

RAISING A FEW WIVES IN A BEAST APOCALYPSE

Chapter 71 Domains?

"As long as there's the ground beneath us, water will never be a hard commodity to access." As soon as they got out of the gate, Muku spoke while creating a large hollow cylinder in the air.

Whoosh! Bang!

The long cylinder with a length of about ten metres and a radius of about a metre was thrust into the ground. It sank in so deep that only a few centimetres of it remained visible at the top. Then Muku pulled it out. This time around, its base was covered unlike before, so the soil within the cylinder was taken out along with the cylinder. With that, Muku had created a well within a couple of minutes. Water was already gathering in it, quickly even.

The girls looked on with amazement, they were all impressed. None of them had thought of such a solution. Not because they didn't know of it, but being so used to a modern way of life, some simple things like digging a well for water are easy to overlook.

"Phew, I'm glad that worked, that could have gone horribly wrong if there wasn't water on this spot". Muku said while wiping away his nonexistent sweat. As he said, there was always a chance that the groundwater on the spot he dug wasn't so close to the surface. Luckily for them, that wasn't the case.

"Wow, good thinking big brother. Now we just have to wait a bit for the water to gather and we'll be set." Hope enthusiastically praised him.

"Good thinking, indeed". Even Layla praised while the others nodded.

"Crazy how easy having powers makes manual labour. I can't help but wonder if you would have suggested it if you didn't have the power to do it other than your physical strength" Jade asked Muku with a mischievous smile on her face.

"No way in hell, I'd rather die of thirst. Do you know how hard it is to dig just a two-metre deep hole with your physical strength, let alone ten?" Muku replied with an eye roll. This little girl clearly had no idea how hard digging holes was for her to even ask such a thing. Hearing his reply, the girls who were expecting him to at least pretend to be chivalrous couldn't help but giggle. Though his straightforward personality was one of the things they liked most about him.

"Well anyway, it will take a while for the water to gather into a sufficient amount. So let's head back and do something else while waiting" Muku said as he created a metal dome around the well. Although he'd have to keep on supplying it with mana for it to keep on existing, it was worth it. Maybe when they get stronger they can create things they won't have to keep on supplying with mana for it to continue existing.

"Uuu! I know, we can try meditation; maybe that will help with our potential realisation or help us gain better control of our elements!". Chloe suggested something she'd seen in anime and read in novels.

"Well, the alternative is playing games on our phones, so we might as well try it out" Layla immediately agreed to the suggestion; playing mobile games wasn't her forte. Unluckily for her, that's all Jade and Chloe downloaded along with some anime when they had the chance. Now the internet was gone, making it impossible for her to download what she likes, so meditation didn't sound like a bad thing to her. She was curious to see if it would really help in some way.

"Sounds interesting, let's go get it done then!". Jade said while speeding ahead.

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Ten minutes later....

"This is boring as hell!". Jade suddenly called out, interrupting the others who were greatly invested in the practice. Even if they hadn't gotten any obvious gains, it helped them let go of some of the tension in their mind. Which was already a good thing for them. But apparently, that wasn't good enough for Jade.

Without opening his eyes, Muku picked Jade up and threw her up the stairs with his telekinesis. Before she could complain, he tossed her phone after her, she caught it and grumpily walked away. Although she complained, she didn't expect to be thrown out. Now she could only go to her room and play games while silently cursing Muku, as well as the traitors who didn't stand up for her. So what if it was the tenth time she complained?... In just ten minutes.

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Around fifty minutes later...

[1% of sufficient mana control to create a domain acquired]

"Oh my!" Audrey's startled voice rang out. Unlike in Jade's case, the others didn't ignore her but opened their eyes and looked her way. Seeing their questioning gazes, Audrey explained what had happened.

"Well, this is unexpected, to think we can create domains!" Muku commented.

"Hmm, what if it's like potential realisation?...like, we need it to evolve to Rank Three?". Chloe made a bold suggestion.

"That's... actually very possible". Layla commented after thinking about it a bit.

"And we can all thank Chloe for suggesting meditation; who knows how long it would have taken us to stumble upon it otherwise?" Emily said while looking at Chloe with a smile.

"O..Oh no, no need, I was just randomly suggesting stuff; it's a coincidence, that's all". Chloe was flustered being the focus of the group like that.

"Even then, you still deserve the praise; like Emily said, who knows when we would have figured it out? We might even have been stuck at the peak of Rank Two someday, not knowing how to proceed." Audrey chimed in.

It's something that had been on her mind since she reached Rank Two, actually. To her, getting to the peak of it wasn't too hard. But what would happen after that? Since they had to realise the potential to get to Rank Two, then there definitely had to be something for Rank Three. Not knowing it had been troubling her a bit. She didn't say anything to the others since it wasn't an immediate problem yet so there was no need to worry the others.

"If you say so". Seeing how they wouldn't give up until she accepted their gratitude, Chloe relented.

"I think enough time has passed by, let's go and check how much water has gathered". Muku spoke while getting up and heading for the front door. The others got up and followed behind him, they were all curious to see how much water had accumulated.

Even Jade, who had long gotten bored of playing by herself, came down the stairs and joined them. She had been listening to what was going on downstairs since she was kicked out, waiting for this moment, though it took longer than she thought. But after hearing about domain creation when she was eavesdropping, she promised herself to be more serious about meditation next time. She was curious to see what her domain would look like, now she felt even more motivated to quickly reach Rank Two.

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"Wow, all that in so little time!" Hope exclaimed. Around three metres of the well was now filled with pure and clean water.

Muku created another cylinder, though this one was only around four metres. With it, he fetched most of the water and closed up the well again then he and his group went back to the mansion. The large enclosed cylinder full of water floats behind them. The girls couldn't help but admire how convenient his abilities were.

Inside they took turns bathing, using a metal bucket Muku created. It was rather awkward for the group that has gotten used to a shower but at least it got the job done. Layla even chimed in by creating an ice bucket to cool some of the water for drinking since it was summer and the weather got super hot at times.

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After bathing and eating.....

"So, have you noticed how we have less than a couple of days' worth of food left? And how all the shops have been destroyed?" Jade asked Muku, an expectant look on her face.

"Sigh, fine, tomorrow we'll hunt down a beast and try its meat" Muku replied with an exasperated look on his face. This girl sure knew how to be persistent, she even waited for the perfect time to mention it. Their food consumption seemed to be increasing by the

day; it was like it would disappear into thin air the moment it reached their stomach. It's like normal food wasn't good enough for them anymore.

"Ah, right, that reminds me, what about the base? Are we going to leave it behind?". Hope asked with a confused look on her face. As soon as she did, everyone who was merrily talking with each other immediately went silent. Clearly, no one had thought about it.

"Umm, I guess so. I'd have preferred to take it with us, but with my current mana, I can, at most, carry it for around three kilometres. Which wouldn't have been enough even if the world didn't change, back then we'd have needed to travel at least seven kilometres from Chloe's information, but now, it's at least fourteen kilometres". Muku spoke while rubbing his head, feeling a headache coming on. What were they supposed to do now?. If they left it behind, then it would likely be destroyed by a beast. But they couldn't take it away either.

"I think I can be of help if mana is the problem", Audrey spoke up, leading to everyone focusing on her, wanting to hear what her suggestion was.

"How so?" Muku asked for clarification.

"Well, I've noticed that mana and yours seem to be extremely compatible. Maybe because I got my class from your bloodline. Anyway, because of that, I think I can channel my mana into your body so that you won't run out before we reach our destination. I couldn't do it last time because I was too weak and wouldn't have made a difference, but now, I'm pretty sure I can support you for at least double the distance you mentioned.". Audrey explained. What she meant when she said she could help.

"Well, great then! Problem solved!". Jade chimed in, expressing her happiness. It was her idea to make the mansion their base after all, so she definitely didn't want to ditch it.

"Hmm, that could work, okay, we'll do it that way then. For now, everyone should go sleep. With Audrey's blood puppet, we don't have to keep watch, only if it could last longer". Muku said as he got up, getting ready to go to his room.

"Good night everyone." He said as he walked away.

"Good night to you too". They all replied and got up to go to their own rooms.

"Big brother can I sleep..ah! Never mind. Good night". Hope tried to go sleep with him again, but this time instead of a warning, Chloe struck her with a weak lightning bolt, prompting her to immediately change her statement.

And with that, everyone went to their rooms after blowing out the candles. The only one left awake was the poor giant lizard that would die in a day or two.

Chapter 72 Beast meat acquired!

The next morning....

The group had bathed and eaten. Muku only covered up the well with some rubble, instead of completely closing it. He thought maybe it would be of assistance to some people who have no water that will happen to pass by eventually. And he was actually right, long after they left, the well would become a popular water source for many survivors and even some beasts.

"Okay, everyone ready?". Muku asked the girls as he was preparing to lift the mansion. They nodded in agreement and he got to work. This time it was a lot easier than the first time he did it, maybe due to the familiarity or because he got stronger. Well, either way, he wasn't complaining. The mansion headed south slowly while hovering two meters above ground. Beside the spot where the mansion was, the dead, shrivelled-up body of the corrupted lizard could be seen. It died even sooner than Audrey thought it would.

"This is quite the experience". Emily said while looking at the group below them while sitting on the mansion wall with the other girls. Unlike last time, they weren't too worried about Muku's position, so they chose to enjoy the ride instead. Not to mention, they needed to be on the lookout for beasts that might try to attack it.

"Yeah, would have been better if we went as high as the clouds!" Jade excitedly agreed. If he heard her, Muku would definitely vomit blood in anger. Did this girl even have an idea of how hard it was to get it to their current height?

"Maybe when he ranks up a few more times we'll be able to go up that high. This is good enough for now" Luckily for Muku, at least Emily wasn't so unfeeling as she replied to Jade.

"Guess so...hey look! A bird! A giant bird!" Jade shouted, pointing in a certain direction into the sky in front of them. Emily looked in the direction she pointed and could barely see a black figure. But she didn't doubt Jade's words, she knew how freakishly sharp Jade's senses were after all.

"Should we call Layla to this side?" Emily asked for Jade's opinion. They weren't all sitting in one spot.

They were distributed around the wall. Emily with Jade, Chloe with Hope, Layla alone and Audrey alone. Emily was good at ranged attacks, while Jade was good at close combat, so they complimented each other. But Emily's attacks wouldn't be able to reach so far before dissipating so she suggested asking for Layla's help. She could use her beam attack, but that would take a huge chunk of her mana, which would be a waste, in her perspective when Layla could do it for a lot less mana.

"Hmm, nuh, it's only a PR1 and even if it was a Half-step. I could stun it with my roar and cause it to plummet to the ground and possibly die from the impact". Jade denied the suggestion but with good reason.

"Oh yeah, I had forgotten about that! You don't use it much" Emily exclaimed. With that ability, Jade was definitely the worst enemy for beasts within the same rank as her and even worse for those lower in Rank than her. With her current strength, she can make an unranked beast explode into a bloody mess.

"Yeah, that's not my fault, though. Author-san had forgotten about it, so it was out of my hands". Jade replied.

"Oh, that makes sense. Anyway, the existence of flight-type monsters just made this whole situation even worse. I wonder how the weaker people are surviving" Emily replied, quickly getting depressed by the presence of flying beasts.

"Don't think about it too much; your hair will go grey. Do you want to look like an old lady in front of Muku?" Jade said teasingly.

"What!, no! Not that!. Okay, I won't think about it anymore!" Emily was given a fright by the prospect. Even more than what Jade expected.

"Hehehe, you're so easy". Jade teased again.

"You dare make fun of me! Hmph! I'm not talking to you anymore". Emily said with a pout and looked away from Jade.

"Okay, okay, I'm sorry, please don't ignore me, please, your majesty!" Jade exaggeratedly apologized.

"Okay, but only this once" Emily replied with a little smile on her face. Then both of them exploded into laughter at the event. But Jade's focus was mostly still on the approaching beast.

"Hey, thanks for that" Emily suddenly spoke with a serious expression on her face as she looked forward. She knew Jade was only just trying to cheer her up.

"Anytime, you're my sister from another mother after all" Jade replied with a little smile.

"Roar!!!!" Boom!

Before Emily could reply, Jade roared, as the giant bird had gotten close enough. And, as she said, it plunged to the ground in front of them and died on the spot.

"I wonder if it will taste like chicken" a voice suddenly sounded beside the girls.

Audrey suddenly appeared beside them, startling them both. Especially Jade who thought nothing could sneak up on her without her noticing it. Again, they were reminded about the strength a Rank Two possesses.

"What, huh?" She couldn't help but ask not understanding Audrey's statement.

"Well you see, like you, I also want to try out beast meat. However, it only started after I evolved to Rank Two when I was looking at the dead bodies of the lizards. But I was too embarrassed to mention it, luckily Mast...Muku finally agreed to let us try it...". Audrey explained herself and then disappeared.

"And this bird looks like a good place to start" She appeared again, this time the large three-metre tall bird on her shoulder. The scene looked quite comical actually, especially how she seemed to not be putting any effort into carrying it.

"I'll take this to Layla so she can put it on ice and preserve it after I drain all of its blood out". Audrey said then disappeared again.

"Huh?". Jade was again dumbfounded not knowing what to make of what had just happened. Emily beside her was no better.

"Well, whatever, at least I'll get to try beast meat sooner now" Since she couldn't completely wrap her head around it, she just shrugged it off and sat back down. Seeing this Emily couldn't help roll her eyes at Jade's personality, but she also sat back down. There was no need to trouble herself either.

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"You want me to do what?" Layla asked her mother, a deadpan expression on her face.

"Put this bird on ice so we can eat it later....is there a problem?" Audrey replied with some confusion, not even realising how weird what she was doing was.

".....okay, just put it on the ground I'll do it". Not having the energy to argue, Layla simply agreed.

"Wait a minute, let me fix it up a bit first". Audrey replied as she started plucking off the bird's feathers at hyper speed. She was so fast that Layla couldn't even see her hands. When Layla thought she was done, she sliced off the bird's head. Blood started gushing out, but it didn't fall to the ground; it formed an orb in the air instead. When it was all drained out, Audrey cut the gut open, took out the guts and put them in the blood-red dish she'd made with the beast's blood. After removing everything she felt should be removed, she threw away the blood-made dish along with the feathers and insides.

"Here". With an innocent smile, she headed the beast to Layla. Who felt like taking a step back from her but managed to hold herself back.

"Aren't you a bit too good at that?" Layla couldn't help but ask.

"Why thank you, but I don't deserve the praise; it was basically no different from a chicken, just a bit bigger," Audrey replied, still smiling.

{That wasn't a compliment!} Layla screamed in her head.

"Okay". But only agree in reality and put the bird on ice.

"Now, if you'll excuse me, I think Master will need my assistance soon", Audrey said, then disappeared from Layla's site.

{She's really making full use of her abilities, appearing and disappearing all over the place. And it seems the hold Muku's bloodline has on her might be stronger than we thought; as soon as she lets down her guard, she immediately calls him master. Well whatever, not like there's any real harm done}. Layla thought to herself as she went back to her task of monitoring the surroundings.

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"Is it about time master?" Audrey asked as soon as she appeared beside Muku.

"Yes, you can begin whenever you're ready". Muku replied, his face a bit pale from the tough task he was carrying out. He didn't even notice Audrey addressing him as master, though honestly, he wouldn't mind such a drop-dead gorgeous lady calling as such. But he'd never admit it.

"Okay, here I go. Please excuse me" Audrey said as she placed her hand on Muku's back and started channeling her mana into his body. Also unlike what Layla thought, she wasn't off guard when she called Muku master. After ranking up she'd noticed that resisting the way her class dictated she address Muku seemed to weaken her, on top of being increasingly harder to do. So she was just testing Layla's reaction to her calling Muku like that, and after seeing that she didn't react negatively, she gave up resisting.

"Ahh, that hits the spot". Muku said as his face returned back to normal from his pale look before.

"I'm glad to be of service master". Audrey replied, a beautiful smile blossoming on her face. Too bad Muku couldn't see it or he'd have definitely been mesmerized by the beautiful site.

"Is this really what made you scream like crazy before though?". Muku couldn't help but ask after remembering a certain night.

Hearing his question, Audrey's face immediately turned red. She didn't dare say anything in response. Especially after remembering how she climaxed for the first time in her life that night.

Chapter 73 Barbecue!

A few hours later.....

They were now close enough to the university, encased in a green barrier for Jade to be able to see it clearly. The journey shouldn't have taken so long but they had to avoid a few Rank Two beasts in their direct path. As well as fight off a few H-S R2s. Other than that, it was quite fun for them, especially when they saw people run away when they saw the mansion approach. I mean, who would stick around when a floating mansion approaches them?.

The experience also made the group realise that there were quite a number of people outside of the safe zones. Interestingly, all of them were Rank One!. This made sense, really; unranked people wouldn't be able to survive so long outside in the current world. It seems like humans were always adapting to the situation despite the many chickens in the safe zones.

"I think we should stop here. Can't get too close to the university with a floating mansion after all", Muku spoke up after Jade told him that they were around three kilometres away from the mansion. He then slowly placed the mansion on the ground and sighed in exhaustion. Despite the sufficient mana provided by Audrey, his body still felt sore from the continuous of such pure mana. This is something he only found out after they began: that Audrey's mana was a lot purer than the rest of them. It was likely due to being a higher rank, so his lower-rank body couldn't handle it too well.

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"So getting here took more time than we thought, because of that, we'll have to go check the university out tomorrow. It's better to show up in the morning so that we can be sure to make it back before sundown. Wouldn't want to travel at night, after all; put your hand down, Jade; I know you got perfect night vision". Muku addressed the group after they gathered in the lounge.

"I wasn't going to even talk about that...it's true, I'm awesome but I was going to talk about something else. We already got the beast meat, can I take Emily out to roast it now?" Jade explained herself, to which Muku didn't even know what to say and waved her off. He then got up and headed to his room to rest.

"Yay!" Jade screamed in joy and dragged Emily away while Audrey, Layla and Chloe followed behind. Hope headed for Muku's room instead.

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"Big brother, should I cast Hallowed Ground on you?" Hope softly asked when she got into Muku's room and saw him massaging his head with his eyes closed.

"No, it's fine; you don't have proper control over the spell yet, so you'll just be wasting most of your mana. I can handle this slight headache; it should go away in an hour or two". Muku replied, still not opening his eyes.

"If it was just a slight headache I know you wouldn't have been resting here but outside with the others instead. From your body language, I can tell that you're having trouble with your whole body; it's likely painful from using Audrey's higher-rank mana". Again, Hope displayed her absurdly high observation ability.

"....You know, sometimes it really scares me how observant you are". Muku replied while smiling wryly.

"Hehehe, I'll take that as a compliment. Also, as you said, my control over the spell is really bad, and I waste a lot of mana, but how will I improve if you don't let me practice?". Hope took what he said about her observation ability as a compliment; after all, without it, she might have died a long time ago with Mr Swindon's group. What she didn't know was that it also helped her escape being violated by them; there was no way they would have first targeted the middle-aged lady if she had been there. After she expressed her happiness with the unintended compliment, she gave Muku a reason to use her spell that he couldn't deny.

"Sigh, fine, do what you want. You're lucky you're my cute little sister or I'd have given you the Jade treatment for being so persistent." Muku relented, he didn't know how to argue with her logic after all.

"Hehehe, Hallowed Ground!" Hope giggled a bit then cast the spell. A gentle green as majestic as before radiated from her body and covered the whole room. Muku was enchanted by the sight, it was the first time he'd seen it after all. He could think of only one word to describe how Hope looked right now, and that was "Holy".

As soon as the light touched him, he felt his muscles immediately start to relax along with the rest of his body. Then his mind was targeted next, and his headache immediately stopped. He never felt so relaxed before in his life; I was so addicted. Sadly, the glow didn't last too long and started to fade; then, a weakened Hope fell onto her knees, barely keeping her eyes open. Muku quickly got up, picked her up and laid her on his bed.

"You should sleep for a while okay. Thank you for making me feel better". Muku said with a soft voice while sitting beside Hope and caressing her hair.

"Hehehe, big brother's bed". Hope said before drifting off into sleep, an innocent smile on her face.

"So this is how it feels like to have a little sister huh...her smile, I'll protect it with everything I have". Muku said before getting up and preparing to leave the room. He gave Hope one last gentle look before walking out.

"Now it's time to go see what that troublesome green cat is doing right now. I'm sure she's causing some kind of trouble right now". He spoke to himself as he walked downstairs.

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"Oh my god, it's ruined!?" Jade's loud cry was heard from the backyard.

"What's the problem?, Jade, what did you do?" Muku's voice was heard from behind them.

"Hey, why do always think it's me causing problems?". Jade immediately complained with a pitiful expression on her face.

"Simple really, because you're always causing trouble!". Muku replied, his expression unchanged by Jade's pitiful expression.

"Hmph!, well this time it's not me. It's Emily who has no control over her own fire. Instead of roasting the meat, she's burning it to a crisp!" Jade unhesitatingly sold Emily out seeing that Muku wasn't believing her when she said she wasn't the one causing trouble.

"Hey!, how could you!?" Emily shouted at Jade with a surprised expression from the unexpected betrayal as well as some embarrassment.

"Hmph! You think I forgot the times you betrayed me?. And not like he wouldn't have found out as soon as he looked at the meat coal you made?". Jade replied with a disdainful look on her face, as well as some satisfaction from getting a little revenge.

"Okay, let me see....oh my!". Muku got closer as he spoke; as soon as he saw the meat Emily "barbecued", he couldn't help but exclaim in surprise. Jade wasn't exaggerating when she said it had turned into coal. Luckily, she's only tried to roast a little part, or all the meat would have been burned to a crisp.

"I'm sorry, my control is a lot worse than I thought. I had only been practising how to make the flames hotter, not less so." Emily apologized with her head held down in embarrassment.

"Don't worry, I'm sure you'll be able to control it better when you reach rank two. For now, why don't we try something else?" Muku spoke, trying to cheer her up.

"I'm open to suggestions" Emily replied, already feeling better.

"Why don't I try?" Chloe chimed in.

"Ah, right! Chloe can just electrocute it until it's cooked!" Jade exclaimed in excitement; she really wanted to eat the beast's meat.

"Okay, but try it on a smaller part first...here" Muku said while cutting off the other drumstick off the bird.

"Okay, here I go". Chloe said as she held her hands out, lightning came out of her hands and hit the large floating drumstick. Smoke quickly started coming out of the drumstick, along with an enticing aroma. Everyone couldn't help but gulp down some saliva, wanting to dig in at that very moment. Then they blinked; the meat went from undercooked to almost charred in less than a second. Chloe had lost her concentration due to fantasizing about how the meat would taste.

"Oh, crap! I'm sorry!" Chloe, noticing what had happened, immediately apologised. Emily then came forward and patted her shoulder in consolation, a look of camaraderie visible in her eyes.

"It's fine, it happens. I got another idea we could try" Muku said with a smile on his face.

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"Tsk!, why didn't you do this earlier?" Jade complained while thinking of the two wasted drumsticks.

"Keep talking, and you won't get any", Muku replied without looking at her.

"I'm sorry, it won't happen again" Jade immediately apologized with a fearful expression on her face. He wouldn't refuse to give her some meat when it was her idea, and she caught it, right?

Right now they were all looking at the makeshift stove Muku made. It was a silver flat surface where sliced-up pieces of meat were roasting. The heat was coming from Emily's flame that was burning below it. If the heat became too much, he'd either add more layers to the metal or Emily would stop fueling it for a bit. With this new method, the meat was perfectly roasted without wasting any more.

After a while of roasting, all of the meat was cooked. And everyone was looking at the large dish full of meat, especially Jade and Audrey. Both unwittingly let out their canines and fangs respectively. It was actually the first time Jade managed to let her canine teeth out without a full transformation. For her control to improve so much due to food made everyone roll their eyes at how much of a foody she was, but they didn't say anything.

"This smells so great, although I want to make Jade the genie pig to see if this is poisonous or not. I think that will be unfair, so let's all take a bite at the same time". With those words from Muku, everyone took a piece from the dish and bit down after giggling at what he said. Jade just rolled her eyes, feeling like arguing would be wasting time right now.

As soon as they all bit it, they all felt a weak stream of energy come out of the meat and enter their body. Not to mention that it was the tastiest meat any of them had ever eaten.

Surprisingly they didn't eat even a quarter of what they usually ate before they felt full.

"Ahh!" Emily screamed in surprise, then everyone immediately looked at her.

Chapter 74 Hidden Attributes!

[Agility has increased by 1 point due to beast meat consumed]

The above prompt is the reason why Emily screamed in surprise. Just when she thought nothing could surprise her anymore, this happened.

"What's wrong?". Jade asked while still eyeing the meat even though she was already full. Emily didn't mind her distracted expression and explained what happened. At the end of her expression, even Jade was fully concentrated on listening to what she was saying.

"So what you're saying is, eating the meat improved your dexterity?" Jade asked for confirmation.

"Yeah". Emily replied while nodding.

"No, fair; why didn't my agility improve then?" Jade, who couldn't take it when good things didn't also happen to her when they happened to others, quickly complained.

"Maybe your agility is too high for the meat to make a difference", Layla chimed in with a thoughtful look on her face.

"Hey!, are you calling me slow?" Emily immediately protested.

"Well, you definitely aren't faster than anyone in the group. Even Hope is faster than you...maybe it's because of your large chest." Jade immediately took the chance to make fun of Emily's chest, which she secretly envied.

"Hmph!". Emily didn't know how to refuse the statement despite knowing that Jade was making fun of her. Her chest really made it hard for her to fight while moving, which she found out the hard way when she fought the giant lizard. Though now that she thought of it, she was never good at sports either.

"So you're saying, the lower one's agility is, the easier it is to increase by consuming beast meat?" Chloe asked Layla, she was pretty interested in the topic.

"Very likely, but we'll have to experiment by eating more beast meat", Layla replied; she wasn't too sure yet after only one case, though she felt she was at least close to the truth.

"Maybe it's not just agility that can be increased from eating beast meat. I might be reading too much into it but I don't think it's a coincidence that an agile beast's meat increased Emily's agility. Maybe a strength-type beast would have increased her strength instead". Muku gave his own take on the matter after thinking for a bit.

"That makes sense, wouldn't that mean we have hidden attributes on top of our elements and ranks? I wonder how many they are!" Chloe excitedly added to Muku's statement. Being a seasoned otaku, such things were what excited her the most.

"Hmm, hidden attributes. That sounds appropriate". Layla agreed with the term Chloe called it.

"Yeah, yeah, whatever; what I got from this conversation is that we will have to hunt down and eat as many different kinds of beasts as we can, right?". Jade asked the group with sparkling eyes from the excitement she was feeling. She was already imagining herself sitting on top of a mountain made of different kinds of roasted beast meat.

"This incorrigible foody," Emily said while rolling her eyes at Jade.

"You say that, but none of you refused the meat or the salt I offered you to make the meat taste better", Jade replied with a smile, unmoved by Emily's comment.

"Tsk, whatever". Emily replied not knowing how to retort.

"This time, I agree with Jade; of course, we won't be as crazy as she suggested by actively hunting down different beasts for their meat. We'll try whichever we find, as long as they look edible. For now, let us go back inside. It's getting dark out here.". Muku said, then carried the large dish still full of meat into the house. The others followed after him.

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Around 7 PM.....

Hope finally woke up. She went downstairs and found the others watching anime together and laughing. Interestingly, everyone in the group was a fan of anime, Audrey included. Layla just recently got into it though. They needed to relax every once in a while and this was a great way to do it.

Hope quietly joined them and sat on Muku's lap as if it were the most natural thing in the world. The others looked at her a bit but didn't say anything; they felt that, eventually, their turn would come, so there was no need to make a scene. Even Audrey thought of it, then blushed to herself for a bit before focusing back on the anime they were watching.

"Grrrrr!" Around thirty minutes later, Hope's stomach made a hungry sound, embarrassed her greatly.

"Oh, you're hungry, you should have just said so. Go to the kitchen and get yourself some meat. If you want to heat it up, me and Emily can help you out." Muku said to Hope, who quietly nodded and went off to the kitchen under everyone else's intense gazes.

"Do you all want some too?" Muku couldn't help but ask seeing the hungry looks in their eyes. Hearing his question, they all shook their heads and refocused on the laptop. Likely too embarrassed to admit that although they weren't hungry yet, they still wanted to eat more meat.

"Well, I do, bye". Surprisingly, Muku admitted to wanting some, immediately got up and followed Hope under everyone else's surprised gaze. He also had been wanting to have more but was too embarrassed to say it, but he finally couldn't take it anymore.

Seeing him go, they looked at each other, and as if on cue, Layla paused the anime, and they all sped for the kitchen.

"Ah!" Hope screamed in surprise, seeing all of them running toward her with a hungry look in their eyes.

After a while, everyone was holding a plate and merrily eating some meat. However, no one got an attribute increase this time. But they did tell Hope about the possibility of getting her into the know.

....

"Umm boss, there's a large mansion that suddenly appeared around three kilometres away from here. It was spotted a few hours back by a group of our scouts". An average-looking blonde lady said while looking at a young man with red hair sitting in front of her with his legs resting on the desk, his eyes closed.

"Oh, is that so? did they investigate it closer?" The young man asked for more than.

"No, they felt that it was too mysterious, not to mention the smoke accompanied by vague voices that came from it. They felt it was better to report it so that a stronger team is sent there to investigate if necessary". The blonde lady answered.

"No, let's stand down and watch for now. Maybe we got ourselves some nice ghost neighbours and they'll visit us soon to introduce themselves". The young man gave his order along with a joke.

"Sigh, sometimes I'm not sure if you're joking or not but okay. There's another issue that needs the agent addressing. We're running out of food, and with every food store or shop around us destroyed, we can't easily find it. Though even if they weren't destroyed, we would have run out of it soon enough since there's no longer any food production." The blonde lady reported another issue.

"Oh, that, that's a real problem, isn't it? Why not eat beast meat then... most of them just look like oversized versions of what we eat anyway" The young man made a suggestion.

"With all due respect sir, only a mad people would consume alien meat just because it sort of looks like the meat they know. Even mushrooms that kind of look the same can't all be eaten.". The blonde lady strongly denied the idea.

"But some of them can. Anyway, if you're going to deny the idea so strongly, then you better have a better solution to the problem. And why are we even worrying about feeding everyone anyway? Wasn't it already agreed upon that everyone would look after themselves?" The young man replied.

"I do, actually, and as for why we're feeding everyone, it's because you're secretly a good person who couldn't bear to see others suffer so much." The blonde-haired lady spoke with a cheeky smile on her face.

"Tsk, whatever. Just tell me the plan and go away already; I want to rest," The young man said while rolling his eyes.

"Okay, there were four rice silos around fifteen kilometres east of here before the apocalypse, so now it should be maybe thirty kilometres away. Although they likely also fell during the evolution, we should still be able to salvage a lot of the rice by moving away a bit of rubble. That should last us long enough for us to figure out our next step." The blonde lady explained her plan.

"Thirty kilometres!?! Might as well kill beasts instead, then! Do you know how long such a distance is?. Not to mention the beasts we'll definitely meet. You're only saying this because you weren't there when a Rank Two flew us by. I'm telling you, if that thing didn't see us as little ants unworthy of its stomach, we wouldn't be here right now!" The young man exploded out in complaints.

"I know it's dangerous, but it's all we can do. Even if we go with your idea of killing beasts, how many will we be able to kill in a day? And can you guarantee that there will always be enough close by to kill? Not to mention, what if they are too strong to kill, and you get killed instead? Please, Jack, this week's our only choice" The blonde-haired lady spoke emotionally, even calling the young man by his name.

"Sigh, I'll do it if you're even willing to break your own promise to keep our relationship professional when working. Seriously though Sarah, sometimes I wonder which one of us is the real leader here. It's like I'm just a puppet while you're the one holding my strings. This is why there are rumours of me being henpecked going around". Jack agreed to her plan, but not without grumbling about it.

"Hehehe, that's why I love you. And don't mind the rumours; what do they know about our love, huh?" Sarah completely tossed out professionalism as she spoke while walking over to Jack and giving him a hug, pressing his head on her sizeable chest.

"Of course, you'd say that. Such a devious girlfriend you are. Anyway, what about the other side? Do you think they will help us?". Jack asked after taking in a bit of his girlfriend's intoxicating scent.

"Sigh, they have been getting more unruly as time passes by. It's like they are losing their humanity and turning into beasts in human skin. So I'm not sure if they will help. At this point, I'm actually afraid that they will backstab us actually". Sarah replied to Jack's question. Completely ignoring how he called her devious, he has been calling her that even before the apocalypse after all, but their love has always remained strong.

"Truly a shame, to think they'd allow such little power to go to their heads. I wish they meet a Rank Two soon and be humbled. To think it all began after we barely took down a Half-step R2 beast just two days ago. How can a person's head grow so much in such little time?" Jack expressed his disappointment in his old schoolmates, whom he thought were comrades.

"Well, all I know is that if we understood them, then we would likely be no different from them. So I think it's okay for us not to understand" Sarah replied to him in a soft voice. But she didn't get a reply back. She looked down at him and noticed that he'd fallen asleep in her arms.

"Sleep tight, my crimson mage," She said with a gentle smile and hugged him even tighter. Soon even she fell asleep....

The next morning.....

"Everyone ready? Let's go! Anyone who isn't standing in front of me within 2 minutes is staying behind!" After a hectic morning of the girls running around the place preparing for their visit to the university. Muku called out in exasperation after an hour of delaying; even after that, they used the full two minutes before showing up.

"Finally! Next time, I'm waking you all up three hours earlier," Muku said to the girls with an eye roll. To think he'd experience the legendary "women always take forever to prepare" for himself.

"Sorry!" They all apologized. Audrey and Layla just looked on with amusement in their eyes. The two of them weren't joining the others since someone had to guard the base. They weren't too excited about it but it's something that had to be done.

'Now get on" Muku said as he created a large silver disk enough for everyone to stand on. The girls got on with curiosity in their eyes; Jade was especially excited; they could guess what would happen next.

"Why didn't you ever do this before?" Jade asked Muku with an accusatory gaze on her face. Practically blaming him for all the walking they did in the past.

"Because I only thought of it recently, not to mention I didn't have enough mana back then. And it's not like you couldn't have thought of it and told me". Muku replied while also getting on the hovering silver disk.

"Hehe, this reminds me of the silver surfer," Chloe said while looking at the disk with glowing eyes.

"Okay Layla and Audrey, we're off. See you in a bit" Muku said farewell to the two ladies that were staying behind as the others waved at them, and they waved back.

Whoosh!

The disk flew off into the distance at a decent speed. There was no wind resistance; it was as if the wind was getting pushed away beforehand, which it was. In less than thirty minutes, the group was already close to the university gate.

"We don't want to startle them just in case they are like Tom's base, so let's walk from here" Muku spoke while getting rid of the disk and after they landed on the ground.

"Aww, why!?, can't you just leave me out here with the disk then?". Jade said, having enjoyed the ride too much.

"You can stay if you want, but I'm not wasting my mana for that" Muku didn't even look at her as he walked toward the gate. The other girls followed behind him, completely ignoring Jade. She grumbled for a bit then followed behind them.

The gate was actually wide open with no guards on it like the stadium. Likely for the same reason, of it being pointless since it was within the barrier and beasts couldn't get through. On top of that, not many new people have been turning up after the first few days of the apocalypse.

So the group easily walked through. But their clean clothes and rosy faces, seemingly out of place in the apocalypse, did attract quite a bit of attention from the people who were loitering around the place. Though no one came too close to them. Surprisingly most of them were Rank Ones, unlike Tom's base. Sadly the auras they gave off were of weak classes that likely wouldn't

do well in battle, but a few seemed to be decently strong. Even stronger auras were coming from the large university building in front of them.

"Hmm, now that we're here, how are we going to search for people we might know?" Chloe asked, although she didn't think she'd meet anyone she knew, she was just asking for the others since she happened to think of it.

"Well, that's certainly a problem" Muku replied as they stepped through the university entrance.

"Hmm?" Jade made a confused sound as soon as she passed through the door.

Sniff! Sniff!

Before the others could see what was wrong,, she sniffed at Emily, then in a certain direction and ran off. The others could somewhat guess what was going on and so they quickly followed after her. The group's weird actions caught everyone's attention, but still, no one got in their way. Their presence was quickly made known to Jack's group.

.....

"Hmm? A group of young people who look too clean for the apocalypse?" Sarah asked for confirmation from the informant, who nodded in agreement.

"Truly odd" She commented, not sure what action to take next.

"What are you thinking about?, let's go check em out. Maybe it's our ghost neighbours that came to visit". Jack said while getting off his seat and heading for the door without even waiting for Sarah's response.

"Hey!, why are you always so reckless!?" She screamed as she ran after him. The informant thought for a bit then followed after them.

.....

Inside a teacher's office that had been turned into a living space...

"Come on, little girl, just agree to be mine, and I promise you a luxurious life that no one else can give you in this apocalypse. You know that I'm practically

the strongest person here right?" An average-looking, brown-haired young man said to the young girl he was pinning against the wall. A disgusting, evil, and lecherous look on his face as he spoke. His two minions laughing in the background.

"Just r*pe the little b*tch boss, there's nothing she can do to stop you anyway. I doubt she'll be able to refuse you after that. Hahahaha," One of the minions spoke with a vicious and cruel smile on his ugly face. The other one also laughed along beside him, clearly enjoying the show.

The young girl, who looked about fourteen years old with blond hair, blue eyes and wearing slightly tattered clothes, started shaking even more. Her look of fear from before quickly turned into one of horror after hearing an unstoppable torrent of tears running down her cheeks. Despite her current state, she actually looked like a slightly younger version of someone in Muku's group.

Seeing this, the average-looking young man felt his blood hit up even more. He enjoyed seeing such a look in his victims before violating them. He immediately reached out to tear the little girl's clothes off. Just as his hand grabbed her shirt by the shoulder...

Bang!

"What are you doing!?" The door was kicked open and Jade's loud and angry voice was heard.

"Jade stop causing trouble! Why are you kicking down people's doors!?" Emily called out as she arrived beside Jade. She then glanced inside the room out of curiosity, the site she saw made her freeze on the spot.

What she saw was something she would never have imagined in her wildest dreams or even nightmares. Her little sister, beloved little sister, looked so thin and frail, tears streaming down her puffy eyes, likely having cried for a very long time. And a disgusting man about to...

BOOM!

Emily's aura exploded along with golden flames that raged into the room. Before the average-looking young man or his minions could make sense of what was happening. They were erased out of existence, not even their ashes remained...

The young girl in the room had long closed her eyes, already thinking that she was going to die on the spot. Yet even after a few seconds, all she felt on her skin was a gentle warmth and nothing more. She curiously opened her eyes and saw a weirdly awe-inspiring scene; she was completely enveloped

in golden flames along with everything else in the room. Her mind short-circuited, not understanding what was happening; one second, she was about to be violated, and the next, she was standing in a golden sea of flames that didn't burn her at all.

Tap tap tap

Just as she was still trying to make sense of what was happening, she heard the tapping sound of footsteps approaching her. She immediately tensed up not knowing what was coming. But she still kept her gaze fixated on the direction the sound was coming from. She could now vaguely see a silhouette of a person which seemed familiar for some reason. Then the flames started to part as the silhouette got closer to her until the person was completely reviewed.

Seeing who it was. Blonde hair, yellow eyes and a face that looks so much like her's that she disliked it. Tears started coming out of her eyes again as she held her mouth.

"Big sis..." She called out longingly with a croaking voice behind her hands that covered her mouth.

"Elsa...". Emily said as she took her little sister into her tight embrace; both sisters started crying in each other's arms. The flames slowly started disappearing until there were none left. Then Elsa felt Emily suddenly get heavier as well as suddenly go quiet. She looked at her sister's face and noticed that she had fainted, but a happy smile was still frozen on her face.

"What was that!?". Jade exclaimed while sneakily wiping away the tears that had gathered in her eyes. She couldn't help it, the reunion of the two sisters was just too emotional.

"Holy flames of judgement?". Chloe replied also wiping away her own tears.

"You and Big Brother really like putting the word judgement in everything, don't you? You're even naming other people's spells now". Hope tried to joke around to ease the atmosphere but her face looked even worse than Jade and Chloe as tears were still streaming down her face.

"Whatever, this is not the time; I think we should help the little girl before she falls over with Emily", Chloe replied, a little embarrassed since it was kind of true.

"Hello Elsa, I'm Jade, your big sister's friend; although we never met before, I'm sure your sister has mentioned me before, right?" Jade spoke softly to Elsa as she walked closer to her. To which Elsa nodded.

"Good, let me help you with Emily, okay?" Receiving a positive reply from Elsa, Jade smiled as she took Emily from the struggling little girl who clearly hadn't had a decent meal for a while.

The others then stepped into the room but didn't get too close to Elsa since she was likely still shaken up from what happened. So wouldn't want strangers close to her.

"You, I know you". Elsa's now less croaky voice sounded as she looked at Muku. Which surprised everyone since she shouldn't have ever seen Muku before.

Chapter 76 Do you want to get us all killed?

"What a rude kid....and where do you know me from?" Muku asked curiously.

"I caught big sister looking at a picture of you on her phone almost every day before the apocalypse" Elsa unhesitatingly sold out her sister in less than five minutes since she saved her.

"Oh.... I don't think that's something you should be telling me. Though I do wonder where Emily got a picture of me; I never use photos on social media or anything like that," Muku replied while smiling wryly, of course, the latter part of the sentence was something he only thought but didn't say out loud.

"If you're wondering where she got your picture, she took it when you were distracted around six months ago. The jerk even refused to share it!" Jade added to the fire by revealing even more dirt on Emily. And like Muku, she kept the latter statement to herself. Chloe didn't know whether to laugh or cry for Emily for having such a sister and best friend.

"Okay, okay, whatever, can we move on to something else now? Here, place her on this" Muku spoke with an eye roll while creating a floating board for Jade to lay down Emily on. Elsa looked at the scene with curious eyes; she hadn't seen many mystical abilities in action, so everything they did was new and interesting to her.

"Isn't she too calm for someone who just went through all that?" Chloe couldn't help but ask, seeing Elsa, who now looked quite normal, other than her extra thin body.

"Oh, that; I remember Emily saying that her little sister is a weirdo and doesn't easily show her real emotions to most people. So maybe that's what's happening now". Jade replied, unbothered by Elsa's calmness. Hearing her speak, Elsa looked at the unconscious Emily with a look of betrayal in her eyes. Clearly, she forgot that she had just sold out her big sister not too long ago.

"So she's like Layla then?". Hope commented.

"Yeah, probably something like that". Jade replied while nodding in agreement.

"I wouldn't advise saying it in front of Layla, though... unless maybe you want to know what being an ice cube feels like", Chloe immediately cautioned them.

"Pfft, there's no way Layla would do such a thing....right?" Jade laughed not believing it, but she wasn't as sure at the end after remembering how she was the reason Layla learned her ice spikes skill.

"She probably wouldn't, but I won't take the chance. Thanks for the warning Chloe". Unlike Jade, Hope wasn't suicidal, so she took heed of the warning.

"Hey, is my big sister going to be okay?" Elsa interjected after seeing them go off track.

"Oh, right, don't worry kid, your sister will be fine. This is a regular thing for her. In fact, she'll wake up stronger". Jade replied to Elsa.

"Aren't you going to introduce us?" Chloe asked Jade.

"What, why should I? We all never met her before; you do it!" Jade replied, not wanting to do the troublesome task.

"Umm, actually, I know you; big sis showed me your photos. And since you know me too. It can be said we know each other, right?". Elsa spoke after Jade before anyone else could say anything.

"Tsk, so you're also a smartass like she said" Jade was annoyed but she still introduced the group to Elsa. Though not without complaining and demanding more meat when they return.

"With the introductions done, I think we should return back to the base for now. We can come back another day." Muku said as he walked out of the room and the board on which Emily was on, floated after him. Seeing the board float away, Elsa immediately followed after it with a little agency and panic in her eyes, it seemed she wasn't as calm as she seemed. The other girls followed after them.

.....

"Oh hello, you must be the boss of this here establishment. I'm Muku, and this is my time; sorry for the little commission one of my people caused; I hope you can ignore it," Muku said with a smile while looking at Jack. Jack was surprised by how he easily identified him before he even said anything. The people behind him wanted to say something but he stopped them with a raise of his hand.

"Ah, I see that you're a smart person, I like smart people. Anyway, something came up and we have to leave for now. But we'll return soon enough and properly talk. I'm sure you've already noticed our humble aboard, a few kilometres north of here, so we can be said to be neighbours now. And thanks for not snooping around, that would have put all of us in an awkward position. Ah!, where are my manners? I didn't even ask for the base leader's name..". Muku rumbled on for a bit, the harmless smile not leaving his face.

"I'm Jack". Jack didn't say much in response.

"Oh, so it's Leader Jack, nice name, nice name indeed. Well, leader Jack, like I said, we'll have to talk another day," Muku said while looking at Jack, his expression unchanging.

"Hey!, you think you can just come here and do whatever you...Mhmh Mhmh!" Sarah exploded in anger, but before she could finish what she wanted to say, Jack covered her mouth and signalled his people to open a path for Muku's group. To which they unwillingly complied.

"Thank you for your understanding Leader Jack. Oh, and that little lady over there is one of my people's younger sisters, so I'll be taking her with me. I'm sure you can see the resemblance they have. So you understand right?" Muku said while gesturing for his group to pass through. Jack only nodded, his hand not leaving Sarah's mouth whose eyes were now basically burning with anger. She really didn't like it when someone didn't show respect for her man.

Muku then followed after his group and left under the watchful gazes of the university safe zone people. They were all surprised when the board on which the unconscious girl was on, increased in size and the rest got on and it flew away.

...

"Why were you so submissive to that asshole! How dare he come to our base, do what he wants and leave!?" Sarah shouted at Jack after he finally removed his hand from her mouth.

"WOMAN, DO YOU WANT TO GET US ALL KILLED!?" Jack exploded, startling everyone including Sarah, this was the first time he ever shouted at her

"I'm sorry for shouting; I lost my cool for a bit there", Jack apologised, seeing her eyes getting teary and showing a wronged expression.

"You see that man...no, that monster. He could have easily killed every one of us in this safe zone. In fact, even the green-haired girl could do it alone. The rest of them didn't seem like pushovers either. I'm currently at 10% Half-step Rank Two and yet I felt like an ant in front of them!" Jack explained himself.

"Really, it can't be that bad, right? I'm sure we could have held our own if we joined hands". Sarah was still sceptical and felt that Jack was exaggerating.

"Can you go check on the situation in Dean's room?" Jack didn't argue with her and gave her an order instead. Although she didn't know why he'd go off track like that, she still did as she was told.

"My god!" Sarah exclaimed as strength left her legs and she fell to the ground, her hands on her mouth, fear in her eyes. Everyone immediately went over to see what was wrong, they were all also struck with fear when they looked into the room. Though Jack didn't even bother to go look, he already knew that there would be nothing good in there.

The room was empty and spotless. And that was the scary part. When Muku's group came, there was a lot of furniture in it but now there was nothing. Not a thing, not even Dean and his two goons. The same dean who was also a 10% Half-step Rank Two like Jack. Which meant only one thing. He, his minions, and all the furniture in the room were destroyed into nothingness. And yet the walls were untouched.

Such absurd strength! Such absurd control over it! Everyone felt cold sweat run down their spines with horror filling their eyes. They felt gratitude for Jack and his instincts, or they would have provoked those monsters and gotten erased from existence.

"I'm sorry; I'll never argue with you again! I'll always do what you say from now on" Sarah said after wobbling herself to Jack and giving him a hug. Though it was more to seek comfort and safety in his arms than to show how apologetic she was.

"It's fine. And there shouldn't be a need to fear them too much. From Dean's personality, I'm certain it was his fault that he got killed. I'm actually glad that they didn't kill the rest of us off in anger, so they shouldn't be unreasonable killers," Jack said, trying to comfort Sarah along with everyone else.

"So what will we do now? How will we deal with them?" Sarah asked.

"I'm not sure myself, well just have to figure something out when they show up next time. Though that doesn't mean we should stop living, so let's continue with our plans as we made them before they showed up" Jack said while clenching his fist. He never felt so weak, even in front of the Rank Two beast even though it was a lot stronger than the monsters. Back then, it just made sense for him for the beast to be that strong.

But for fellow humans to make him feel so weak?. How was that possible with all the work he put into getting stronger?

Chapter 77 Layla's request

"Enjoying the ride?" Jade asked Elsa who was sitting in the disk beside the unconscious Emily, with her eyes looking all over the place.

"Very much". She replied simply.

"Tsk, this kid really reminds me of Layla, are we sure they aren't related?" Jade spoke while rolling her eyes at how calm Elsa was, totally unlike anything you'd expect from a little girl like her.

"Just let her be. Haven't you noticed that you're actually the only hyper one in the group? If anything, you're the strange one here" Chloe defended Layla and Elsa.

"Hey!" Jade exclaimed before pouting.

"Look, everyone, we're almost there", Muku spoke up, cutting off the girls' conversation as they all looked forward.

"Wait, you've got a mansion?... how's it still standing?" Elsa asked curiously. The mansion really looked majestic but out of place surrounded by ruins all over the place.

"We're just that awesome kid. Stick with us, and you'll see things you've never thought possible," Jade spoke up, shamelessly taking some of the credit for something that had nothing to do with her. Everyone, including Elsa, rolled their eyes. She didn't know the details, but she was almost certain it had nothing to do with Jade.

...

"Welcome back everyone... what happened to Emily?" Audrey welcomed them and asked about Emily's condition. However, she wasn't too worried after seeing that no one seemed particularly worried about her, so it shouldn't be anything serious.

"Oh, nothing much, she probably realised almost all her potential after seeing her sister in trouble. Which, although it makes sense, is a bit exaggerated when she already had the power to save her without blowing up like that. But I guess that's just how the power of "family and friendship" that's always mentioned in anime works" Jade replied nonchalantly while heading for the kitchen.

"Oh, is that so. Then this pretty little thing should be her little sister, right? Though it's rather obvious, she basically looks like a younger Emily with a different eye colour. Hello, honey, I'm Audrey, what's your name?" Audrey spoke while walking over to Elsa with a gentle smile on her face.

Elsa didn't reply, she just looked at her in a daze. She had never seen anyone so beautiful before. She felt like she was standing in the presence of an angel or even a goddess.

"What's wrong sweetie?" Audrey asked Elsa with a worried look on her face after seeing her dazed expression. She could somewhat guess what the problem might be, but she didn't want to be as narcissistic as her master.

"You're really beautiful". Elsa subconsciously blurted out what she was thinking. Everyone couldn't help but smile in understanding. If they hadn't stayed with Audrey every day, they might have been just as dazed as Elsa was right then.

"Oh, why thank you, sweetie, And you're super cute yourself. So are you going to tell me your name now?" Audrey accepted the compliment with a smile, even if she knew she was beautiful, she still liked being told so by others.

"Ah, right, sorry for my lack of manners. I'm Elsa, Emily's younger sister. It's nice to meet you" Elsa finally told Audrey her name after collecting herself.

"What a polite little girl, with a nice name too. Oh, and that cold-looking girl over there is my daughter, Layla; I hope we can all get along okay," Audrey introduced Layla, who just nodded at Elsa from a distance without saying anything in response. Elsa nodded back. She couldn't understand how such a young-looking lady could have such an old daughter, but she didn't pry.

"Hey, want to take a bath with me and change out of those old clothes?" Audrey asked Elsa, though before Elsa could even respond, she was already being dragged away. After she realised that she couldn't shake off Audrey's grip, she resigned herself to her fate. Plus, a bath didn't sound bad anyway; she hadn't had one in quite a while, after all.

"Seems Audrey has taken quite a liking to little Elsa," Muku said with a smile.

"Yeah, maybe she sees Layla in her and wants to do all the things she couldn't do with Layla when she was younger?" Chloe theorised.

"Why can't she just do the things with me now then? I'm not that old yet" Layla spoke up, a bit of jealousy in her voice. Seems she loved her mother more than she let on.

"Anyway, I reckon you returned so quickly because of Emily's situation. Does this mean you're going to return there again soon?" Layla spoke again before anyone could respond to her prior statement.

"Yeah, but we'll all go next time, along with the mansion. I spoke with their leaders, so they shouldn't be too alarmed then... probably". Muku replied, not bringing up Layla's jealous statement.

"Oh, okay" Layla went back to her small replies as soon as she got the answers she wanted. Everyone was long used to it, so we weren't offended by it.

"Wait! Did Jade go to the kitchen!?" Muku suddenly remembered something he'd overlooked.

"Don't worry, I've already put forth countermeasures" Layla spoke before he ran off to the kitchen.

"Layla you jerk!". Jade called out as she came back from the kitchen, an annoyed look on her face.

"What did she do?" Hope asked curiously.

"She out the meat into the shadow realm and I can't access it!" Jade explained.

"What!?, she can do that?" Hope exclaimed as the others also widened their eyes in surprise.

"Apparently so!" Jade replied while pouting and glaring at Layla.

"It's a new spell I created when you were out. My potential realisation is now at 99%. I'm sure all that I need to do now is to figure out how to enter the shadow realm mystery and I'll rank up". Layla explained. She spoke as if she was telling them nothing of consequence when she was literally one step from ranking up and even knew what she needed to do.

"Ah, no wonder your aura seems to have gotten stronger. Well, congratulations then" Muku congratulated her with a smile on his face.

"Okay, tell me something. Does your family have some kind of secret cultivation method or something?. Coz first it was your mother and now you are about to rank up as well. Aren't we all friends here? why not share it with us?" Jade spoke, her pout getting even worse.

"Instead of always jumping around the place, maybe you should try meditating". Layla didn't miss the chance to educate Jade. She felt Jade was too hyper for her own good, especially for this matter of potential realisation.

"Tsk, whatever, keep your secrets then" But Jade wasn't so easily educated. So she grumbled and walked away, going to her room.

"So you realised more potential while meditating huh?" Hope asked Layla.

"Yes," Layla replied while nodding.

"Okay, I'll go to my room and try it as well then. I feel my new spell might be the key to my ranking up" Hope said, then also ran upstairs. Although she didn't mind the others ranking up before her, he'd rather not always be one of the last ones like usual this time as well.

"Well, since there's nothing to do right now anyway, I might as well go meditate as well. I haven't improved in quite a while, after all; I'm practically the weakest one in the group now," Chloe said before also going to her room.

"Yeah, I think I'll just go take a nap" Muku said while planning to also go to his room. He had no idea what to do to realise his potential at the moment, so he might as well relax, right? But he felt a hand grab his own from behind.

"Need anything?" He asked the person.

"Can you spar with me please?. I technically should be stronger than you right now, and yet I don't feel like I am really stronger for some reason". Layla spoke. Her eyes burned with battle intent.

"Hmm, you want to spar, huh? What an interesting idea! Maybe we should get everyone else to join in....other than Hope. It can help us learn how to fight humans. After all, there's no guarantee that we'll always meet people weaker than us and don't want to fight. I doubt we're the only ones with classes so strong," Muku mused the idea; he quite liked it, actually.

"Sure, they can join in, but I'll fight you first!" Layla hadn't thought that far, all she wanted was to see if she could beat Muku. Who's depth none of them could figure out. To them it seemed like the more potential he realised, the less he tried in battle. It was like it all became too easy for him.

"Okay okay, just go easy on me. But let's first gather the others for a meal, then do it," Muku replied to Layla with a wry smile. This girl was really too competitive, she even wanted to beat up her teacher now?

"Good, I'll go notify everyone then", Layla said, then ran upstairs. Muku sat back down; her enthusiasm was kind of annoying, actually. But he had to admit he wanted to see how his team could do against him and each other.

Chapter 78 Muku Vs Layla

The next morning.....

Sadly for Layla, her idea was pushed to the next day for various reasons. The most important one was that Emily was still out cold, and they didn't want to leave her out. Also, Elsa needed to settle in a bit more, while the others had basically already thought of what they would be doing for the rest of the day.

The hours went by so slowly for Layla that she felt like time was standing still. But finally, the next morning arrived, and everyone was eating the last of the bird meat. When Elsa first had a taste of it the previous day it miraculously returned her body to how it looked like before she was starved and even got rid of the dark circles beneath her eyes. Along with increasing her agility by 100 points, though she was surprisingly still a lot slower than everyone on the team. It seems unawakened people can never stand up to awakened ones, especially stronger ones like those in Muku's group. Emily had woken up somewhere in the night after seeing her little sister sleeping next to her; she pulled her closer with a smile on her face and went back to sleep.

The next morning Emily helped Elsa change out of the oversized dress she was wearing. Apparently, when she had gotten some clothes for herself before, she had also gotten some for Elsa just out of habit. Which was super fortunate for Elsa as clothes weren't so easily available anymore.

"What's wrong Big sis?" Elsa asked Emily after seeing her constantly getting distracted all morning.

"Huh? Oh, nothing", Emily replied, clearly having something on her mind.

"Thinking about the university incident?" Jade said, shocking Emily on how she got it right so easily.

"No need to be shocked, I've known you long enough to at least tell that much. And you really shouldn't beat yourself up for it, the scum deserved it. You should hear some of the things they did from Elsa when you have the time. Then you'll know that you actually did a good thing. I'm certain everyone here also agrees with me" Surprisingly for the first time ever, Jade actually spoke in a soft voice as she tried to reassure Emily that what she did wasn't wrong. And like she said, everyone thought the same, so they nodded while giving Emily reassuring gazes.

"Thank you for trying to make me feel better Jade, everyone. I'll try to get over it, but for now, we have something to do, don't we?" Emily expressed her gratitude.

More than feeling guilty for killing the garbage humans, she was worried that the others wouldn't look at her the same way as before and would be disgusted or something like that. But seeing how they still looked at her the same way, she was glad and most of her worries evaporated. This surprised her as she was certain that the previous her would likely be depressed for at least a year from the thought that she killed people. It seems she had changed more than she'd thought, whether for the better or otherwise, she wasn't sure yet. Though as long as she had the others, and now with her sister as well, she didn't care too much either way.

"Oh yeah! That reminds me, so what percentage are you at now?" Hope asked, eyes full of curiosity.

"99%". Emily replied, a slightly prideful expression on her face.

"Sigh, and now they are two" Jade said with a bleak look on her face.

"Hehe. Wait, who's the other one?" Emily quite enjoyed the current look on Jade's face.

"Tsk, don't be so smug about it. I doubt you know the last step you need to do to Rank up like Layla, though," Jade replied while rolling her eyes.

"Oh, so it's Layla; that's actually not as surprising as I thought it would be," Emily said while looking at Layla, who was just sitting there, seemingly lost in thought. Probably thinking about the upcoming duels.

"Anyway, congrats" Jade finally congratulated Emily. The others did the same as well.

"Now that that's all done, let's go have ourselves some friendly duels before Layla stares a hole through me" Muku spoke right after everyone finished eating. Layla had been glaring at him all morning, and he felt that she might attack him if he kept on allowing for delays to the duels.

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"Audrey, can you isolate this place with a mana barrier, please? Wouldn't want to attract beasts to us after all" Muku asked Audrey.

"As you wish, master", Audrey replied and immediately started preparing to unleash the barrier.

"Good, thanks for your assistance", Muku replied, ignoring how she was addressing him; he'd asked her why she started doing so, and after her explanation, he could only agree to play along. Though honestly, he quite liked it, just wouldn't blatantly show it on his face.

A red mana barrier expanded from Audrey and covered an area of about a quarter of a kilometre. They were doing it outside the mansion, just in case the duels damaged the ground.

"Okay, me and Layla will go first. And Layla, don't forget that this is a spar, so don't pull out all the stops" Muku gave out the instructions as he and Layla took their positions opposite each other.

"The duel will begin in 3....2....1.....Fight!" Audrey called out. She was the designated referee due to her strength that allowed her to interfere if anything attack seemed too strong for either fighter to handle.

"Frozen...Ahh!" Layla, who was about to cast one of her spells, screamed out after feeling an invisible force grab her. This was the first time she had felt it since Muku had never used it on the girls...other than Jade. So she was surprised by it, prompting the scream. He had carried some of them with it, but they were unconscious at the time so wouldn't know what it felt like.

"You lose," Muku said while walking toward Layla, his hands in his pockets, clearly not taking the battle seriously.

"Hey!, not fair!. You can't use your telekinesis! How are we supposed to fight like this!?" Layla lost her cool and shouted out in anger.

"Although I don't know how that's logical since you can't exactly tell your enemies not to use all their abilities. But since you're willing to break character over it, then we'll do it like that. I won't use my telekinesis directly on you then" Muku compromised as he got back into position. He wasn't expecting the calm and collected Layla to lose it like that.

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"Hahahaha, now she also knows what it feels like". Jade spoke while laughing from the sidelines. She was really enjoying the show. She really liked it when someone else felt the powerlessness she felt when she was wrapped up by Muku's telekinesis.

"And here I was thinking that Layla's Shadow Charge was undefeatable and would make this a tough battle for Muku. Yet she didn't even get a chance to cast warm-up spells. Who knew his telekinesis was so formidable?". Emily said with a wry smile on her face.

"Well, he can literally move a whole building with it, so.... I don't think it's too surprising, really". Chloe said with an unmoved face beside her.

"Yeah, Big Brother is OP and undefeatable!" Hope commented excitedly.

"Tsk, so is there really no way to resist his telekinesis?" Jade asked annoyedly after finishing her laugh.

"That's not completely true. Master and I carried out an experiment before. His telekinesis can't affect those of a higher rank as long as they surround themselves with their mana. So it can't be said to be undefeatable" Audrey said from beside them. They were all sitting on chairs they brought in from the house while enjoying the show.

"So, what you're saying is that he's basically undefeatable in the same rank?" Jade said with a bleak look on her face. Her hope to one day defeat him had been crushed just like that.

"Well, if you're fast enough, I'm pretty sure you can at least get away before it reaches you," Audrey said with a wry, trying to console Jade.

"So, only Chloe has a chance then?" Jade said, her expression even darker.

"N-No, I'm sure you do as well....if you push your speed enough," Audrey replied while slightly panicking after seeing how she had actually made the situation worse.

"Well, it doesn't matter. He's a higher class than us anyway, so it's not unacceptable. Maybe the "Divine" part of his class name is for his Telekinesis?" Jade said after her expression got better. She seemed to have resigned herself to her fate of never getting revenge for the spanking she suffered at his hands.

"Hmm, that kinda makes sense actually. I always wondered why his metal would be called divine. I mean it's strong and all, but that shouldn't be enough to be called divine right?" Chloe pondered on Jade's words and thought that it made sense.

"So, Telekinesis is so rare and strong that it's called divine?". Emily chimed in while stroking the hair of her little sister lying on her lap.

"Might be so, maybe there's more to it than moving things. That could be why he hasn't been able to realise more of his potential. He basically can do anything you can think of with metal after all." Chloe spat out more theories excitedly. The prospect of helping Muku realise his potential interested her greatly.

"Well, that sounds interesting, maybe you should tell him after the duels are over!" Hope said to Chloe.

"What!, why me!?" Chloe exclaimed in surprise, almost jumping off her chair.

"Well, it's your theory after all. We only mentioned things randomly and you broke it down. After that, we've basically just been listening to you," Jade said while rolling her eyes.

"F-fine, I'll do it" Chloe resigned herself to her fate, though nervously. She didn't know how she was going to even start the conversation.

Chapter 79 Muku Vs Layla Pt 2 (Final)

Back to the duel....

"Okay, you can attack first this time" Muku said while looking at Layla standing opposite him.

"Don't underestimate me! Ice spikes! Ice arrows! Ice lance!". Layla screamed before casting her spells one after the other.

"Come on, you can do better than this" Muku said with a smile as he easily got out of the way.

"Blizzard!" Layla didn't reply as she cast her next spell. The battlefield was immediately covered up by snow making it hard to see, much to the dismay of the audience, but Layla didn't care about that.

"Frozen world!" As soon as Layla cast her spell, the snow froze in place. Which hypothetically meant Muku, who should have been exposed to it, was frozen as well. Which would be Layla's win.

"Frozen meteor shower!" But she didn't think it would be that easy and immediately cast another spell. Numerous giant ice blocks appeared in the sky above the battlefield and started falling down at fast speeds.

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"Okay isn't she going a bit too far!?" Emily exclaimed.

"Nah, I think she should even go further!". Jade said, enjoying the show.

"I'm sure Ms Audrey would intervene if Big Brother can't take it, so it should be fine...right?" Hope spoke, clearly lacking confidence"

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Boom!

Whoosh! Whoosh!....

An explosion rang out from the area Muku was on, ice shards flying all over the place. Then numerous large swords flew into the sky and cut the ice meteors into tiny pieces.

"Nice try, quite ruthless even. But still not enough" Muku said with a smile while looking at Layla provocatively. He would have looked a lot cooler if he wasn't slightly shaking from the cold. He had promised himself not to unnecessarily use his telekinesis and was already suffering for it.

"That was just a distraction," Layla said, a small smile appearing on her face. Muku's eyes widened in surprise, and they immediately tried to create some distance. He couldn't be too complacent since Layla definitely had the capabilities to defeat him if she put in a bit of work. But he immediately realised that he couldn't move his body, he could only move his head.

"What!?" He looked down and noticed a long shadow stretched out from Layla in the distance into his own shadow.

"That's one of my new spells. Shadow Lock!. You didn't think just my Shadow Storage was enough to get me to 99% did you?" Layla spoke as she channelled her mana into her next

attack. Even after seemingly having already won, she didn't let it get to her head and opted to knock him out for a decisive win.

"Ice fist!" As soon as she shouted, a fist as big as Muku formed next to him and immediately came rushing in his direction.

"Steel fortress!". Muku finally decided to get a bit serious. He realised that he had been too arrogant by not attacking and letting Layla do whatever she wanted.

As soon as he called out, his body was immediately surrounded by a metal wall, completely hiding him from Layla's view. As soon as his shadow was covered up by that of the steel fortress, he was freed.

"Oh, so that's the shortcoming, huh? Even then, what a dangerous spell!" Muku said while wiping his nonexistent sweat. How could he possibly sweat in such cold weather?.

"Sword rain!". He cast his first attack spell and hundreds of swords immediately appeared in the sky above Layla and rained down.

"Hhm, finally taking me seriously huh!. Encasing Ice!". Layla cast her defensive spell. She was immediately enveloped by three layers of thick ice. The swords managed to break through the first layer. Most were stopped by the second layer and the rest by the last one.

"I guess I have to be a bit more serious myself.....Shadow Charge!". Layla called out beneath the ice layers.

"Oh no you don't!" Final Judgment!". Muku couldn't see her but he could feel the mana gathering in the sky like when she used her shadow charge spell that ignores defense. And so, like any man who respects gender equality, he used one of his stronger spells.

The familiar giant hammer appeared in the sky above Layla. This time it was even bigger than the last time it was used. Radiating more destructive strength as well.

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"Okay, are they serious!?" Even Jade was dumbstruck by how much they had gotten into the duel. They were now even using some of their best spells!

"Should we stop it?" Emily spoke while looking at Audrey. Her meaning was obvious, which was, "Why aren't you stopping it?"

"Don't worry, they haven't lost control, they know what they are doing. Their spells will likely stop just before they hit the target. Though even if they don't stop. I can still easily stop both" Audrey spoke with confidence. Unlike the rest of the group, she knew just how much stronger she was than them, so wasn't as worried. For now, she was just enjoying the battle, though she wasn't sure who she hoped to win between the two.

"If you say so". Emily could only trust Audrey's words. She then continued watching the battle. Although she was worried, she had to admit that it was quite entertaining to watch.

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The giant hummer descended on Layla's ice barriers slowly. Yet the barriers didn't even manage to slow it's it down; it just broke through with its speed and proceeded like that, like an unstoppable force.

"Frozen Sky Lance!" At this time Layla also finished casting her ultimate spell, the very same one that put an end to the spider queen's terror, even if it didn't last long enough to kill it then. This time, it was even more solid; she had gained better control over it. The giant black lance descended from the sky above Muku. It was a lot faster than his hammer, so it quickly caught up. It was as if they were trading an attack for an attack to see who fell first.

"Oh, come on! aren't you going a bit too overboard here!?" Muku screamed after realising he couldn't move again. This time it wasn't because his shadow was trapped by Layla again. It seemed the black lance coming down on him had a passive ability similar to Shadow Lock that kept the target in place. He tried to set up metal barriers above him but the Lance went through each one of them as if they weren't there.

Now the only option he had left was to use his telekinesis to knock Layla out so that the spell is cancelled out or lose the battle. As a man of his word, there's no way he'd do that. He had to think of another way.

"Sigh, okay, Layla, I surrender; I can't get out of this without using my Telekinesis. It's your win, cancel out the attack." Muku spoke as he cancelled out his "Final Judgment". Unlike Layla's attack, which automatically froze the target in place, his attack needed him to use his telekinesis, which meant Layla could easily avoid it. And so, it was his loss.

Hearing his words, Layla immediately cancelled her attack, and all the ice in the area disappeared, and the sky cleared. She now appeared in front of everyone again, her face a bit pale. The attack still took too much out of her. Even though she'd just won, she didn't look too happy about thorough.

"Hey, why don't you look happy despite having won?" Muku asked Layla with confusion in his eyes.

"I only won because I basically asked you to not use half of your strength, if not more. I'll only be happy when I beat you at full power. Not to mention that despite having realised more potential and just a step away from Rank Two, I still had to use my best spell to win and you don't even look half as spent as I am. We'll have a rematch when we reach the peak of Rank Two. I should have figured out how to beat you by then," Layla explained herself before walking off to the sitting area. The others congratulated her on her win, but she just nodded; she sat where Jade had gotten up from preparing to go next. She then closed her eyes. She clearly didn't want to talk so the others left her alone.

"So it's Jade and Emily next huh?" Muku said after seeing that Jade and Emily were the ones who had gotten up.

"Yeah, I'd have rather faced Chloe and had a competition of speed that no one could see, but she still has to realise a bit more potential before that, sadly", Jade replied, not caring about how Emily felt about being indirectly called a replacement.

"Oh, so you think I won't be challenging enough for you huh?" Emily said with a dark look on her face, having taken offence to Jade's statement.

"Well, I didn't mean it like that; I just think that I can probably end the battle before you can react, that's all", Jade tried to explain herself, but it only made the situation worse.

"Well let's go find out then" Emily smiled slightly and walked over to the battleground, her whole being radiating battle intent.

"Umm, Jade, I have a feeling you're going to regret your words soon", Hope couldn't help but comment from the sideline.

"Don't worry, I'll show all of you why they say only speed is absolute?", Jade said before arrogantly following after Emily.

Another epic battle was about to be fought. Will it be as Jade said or will it be something else?...

Chapter 80 Jade Vs Emily

"Big brother, who do you think will win?" Hope asked Muku after shamelessly pushing her chair closer to his.

"Hmm, I'm not sure. Jade hasn't exactly gone all out for a while, so I'm not sure what she's capable of. Then there's Emily and her new spell. Not only is it absurdly strong, but she seemed to have cast it instantaneously last time. So it really could go either way. But if I had to choose, I'd say Emily will win; Jade is too arrogant for her own good; this will be a good lesson if she loses; it would stop her head from growing any larger." Muku replied, expressing his thoughts while the others listened. Elsa was inwardly happy that he thought her sister would win.

"Then I'll also bet on Emily then! Ow!" Hope replied. Muku immediately flicked her forehead prompting a little cry of pain.

"We don't bet on friends...at least when they are fighting other friends" Muku rebuked her.

"Okay, I won't try it again" Hope replied while poking her tongue out of her mouth cutely.

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"Okay, like before, I'll count down from there then the battle will begin. Remember, although I can probably intervene before real damage is done, I think it will be best if you don't lose yourself in the moment. There's always a chance that something could go wrong" Audrey spoke while standing in-between Jade and Emily. She spoke the last part while looking at Jade, who immediately put on a wronged face; why did nobody have any faith in her? But knowing that she brought it on herself by the way she behaved, she didn't say anything to defend herself.

"Since you both understand, I won't delay anymore. 3...2...1..Fight!" As soon as she said the last word, Audrey immediately disappeared.

Whoosh!

Jade immediately turned catgirl and used her "High Quick". This time it was so intense even the beast aura she used to power herself up internally was now outwardly visible. She left a green trail as she ran forward. A smirk immediately appeared on her face as she inched closer to Emily who seemed to not have reacted yet when...

Boom!

Golden flames exploded from the ground around Emily and spread outward in every direction. Jade came to a quick stop and immediately backtracked. She could feel the heat of the raging flames while still a few metres away from them so there was no way she'd want to be touched by them.

"Damn! Emily, do you want to roast me or something!" Jade shouted angrily from a distance.

"Don't worry, I've got perfect control over it. It would only leave you naked and bald; other than that, you'll be fine!" Emily shouted back, her response almost making Jade spit out a mouthful of blood from anger. How's that any better!?, wasn't it actually even worse!?.

"So this is how you want to play it huh?" Jade called out to Emily again, her eyes full of anger. She felt so powerless right then, this was the weakness of being a close combat fight.

"Just give up! or do you want me to turn the whole battleground into a sea of flames?" Emily called out again with a smile on her face. She was enjoying Jade, this brat; didn't she remember that their class were the same rank? And she had realised more potential; how could Jade think she'd win?

"Never! Earth Spikes!" Jade refused to give up and cast her green earth spikes spell. She couldn't see nor sense Emily, who was hidden by the golden flames properly, so she just randomly attacked wherever she thought Emily was. It seems Emily's spell dispersed her presence, making it seem like she was everywhere with the flames.

"Haha, you missed!. I'm giving you a few more seconds to surrender, or I'm going to do it the hard way!" Emily's excited voice was heard again from the flames. Clearly, Jade's attacks hadn't hit the target.

"This really pisses me off!. I guess I'll have to try it even though it's still a prototype," Jade spoke to herself. Then beast aura exploded out of her body and completely covered her up.

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"I didn't know that Emily was so mean!" Audrey exclaimed with her hand on her mouth as she watched the battle with the others.

"Well, I think Jade deserves it," Muku said with a satisfied smile on his face. Schadenfreude was all he felt right then while looking at Jade's unfavourable situation.

"I can't help but feel like you're enjoying this too much. You like watching girls fight?" Chloe said while looking at Muku with an accusatory gaze.

"You're overthinking it, cough, look, seems like Jade is about to try something out" Muku looked away from Chloe as he spoke. He had been caught red-handed. But his diversion worked as everyone refocused on the battle, on Jade to be more specific. Or at least the area she was in. Like Emily, she was now also hidden, which made the battle quite annoying to watch when you couldn't even see the fighters.

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"Roooooar!!!". A beastly roar came from within Jade's beast aura. It started getting denser and denser until it matched Emily's intensity then cleared out by moving back into Jade's body. Or rather, what should be Jade's body.

In the place Jade stood before stood a three-metre-tall green tiger instead! Other than its larger size and green colour, it almost looked exactly like a tiger. Though the eyes looked human, like Jade's eyes to be exact.

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"Okay, what kind of abomination is Beast Aura? what more can it do!?" Muku exclaimed as he looked at Jade's new transformation.

"Well, there shouldn't be much more; Jade just realised 99% of her potential..." Layla replied, no one noticed when she opened her eyes. But they were willing to get that she'd been watching from the start.

"Truly interesting! A Beast Empress and a Phoenix Mage!" Chloe commented while looking at the battleground with excitement in her eyes. She wished to also jump in a exchange a few rounds with them right there and then.

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The tension between Jade and Emily was at an all-time high. While Jade couldn't see through the flames, Emily could do so just fine so she saw the whole transformation Jade went through. Surprisingly it seemed like after the transformation, Jade could see through the flames as she was now looking directly at Emily. This made Emily feel a bit nervous, although she knew it was Jade; she was a giant tiger at the moment, so how could she not feel nervous as a human?

"Holy Flame Judgment!" Emily called out the name of her spell. She changed a bit from Jade's suggestion after Jade mentioned it when they were talking in the morning. It's a weird spell that only burned what Emily wanted to burn while leaving the rest completely unharmed, it literally worked based on Emily's judgement, so the name was definitely appropriate.

She immediately cast it when Jade disappeared in front of her when she blinked. Her golden flames turned a darker shade of gold and spread out in every direction. She didn't know where Jade went, so she felt that she might as well burn everything everywhere.

Boom!

The flames behind her came into contact with something, and a booming sound was heard. When she looked back she realised that it was Tiger Jade's paw. The claws were burned off as the tiger was thrown backwards, but the paw didn't look too damaged; the claws immediately grew back as well. It seemed the tiger's body was made completely of beast aura, and Jade's body was encased inside and protected from harm. It might just be exactly what Jade needs to break through Emily's flames and land a hit.

Having quickly realised this fact, Emily prepared her next attack, not wanting to give Jade enough time to regroup.

"Burning Meteor!". Emily took a bit of motivation from Layla's prior spell. But instead of numerous attacks, she only created one huge one. A huge golden fireball descended on the spot Jade was; she could easily dodge it but knew that she'd definitely suffer if she let it reach the group.

"Earth Spikes!" Surprisingly, the tiger could talk; of course, Jade could talk, but to talk through a tiger's mouth was quite odd to look at. As soon as she called out, tall and large earth spikes exploded out from the ground and met the giant fireball midair and stabbed directly into it. Before Emily could mock the terrible plan.

"Explode!" Jade called out and the peak point of the earth spikes exploded. This was unexpected for Emily as she had long forgotten that Jade could make her Beast Aura explode since she stopped using it after a day or two saying that she didn't like it.

BOOOOOM!

The explosion of the earth spikes also caused the explosion of the giant fireball. The sky was painted gold with hints of green mixed in. If people just focused on that spit it would seem like it was the end of the world. A strong flame-infused shockwave spread out from the explosion point. Both Emily and Jade were thrown away by it, but Jade managed to land a lot better than Emily who fell to the ground. Though a lot of her beast aura was burned away exposing part of her body that was buried beneath. It wasn't regenerating anymore, likely due to Jade running out of energy; it was her first time using it, after all.

"Haha, seems its my win!" Jade called out as she pounced on the down. Emily clearly didn't care about an honourable win. Why would she wait for her to get up? Wouldn't she get burned to a crisp then?

Boom!

"Holy Flame Judgment: Explosion!" Surprisingly, just when the slow-moving and smug Layla was about to touch Emily's head with her battered claw. Emily propelled herself away with her flames, easily escaping Jade's lazy attack. She didn't wait for Jade to react and cast her strongest spell almost point blank in front of Jade, she even made it explode to make it spread faster.

"Ahh!" Jade, who was completely caught off guard, screamed in fear as the flame completely enveloped her and burned the rest of her beast aura away. She even closed her eyes thinking that she was definitely going to die on the spot.

"Huh?" Jade made a confused sound as she opened her eyes only to see that bit even her clothes were burned, but all her beast aura was gone.

"Hehe, you've lost", Emily said, looking at her with a smug smile on her super pale face. She had used everything she had in her last attack. Although even half of it would have been enough, she wanted to make sure that Jade wouldn't be able to escape.

"Yeah, I guess it's one zero now. I'll win the next on..." Jade responded with a smile, she had no hard feelings about looking. But before she finished talking, she fainted and fell into the arms of Audrey, who'd appeared there at an unknown point.

If she had just realised her potential without fighting immediately after, she might not have fainted. But even her stronger than most body had its limits.