of course, a few bones were broken.

This happened a few times before the spectators realised that getting involved wasn't something they could do.

They dared not complain about how it would have been more civil to tell them than basically destroy them... After all, who knew if that would get them destroyed as well?

After all, it is clear that Raya was the owner of the pressure. That girl might look like an angel, but she was a demon and they knew it.

What they didn't know was that Raya was crashing them for the fun of it. After all, even if they shouted, Jade wouldn't hear them through the sound barrier that prevented the combatants from hearing the spectators. Though the spectators could hear everything in the arena. This is what led to the misunderstanding of thinking that there was no barrier...

"Umm, Brother Muku, what's happening to my sister?" Klaus asked Muku after failing to figure out what was going on.

"I really would love to tell you. But just as we can't speak about how your sister can take on the avatar forms of others, we can't speak about this either. Though I have to say, I'm quite surprised by it. I didn't know Emily could do something so sneaky and rather sinister" Muku replied.

"Aha! So it really is Ms. Emily's doing. Well, that's good then. I don't need to know what exactly is going on. Just knowing that it's not Jade's fault is enough. I thought she was malfunctioning for a moment there" Klaus replied with relief in his voice.

"Is she a robot for her to malfunction?" Chris' displeased voice was heard from behind Klaus.

"Oh come on now brother. You know what I mean. Why do you always gotta be so difficult?" Klaus replied in exasperation...

"Hmph!" Chris refused to say anything else.

Everyone else couldn't help but smile. It was obvious that Chris really cared about his sister a lot even if he didn't specifically say it.

After all, he always found trouble with anyone he felt was mistreating her in any way.

What was funny about it was how he didn't seem to realise that his actions spoke louder than words...

Chapter 465: Emily versus Jade (final)

As Chris was busy amusing everyone. The battle continued.

Jade became increasingly clumsy as time passed.

Inside her avatar, she was sweating buckets without knowing why. Her mind had also gotten murky. If it hadn't, she would have definitely noticed that something was wrong with her by that point even if she didn't feel like anything was out of place.

"Golden dragon's roar!!!" Emily suddenly screamed from the sky, and an Eastern golden dragon, made of golden flames, appeared in front of her, then charged at Jade.

Everyone could help but make a weird expression on their faces. After all, it wasn't every day you'd see a Phoenix summoning dragon. The incident was rather comical after all.

After all the two were supposed to be eternal enemies right? Then again Emily wasn't really a Phoenix nor was the dragon real, so maybe the beef didn't apply in the situation.

Well, either way, the move was extremely powerful. And it was also visually appealing as the dragon which was around  $\frac{2}{3}$  the size of Jade's tiger charged forward and then bit her on the stomach before exploding into a dazzling golden light.

Was the move overkill when fighting someone who could barely defend themselves? Of course not! Despite her disoriented state which made attacking hard, Jade still had impeccable defense. Her body had its own instincts that had protected her up to that point. So the move Emily made was definitely correct.

And so, Jade's avatar was enveloped in the golden flames.

The flames cleared quickly with a little help from Emily. What appeared after that was a completely defeated Jade.

The avatar had been completely destroyed. And that was understandable after it had been continuously and systematically weakened by Emily.

Jade was left unconscious in a pool of her own sweat on the ground.

It surprised many that she was unconscious despite not looking injured at all.

After all, the stronger one got, the harder it became for them to fall unconscious. Which was the complete opposite of the first days were they fell unconscious left and right.

"As expected. Anyway, Emily... can you please return her body heat?" Muku suddenly spoke after appearing beside Jade.

He was checking her situation to see how serious it was.

"Oh, you noticed? And don't worry. Even if I don't do anything, she'll recover very soon. She's Jade after all. And I only took enough to mess her up for a little bit and lose consciousness. Not like I could endanger her life for real without her finding out. " Emily replied in a relaxed manner.

She was happy with the battle's result. And it was all thanks to Jade's cocky way of doing things when she knew she wasn't in any danger.

If she were fighting a real enemy, she would have noticed Emily's inversion from the very moment it happened and would have neutralized it.

And so, without being impeded, Emily easily stole Jade's body heat making her lose control.

That's right, she had used the same move she had used on Jade in the past. However, this time she wasn't weaker so it was a lot harder to catch and she was also a lot more skilled at it.

To make it even harder to find out, she made Jade feel a gentle warmth while also making her sweat. With such things happening, there was no way Jade would think that her heat was actually getting stolen.

It was a genius plan really.

Muku was so amazed when he figured it out that he called it sinister. After all, it made one feel good while destroying them inside like a woma...cough... alcohol.

"Haaaaaaa!" Suddenly Jade sprang up and started screaming for whatever reason.

"Emily you witch! How dare you use such a sneaky method on me?! I demand a rematch!" Jade screamed as mana exploded out of her.

She looked completely refreshed as if she didn't look like a salted fish just a few seconds before.

"See. I told you there's no need to worry about her" Emily said to Muku. Completely ignoring Jade.

"Hmm. You were right" Muku replied back.

Then as if on cue, both of them began walking out of the arena without acknowledging Jade at all.

"Hey! Don't ignore me! You too bastard! How could you let your wife get cheated like that? Shouldn't you be fighting for my justice? Give a rematch already!" Jade shouted at Emily but by the end of it, she had jumped onto Muku's back and was now shaking his head mercilessly.

Despite all that, Muku didn't react at all. He kept on walking like she wasn't there.

Soon enough Jade got bored with shaking him and just quietly lay on his back the rest of the way.

"Good that you finally calmed down. Now let's talk. Why do you think you deserve a rematch when you lost fair and square my wife? We all know your loss was due to your carelessness my wife. Do you know how embarrassed I am right now to be your husband my wife? In fact, you're getting punished after this... my wife" Muku spoke in the calmest voice he had ever spoken with.

While Jade wanted to feel happy about being publicly acknowledged as his wife even if everyone already knew it, she only felt a chill go down her spine. She immediately wanted to make a break for it.

However Muku was fast, he instantly grabbed her legs and locked her in place.

Of course, she struggled in an attempt to break free. Unfortunately for her, no matter how hard she tried... Muku was simply too strong. She couldn't break free. And so, she gave up.

At that point, she just hoped everything would end sooner so she could be punished and be done with it.

Besides them, Emily looked over with a sour look on her face. Despite being the winner. She felt like she was the one who lost.

After all, Jade was clearly having a better time than her. Sure, the punishment didn't sound good, but she got to have physical contact with Muku as well as being called wife. He had never called her that.

Argh! She was so jealous!

"Hmph!" Emily suddenly made a displeased sound before walking away from the duo that was making her look like a third wheel when they should be praising her for a win. Life was just not fair!

.....

A few hours later...

Emily had completely rested and was now back in the ring. Opposite her was Hope.

Emily had an irritated expression on her face, probably still not over what happened before.

On the other hand, Hope's expression was completely unreadable. Which was worlds apart from her usual unwilling or uneasy expression during such times.

This made Emily feel slightly odd about what was going on. But her irritation persisted so she didn't think too much about it.

From her point of view, as well as the others really. She was the worst enemy Hope could face.

After all, fire completely decimates gas-type elements.

In fact, Emily just had to completely cover herself in fire to be completely safe from Hope. For her, Hope was only scary when you didn't see her coming.

Otherwise, she was pretty harmless. Yeah, she knew that underestimating opponents gets you defeated. But come on. This was basically how Jade was defeated.

But unlike Jade, she felt that she knew Hope well enough to think the way she was thinking.

All she wanted now was to beat this junior then eventually move on to beat up her younger sister before the girl grows a big head.

With that thought, the Golden Phoenix reappeared.

Hope didn't stand on ceremony as her purple-eyed azure kirin also appeared...

The kirin was around the same size as Jade's tiger. So it was on the smaller side in the group.

But of course, none dared look down on it... None but the confident Emily if course...

"I'm not even going to ask this time. Even you must agree with me this time. There's no way your sister is winning this. Ms. Emily is literally the worst opponent in existence for her. Here literal complete counter. Unlike the others, there's no room for fighting back at all" Klaus spoke to Muku without looking in his direction.

"Hmm," Muku only made an acknowledging sound.

Even he wasn't sure how well Hope would do against Emily. After all, as Klaus said, this was the worst possible match-up for Hope.

However, for some reason, he felt like he shouldn't count her out yet.

He had no idea what she could possibly do to turn the tables. But he just believed in her. He believed that even if she won't be able to win, she should at least be able to give Emily a run for her money somehow...

It was so biased that he dared not say it out loud lest Emily burn him later after finding out.

All he could do was watch the show while brushing his hand on top of Jade's head like she was a cat as she sat on his lap.

It wasn't something she did willingly but currently she was enjoying it so much she couldn't complain.

Which was why Klaus couldn't look in that direction. He was suffering from second-hand embarrassment for his sister.

When did she become so shameless??. Then again, when did she ever have shame?...

Chapter 466: Hope versus Emily

As that happened, Emily made her in the ring.

While she didn't take Hope too seriously, she knew that things wouldn't end well for her if she gave her a chance to act.

And so...

A firestorm suddenly covered the whole arena. Not giving Hope any places to hide. Even the sky was completely covered.

Seeing this most supporters sighed. They didn't think that Hope would win. But they thought Emily would at least give her a chance to show off. But it seems it wasn't going to go like that. Emily was in a rather ruthless mood.

Even the other girls felt that Emily was too much. At the same time, they kinda understood. After all, if you don't do something that extreme against Hope then you will regret it before you can even blink.

Anyway, they were all ready to console Hope after a complete defeat. After all, unlike the others, if she doesn't win, she won't get a second chance.

It sounded unfair. But then again, she didn't fight on the first day. So the situation canceled itself out.

On the other hand, Muku refused to count her out until the very last moment. After all, her body language suggested that she had some tricks up her sleeve. Hopefully they were enough to at least make the battle seem like one...

"Hmm. Interesting..." Raya who could clearly perceive everything within the domain since it was hers as well as being R6 suddenly made a sound.

Muku and Klaus who couldn't find the reason why she did it were about to ask when...

"Baneful mana" Hope's calm voice was heard within the flames.

Fwaah!

A weird sound was heard and in front of everyone's surprised eyes, the golden flames started turning black. It was like the darkness was quickly consuming the light of day.

In less than a second, the flames had completely turned an inky black.

"SCREEEEEEEEEE!" The Phoenix's cry was heard from within the blackness.

However unlike usual times when it sounded majestic no matter the situation, currently it sounded pained and even afraid...

BOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Suddenly a black figure shot out of the flames heading into the sky. Which was now visible as the flames were thinning. Almost like they were getting eaten away.

Anyway, everyone thought that it might be Hope or maybe a stray attack if hers. However, to their surprise, it was Emily.

She was still inside the phoenix. However, unlike its usual golden radiance, it was now pitch black in colour.

Only the chest area still glowed a faint golden colour. But it too was soon eaten away by the blackness.

Then....

The Phoenix completely froze mid-air and... it began falling back to the ground.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

As expected from the fall of such a big creature from so high up. Its fall was quite thunderous.

By that point, all the flames were gone along with the black energy everyone assumed to be some kind of poison.

And soon enough, the phoenix was gone too. Eaten away. All that was left was a completely unconscious Emily whose skin was now a few shades darker.

Her body would spasm a bit from time to time as she lay there. A pained look appeared on her face.

Seeing this sight everyone felt a chill go down their spines.

And for a moment, everyone remained quiet. Some even held their breath as if afraid it would disturb Hope.

"And the winner is Hope!" Muku's voice was suddenly heard.

Then he began clapping alone like a madman.

After that Audrey and the other girls joined. Seeing that no one else was joining in, they glared at them.

It was only then that everyone began clapping and screaming like they normally would after a win.

Of course, most were internally crying for their money. But they dared not show it in front of these maniacs who forced them to celebrate even when they lost.

As for why Muku and the others did that, it was simple. Hope was still a gentle girl at heart despite everything.

So if she were to look around and see the scene of everyone standing there looking afraid, it would likely get to her.

Even in normal times she wasn't too enthusiastic about using her poison when it wasn't necessary.

So they couldn't risk letting her develop more psychological issues.

As for Emily? They weren't too worried about her. Despite how she looked, her vitals were still stable beneath the surface.

Her situation was undoubtedly worse than Jade's from their last battle, but it was similarly controlled by the caster.

Though unlike Emily back then who couldn't have completely endangered Jade's life without the Beast Empress reacting on instinct alone, Hope could definitely have taken out Emily.

After all, she was a master of poison. Killing you without your knowledge was her specialty.

Anyway, the towering kirin was soon unsummoned by Hope.

When she appeared everyone noticed that her eyes were actually black instead of purple. However, it didn't last long before they returned to normal.

She then walked to Emily. A gentle green light appeared on her palm as she held it on top of Emily.

The light soon enveloped Emily. In no time at all, Emily's skin color returned to normal.

Her eyes opened immediately after.

Unlike Jade, she wasn't explosive after waking up. She was quite calm if anything.

She looked to her side and what met her was Hope's mesmerizing purple eyes looking down on her.

Speaking of which, everyone in the group really had beautiful eyes. And while Muku's were the most functional with their erasing gaze and Raya's were the most eye-catching with their vertical slit... Hope's eyes were definitely the most beautiful.

They looked both inviting and scary. Two conflicting things but they made it work somehow.

"So I lost huh?" Emily asked without making an effort to get up.

"Yeah... and it's all your fault" Hope replied without any warmth in her voice.

"What? Oh..." Emily was surprised for a moment then she got it.

"Yeah," Hope didn't wait for her to say anything more as she turned around after that and left.

It seems she only wanted Emily to acknowledge what she did. What came after that didn't matter to her.

"Wait!... I'm sorry!" Emily called out as she got up.

"As you should" Hope replied then flew away.

She didn't even go to Muku to celebrate. She flew towards the castle and went inside.

Her actions visibly confused the spectators. After all, she didn't act like someone who just easily won a battle they shouldn't have.

Her actions were closer to that for a sore loser if anything.

"Yeah, I'd be pissed off too" Klaus suddenly spoke.

"Oh? So you get it too huh?" Muku spoke in a surprised manner.

"How could I not. To any true warrior, what happened was as clear as day" Klaus replied.

"Are you calling me a fake warrior then?? In fact, whatever. Just tell me why Hope looks upset and Emily looks guilty even though she won" Jade suddenly interjected.

"That's because I looked down on her. I didn't take her seriously. I only saw her as a stepping stone instead of acknowledging her as the strong opponent and close friend she is" Emily replied for herself as she arrived from the arena.

"Oh, so that's what happened. I didn't notice. Now I understand. And I have to say. You're a real asshole Emily. How could you do that? You're dumb too. Did you think just because your element is naturally Hope's counter you would be able to take care of her easily? Don't you know that no one in our group is normal? What are you still doing here? Go and apologize already!" Jade started speaking after finally understanding what was going on.

And she immediately started cursing Emily like she was the one who was disrespected.

For once Emily didn't snap back at Jade. How could she when what Jade said was exactly what she was thinking?

She was kicking herself inside for even making such a blunder. She had been blinded by other things. But that was no defense. After all, she had to have had such thoughts from the start for it to happen.

Anyway, she was about to go apologize to Hope again as Jade suggested. She would do it until forgiven.

However, Audrey stopped her by placing a hand on her shoulder.

She looked back in confusion.

"I know you feel bad. As you should really. However, if you go there now, you'll likely only make things worse. I'm also sure that you have no plan and you're planning on spamming apologies. Which I'll tell you right now won't work. So sit down and think about it for now. Let someone else go speak to her first. Let her cool down first. Then you'll speak to her" Audrey advised in a calm and gentle voice.

"Thank you. Will you please go for me?" Emily replied in a slightly vulnerable voice.

She looked like a lost child who just found her way in Audrey's eyes and smile along with her guidance.

After all, she had always been the thoughtful friend up to that point. She has never been the one who unintentionally hurt her friend.

It was always her getting hurt. And honestly, mostly by Jade.

Anyway, for that reason, she was lost on what to do.

"I'd love to dear. However, I feel there's someone better for the job" Audrey replied.

She then turned and looked in a certain direction. Emily followed her and looked at the person Audrey was looking at.

Her eyes instantly lit. Maybe there was hope after all...

Chapter 467: Talk with Hope

"What? Why are you all looking at m... Nooo! You couldn't possibly be expecting me to go and talk to Hope first right? I am a dude! I'm unsure of how to handle these kinds of situations. If anyone should go, it's clearly Audrey!" Muku immediately denied the idea before it was voiced.

And it was understandable. Like most dudes, he had no clue what to do or say when a girl is sad or mad. If it was his fault he would have bit the bullet but it wasn't so why should he suffer?

"Please?" Audrey didn't say much.

Emily didn't say anything at all. She just looked at Muku with begging puppy dog eyes.

What was even worse was how the other girls joined in.

If it were just one or two, maybe he would have been able to resist. But all of them ganging up on him was simply too much and plain unfair!

"Argh fine. Stop looking at me like that. I'll go speak to her. And don't blame me if the situation becomes worse" Muku relented.

"Thank you" They all thanked him uniformly like it was rehearsed.

"Yeah yeah yeah. Don't get used to it" Muku replied as he walked away in an annoyed manner.

The girls just smiled without taking offence. After all, no matter what he said, he was doing what they wanted. And if he thought it was the last time then he was lying to himself.

With how much he loved them, there was no way that was true. They knew their worth in his eyes and were completely willing to take advantage of that.

After all, it was the same as what he did with them when he wanted tournaments. He just had to look at them a certain way and they'd agree.

So it was a mutually exploitative relationship. Not in a bad way of course...

....

A while later inside the castle.

Since everyone else was outside and the walls were also sound suppressors, Muku could only hear his steps as he walked.

Though he wasn't paying attention to it. What he cared about for the moment was...

"What the hell am I going to tell her? Damn it. I shouldn't have agreed. Well, whatever, I probably think of something when the time comes" Muku spoke to himself as he walked.

Soon enough he reached Hope's door.

Knock! Knock!

He gently knocked on the door. Interestingly enough, despite being soundproof. When someone knocks on it, it's heard inside. It was probably archived through mana in some way...

Another thing, if the person inside says the word "enter" it's heard by anyone just outside the door.

As for how that worked, no one but Freya knew. The others saw no reason to ask. All that mattered was that it worked.

Anyway, Muku didn't hear anything from the other side but that didn't deter him. He figured Hope was probably not in a speaking mood. And so, he let himself in...

What met his eye was Hope's figure lying on the bed with her stomach. Her arms were hugging her pillow while she seemed to be stuck in thought.

From how it looked, she probably didn't hear the knock... Well, she heard it, but it didn't register in her mind.

Muku quietly walked forward while trying his best to avoid looking at the minor wardrobe malfunction that was going on with her. Her dress had ridden up her body a bit. Probably from through herself onto the bed.

So currently the dress barely covers her butt with a pink cloth visible from between her legs.

Muku didn't want to take notice of it but to some as strong as him, the second he looked might as well have been a few minutes, so the image was rather clear in his head.

Anyway, he forcefully pushed such thoughts out of his mind. It wasn't the time for such things. Not to mention that Hope was his sister so...

"Hey sis" He spoke gently as he sat beside her looking away from the situation down below.

"Hmm?! Oh... hello big brother. I didn't hear you coming in. What are you doing here?" Hope was slightly startled at first but quickly regained herself.

"Yeah, I noticed that you were lost in thought. Sorry to bother you. But you, know, you kinda stormed off on us so I had to come and check on" Muku replied.

"Oh, that. I'm sorry about that. Thanks for checking in, it means a lot" Hope spoke understandingly.

"So, want to talk about it?" Muku asked.

He was just going with the flow like he said he would. But it felt right so far. Maybe he was a natural. After all, most won't even be able to think of anything...

"... Big brother. Do you think I'm weak?" Hope remained quiet for a moment as if thinking about how she should reply.

"What? No. With everything you can do. Being weak is the furthest thing from you. Why would you even think like that?" Muku replied spiritedly.

And he meant every word. If Hope was weak then there was no strong person in the world.

Though he knew why she was questioning herself, he had to let her speak. That's how people moved forward after all. By letting things out.

"Well, sometimes I don't feel like it. I thought that after my physical capabilities improved and I got that training from you, I'd be able to do more. But more often than not, I'm just fighting from a distance or not fighting at all. Even after knowing that I can do more, I still hesitate. Then there's how Emily looked at me. It was almost like all my insecurities took form in her gaze. It was like she could see through me. Like I was nothing but air in front of her. Like she was better than me. And I hated it. I hated it so much I almost couldn't stop myself from hurting her for real..." Hope let it all out.

Frustration could be heard in her voice as she spoke.

"... Well, good. I'm not saying that it's good that you felt weak. I'm saying it's good that you did something about it when you felt someone else indirectly calling you weak. That's what sets apart the strong and weak. Sure, one can have all the power in the world, but if they have a weak heart, then they are nothing. So I'm glad that you my sister not only have all the power in the world, but you also have a strong heart to back it up. As for what happened with Emily, forget about it. We've moved past it already. You've proven her wrong. Not only proven her wrong, but you did it beyond the shadow of a doubt" Muku spoke after a second of thinking about it.

And he meant every word. Sure he wouldn't say it in front of Emily but she wasn't present so he was free to say whatever he wanted.

"Hehe. Big brother you're such a... I don't even know what to call you. But thank you. I didn't look at it like that. You're right, I'm not the one who should be feeling bad. It's her. After all, she lost to something she thought couldn't stand up against her" Hope replied.

Her mood seemed to have gotten better by a few notches.

Muku internally celebrated. It seems he really was good at this.

"Yeah! As for the rest. It's not that you're weak in such situations either. You just took the most optimal stances. Like in the last battle. You took out a whole wave of beasts alone. Not even Emily could do that. It wouldn't have been possible if you had fought up close. If that's not enough, you can fight up close from now on. You clearly have the skills" Muku added as he mercilessly continued to bury Emily along the way.

It wasn't his fault, after all, he was cleaning up her mess.

"Yeah! You're right! I'm amazing!" Hope's self-esteem shot through the roof with Muku's hyping.

After that, she got up off the bed and sat beside Muku. Then out of nowhere she gave him a tight hug.

"Thank you big brother. I didn't know how much I needed that. I've finally realised that I was holding myself back and not anyone else or my skills" Hope spoke seriously while hugging Muku.

"Exactly. And anytime you need me. I'll be there" Muku said.

"No no, don't say that" Hope instantly refused.

"What? Why not?" Muku was confused. Shouldn't she be happy?

"Umm, I've seen enough movies to know that whoever says such things doesn't last long so..." Hope replied seriously while looking Muku in the eyes.

"Really? You think I'm setting up death flags? Fine. I won't promise" Muku replied in an exhausted voice.

"Good! And besides. There's no need to promise. I know you'll always be there for me" Hope replied with a beautiful smile that made Muku's heart skip a beat.

If she weren't his sister he might have pushed her down on the spot. That's how irresistible she looked at the moment.

"True. So, tell me about that black poison from before. Since when could you do that?" Muku asked about the mysterious poison she used before in an attempt to change the subject.

"Oh, that. Were you amazed? Were you shocked? Hehe. That's exactly what I was going for" Hope replied with a mischievous yet proud look on her face.

Muku had successfully diverted her attention.

"Yeah. Not just me. Everyone was amazed" Muku replied truthfully.

No one expected poison to beat fire like that. And it was a complete defeat too. With no resistance.

"Hehe. That's good. Anyway, that poison wasn't actually something I consciously tried to create. It happened by mistake. I have been working on it secretly ever since. However, there's another poison I developed. Unfortunately, I can't seem to figure out what it does... Oh, I know! Do you mind helping me out with it big brother?" Hope told him what he wanted to know without getting into details then she subtly switched topics.

"Umm... sure" Muku agreed.

He felt that there was something wrong but he didn't pursue it...

Chapter 468: Unexpected situation (+16ish)

"Great. Now just quietly sit on the bed and let down all your defenses" Hope said excitedly.

Muku had a terrible feeling about what was going on. But he quietly agreed. After all, what's the worst that could happen?

Especially with how Hope cared about him. She'd never knowingly do something bad to him. And his senses would warn him if there was something bad about to happen.

So it was okay... probably...

And so, Muku sat on the bed with his legs crossed in a meditative position. Hope came and sat behind him.

Then he felt her activate her mana. As for what she was doing, he wasn't sure. However, he wasn't getting any dangerous feelings. So that was a good thing.

However, a weird pink light appeared in the room. Soon enough a pink smoke completely filled the room. However, despite completely letting his guard down. He couldn't feel any problems with his body.

He was completely confused. No wonder Hope said she was confused by it. After all, even he couldn't tell what it did.

"Umm. So yeah, that's it. I can create as much of it as I want but I can't seem to figure out what the purpose is. It's almost like I have a useless poison" Hope spoke dejectedly from behind Muku.

"Hmm. Let me remove my shirt. Maybe it requires direct skin contact" Muku suggested.

"Oh. Good idea! Would be rather sucky if it does. But it's better than nothing I guess" Hope replied.

And so, in front of her... well, she was still behind him, but you know what I mean... Muku took off his shirt... or rather, made it unravel. After all, it was made out of the rather flexible nightmare armour.

Hope couldn't help but gulp down some saliva from seeing his broad back and shoulders.

It was the first time she had taken notice of his super amazing body.

After all, all the other times she had seen him shirtless before were when he was close to dying and in need of her medical attention. So checking him out was the last thing on her mind.

But now it was different. She even felt that if she had seen the front, she might have gotten a nosebleed instead like those pervert girls in anime.

Anyway, she quickly suppressed those thoughts as there was a matter to take care of.

And so, she slowly placed her hands directly on his skin. Then...

BOOOOOOM!

BOOOOOOM!

Both instantly felt a figurative explosion go off in their minds. What happened physically was that the smoke which had thoroughly invaded both their bodies had seeped into their flesh the moment they made contact.

And their thoughts were immediately suppressed and an unknown, extremely powerful desire took them over.

Without saying anything, Muku turned around. Before he could do anything else, Hope jumped into his arms and immediately placed her lips on his.

Yes. Just like that. The taboo that both of them had been fighting for a long time to resist and make sure it never happened had happened. The two had kissed!

And they didn't stop there. Muku grabbed Hope's clothes and ripped them off her body leaving her underwear completely exposed.

Her body was so perfect that people would likely be willing to fight wars for it. However, Muku didn't take any time to appreciate it. At the same time, Hope wouldn't allow such a waste of time.

After that, they both started touching each other's bodies with intense desire. No part was left untouched as they continued kissing each other furiously.

Currently nothing but desire could be seen in their eyes which had turned pink in color like the only thing that was left was lust for the other party.

And so, Hope's moans and Muku's groans mixed in together as they continued their obscene and forbidden tango on the bed.

It didn't take long before both were completely naked on the bed that was partially soaked by Hope's love juices at that point.

The smoke had almost cleared in the room but they didn't stop. In place of the smoke, their lewd smell was taking over.

Soon enough Muku's snake was lined up with Hope's cave.

Interestingly enough, even though je jad lost it. He was still careful with the next step. And so, je slowly pushed it in. It didn't take long for it to reach her internal barrier that signified her maidenhood.

Of course, he wouldn't let that stop him. And so... he continued pushing. However...

"Argh" Hope suddenly cried out in pain.

As soon as she did. The pink in her eyes completely disappeared.

And as soon as Muku heard her pained cry, the pink in his eyes also disappeared.

Just like that, the two had regained their senses. And it was basically at the worst moment possible.

Which was right before Muku took Hope's virginity.

The two were left shocked looking into each other's eyes after realising the position they were in.

Muku expected Hope to scream out loud for all to hear, then maybe slap him while trying to get him off her. But it didn't happen.

She just looked at him in the eyes with blank eyes... It seems she had glitches.

And so, as the man. Despite not wanting to. He pulled out slowly. He had to. If it were any other girl in the group he might have continued. But Hope was the only girl he couldn't continue with.

And so, after pulling out. Which prompted a weird cry from Hope, Muku got off her.

His clothes reappeared on his body as he did. At the same time, he covered Hope with her blankets using telekinesis.

"I'm sorry" He apologized then rushed out of the room without waiting for a reply.

Which made sense honestly. This wasn't the type of situation people discuss immediately after. What made it worse was how he clearly remembered Hope's body.

Every curve, every bump, even the softness, was all clear in his mind. He felt that he should be disgusted with himself but for some reason, he wasn't. And that was even worse...

.....

Back in the room a few moments after Muku left...

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!" Hope let out a high-pitched scream which would have definitely had people rushing over if the room wasn't soundproof.

She immediately covered her face in shame after that.

After all, while Muku apologised. It was obviously she who was at fault. It was her weird poison that had caused the whole mess.

And the mess was so big that she almost lost her virginity to her brother. Sure, they weren't related at all. But they saw each other as relatives and that's all that mattered.

Now she was worried if he would suspect her of setting the whole thing up. After all, it was too convenient for her to have such a poison and not know what it does.

Like, who has an ability they don't understand when it's not even from bloodlines or some other mysterious power?

What was even worse was how she could still remember how it felt to have him inside her. He didn't go far, but it was still very apparent.

Even worse than that was how she was wondering how it would have felt if he gone all the way.

She was even regretting crying in pain. If she hadn't, maybe he would have done it and would still be doing it.

And she wouldn't have to just wonder about how it felt like before. She could be like the other girls who knew.

Having such thoughts made her scream to herself again and cover her face with her blanket.

She had no idea how she was going to face him after this.

The last time he caught her touching herself, they bulldozed through it and acted like it didn't happen. But that couldn't be done this time. They had literally connected!

That's not something that could be easily ignored. Maybe in looser cultures out there, it could be forgotten. But their beliefs are such things as a big deal.

She honestly didn't know what to do now.

But did that mean she had to just accept that she and Muku would never be the same again?

"No. I won't accept it. Mistakes happened. But I won't let them get in the way of our relationship. I will do whatever it takes to fix this..." Hope suddenly spoke to herself then got off the bed with determination in her eyes.

She had to prepare before going to see Muku...

....

In Muku's room....

Muku was currently on his bed seating there with a blank look in his eyes.

Fortunately, no one else was present as they were now seeing fights between the randos from Lisa and Klaus's groups. Otherwise tge situation would have been a lot worse.

Now he was trying to collect himself then leave to join them. The only way to get past it was to completely ignore it. It wasn't something new to him after all.

Sure it was way heavier than before... by a lot. But it wasn't new.

If Hope were willing to play along, it would be fine. Their relationship might be impacted for a while but eventually it should all return to normal.

Just as Muku was thinking this, a knock was heard on his door.

Without waiting for his response. The door was suddenly opened.

The person who came through was surprisingly Hope.

Even more surprising was how she was dressed... she wasn't dressed at all. She only had a blanket wrapped around her body. Then...

"Big Brother. Let's do it" Hope spoke with a serious expression on her face.

Chapter 469: Muku and Hope(18+ ish ish)

"What?" Muku asked while barely stopping himself from short-circuiting.

He was trying his best to stop himself from jumping to any conclusions. After all, there was no way she was suggesting what he thought she was suggesting... right?

"Let's have sex" Just when Muku was starting to calm himself down Hope said it in the most straightforward way possible.

"What are you saying? That's right, you don't know what you're saying. You don't even know what sex is do you?" Muku spoke after a moment of collecting himself.

"Stop treating me like a little child brother. I know what I'm saying. I'm also a grown-up. And I'm not saying this out of nowhere. It's something I've wanted to do for a while. I just wouldn't let myself accept it before. And you even walked in on me that one time so you know what I mean" Hope replied as she walked closer to Muku.

"No you don't know what you're saying. We can't do that. We're siblings" Muku replied while trying to back out.

"Come now brother. We aren't blood-related so it's not like we're doing something taboo. And don't pretend that you haven't thought of doing it with me. I've noticed your weird gazes you throw my way from time to time. The same gazes you throw at the other girls. In those times, you don't think of me as your sister, but a girl you want to push down. Honestly, I wasn't planning on doing this even though I also wanted to do it. However, with the way things are progressing, it will only get more awkward between us until we probably won't even be able to speak. And that's not something I want. So I'd rather we do this instead. Let's get it out of the way" Hope spoke.

At that point, she was already standing at the edge of the bed.

Then she let the blanket around her body fall to the ground. This of course left her exposed as she didn't have anything underneath. Not even underwear.

A blush appeared on her face. After all, she was still a shy girl despite what she was doing. If it wasn't because she felt that her relationship with Muku was under threat, she wouldn't have done it.

At that point, Muku really wanted to look away, but he couldn't. He could blame it on his bloodline but he knew in his heart that it was definitely something that he wanted for himself even if the bloodline was taken out of the picture.

However, he still couldn't bring himself to do anything more. He didn't want to defile his sweet and innocent sister.

"Even then. We can't do it. I'm sure there's another way. Let's wait and think about it" Muku forced himself to speak.

His resistance was so flimsy that he wanted to slap himself in the face. But it was all he could do.

"You know brother. If you really wanted to leave. I wouldn't have been able to stop you. And yet, here you are. This means that you're also willing. So stop pretending. You're making me feel embarrassed. Is that what you want?" Hope spoke again as she got on the bed and crawled to Muku on all fours.

The blush on her face had gotten crimson red at that point but she had committed to the act so there was no stopping.

Muku finally looked her in the eyes. He could see the embarrassment, the desire, and the slight loneliness.

That's when he realised that she really felt that their relationship could only be salvaged this way. Sure, it was extreme and things will never go back to the old days but it would be solidified differently.

In fact, the moment the two of them started desiring each other in ways that went beyond siblings, the original relationship was broken.

They might have been able to forcefully keep it up to that point but it couldn't last. And so...

"Fine. But don't regret it. In fact, I won't let you regret it. From the moment we do this, you will become mine. For eternity" Muku finally replied with conviction.

However, there was a darkness and possessiveness in his eyes that Hope had never seen before as he spoke.

Honestly, it scared her a bit but even more than that...

"I wouldn't have it any other way" She spoke in an excited tone.

With those words, Muku jumped on her and wrestled her down to the bed. He had heard enough.

After that, their intense kissing session from before got a sequel.

However this time it didn't last as long as before. After all, both of them were already primed and ready to go.

So, in no time at all, Muku was completely naked and on top of Hope. His snake looked furious and ready for action as it pointed at the promised land.

"Are you ready?" Muku asked in a rough voice full of desire.

"Yeah," Hope replied in a meek but certain voice.

She had had so many fantasies about this and it was finally happening. So of course she would be ready.

Muku didn't say anything more. His snake immediately slithered into her cave slowly. In no time at all, a familiar barrier was felt.

He didn't stop as he began breaking through and marking the path as he went.

While she still felt pain, this time Hope didn't make a sound. She tightly bit her lip as she let Muku proceed.

It had taken a lot of effort to finally get him to agree and she didn't want it all to go to waste.

And so, Muku soon broke through.

"Mmhn" At that point Hope couldn't stop herself as she moaned in pain.

However, unlike she expected, it didn't stop Muku.

Not that he didn't care, but he was too far gone to retreat now. He continued moving until he reached her deepest region then pulled out slowly.

Then went back in again. He did it slowly and professionally until Hope's moans turned from pained ones to pleased ones.

At that point, he began to slowly let himself go as his speed started increasing.

Five minutes in, he was pounding her like a maniac.

"Aghn! aghn! Mmhn!..." Hope's pleased moans filled the room as she felt pleasure she never knew was possible.

She might have touched herself a few times and it felt good but it was nowhere near as good as what she was experiencing at that point.

If it were H, her eyes would have been displaying heart shapes from how much she was enjoying it.

She cam quite a few times in those five minutes but Muku didn't stop even once.

It was only thirty minutes later that Muku cam for the first time. Of course, he did it inside. Officially marking his new territory only he will ever have access to.

Hope felt his warm seed invade her insides and cam again. However, Muku still didn't stop.

He continued pounding her and cumming inside for over two hours. At that point, Hope started begging for mercy.

It was a new experience and she felt that if she kept on indulging she would break. However, Muku ruthlessly ignored her and continued.

He did her like she was his personal player thing. Every style that came to mind, he made her do.

Whether it be the classic doggy, the interesting cowgirl, or many more.

Four hours in Hope's eyes were glazed as Muku continued like a tireless machine.

It had been a while for him and he was doing it with someone he thought he could only ever think of without doing anything. So he was a bit more enthusiastic than usual.

He honestly wanted to stop, but it just felt so good that his body wouldn't listen to him.

The more Hope begged, the harder he did it. It became an addiction in just a few hours.

At that point, a permanent smile had appeared on Hope's face.

She had given up on begging and just enjoyed the feeling. It was all she could do after all.

And wasn't it what she wanted? He had said no and she had followed him. So she could only take whatever he dished out. No matter how overwhelming it was.

It was only after two more hours that Muku finally stopped.

And that wasn't because he had enough, it was because Hope was close to fainting. He couldn't bring himself to continue after that. And so, he stopped.

In normal cases, he'd clean up the area then maybe call Hope to heal the girl.

But unfortunately, this time the girl was Hope herself, so she couldn't be healed until she recovered a bit to heal herself.

Muku felt bad but there was nothing that could be done.

He was just happy that no one nudged in. Sure he had contacted Raya and told her to stall for time but still, who knew if they'd listen to her.

Anyway, while Hope was still disoriented on the bed. Muku got up and began cleaning up the place.

He of course had to get rid of the blankets as usual then air out the room. Which was simple and quick since he was an expert by that point.

After which he couldn't help but wonder if he was being wasteful. After all, the blankets could be washed instead.

Yeah, he'll do that from then on. It wasn't like they had an infinite supply even if they had quite a few from Mrs. C.

After that, he sat beside Hope who was currently sleeping with a gentle look in his eyes.

He didn't know what would happen between them from then on but he knew that she was now his forever.

And that's all that mattered.

Chapter 470: Talk with Hope

A while later Hope finally came to. Of course, the first thing she did was heal herself. She wore the clothes Muku had brought for her.

However, she still couldn't walk around because she was still tired. Her element only healed wounds and didn't restore stamina so she could only rest until she recovered.

So now she and Muku were sitting on the bed awkwardly looking at each other. Both were waiting for the other to say something.

In Hope's mind, Muku should say something as the man. In Muku's mind, Hope should say something because she started everything.

And so, for a few minutes, they were in a deadlock.

"Aren't you going to say something?" Both asked at the same time.

"What? Me? It's clearly you who should say something" They spoke at the same time again. This time both were clearly annoyed and even shouting a bit.

After that, they went quite again. Then...

"Hahaha," They suddenly exploded into laughter at the same time.

"What are we doing? What is done is done. What's the use of being embarrassed now?" Muku spoke after the laughter.

"Yeah, you're right" Hope agreed.

"But we still have to talk about how we're gonna handle this. Do you want to tell the others? I mean, I have no problem with it since you're mine now and I'll always claim what's mine but what do you think?" Muku asked.

"Oh, so I'm an object now? If I knew it would lead to this I wouldn't have done it" Hope spoke with a pout on her face. However, the blush and unserious expression on her face showed that she didn't mean it. So Muku didn't say anything and let her continue.

"Well, honestly, I'm not up for such a thing right now. It's just too embarrassing. I mean, you haven't even done it with some of the other girls, yet your so-called sister already had a turn. So yeah, let's wait until after all of them have done it. In fact, can you speed it up? I don't want to get caught" Hope replied.

"Oh, okay. I guess I understand. We'll wait then. Speaking of the sister brother thing..." Muku trailed off at the end.

"That's another thing. I think we can both admit that we stopped seeing each other as siblings a long time ago. And if we keep on doing it after this then it would be just some kink don't you think?" Hope replied with some embarrassment in her voice.

At the beginning, she really only saw Muku as a dependable older brother. It had changed at some point she can't even name.

Well, that or she had misread her feelings from the very start like Layla said before. Well, whatever, things worked out in the end right?

"Yeah. So we're going to stop?" Muku asked for confirmation.

"When we're alone yes, we can just call each other by our names. Or you can call me honey. Hehe. Anyway, when the others are around we'll have to continue doing it so that they don't suspect anything. Don't you agree Darling?" Hope replied.

Her voice leaned towards seduction at the end. She did it while looking Muku right in the eyes.

"That makes sense. However, please don't speak like that unless you want to get jumped" Muku replied with his eyes slightly red. His member was already up and ready for action.

He would have long pushed Hope down if he couldn't clearly see how tired she was. Sure she had completely healed but was still exhausted and exhaustion can kill if it's too much so he couldn't risk it.

"I'm sorry. I figured since I can't call you big brother anymore, I might as well call you Darling since I don't want to be like the others in how I address you" Hope spoke with slight fear in her voice.

After all, she could see how close Muku was to jumping on her. If he did she might die by snu snu and embarrass the sisterhood.

"Oh no, that's not what I meant. You're free to call me Darling, just that you can't do it as you did before unless you want to get jumped" Muku explained.

He quite liked being called "Darling". Just like how Audrey called him "Husband" in secret. It was thrilling and endearing.

"Oh, okay. In return will you call me Honey?" Hope requested expectantly.

"Sure, Honey. Anything for you" Muku replied with a smile.

"Eeek! This is so embarrassing!" Hope screamed in embarrassment then jumped into Muku's arms happily giving a quick kiss, and hugged him tightly.

There was a blissful smile on her face. She felt like everything she had ever hoped for had come true.

Then again, she had fantasies like this before so yeah, her dreams did come true.

Suddenly the door opened...

Muku had locked it but anyone in the group could open any door with their mana signature because that's what they agreed on.

However, Muku and Hope got such a fright in that moment that they felt that giving everyone access to everyone else's rooms might not have been a good idea.

"Oh, it seems you're in a better mood after the nap... Are you free to talk?" Emily spoke after stepping in.

She felt that something was wrong but couldn't place her hand on it. After all, what Hope was doing with Muku was pretty standard between the two.

Maybe if she had come a little earlier and seen the kiss she wouldn't have thought the same.

"I ah. Yeah, what do you want to talk about?" Hope spoke while letting go of Muku reluctantly.

"Umm... I" Emily began stumbling again.

"Let me give you two some space" Muku said then left the room without waiting for anyone to say anything.

"If this is about what happened earlier then there's no need to say anything. You apologized already and I've also forgiven you. So let's just forget it and move on. Just don't do it again please. To me or someone else, I'm sure you know what could happen because of it" Hope spoke with no anger in her tone.

"What? Really? You've really forgiven me? Are you sure? I'm ready to grovel if you aren't appeased" Emily replied in surprise.

She felt that Hope had forgiven her way too easily considering how pissed she looked before. What the hell was going on? Was this the result of taking a nap with Muku like Raya said?

Considering how attached to Muku Hope was, maybe that's really what happened. Maybe she should take one with him to feel better too... nuh, she'll go even beyond that. As Muku's woman, she'll have sex with him, something Hope can never do.

Just thinking about it made Emily feel better in her confusion.

She didn't know just how ironic for her to have such thoughts after Hope literally did that exact thing.

If Hope knew she might not have been able to stop herself from laughing.

"It's fine. Really. We're like sisters, so there's no way I could be upset with you for long anyway" Hope spoke while walking towards Emily then gave her a quick hug to show that she meant what she said.

"Well, if you say so. Thank you for forgiving me. And I promise never to do it again" Emily said in a grateful voice.

"Great!" Hope spoke smilingly.

"Hey, why do you look so tired?" Emily asked after noticing the tiredness on Hope's face.

"Oh that, I ah..." Hope couldn't think of anything.

"Don't tell me this is the result of using that black poison? Have you not fully mastered it yet?" Emily interjected worriedly.

She had no idea that she had unwittingly given Hope just the excuse she needed. But then again, after what she did, it was the least she could do.

And so, Hope didn't feel guilty about stealing the excuse.

"Yeah. That's exactly what's going on. But don't worry about it. I mastered it after that use. So next time I shouldn't get this tired" Hope replied with a pitiful look on her face for extra believability.

"Oh, okay. I'm happy for you then" Emily didn't push. To her, there was no reason not to believe Hope.

After all, Raya had told them that Hope asked Muku to take a nap with her if he wanted her to calm down and forgive Emily. Which was why they had been absent for so long.

Knowing their relationship, no one suspected anything since it was nothing new.

After that, the duo left the room headed for the kitchen. Emily had decided to prepare something special for Hope as a thank you for the forgiveness.

Hope was feeling super hungry after the battle and the merciless pounding Muku gave her on her first time so she didn't say no.

She could appease the hunger with mana for months if not years but why use mana when there was food?...

.....

In Jade's room...

Jade was casually playing with her laptop on the bed when Muku suddenly barged in without knocking.

"Hey! What are you doing?! You startled me! Don't you know how to knock you jerk?!" Of course, Jade immediately exploded into an angry shout.

"Hmm. To actually dare show me attitude. It seems someone has forgotten that they still haven't been punished" Muku spoke with narrowed eyes as he closed the door behind him then walked toward Jade menacingly.

"Punishment? Oh that, you're still on that?... Hey, what are you doi... Ahhh!" Jade was speaking when she suddenly screamed in horror as Muku approached...

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Two hours later...

Jade lay weakly and completely naked in Muku's arms on a damp bed. It was obvious what had happened in the room.

"You meanie" She finally spoke after catching her breath.

Muku had caught her off guard with what he did. She didn't have time to prepare before he started pounding her like crazy.

"Oh please. Don't act like you didn't enjoy it. Besides, I held back. I'm not even close to being satisfied"  
Muku replied dismissively while stroking her hair.

"I'm starting to think that it's a good idea there are many of us or you really might have killed someone with this monstrous sex drive of yours" Jade commented truthfully.

Muku's sex drive really didn't scare her a bit...