

Few Wives 471

Chapter 471 Insatiable...

"Oh come on. It's not even that bad" Muku replied while rolling his eyes.

"Really now? Well, aren't you satisfied now?" Jade asked.

"Not even close. I mean it's just been two hours. You know I can last a lot longer than that" Muku replied with confidence in his voice.

"Two hours? What about the six you had with Hope?" Jade suddenly dropped a bomb.

Muku's mind went blank for a moment.

"How did you know about th... I mean, what do you mean?" Muku asked while trying to maintain a false confidence. Although it was too late after the slip-up.

"Hehe. To think that you'd even go after your sister. It makes me wonder if you would have still done it if she were a biological sister. Or maybe that's the only thing that would stop you. As for how I know... I mean, did you forget that no matter how good the soundproofing of the mansion is, it will never be good enough to block my ears. Maybe if Freya were a rank higher than me it would work, but now?. I hear everything, even when you're with Ms. Audrey and Emily. Oh yeah, I know about that too. In fact, with how she has mellowed out recently I'm pretty sure the others know too even if they don't have proof" Jade casually went on and on.

The more she spoke, the more speechless Muku became.

However, it didn't take him too long to recover. After all, he had long gotten used to getting caught. Especially by Jade. So there was no reason to panic. It was a normal thing by that point.

Though he really should start considering adding a sound isolation layer of his own. Freya's soundproofing was a bit too unreliable.

"Oh, you're thinking that it's normal for me to catch you so it doesn't matter right? Well, let me tell you this. If it were anyone else I caught you with, it would have been okay. But are you okay with everyone knowing that you slept with Hope?" Jade spoke as if she could read Muku's mind.

"Is this a threat? Besides, why were you eavesdropping? Are you a creep or something?" Muku asked angrily trying to turn it on her.

"Hehe. You think I care about being called a creep? Besides I was trying to hear how you were going to console her. At first, it was okay and I was even about to stop but that's when you two started making animalistic sounds. I couldn't stop after that. But I did stop when she followed you and you finally caved. I wouldn't want to make myself unnecessarily riled up after all. As for whether this is a threat... what would you do if it were?" Jade replied.

"What do you want?" Muku gave in.

Arguing with her was obviously pointless. She had him in check and she knew it.

"Aww, you gave up already? So boring. Well, whatever, this might surprise you but I don't want anything from you. After all, I'm already getting everything I could ever want" Jade said truthfully.

"So you were just having fun messing with me?" Muku asked.

"Yeah, pretty much. A girl has to entertain herself from time to time after all" Jade agreed.

Swing!

Pa!

Suddenly Muku's hand flew and hit Jade directly on her exposed butt prompting a yelp from her.

"What a bad girl. I was planning on taking it lightly on you since you haven't fully recovered after the battle with Emily but now? Hehe," Muku spoke with conviction. With a little laugh at the end, he placed Jade in position then her moans could be heard from the room again.

At first, they sounded unwilling but in no time at all, they became unrestrained as Muku mercilessly pounded her.

Despite the pleasure, she felt aggrieved. How was she the one getting punished when he was the one who did something he shouldn't have?

And she was nice enough not to blackmail him with it but he still did this. So unfair, such a tyrant... but why was she enjoying it?!...

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Another two hours later...

At this point, Jade was completely and utterly spent. Muku had done it a lot harder than he would normally. She didn't dislike it but it was super tiring.

And she only stopped because she begged. If she didnt he probably would have continued.

"Serves you right. Now promise never to eavesdrop like this again" Muku spoke while looking at the utterly spent Jade who had a suspicious white liquid coming out of her private area after he completely filled her up.

Honestly, if it wasn't for their bodies stopping the girls from getting pregnant easily, Muku would have long impregnated them all during their first times with how much he pumped into them.

"I promise" Jade replied weakly lest he continued.

"Good. Now if you'll excuse me" Muku replied in a pleased tone then got up to leave.

Of course, he cleaned up before that.

For some reason, he was still not satisfied even after doing it for a combined amount of around ten hours in a single day.

Also, what was he planning on doing now? Well, he was going to hunt down another girl of course.

And so, he quickly made his way to Audrey's room.

The sight that met his eyes when he got in stopped him in his tracks.

Audrey was already naked on the bed with her arms wide open ready to receive him.

"Just in time. Won't you come please this wife of yours husband?" She spoke in a seductive voice.

Muku had so many questions but they could wait. This first wife of his looked too good to resist.

And so, like an insatiable male rabbit, he jumped onto the bed and started another intense session with Audrey.

This session lasted four more hours before he was satisfied.

Which was good because Audrey was also spent. If he still needed more, he would have had to go see Emily. At that point, it would be rather worrying.

Anyway, the two lovers lay in bed in each other's arms enjoying the serenity after the act.

"That was amazing as always" Audrey broke the silence.

"It most certainly was" Muku replied with a pleased smile.

He couldn't tell which of the girls tasted the best. But he was sure that they were all out of this world and unique. With her being his first, he was most used to Audrey, and she just felt right. At least, a bit more than the rest.

"So, you finally did it with Hope huh?" Audrey suddenly asked.

"How did you know?!" Muku asked in a slightly startled tone.

His reaction wasn't as exaggerated as it was with Jade. This was because Audrey was his safe space. She would never scheme against him as Jade would. So he felt no fear with her.

Not that Jade would hurt him, but the things she asked for were never easy, so his hesitation was understandable...

"Hehe. The little bloodline of yours in me has been acting up lately. I feel myself getting turned on a lot more easily compared to normal times. Just looking at or thinking of you gets me riled up. But it's easily manageable. However, it did make me think, if I with such a little of it in me feel so weird, what about you who has a whole body full of it? Plus I could smell you on Hope when she passed me by. Jade probably smelled it too if she came into contact with her... Along with the scent of virgin blood that had been spilled. Though that's something I think only I can smell in the group. So yeah" Audrey replied.

"Oh... I guess I really can't hide anything from you. Are you not disgusted?" Muku asked with a wry expression on his face.

"No you cannot. And why would I be disgusted? Because you slept with Hope? Absolutely not, I promised you that I'll always support you in whatever you do without judgment right? This is exactly that. Besides, I noticed long ago the gazes you and Hope give each other. So to me it was already a done deal. It was only a matter of time. And well the time came. It was a bit sudden but expected. I mean, even Layla saw through the situation back then. So how could I not? As for how I knew you'd be coming to me. It's a little trick I got from being connected to you. I can sense how far you're from me and weather you're getting closer or further. I didn't know why you were coming though. I just wanted it so I set you up. Speaking of which, did you need me for something?" Audrey spoke straightforwardly.

It was one of the many things Muku liked about her. She never beat around the bush like most of the girls. Maybe it was due to her maturity. Well, whatever the reason, he was happy.

"... You know, you my wife are something else. I'm really lucky to have you. I must have done something great in my past life to deserve you. As for what I wanted... I didn't want anything. I only needed you. And I've already gotten you. So everything is okay now" Muku replied lovingly then pulled Audrey in for a tight hug.

He really felt what he said. He was grateful that she was his. Such a lady was definitely not easy to find. No wonder he was even willing to give up on the others back then.

And even if he had done it, he probably would still be living happily.

"Hehe," Audrey laughed shyly. She didn't know what to say. She did love the treatment though. After all, who didn't like being appreciated?...

Chapter 472 Bloodline problems

"So what do you plan on doing about your bloodline?" Audrey suddenly asked.

"What do you mean?" Muku asked confusedly.

"Well, it seems you really don't feel anything huh. That's rather worrying" Audrey replied.

"Huh?" Muku was still confused.

"You remember what I said about feeling hot and bothered due to your bloodline right? Well, because of that same link, I can sense that your bloodline is practically raging right now. It's probably why you were almost insatiable. I actually thought you could feel it too and were making plans on how to deal with it. Now I'm realizing that you actually don't feel it. This means either that due to my blood element, I can sense what you can't... which honestly is true even if the other possibility is true also. And that possibility is you're so out of sync with your bloodline that you can't sense anything despite the war going on in your body. Which, as I said before is rather troublesome. After all, your bloodline can do some really dangerous things. So you might be in danger right now without knowing. I suggest you stop postponing it and look into it right now to avoid trouble. You should regain control of your erasing gaze at the very least. At that level, it was stable... though barely" Audrey finally explained.

Hearing her words Muku was speechless for a moment.

He had no idea that things were so dire. Sure he knew that his recent libido was a bit exaggerated even for him. But he figured it was because he hadn't done it for a while.

Even if his bloodline was also involved, it shouldn't have been that much. After all, he was in control and didn't feel like there was anything wrong...

Now that he thought about it. He had lost control way too easily when the pink smoke invaded his body.

Usually, he should have been able to suppress it easily enough. Yet he fell to it instantly.

Sigh. It seems sex and all the things that happened in-between had blinded him. He hadn't thought like he normally would.

But that wasn't the major problem. The major problem was definitely the bloodline that had subtly manipulated him into thinking that everything was okay.

If it wasn't for Audrey he would have continued living like everything was okay. Maybe he'd have turned into a sex maniac without even noticing.

The thought made a chill go down his spine.

"Sigh. Things are really dire, huh? Thanks for making me see the way love. Unfortunately, this means that I won't be able to watch the tournament live. But it had to be done" Muku spoke seriously.

And of course, he thanked Audrey again. She was really the best.

"Anytime. But is it necessary to be that extreme? I'm sure you can keep it together for a while longer. So watching the tournament should be fine... though I did notice that the excitement was making it worse..." Audrey replied calmly.

"You might have convinced me if you hadn't said the last part. But now I definitely have to miss it" Muku spoke with a wry smile on his face.

"Oh, sorry. You can pretend I didn't say it if you want" Audrey replied awkwardly.

"Nuh, it's fine. It's best I know all the risks so that I don't explode on you suddenly" Muku replied understandingly.

After that, he started cleaning up the room. Erasing all the evidence and whatnot.

It was a bit harder without the erasing gaze but it was still easy enough. He was done in less than two minutes.

"You know you're really way too good at that" Audrey commented from the bed.

She found it funny how he was always better at it every time he did it. It was like he was leveling up.

"I'm still not good enough. I want to be as good as Emily with her flames. At that point changing the sheets won't even be necessary. She can just get rid of what needs to be gotten rid of leaving everything else untouched. I get jealous every time I see her use the ability" Muku replied with a jealous expression on his face.

"Hahaha. You're really jealous because of this? Haha. You're crazy" Audrey laughed until tears came out of her eyes.

Muku couldn't help but smile at the reaction. After all, it wasn't even that funny.

He wondered if it was the love effect. Like, when someone loves someone, the person seems like the best joker in the world even when they aren't that funny.

Anyway, it felt good nonetheless.

"Well if you'll excuse me ms. I have to go poke my bloodline until something happens. I'll be in my room if you need me. And don't hesitate to call me if I'm needed. Love you" Muku explained his plan to Audrey, kissed her, and left.

"Hehe," Audrey laughed like a fool with heart shapes practically visible in her eyes.

She didn't say anything back but her reaction was more than enough...

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In Muku's room...

He first contacted the other girls and informed them of his plan. He could leave it up to Audrey but it was better to notify them in person.

He wished the fighters luck and they wished him luck in regaining control of his bloodline.

After that, he stored away the bed and sat on the ground at the center centre of the room. He took a meditative position and closed his eyes.

This time he was serious unlike the first time he tried.

He swore to himself that he wouldn't leave that room until he got tangible results. Of course, if the girls called for him, he'd go. It was all for them after all....

And so, Muku completely let himself go in the quiet and completely isolated room.

His mind was completely focused on his bloodline. So much so that even a rank one could sneak up on him and attack without him noticing.

Of course, a rank one's attack couldn't possibly do anything to him. Hell, a rank four could barely do anything to his beastly body even if he puts up zero defense at all. Such was the effect of all the tempering he had gone through.

Then again, the R1 wouldn't even be able to get to him. He was being guarded by many PR5s and a R6. So yeah... There was no chance of that happening.

Which was why he was okay with completely letting himself go and focusing on the task at hand...

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The next day...

The tournament continued. It's what Muku wanted.

And so, in his place, Raya officiated.

She brought out the lots for the participants to choose from.

The order was the same as before. Number 1 faced 2, 3 faced 4...

After the fights only Layla, Hope, Chloe, Audrey, and Elsa were left.

Just like before, there was an extra. Anyway, the system was already established so it wasn't a problem.

After everyone drew their lots, the card looked like this:

Layla versus Elsa

Hope versus Audrey

Chloe as the lucky one.

The matchups were definitely interesting. Especially water versus ice. Now the tables had turned on Elsa. She was the one with an elemental advantage before, but now it was her getting suppressed.

Then there was poison versus blood. As everyone knows, it's blood that transports poison in the body. So will Hope be able to poison Audrey who could control her blood?

Not to mention, both had versions of corruption at their disposal. Hope could corrupt mana while Audrey corrupted blood.

Audrey's was definitely scarier on a visual level but was it better? Well, we were about to find out.

On the sideline, Chloe smiled happily. She didn't mind fighting, but chilling for an extra day was always a good thing right?...

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A while later...

The first match was about to start. Layla versus Elsa.

The stoic beauties stood in the arena looking at each other.

Then...

"ROOOOOOOOAR!" Without saying anything they both summoned their colossal avatars.

Of course, the Leviathan was a bit larger than the Hydra but it wasn't by much. Both were scary and imposing.

Unlike the usual times, neither side said anything. It wasn't that they didn't want to. But they were both used to responding instead of starting anything. So neither knew what to say so they said nothing.

It didn't make the situation less intense or awkward though. After all, talking changed nothing in such battles.

"FLOOD!"

"BLIZZARD!"

Elsa started with a big move and Layla responded in kind.

And so, a huge flood instantly appeared and charged at Layla, but before it could reach her, it was met with a blizzard and turned into a solid block of ice.

Elsa didn't seem surprised at all. She expected such a result and was only confirming it. After all, she and Layla had never clashed.

She had fought ice-type beasts but that was clearly different from Layla. She couldn't bulldoze her way through like she usually did in such situations.

And so...

"RAINSTORM!"

She cast another big spell. If a flood didn't work, why not try a storm? After all, unlike a flood, a rainstorm couldn't be called a single entity so it can't be so easily frozen right?.

"BLIZZARD!"

Layla literally cast the same spell as before.

And the result was...

Chapter 473 Layla versus Elsa

The rainstorm was frozen in place like the flood before it...

"Well... Things don't look very good for Elsa" Raya commented.

She was still a commentator even without Muku. However, Klaus had been kicked out by Jade then she and the other girls replaced him.

So honestly the commentator area had turned into a beauty contest.

"What do you mean? Things shouldn't be set in stone yet right? I mean she can still fight. My sister is a battle prodigy after all. I'm sure she'll find a way" Emily defended Elsa from a distance away.

She was sad that she couldn't have that rematch with Elsa but she couldn't blame anyone for it. So she could only hope that Elsa would win, that way her defeat wouldn't stand out too much. Even without that, there was no way she wouldn't support her sister.

"Umm. You might not have noticed this but not only is she getting elementally suppressed but her element is literally welcoming the cold. So the suppression is worse for her than it would be for anyone else. Big Sis Layla probably noticed it already and that's why she used the same spell to counter her different attacks" Raya who could observe things a lot clearer than the others explained clearly.

She was actually a decent person... Dragon when talking to the girls. If it were Muku who asked, he would have been dissed left and right with some mocking, of course.

Which was odd, since those with a soul-link are supposed to be the closest beings around, but Raya was never one to conform to norms, so...

"Oh. So that's how it is? If you put it that way, I guess it might be bad. But I still believe in her. My sister will definitely find a way" Emily understood what Raya said but still chose to have faith in Elsa.

As they say, faith doesn't require proof or reason...

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In the arena....

"How troublesome. My water has zero resistance to her ice. If anything there's a high affinity between the two that's working against me... I need to think of something before I'm defeated" Elsa spoke calmly but instead of panic, there was actually a faint excitement in her voice.

It had been a while since she had a proper fight. At the very least one she could fight recklessly and still guarantee her life. So of course she was excited.

Sure she had fought Emily before but her sister was holding back from start to finish so it wasn't as good as it could have been.

While Layla wasn't even close to going all out yet, it was because of strategy instead of holding back due to relationships and whatnot. This was great.

Being a battle prodigy obviously meant that she got excited in battle. Especially difficult ones like this one were proving to be even more difficult after just two moves.

As she thought Layla prepared her next move... As if mocking Elsa, the frozen water drops were turned against her then...

"Hailstorm!"

Elsa was attacked by her own frozen water. Sure Layla wasn't controlling it directly but the ice around it. That didn't change anything though.

The Leviathan reacted by creating a huge and thick water dome around itself. The water in the dome was constantly swirling around which shredded and melted all the ice drops before they reached Elsa.

After that, it charged forward. If elemental attacks didn't work, then physical was the way to go while figuring out the next step.

But of course....

Shoo! Shoo!...

Layla wouldn't wait around and let her get closer. Without a sound huge ice spikes rose from the ground in every direction around the leviathan with the sharp and dangerous ends pointed at her.

With that, Elsa had to ditch her planshe could only commit to attacking one side to escape the encirclement which she managed to do after a little effort and a few unfatal stabs.

The situation didn't look too good for her... That is if she didn't remember something from a science lesson she had before the apocalypse...

There were actually ways for water to resist being frozen. It was something about supercooling which was when water could be cooled below its freezing point without freezing as long as it was pure enough and the ice crystals didn't have anything to latch onto... Well, it was loosely something like that.

She didn't have time to properly review her memories in battle. But it's good enough try to help her. It wasn't like she had any other plans after all.

And so, she got into action. If it were R1-R3 her, she might have been stumped on how to get the desired result. In fact, even early R4 here would be stomped.

But things had changed. She now had her mindscape. And what did that mean exactly? Obviously, it meant better communication between her and her spirit which was growing super slowly.

Because of the spirit's slow growth, it was hard to communicate with it. However, with the mindscape, they could communicate at the soul level. Which was the highest form of communication?

And so, she now had access to the fairy's water manipulation prowess. In normal times she acted alone in battle since she was enough after her affinity was improved.

But she wasn't enough for Layla. So the water fairy, whom she named Lily was now needed.

"Lily, do your thing" Elsa spoke softly inside her avatar.

{Okay Momma} A cute little voice was heard in Elsa's head.

Then....

BOOOOOOOM!

The Leviathan's aura exploded out. It didn't increase but it somehow felt more refined, ethereal and somehow more magical.

Not to mention its body which reduced by a few metres in size and even slimmed down like it had been compressed.

Its dark blue scales began glowing a watery blue with the eyes glowing a deeper shade of blue.

The legs that were still hidden up to that point appeared then...

"ROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOAR!". The Leviathan roared to the sky.

It looked a lot more majestic than before. Almost out of this world. Like it had become a divine beast or something...

Layla looked on from a distance without doing anything.

Not that she was like a DBZ character who waited for the enemy to transform. But she was trying to figure out how to attack. At the same time, she was preparing her next move.

"Hmm", She made a neutral but almost impressed sound.

Sure it felt a bit random to transform like that after like three simple exchanges but whatever.

"You should have taken me out when you had the chance. Now I'll make you regret it" Elsa put Layla on notice.

She was a lot freer now that she felt the power coursing in her. So she couldn't help but taunt her opponent.

"I'm sure you saw where overconfidence got your sister... I wouldn't take the same route she did if I were you" Layla cautioned in an unbothered voice.

"Please don't compare me to that idiot. (Hey!) I only did it because I was curious how it felt like" Elsa defended herself not giving a damn about Emily's face.

Of course, her big sister shouted from the stands but the sound only travelled one way so Elsa didn't hear Emily. Even if she did, she wouldn't care.

"Oh? Okay," Layla basically only acknowledged the reply without adding anything.

Which was okay with Elsa since she was also more interested in fighting than talking at the moment.

And so, both girls went silent then suddenly...

"ROOOOOOAR!!!x2

They both roared at the same time. Layla released an ice breath attack and Elsa released a water breath attack.

BOOOOOOOOOOM!

The attacks collided at the centre...

Contrary to what one would expect from what happened before which was Elsa's water getting frozen almost instantly... Such a thing didn't happen.

Instead, the attacks were actually fought on equal grounds. And from what was going on, it seemed Elsa even had a slight advantage and it was actually getting bigger and bigger as the ice was getting pushed back...

"How unexpected" Chloe commented.

"See, I told you all that she would find a way" Emily proudly said.

"Aren't you a bit too happy for someone who just got called an idiot?" Jade replied before anyone else could.

"Shut up! You're one to talk when you let your carelessness get you defeated" Emily snapped in response.

"Tsk. Takes one to know one. And next time I'll definitely beat you" Jade replied sourly.

"Oh please. We officially fought twice with our elements and I beat you both times. What makes you think you'll ever beat me? The only reason it's not 3/0 is that you were stronger than me during your crazy days" Emily continued.

"How dare you?! Let's fight now, I'll show you who's better!" Jade angrily replied.

She hated how Emily's words were true. In fact, it ate at her mind that she had never beaten Emily in a clean fight.

Being defeated was okay as long as she also won some. Not this complete defeat. So yeah, she was more than ready to throw down and reclaim her glory.

"Girls please. You can fight later. Let's focus on the current fight for now" Audrey interjected before the two girls started throwing hands.

The situation finally calmed. Down and everyone refocused on the match...

Chapter 474 Layla versus Elsa final...

At this point the two girls had been firing their breath attacks for close to a minute.

Elsa was obviously getting the better of the situation as she was steadily pushing Layla back.

At some point, ice spikes appeared around the leviathan which made it react in an attempt to get away.

It successfully avoided the attacks but this also allowed Layla to escape.

And just like that they were back to staring at each other from a distance.

But this deadlock didn't last long as Elsa quickly made a move.

She charged at Layla as she had tried before. However this time she had the support of her ice-resistant water so maybe the result would be different.

And it really was. Layla summoned spikes, spears, and whatnot to obstruct Elsa's path but the girl broke through all of that with spiralling water lances.

The spiralling action gave the ice the power it needed to break through the hard ice like a drill.

Anyway, in no time at all, the leviathan was in front of the hydra with its large mouth full of sharp teeth opened wide ready to bite a chunk out of the hydra.

However...

"Shadow changed: Ice lock..." Just then, Layla commanded her ice, and the leviathan was locked in a black ice cage.

The case covered it completely like a mummy.

That's right, Layla had black ice ready all this time.

She had created it subtly while engaging Elsa.

Thanks to how she could now make it with little fanfare and how the ice was hard to sense unless one was paying attention, Elsa had completely missed it.

However...

BOOOOOOOM!

Just before the Leviathan was completely blocked off from the outside it exploded.

Some water managed to escape the cage before it was completely locked.

Layla didn't think much of it.

She assumed that it was Elsa's last-ditch effort to try to break the ice cage and escape. However, it wouldn't work because the cage was too strong for such a simple attack.

In her confidence she failed to notice something forming in the distance until it was too late.

It was another leviathan!

At that moment, Elsa's aura which radiated from the ice cage completely disappeared.

It was then that Layla realised that Elsa had escaped.

"Water escape" without being asked, Elsa said the name of the spell she used.

It was only possible because of her bond with the fairy. This allowed her to turn her body in water for a few seconds.

It wasn't long enough to do much. But it was long enough to do a lot of things that could turn the tide of battle.

Like just then. Without the ability, she would have been captured.

After that escape would be hard if not impossible.

"Hmm. Impressive" Layla commented in an impressed voice.

At the same time, she called back her ice. It was a valuable weapon that might be the key to her victory so getting rid of it was out of the question.

Elsa wouldn't let her make more after discovering the trick after all.

However, that proved to be a mistake as the water inside the ice lock immediately lunged at her.

It has taken the form of a serpent. It caught Layla so off guard that it bit off one of her hydra's heads before she managed to destroy it.

Maybe if she only had to control one head she would have completely avoided it, but six heads were way too much!

It was the major reason why she didn't like close-quarters battles. It would get really confusing very fast for her in such a situation.

So until she can proficiently control all the heads she'll continue to fight from a distance whenever possible.

As for the severed head? That wasn't a problem. The super famous Hydra ability made its appearance.

The head on the ground turned into mana that flew towards her and sank into her body. Immediately after the head grew back.

However, the process wasn't something she was enthusiastic about experiencing.

After all, she not only felt what it was like to have a head bitten off but also felt how the head grew back. And if she was honest she hoped she never had to go through it again. It just felt so weird and painful.

Anyway, Elsa wasn't just lounging around as this happened. She summoned a large body of water in front of her.

Then she made it take the form of a huge ground drill. The type used when drilling into the earth. The spinning head was larger than the leviathan let alone the hydra.

She had gotten this idea from the last attack she used to fight against Layla. At that time it was just a random idea. But since it was so effective in breaking through ice then why not make it on an even larger scale?

And to top it all off. She made the water boiling hot... That's right, she could control the water's temperature as long as it didn't change states.

This of course made her a walking hot spring source that the group abused whenever they had a chance but such was life.

Besides, unlike normal water, her water doesn't lose heat until the mana she pumps into it completely disappears. Something that can take months if she's hellbent on making it last long. So she didn't have to warm the water up all the time.

Anyways she made the water as hot as she could then....

SHOOOO!

She shot it at Layla ruthlessly!

Seeing the "Simone inspired" drill charging at her, Layla reacted in the most normal way possible which was...

Create a canopy above herself and disappear into the shadow. She only appeared after the drill passed by the place she had been standing.

Honestly, she had wanted to create a shadow zone with her ice in the sky but Elsa got in her way every time.

Which was understandable as Elsa knew very well how dangerous a Layla who could use [omnipresence] was. She had seen the move be used to bully enemies left and right. Which included Jade.

But of course, she couldn't stop Layla from making small-scale shadows. Layla would already be done with them by the time Elsa thought to destroy the ice.

At the same time, both were restricting each other from using their domains.

Those wouldn't do much damage on their own considering that everyone had a domain armour but they would give a little advantage. Especially to Layla if she could summon her shadow domain.

Anyway, just because Layla dodged the attack didn't mean she was done with her.

The drill turned around in the distance and charged at Layla again.

Of course, Laylay noticed it right away. But she didnt panic. She had suspected something of the nature. She'd have done the same if she committed to creating an attack like that.

And so...

Familiar attacks appeared above her. It was ice meteors. All were as big as the spiral and there were around twenty of them.

Since making them as strong as the spiral would require time she didn't have, she decided to spam them.

The meteorites didn't wait for all of them to fully form before attacking. Which ever formed attacked.

Half attacked the spiral while the other half attacked Elsa to stop her from creating new moves.

To top it all off. The black ice from before came into use again.

It was used to create a harpoon-like spear and flew toward Elsa while the meteorites came down from above.

For obvious reasons, Elsa focused more on the harpoon than the meteorites. Those were dangerous but survivable. However, the spear was a different situation altogether.

If it hit her, she was most certainly done for. So she had to time it right and dodge.

Blocking it was rather dumb after all.

Knowing everything they knew, everyone felt that she made the right choice without a doubt. Well, all but one. And that one Raya.

She looked at the meteorites coming down with a little smile. Then...

Layla who was about to be hit by the spiral because the ten meteorites failed to stop them suddenly disappeared.

She had been running away from the spiral heading in Elsa's direction.

Elsa hadn't thought much of it as she had other matters to deal with. But after the disappearance, she realised that she had been tricked.

Unfortunately, it was too late. Layla's [omnipresence] wasn't just an empty name ability after all.

It was faster than any speed anyone could reach.

And so, before Elsa could even finish as a single thought, Layla had already reached her and six heads with black teeth had bit into the leviathan's head while the front legs that also had black claws had stabbed deep into its back.

They had only stopped an inch away from Elsa...

Of course, this prompted pained roars from the Leviathan.

"Match over. Winner Layla!" Raya called from the sidelines.

Hearing this, Layla immediately backed off not wanting to hurt Elsa unnecessarily.

She dispelled her avatar along with all the ice in the area at the same time.

Elsa froze for a moment then did the same. She had accepted the defeat. Though it felt rather sudden, it was what it was...

She clearly knew what had happened and how she lost.

The final attacks Layla used were all decoys as well as tools. And even her own spiral was included in the plan.

Layla was the better fighter that day... and it was without using her most extreme abilities too. Just her brain had been enough...

Chapter 475: Audrey versus Hope

After that, both girls left the arena. Layla was congratulated and Elsa was consoled even if it wasn't necessary.

Both would have preferred being left alone if anything.

Anyway, Hope and Audrey immediately got ready and entered the arena.

There was no reason to delay after all.

"Are you ready?" Audrey asked Hope.

"Yeah," Hope replied in a slightly nervous voice.

After all, unlike Emily, Audrey was looking at her like the threat she was.

Her mana corruption ability wasn't omnipotent after all.

If the person was expecting it and had strong enough mana control, they could resist it. And that was obviously something Audrey could do.

Fortunately, she hadn't revealed such information yet. So the others didn't know exactly how it worked.

This would make them a little hesitant to go all out. Something that will definitely work in her favor. At the very least it will reduce the pressure she will face...

Besides, corruption was only one part of her abilities. She hadn't even told Muku about the other one. Something she had wanted to surprise him with.

Unfortunately, he wasn't present. And she couldn't hold back against Audrey unless she wanted to end up like Emily.

"Great" Audrey replied with a smile then summoned her avatar.

Hope did the same.

In no time at all, the two giants were looking dead into each other's eyes. Out of all the fights so far, the manticore and the Kirin looked the most identical in size.

This gave the illusion that it was a much fairer fight. Though of course size still meant nothing.

Anyway, Raya signaled for the battle to start from the sidelines.

Thick blood spikes immediately appeared around Hope, along with a blood flood from all sides. As if that wasn't enough, countless lances appeared in the sky as well.

Yeah, Audrey was definitely not holding back.

Hope didn't know whether to be happy or sad. After all, she wanted to be taken seriously... However, wasn't Audrey taking her too seriously??

Anyway, she didn't just stand there doing nothing.

A weird new poison began quickly seeping out of her body. It was actually similar to Muku's grey energy in colour. Though it gave off a different feeling.

Muku's energy, whether it be his erasing gaze or Mithril, both felt majestic with the former having an oppressive presence as well. However, Hope's grey poison gave off an eerie feeling instead.

But one particularly cared about that at the moment. They hadn't seen anything yet after all.

However, they did notice something. Hope now had green, purple, black, and grey poison. Then there was the pink they didn't know about yet. Even without that they couldn't help but find it funny. After all, it seemed like she wanted to create a weird poison rainbow or something.

Anyway, the kirin was completely covered in the grey smoke before the attacks reached it. Then...

BOOOOOM!

Out of nowhere, the poison exploded and spread out, meeting the blood attacks all around Hope.

An interesting thing happened after that. All the attacks were disintegrated. The spikes, blood flood, and spears.

They were all dissolved into nothing the moment they locked the smoke like it was a strong acid...

And that's basically what it was. A poison that destroyed completely instead of only corrupting in some way.

A poison inspired by Muku's erasing gaze. She couldn't do the gaze or erase everything without a limit, but as a toned-down version, it was amazing.

Though it did take quite an amount of mana to make.

But due to that denseness, it was able to easily get rid of all of Audrey's attacks that weren't too strong.

The poison didn't linger after doing its work as it disappeared into the nothingness.

This left the arena as clear as it was before anyone even attacked.

This left everyone quiet in shock. They had thought that Hope only had two significant cards. The black poison or a sneak attack with [Whispering death] but the girl suddenly popped out something new again.

At that point, those who knew her were starting to wonder if they really knew her. After all, none of them even had a clue that she could do something like this along with the black poison.

They wondered what else she could do...

"Whoa. That was amazing. What do you call it?" Audrey asked in an enthusiastic voice as if it wasn't her who had her attack completely neutralized.

"I call it [Erasing mist]... obviously inspired by Muku's power. Though it's a far cry from the real thing" Hope replied.

Her voice was a little awkward as she felt a bit embarrassed comparing something that could erase anything with her limited ability.

"Oh? What an appropriate name. And don't sell yourself short. The ability is great and powerful. Plus Muku's gaze is rather slow. On top of that, he can't even use it now. Plus your spell can cover as much space as you want. Something he couldn't do either" Audrey explained after seeing that Hope didn't seem to understand how amazing she was.

As for practically calling Muku's ability trash... well, she was sure that he would understand.

"Thank you" Hope replied in the only way she could.

She and the others had gotten used to replying like that because Audrey really knew how to butter people up even if she was only expressing her thoughts.

"Now let's continue..." Audrey said.

After that, she gave Hope a second to acknowledge her words then made her move.

She did something that no one expected... and that was summoning the same attacks as before... however this time they were either ten times more in number or much larger in size. The flood had turned into a super flood.

And honestly, it was scary to look at a blood red flood that's reaching over five hundred metres in height charge towards you...

But that's exactly what was going on.

Hope immediately panicked. She didn't expect Audrey to see through her ability so quickly.

The thing with the grey smoke was that it was hard to create too much of it after a certain point in her current stage.

So with what Audrey did, the chance of being overwhelmed was super high. It will likely not be a problem in the future. But for now, it was.

And so, she did the only thing she could do before she was overwhelmed.

"ROOOOOOOOAR!" The kirin released a purple energy beam from its mouth aimed at Audrey in the distance.

As everyone had thought about whether Hope's poison would work on someone who had control over their blood. Hope had thought the same.

Her poison could spread on its own instincts weaker opponents. But in stronger ones, it needs blood to assist.

Which would be hard with Audrey's blood that was completely under her control. If anything, the moment Audrey sensed the poison in her blood, she'd make that blood stop before promptly taking it out of her body.

So using her green poison was out of the question. She could test it out but it wasn't the time to gamble.

Besides, even if Audrey could resist physical poison. Could she resist mental poison?

That's exactly what the purple beam was for.

It was her mental poison. And the emotion charged in the beam right now was uncontrollable fear.

Something that would easily leave anyone unable to fight.

And that was Hope's plan...

Unfortunately, things didn't go according to plan...

Audrey got out of the way in time. But this did reduce her focus and that allowed Hope to also escape with a little help from her erasing mist.

And so, neither managed to get the other one.

Which was understandable. There was no way Audrey would let the purple beam hit her. In her mind, the purple poison was the most ruthless.

After all, in such a battle even a little misjudgment could lead to defeat. Let alone having your mind altered.

She wasn't sure how resistant she was to the poison, but it wasn't worth testing. After all, even a second was enough for beings as strong as them to make a decisive move.

Anyway, the two stared at each other again. This time neither said anything, they just moved again.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

If the barrier didn't slow down their speed. Most of the spectators would have seen the avatars suddenly disappearing then reappear with a boom as a claw and a paw met mid-air.

They had decided to try out physically fighting since long-range wasn't working.

After all, if Audrey tried the same move. Hope would react the same way as before. And Hope didn't have dependable long-range moves yet.

Well, she did have a few, but Audrey would definitely dodge as well.

So fighting it up close might just be what both needed.

Of course, they'd use their elements from time to time in the exchange.

Though it was mostly Audrey attacking and Hope getting rid of the attacks.

When Hope tried attacking with the grey mist, Audrey would create some distance just before the attack was sent away due to her keen senses.

So yeah, they were currently stuck in a deadlock.

And the spectators were enjoying every moment of it...

Chapter 476 Audrey versus Hope final

A while later...

The duo was still canceling each other's moves out.

However, Audrey was slowly gaining the upper hand because Hope couldn't freely use her erasing poison yet.

But that didn't make Audrey drop her guard. She wasn't the kind of person to become arrogant when victory was in sight.

So she kept on applying pressure to Hope.

That's when suddenly... She felt it become a bit harder to control her avatar...

Before she could figure out what was happening, one of her paws started turning black.

She immediately got into action. She backed up and started dealing with the problem.

At least that's what she wanted to do. But Hope advanced when she retreated. So they continued to be engaged.

Fortunately, she was seasoned enough to deal with the situation. She could continue suppressing Hope anymore, but keeping her in check while she slowly expelled the black poison that had somehow made its way to her paw.

And so, the battle continued like that for a few more minutes until... She was suddenly attacked by an almost unbearable pain from top to bottom.

She immediately scanned her body and noticed that it wasn't affected by anything in any way. This only meant one thing.

The avatar itself had been poisoned!...

One thought appeared in her mind, [Whispering death].

Arguably Hope's most dangerous ability had made its appearance. And to everyone's surprise, it could poison elemental beings too.

Speaking of which, could the colorless poison be classified as another branch of poison? Sure its effect was somewhat like the green poison, but it was undetectable even after it started acting, so maybe it really should be counted as something different.

Anyway, the way it affected Audrey's avatar was different from how the black poison acted. The black poison corrupted and took over. However, the [Whisperless death] just destroyed silently like a phantom.

Anyway, Audrey was somewhat guarded against it so she was able to suppress it.

Unfortunately, that opened a window for Hope who smiled a little inside her avatar then...

The crimson Manticore turned pitch black in less than two seconds as the black poison in its leg acted up and was also backed up by another attack from Hope.

Unlike the rest of her poison, there was no coming back from the black poison after it corrupted you to a certain extent.

And so, Audrey's Manticore was completely taken over.

It tried thrashing around a bit but it soon stopped and started disappearing. Just like the phoenix before it. However, people weren't as shocked this time.

In no time at all, Audrey was left on the ground with no cover at all. Her body spasmed a bit from the backlash but she could actually still fight even without the avatar.

However....

"Winner, Hope" Raya's voice was heard.

The tournament had rules after all. And the most important one was, if your avatar was destroyed then you were done.

Of course, Chloe's situation was different as her opponent would have lost more than an avatar.

Anyway, Audrey didn't fight the result. She was a little sad about it as the winner of the last tournament, but she understood that one couldn't win them all. Especially not in their group.

Besides, she had another chance right? And if she fought Hope again, she could almost guarantee that she would win. That is if Hope isn't given enough time to get better at using her two new and dangerous abilities.

"Congratulations" Audrey said to Hope who was currently looking at her from a maimed kirin.

That's right, Hope didn't just win. She won after a hard struggle that injured her avatar gravely. If she hadn't been sneaky, she would have definitely lost.

Anyway, Hope didn't say anything, she dispelled her avatar first. Then flew down next to Audrey.

Held out her hand, a familiar gentle light green glow appeared and covered Audrey. Then she accepted the congratulations.

"Thank you. I got lucky" Hope said with a smile on her face.

As for why she was healing Audrey who hadn't been hit even once, well... a bit of the [Whisperless death] poison had entered her body. It was so little that Audrey didn't notice.

But if left untreated it would eventually attack her the moment she completely relaxed. And that was without Hope's order. That's just how sinister the poison was. It was almost like it had a mind of its own.

Anyway, after that the duo left the arena.

With their match finished, they were done for the day...

Or were they? The match between Audrey and Elsa that was supposed to happen the next day was moved up.

This was because they had more than enough time to recover since there were fewer matches than before.

So, the two focused on healing while everyone else went to do something else while waiting.

The first thing most did was check on Muku.

Freya could take out a screen and show them that everything is okay with Muku but she dared not.

After all, it would reveal that she could spy on the rooms if she wanted to.

Even if she said that she didn't do it, who would believe that?

Though she really hadn't done it since a few years back when she caught Muku and Audrey in action.

Which was a good thing or who knows what she'd have done if she still spied on people.

Especially recently when Muku went on a sex marathon with three girls which included Hope.

With how Freya was terrible at keeping a straight face when something was still fresh in her mind, she would have definitely gotten caught.

Especially if she appeared in front of Muku. And things would probably end with her getting taken by him too someday somehow.

As for whether she'd dislike or like that, only she knew.

Anyway, nothing happened so there was no need to think about it...

....

A few hours later...

Audrey and Elsa had fully recovered after a few hours of rest with an abundance of beast cores as always.

Currently, they were staring down at each other in the arena.

This was another interesting match. After all, both were liquid users.

Sure, Audrey could harden her blood, but in its base form, it was a liquid.

This meant that they could probably use the same spells as long as they were liquid-based.

Which could be seen from how Elsa used a flood before and Audrey used a blood flood.

So yeah, everyone was on the edge of their seats, waiting to see who was the better liquid manipulated between the two ladies.

At this point, both had already summoned their avatars and were only waiting for Raya's call.

They didn't wait long as Raya also couldn't wait to see the match.

The match went as expected, whichever liquid move one used was countered by the other with the same.

For example, Elsa created a flood, then Audrey fought it back with a flood of her own.

But something unexpected happened. When the two liquid mixed, both lose control of the new product. After all, it was no longer blood or water but a solution of both.

If it were natural liquids then it would still be blood. Just diluted.

But this was mana. The girls could make the real thing, but that wasn't what they were going for this time.

So the attacks they used were more mana than the actual thing. So it became a combination of mana that had a good affinity. But neither could control it.

At least not alone. They figured out that they had created a pseudo-union spell. But there was no way they would work together when they were trying to take out the other.

So they could only let go of their spells completely which cut off the power supply. Soon enough the solution disappeared.

After that, Audrey mostly resorted to solid attacks so that it didn't happen again.

Elsa also resorted to spiral water along with her fairy's power.

This gave her an advantage for a little while. But Audrey wasn't one to be upstaged like that. So she introduced a new ability no one had seen so far.

She called it [Burning blood]. It was basically her burning her avatar's body for more power. The avatar began glowing menacingly as it attacked while slowly shrinking.

Elsa thought that she would just have to defend until it was completely gone. Unfortunately, things didn't go according to plan.

Audrey's new ability was too strong. She managed to overwhelm Elsa in under a minute then ended it with another spell she had wanted to use a lot sooner but never got the perfect chance.

That move was [Blood explosion]

She had willingly created another solution with Elsa around them.

Like before, neither could make the solution move an inch, but they could still influence it as the creators. And so, Audrey made the blood explode.

Since she was expecting it, she prepared sufficient defence just in time. However, Elsa didn't expect it so she took it off.

It didn't completely take her out, but it left her close to fainting from the pain. That's when Audrey appeared and cut off the avatar's head with a huge blood sword.

And like that, the battle was over...

Audrey had won and secured her spot in the last round.

This meant that only Layla, Chloe, Hope, and Audrey were left.

Chloe will automatically fight Audrey. And Layla will fight Hope.

It was going to be another fun day...

Chapter 477 Audrey versus Chloe...

The next day.

The girls drew lots like always... at least that's what would have happened if everything wasn't already set.

Due to obvious reasons, Chloe's battle was first.

And so, Audrey and Chloe were already in the ring.

Audrey felt a bit wronged. After all, she had participated in the last three battles.

Even if she got enough rest in between, it still didn't feel good.

Anyway, that wouldn't affect her performance though, like always she'll give it her best...

"Don't you dare hold back" Audrey said seriously to Chloe.

She knew her daughter's tendencies when dealing with those she regarded as family.

Yeah, she didn't think of Lisa as family, which was why she was so merciless. Even if there was no malice.

Maybe she'll be different in the future...

"O..okay" Chloe replied feeling a bit embarrassed because she was secretly planning on losing the match.

Sure she wanted to win as much as the others, but if she had to beat Audrey to get there, she didn't want to as much.

But since Audrey called her out, she could only give it her best. It would be easy to tell when she isn't giving it her all. Especially for someone like Audrey who knew her very well.

"Good" Audrey replied in a pleased tone then summoned her avatar.

Chloe quietly did the same.

And so, the ladies were replaced by a Manticore that had become rather common to see by that point and a blue roc crackling with lightning menacingly...

"3...2...1...fight!" Raya didn't delay as usual.

She was excited to see which would triumph between blood and lightning.

Of course, she hoped Audrey would win but she knew it could go either way. In fact, it was hard to ever bet against Chloe, their resident speedster who packed one of the strongest punches in the group as well...

The girls didn't delay after the battle began. Black clouds immediately formed in the sky as Chloe flew into the them.

There was no way she, as a bird type would fight a land battle with Audrey.

Not when Audrey could spam blood floods if she wanted to.

Unfortunately, she had forgotten about something...

Crimson, bat-like wings spread out from the Manticore's body...

The wings were actually longer than the Manticore's body length. Interestingly enough, two horns grew out of its head as well.

The familiar glow of [Burning blood] also appeared on its body. It seemed Audrey had decided to go all out from the start.

And so...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

It shot up into the sky as soon as the preparations were completed.

In less than a second, it had pierced through the clouds leaving a huge clear patch in them. Of course, the patch was closed up in no time at all, but everyone had already seen how fast Audrey could be if she wanted to.

Her past opponents even felt thankful that she didn't do this. It seemed she always fought in a way that suited her opponent even if it wasn't the most optimal for her to win.

They didn't know how to feel about that... especially those who still lost when she was conforming to them.

Anyway, soon enough she had caught up to Chloe who was caught off guard as a crimson palm swiped at her body with razor-sharp claws out.

Chloe had actually been thinking about how to deal with the ground-based Audrey in a way that didn't involve [Kamikaze]

But now, it seemed [Kamikaze] was completely off the table.

She couldn't help but wonder how she had forgotten about Audrey's wings. Such a noticeably big body part.

But then again, the wings tightly wrap around the body when they are not being used with Audrey also rarely using them, so overlooking them was understandable.

Anyway, after dodging the attack, the game had officially begun..

The two started chasing each other in the sky exchanging attacks.

Chloe was obviously faster but Audrey was no slouch. She was at least fast enough to react.

And that's all she needed.

So, crimson spears, lances, swords, slashes, and whatnot flew all over the place. In the opposite direction, blue lightning streaks originated.

The attacks met in the sky causing explosions everywhere.

For the brief time, the spectators could only see blue and red lights dancing in the clouds.

Both due to the clouds being in the way and the speeds at which the two ladies were traveling.

Fortunately for them, Audrey and Chloe's clash was not intense that all the clouds were taken out as an unintended consequence.

After that, the barrier around the arena made the fight slower as well. It was already being slowed down by more than a hundred times but that wasn't enough, so it had to be slowed down again by a few more hundred.

That's how fast they were moving. The speed was infinitely closer to the speed of light. Maybe not at the level Muku reached in his dragon-kin form but definitely beyond the norm for beings with their power level.

Chloe could actually probably reach the speed Muku reached if she wasn't afraid of disintegrating, so yeah. They were going pretty fast.

In just five seconds they had had more than a hundred exchanges. In a minute they had over a thousand.

By the ten-minute point, no one could tell how many times they had exchanged moves since they were getting quicker and quicker.

At that point, Audrey started feeling the toll of her [Burning blood]. She could still keep it up for an hour or so, but why wait until she was at the end of her road?

And so, a blood dome appeared around them in the far distance. Then it started getting thicker while quickly moving closer to them.

Thick spikes appeared as well.

On the ground, a lack of blood at least three hundred metres deep appeared. And it was also rising...

[Bloody Execution Ground] Audrey spoke calmly.

And honestly, looking at it, no one could disagree.

At that point, Raya was peeking into the dome with her superior sense and projecting what she saw to the spectators like a living projector.

Everyone was amazed not sure how she was doing it...

But it was actually simple with the control she had as a R6 along with a new mindscape.

Anyway, Chloe visibly began panicking.

She didn't expect such a move from Audrey. But there it was.

However, she wasn't one to give up.

So the blue glow on her Roc's body intensified then...

Crackle! Crackle!...

BOOOOOOOM! BOOOOOOOM!...

She started attacking the dome with all her might trying to break through.

Unfortunately, wherever she attacked would get fixed up again in less than a second.

And the walls were getting thicker by the second. Which meant her chance of escaping was reducing just as quickly.

Actually, if she used her special characteristic that allowed her to basically destroy anything, she would be able to break free.

Unfortunately, that depended on her emotions.

She had to feel it in her bones, the desire to defeat the opponent. Something which unfortunately was hard to do when fighting Audrey.

Despite the intensity and the stacks, she couldn't push herself that extra step to access the ability.

And so, she could only helplessly see herself lose.

Audrey noticed this and added the pressure.

At some point, Chloe decided to focus completely on Audrey since she couldn't affect the dome.

If she took out Audrey first then the dome would disappear too. So she made her move.

Unfortunately, Audrey saw through her plan and dived into the dome before Chloe caught her.

As the owner of the dome, she could swim on the hard surface as if it were water while Chloe couldn't.

And so, Chloe had to go back to the drawing board.

The situation became even more annoying when Audrey started harassing her with attacks from all sides while remaining in the dome.

Sometimes she would comically pop her head out just to annoy Chloe.

And honestly, it looked rather funny from the spectator's point of view.

Both girls actually felt a weird energy they couldn't explain gather in their bodies.

It was familiar to both so they knew what it was. It was belief energy from the spectators.

Audrey got herself for being funny and a bit shameless but smart. Chloe got hers from sympathy as someone being bullied by her mother.

Anyway, whatever the reason, it was good that they were getting belief energy out of it. And that was the whole point of the tournament. Which was why Muku insisted that it continued even if he wasn't present...

In no time at all, Chloe barely had space to move.

She would soon be completely consumed by the dome.

She really wished that she wasn't facing a liquid-type in Audrey.

After all, whenever she hit the dome, the place would turn into liquid and absorb most of the lightning power before dispersing it.

The little damage left after that is quickly fixed. So she really couldn't do anything.

With such thoughts in her mind, she stopped fighting and just hovered in place.

Audrey didn't hesitate as she sped up the process with complete focus.

Then...

BAM!

Chloe was completely sealed in...

But wait, should such a sound have happened?

Just then...

Crackle!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Blood flew everywhere...

Chapter 478 Layla versus Hope...

No it wasn't Audrey's blood... well, it was but not from her body. You get what I mean...

In no time at all, the blood lake dried up and the dome disappeared.

Then a shocking sight was revealed. The roc had its claw suck deep into the Manticore's chest area.

Inside it was less than a metre away from Audrey's face who had long fallen unconscious after the unexpected lightning attack.

"What happened?" One spectator asked a question that was on everyone's mind.

The girls also didn't understand how Chloe suddenly turned the tables like that. And so, they looked at Raya with a questioning gaze.

Even Layla who usually finds a way to figure out the answer couldn't understand what was going on.

Raya looked at them then thought for a second how to say it. She even thought about creating a sound barrier around them so that the outsiders don't hear anything.

However, she realized that it was one of those things that you wouldn't be able to do anything about even if you knew unless you had enough power. Something none of the spectators will ever have. At least not enough to be a threat to Chloe, so she might as well say it...

"Well, what happened here is actually very simple. Chloe phased through the blood to attack Momma. She vibrated at such a high speed that she could move through physical matter. Something that requires not only speed but the highest level of control, so I doubt Big Sis Jade will ever be able to do it(Hey!)" Raya explained in the simplest way possible.

And she threw a little shade in Jade's direction. She had grown accustomed to throwing it in Muku's direction, but he wasn't present, so she chose the easiest opponent around. Someone Muku also picked on.

"Umm... why can I only see your mouth moving but can't hear anything?" Layla suddenly asked. Hope was the same.

"Simple. While everyone else can hear it, you two can't. After all, one of you will face her next. And I intentionally altered my lip movement when I spoke so don't think of decoding it from that..." Raya replied with a slightly apologetic voice.

"Oh, that makes sense. I completely understand" Layla replied without feeling offended at all.

She actually appreciated the move. It will make the battle more interesting for her. And if she won because she knew this information she wouldn't feel too good about it. Hope felt the same.

After that, Hope went into the arena to see if she could help Audrey wake up sooner.

At that point, both avatars had disappeared leaving Chloe and an unconscious Audrey in her arms.

There was a guilty look on her face like she had done something wrong.

Especially when Audrey twitched from time to time and her face had been blackened with her hair standing straight.

Honestly, she looked rather comical but Chloe wasn't in the mood to laugh. If it were someone else she definitely would have laughed but Audrey was different.

Anyway, Hope got there in a few seconds.

But before she could do anything, Audrey got up on her own. The recovery system of a PR5 was so good that lightning that would kill countless blue whales wasn't worth mentioning.

After that Chloe apologized. Audrey said there was no need to since it was a tournament.

After they left, Layla and Hope took the stage.

Ice versus poison... another interesting match-up.

Despite ice not being a direct counter to her poison, Hope felt the most tense when facing Layla.

This was because she knew Layla would definitely not hold back against her.

Her first opponent, Emily underestimated her. The second, Audrey was incapable of fully going all out against all of them due to her mother's heart.

But Layla was different, to this girl, every battle absolutely had to be won no matter who was on the other side.

Maybe Audrey would make her hesitate, but everyone else was a no-brainer. Even Chloe... in fact, she was probably looking forward to beating up Chloe more than anyone else...

Anyway, they got into position without saying anything to each other. Both were locked in and Layla wasn't much of a talker anyway...

"3...2...1...Fight!" Raya's voice was heard again. Then...

"Snowstorm" Layla called out calmly.

The whole arena was instantly turned into a snowfield.

On the opposite side, Hope coated herself in the familiar grey poison that destroyed every snowflake that came her way. Hell, even the cold couldn't pass through it.

"ROOOOOOOOAR!" Out of nowhere the Kirin released a pitch-black breath attack.

Layla who had her guard up managed to dodge it easily.

But Hope didn't feel bad about that... in fact, everything was going according to plan...

Behind Layla, the snow started turning black...

No, it wasn't shadow-charged snow... but corrupted snow.

Hope was taking over Layla's snow... not to control it, which she couldn't do anyway. But to destroy it.

If things go according to plan, all the snow and ice that Layla will create after this will immediately be corrupted and destroyed.

Which would make the match a lot easier for her to win...

Unfortunately, things seldom went according to plan.

And this was one of those instances.

Layla spotted the corrupted patch before it could gain any traction and isolated it.

This meant that the corruption wouldn't spread and would die out with the patch. And that was exactly what happened.

Just like that, one plan was already taken care of by Layla.

Again Hope didn't feel bad because she didn't believe it would be that easy to take out Layla.

So she calmly went back to the drawing board while making sure that there were no shadows around her for obvious reasons.

Layla made another move after the corruption poison was taken out.

Countless meteorites began appearing in the sky....

But Hope refused to let that happen. Not after she noticed how Elsa was defeated.

BOOOOOOOM!

She jumped up into the sky, with an open claw radiating grey energy she swiped and destroyed one meteorite after another.

The sight was visually captivating as she destroyed objects at least twice her size with a single swipe.

She was so fast, that all of them were erased in less than ten seconds. Which was amazing for a non-speed-type.

On the ground, Layla created stalagmites as big as hills ready to receive Hope should she come down, thereby effectively confining her to the sky.

Practically making her a sitting duck. After all, while Hope could fly, her avatar was more suited for ground battles.

For that reason, fighting from the sky will weaken her significantly. Whether it be her ability to dodge or even attack.

If she were a bird type, it would be the other way round, but she wasn't.

Hope realised that she might have fallen into a trap the moment she saw how the ground now looked.

And honestly, she had been too eager. Even her dark green poison could take out the meteorites. It would require a bit more mana, but she had enough to spare.

Yet she chose to go up herself to make it faster. And now she was stranded.

Well, whatever, what was done was done, now she just needed to find a way to turn the tables around... Something immediately came to mind the moment she tried to think about something.

And honestly, she wondered why she hadn't tried it so far.

That was....

"Poisoned ground!"

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

A thick layer of dark green poison covered the whole arena.

Layla had managed to react in time and completely sealed herself in a clear ice barrier.

Her ice storm was still active but it wasn't doing anything to the controlled poison that was slowly eating away at her barrier.

And so, she ditched it... or recycled it to be exact...

"Frozen motion" She called out.

Her snow immediately stopped in place... Things didn't stop there...

In between the snowflakes clear ice appeared and everything was turned into one huge ice block.

Fortunately for Hope, she was high up and wasn't caught up in the move.

But all her poison was...

Then...

"Break" Layla commanded.

The ice and the poison shattered into countless tiny particles that were invisible to the naked eye as well as completely harmless.

She had neutralized poison by freezing it... such a badass!

On the sidelines, the crowd went wild. After all, they thought that it was over when she was completely covered by the poison.

However, Hope didn't stop to appreciate Layla's cool move which somehow still left the spikes completely fine.

She released another breath attack. This time an ominous purple one. Which everyone knew messed with emotions.

This time Layla didn't take it lying down, she unleashed an attack of her own.

The two breath attacks met in the air and the red smoke with little physical capabilities was quickly overcome and frozen before Hope gave up on it.

She also had to deal with the countless ice attacks coming at her from all directions in the sky. So she couldn't afford a deadlock.

But that was okay because the poison was a decoy for her real attack...

She had quietly released her [Whisperless Death] while clashing with Layla.

Unlike the others, [Whisperless death] was actually visible to her.

It was dark red in color and in no time at all, it would reach Layla...

At least that's what was supposed to happen because....

"Frozen motion" Layla called out of nowhere...

A chill went down Hope's spine... a question in her mind...

Could Layla sense her [Whisperless death]?...

Chapter 479 Layla versus Hope (final)

No that wasn't it...

It seemed like she reacted to it instead of seeing.

With that thought in her mind, Hope paid closer attention to Layla. That's when she noticed a thin layer of misty frost around her.

She immediately realised what had happened... Layla had used that frost as an "alarm".

After all, while [Whisperless death] was undetectable in most ways. It still interacted with the air.

That's where Layla caught it, she just partially froze the air around her. Then all she had to do after that was wait and Hope would bring herself to her. Which is exactly what happened...

The realisation made Hope smile wryly. She didn't expect someone to develop such a clever way of dealing with her previously untouchable move.

But then again, it should be expected from someone like Layla. Who knows how long she has had the solution to it? She probably just never had the chance to use it.

Anyway, while Hope was questioning her life, Layla didn't let up.

She doubled the attacks from all directions to the point that Hope could focus on nothing but defending herself for a few seconds.

And this opened the window she needed to end things.

"Hellish Dragon's Final Judgement..." Layla spoke calmly but what happened after was anything but that...

A huge Eastern dragon at least ten times larger than their avatars appeared in front of Layla.

The way the pitch-black creature, which gave off an eerie feeling, appeared was like a beast emerging from a huge portal.

It then flew towards Hope with its huge mouth wide open and sharp ice teeth ready to chomp down on her.

Seeing the beast-like spell coming her way made Hope almost scream in fear.

It had reached her before it was fully formed.

She tried hitting it with everything she had but her grey poison was too little to do significant damage to such a huge creature.

Her black poison was even worse as it didn't do anything at all.

She wasn't sure if it was because the black dragon was a shadow-charged spell or if it was because Layla was expecting such a thing.

Well, either way, things weren't looking too good for her.

She tried her best to run away but she was caught in no time at all, then...

BANG!

The dragon took her in its mouth and chomped down. Effectively mangling her avatar.

Layla had controlled it so precisely that only the part she was on was left untouched. However, the rest of the kirin was chewed up and then spat out.

"Winner, Layla!" Raya's voice was heard.

And no one disagreed. Even if some wanted to, which they didn't, they wouldn't dare after seeing such a creature. Especially when it was still lingering around the arena, still not fully formed and menacingly looking at the surroundings.

It really looked like a living creature with how it behaved.

Layla cancelled the spell soon after.

Instead of the usual, melting into nothingness, the dragon was dragged back into the large black portal-like circle before disappearing.

Which really made it seem like it had been dragged back to hell...

On the arena ground, Hope who had cancelled her avatar to free herself from the pain lay on the ground looking into the sky with a blank look in her eyes. It seemed the experience had been quite an intense and memorable one.

Then again, she had practically experienced what it was like to be eaten...

"Umm, what was that? Was it really a spell?" Hope asked Layla who had walked up to her after dispelling her avatar.

"...I don't know" Layla gave an honest answer.

She really didn't know what that thing was. It was actually something she knew about from the day she made her first shadow-charged move.

Just that the information seemed to be incomprehensible back then.

It was only with time and the improvement of her strength that she could understand and ultimately use it like now. Though even that usage was limited as she couldn't completely summon it. What she summoned was an incomplete version.

Before summoning it, she thought it was a class spell she was aware of only because the IA made it so.

But after summoning it and seeing how it acted. Even if she had complete control of it like a spell, she still wasn't sure...

If she had to say, she would say that the thing was probably a living creature she was somehow connected to.

It was definitely something she would talk to Muku about.

Maybe he can help her figure it out. After all, she wasn't comfortable with using an ability she didn't completely understand. What if it suddenly turned around and attacked her or her comrades?

Not to mention that it took half of her mana pool just to summon it for ten seconds.

Which was a horrifying feat considering how deep her mana pool was due to her talent and class level.

If she had used a normal shadow-charged spell and created a replica of that thing, she would be able to create hundreds of not thousands of them.

Sure, they will likely be nowhere near as powerful, but still, it hadn't done anything that proved that it was the better choice. Even if it did oneshot Hope who honestly wasn't very destructive even if she was dangerous.

If it were Chloe, Jade or Emily who were oneshotted while trying their best to resist, then maybe she would understand. But that remained to be seen...

"Okay... Can you help me up?" Hope accepted Layla's answer.

After all, there was no reason for Layla to lie.

Not to mention that she was also not sure what that was even after such a personal interaction with it.

Layla held her hand out and helped Hope up.

Sure, it was completely unnecessary when Hope could literally fly up if she wanted, and getting up on her own was pretty easy too. It was just a bonding moment if anything...

"Good match. And I honestly lasted longer than I thought I would..." Hope spoke after she got up and they began walking out of the arena.

"I think you would have won if you had better control of that grey poison and could make more of it... if it makes you feel better" Layla replied after giving it some thought.

"Yeah well, I'm sure by that time you would have found a way to counter it too so..." Hope spoke jokingly.

"You're probably right" Layla joked back. Albeit with a calm expression and tone.

Hope just giggled in response. Nothing more needed to be said. And she knew Layla didn't like talking much anyway.

So they walked the rest of the way silently. Again, they could have reached the others in less than a second or flown over, but after a certain point, they enjoyed doing things like normal people instead of the conveniences of being superhuman.

Maybe it was because of Muku who kept them grounded in the past when he would make them walk instead of hitching a ride with him when they couldn't fly... Or to them, being superhuman became more mundane than being normal.

Well, whatever the reason, they reached the others soon enough.

And as always, the winner was congratulated and the loser was consoled even if there were no hard feelings.

Just like that, the final was fixed. It was going to be Layla versus Chloe.

The two girls looked at each other.

The moment their eyes met a certain glee appeared in Layla's eyes which scared Chloe a bit.

It was almost like Layla was quietly saying, "I've got you now! Let's see how you get away when mom can't protect you"... And that's exactly what was going on.

The big sister in Layla was so petty that she couldn't rest until she punished Chloe for breaking her promise and risking her life.

She promised their mother not to find trouble with Chloe but hitting a little harder in their match was totally understandable right?

With such thoughts, a smile almost appeared on Layla's face. She immediately walked away before anyone noticed the bad intentions that were practically radiating from her body...

"You do know she isn't going to hold back against you right?" Audrey said to Chloe with a wry expression on her face.

She really didn't know what to do about Layla. She never knew that her daughter was not only super protective but also super petty at the same time.

Yeah, while Layla thought she had hidden it well. It was still very easy to see for the other girls.

After all, they knew her well. Not to mention that she was a straightforward person, so her acting skills sucked.

"Yeah, I know. But that's fine. I want her at her best so that I can beat her. Maybe that way she won't worry as much" Chloe replied positively.

And she meant what she said. For a while now, Layla had turned into an overprotective sister who got involved whenever there was a sign that she might be in danger.

It was sweet, but it wasn't too good in the apocalypse.

So Chloe needed to win against Layla to set things right.

A distance away, Elsa resonated. After all, Emily was the same...

The big sisters in the group were really too much!...

Chapter 480 Chloe versus Emily... or not

The following day...

Chloe and Layla were already in the ring looking at each other.

The fans were gathered with their breath held ready to see the final.

At this point, they weren't sure whom to support.

After all, both girls had had impressive showings with neither losing a single battle.

One would expect a divide in opinion but all were simply unsure. And so, in the betting pool, they just tossed coins or used the good old "inny-miney-moe" method to choose.

It was quite comical but most weren't laughing.

Anyway, even the girls didn't know who to pick.

Obviously, Chloe had raw power and speed. However, Layla had control and mysterious methods. So it was hard to call.

"3...2...1...Fig..Hmm?" Raya was about to start the match like usual when she sensed something.

Immediately after that...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

An explosion went off. Surprisingly, it came from the castle's direction and the roof was off on a certain part.

"What's that?!" Someone exclaimed in shock and fear.

"I'm standing right next to you so how would I know?" His friend replied in an annoyed tone.

In the ring, Layla and Chloe paused what they were about to do as both looked in the direction of the castle.

The fight hadn't begun yet, so they could still hear their surroundings. Not to mention the tremor caused by the explosion.

There was no way they would fight in such a situation.

"Interesting..." Raya suddenly said.

"What's going on?" Audrey asked her. She could sense something, but she refused to accept it.

"As you have sensed, this is Muku's doing... well, it's his body anyway..." Raya replied vaguely.

"What do you mean?" Audrey asked.

She didn't get angry at how Raya wasn't immediately getting to the point because that's how the girl operated.

It also meant that things were dire yet.

Snap!

Instead of replying, Raya snapped her fingers and Muku appeared in the arena.

However, he didn't look like anything they had seen so far.

He was currently fully covered in the nightmare armour which was supposed to be in its everyday clothes state like it was when he started his training.

On top of that, it looked different. Way darker than before. It had actually gotten bigger as well as grown sharp spikes on the arms and back. The helm also changed into an evil grin that looked way too animated to be just a helm. Then there was the black energy constantly oozing out of it.

Currently, Muku looked like a berserk and evil metal giant that stood around 7 metres tall.

"What's going on?" Audrey was so confused that she couldn't help but ask the same question a second time.

"Oh, nothing much. It seems the armour has finally made its move..." Raya replied nonchalantly.

After all, while the strength radiating from Muku at that moment was more than his usual strength when he wasn't fused with her. It was still not at the R6 level. So everything could easily be taken care of...

"Huh?" Audrey asked well as the other girls were still confused.

"Don't you remember how Muku said that he felt constantly attacked mentally by the armour? Well, because of that, he figured that it must be sentient to some extent. For that reason, it would likely take the first chance it gets to take over his body should he ever show weakness. And right now just happens to be the best chance it will ever get. After all, Muku is currently at an important stage in his training to regain control of his bloodline. So he can't deal with it right now. And if things remain as they are, it might have long taken his body over by the time he is done..." Raya finally explained.

"What?! Really? What should we do then?!" Audrey was immediately startled.

While she remembered Muku saying something about being mentally attacked, she never thought that it would come to this...

"It's simple really, I'll beat him up until the armour spirit or whatever it is decides to give up on this idea..." Raya replied nonchalantly as she prepared to do just that...

"Wait!... Let us do it" Jade suddenly interjected.

"Huh? Is it because you are afraid I'll hurt his body too much? Well, don't worry. I'll control myself" Raya replied.

"Huh? What? No! You can break his legs for all I care. I just want to take this chance to see where we stand against him. He would never fight us seriously if he were in control. And I'm assuming this thing has control of his powers right? And since his bloodline is still out of commission, we should stand a chance" Jade immediately denied what Raya suggested, then said something that sounded more like her.

The others didn't know whether to laugh or cry. After all, the girl is always shamelessly claiming him as her husband, yet now she's more worried about not ever getting a chance to fight him seriously than his well-being.

They couldn't help but feel sympathy for Muku. Fortunately, he had them to worry about him in Jade's place. So it was okay. But...

"Cough. I think Jade is on to something. And if we can win, we will be able to blackm... I mean, ask him for favors" Emily joined in even though she was just calling out Jade in her mind a few moments back.

"I also want to try" Chloe joined in after coming with Layla.

"Me too" Layla would never turn down a chance to beat up Muku if she could.

"And me" Elsa refused to be left behind.

"Okay, okay, fine. We'll face him first. But the moment it proves too much for us to deal with him, Raya will take over. Is that understood?" Audrey who couldn't say no to their enthusiasm agreed.

"Yey! And don't worry. With all of us working together, there's no need for Raya to come in. We'll take care of this chump in no time at all" Jade celebrated and boasted confidently.

"Yeah, maybe don't sound so confident when you're grouping up on one person" Layla commented.

"Shut up Frosty! I can fight you along with him if that's what you want!" Jade immediately snapped.

Layla who didn't want trouble with her for the time being chose to remain silent.

"Okay, with that taken care of, let's go get this over with..." Audrey said then all the girls walked into the arena ready for battle.

Currently, as they spoke, the berserk Muku, if it could even be called that when it technically wasn't him was roaring angrily as he was trapped in by Raya's space element.

And he was definitely pissed. After all, that idiot had finally letdown his guard completely while alone and it had taken over after years of waiting.

However, as soon as it took over, it was immediately dragged into this space prison.

Maybe if it hadn't lost control of his power for a second when it took over, it would have been able to get away quietly.

Well, whatever, it should be able to break through the barrier soon enough as long as it keeps on recovering its strength. Something that couldn't be stopped.

And it wasn't like those girls would kill it when it was in their man's body. Speaking of which, the group was really disgusting! How could so many females gather around one male like that?

It was jealo... cough, disgusted by the act...

As for what it was? Well, it was a being from so long back that most had forgotten about it, even existing. And that being was one of the very first Monarchs... one of the strongest Monarchs too. The Nightmare Monarch... and that was before it devoured the Metal Monarch and became the first dual-element Monarch.

It was so long ago and its soul was so damaged that it didn't remember its own name or if it even had one.

That didn't matter anyway. All that mattered was taking over Muku's body and getting away. The first step was already done. And it was very easy.

Now it just needed to figure out how to escape.

As all its chaotic thoughts swirled around its head. Something that caught its attention happened. And that was a weird red gas creeping its way toward it.

And of course...

"Live Nightmare..." it spoke in a rough voice and a huge black mouth formed in the air out of nowhere then chomped down into the air.

A distance away Hope's eyes widened in surprise.

"What's wrong?" Emily asked.

"That thing... it just destroyed my [Whisperless death] by eating it with that weird mouth.

And I think I could see it.

"Oh? How interesting. Honestly, I'm happy. It would be too boring if you poisoned it and ended the battle before we could do anything" Jade commented with a smile on her face.

"Tsk. Of course, you would be happy you psycho" Emily commented.

"Like you aren't the one who can't wait to blackmail him" Jade retorted.

"Girls! Let's not forget what we are here for" Audrey chimed in.

After that the situation was made stable and the girls started surrounding Muku from all directions.

Of course they weren't too close to him as they didn't know what he could do.

They also didn't use avatars since those weren't their best battle states yet.

Just like that, the Muku subjugation plan began...