

Last Days 601

Chapter 601: Domain

"In that world," Riya replied. "One of the few geniuses who had formed domain as a magic warriors before reaching rank 7... it's Samuel."

Samuel was too famous.

While Riya was basically non-existent in that world, Samuel was basically busy making his name everywhere like a peacock spreading his tail. There were many people who knew about Samuel and the few other people around him.

"And if I'm not wrong, Peter too... along with that genius from um... I forgot his name," Riya muttered in a low voice.

Samuel chuckled. "I didn't know that you like gossip so much but yes, in that generation, there are three people who managed to create their domain before reaching rank 7 including me, Peter, and Nalan."

A magic warrior, a pure warrior, and a guardian warrior.

Riya blinked her eyes and then said, "Can you open your domain now?"

"Now? I can, but it's a bit too demanding. I have only reached rank 6 not long ago and the aura in my body is still too weak," Samuel replied with some regret in his tone. He knew very well that his own body has limitations and he had to reach the middle of rank 6 to ease the burden of his body if he wanted to open the domain.

And within this domain, he's basically invincible.

Recovering his strength from that world to this world, Samuel knew very well that it was very difficult.

Without enough resources, it would take him a long time to retrain his body.

And the problem is...

They didn't have that time.

With more and more magic beasts coming out, including the rank 7 magic beast, they knew that sooner or later, they would probably face a group of magic beasts that they couldn't face on their own.

At that time, who could guarantee that they could definitely survive?

So they had to fight hard while enjoying their own lives.

But at the same time, Samuel and Riya made the decision to enter the crack on their own. Half of it was to fight for their own future and the other half was because of responsibility.

Because they knew very well what awaited the world if they didn't make this move.

Perhaps destruction?

Is it possible for them to stop these magic beasts from coming out?

The answer is definitely no.

If there were more powerful magic beasts in the crack, then neither Riya or Samuel would have the confidence to defeat them. But with the assistance of the teleportation formation, the two of them dared to enter the crack.

Because they were confident that they would not die so easily, so they dared to take the risk and left on their own.

If it was others...

They might not dare to make such a decision.

But if they were asked whether they have such great responsibility or anything like that, the two of them would definitely answer no.

They were not soldiers who have great sense of compassion and responsibility to protect the people and the country. What they wanted to protect was simply the people around them.

So if there was ever a conflict between them, they would not hesitate to choose the people around them.

This is their selfishness.

Of course, neither of the two would speak about this out loud and the government also didn't dare to test them. There were some things that couldn't stand up to the test and it would be better not to let such conflicted questions appear in front of them.

With the power in their hands, who knew what they would do once their bottom line was touched and those questions appeared in front of them?

No one could guarantee that they would not be swayed and did some irreparable things.

"I see." Riya nodded, not too surprised by Samuel's answer.

Samuel arched his eyebrows and poked Riya's forehead. "Why did you suddenly ask me about this? This can be considered to be my trump card."

Trump card?

Riya thought about the competition that Samuel participated in when they were in that world and her expression turned a bit strange.

If she was not wrong, Samuel had already shown his domain in public, right?

Even though the domain was not something that everyone could learn, but all returnees should be able to guess that Samuel would be able to create domain again in this world. No one would be willing to stay close to Samuel.

Just look at that Murin.

He used his magic beast to stay far away from Samuel and Riya all the time. It was as if he knew that if he were to get close to them, he might not be able to escape alive.

"I think that it can't be categorized as a trump card," Riya said quietly.

Samuel was silent and sighed. "The returnees will not speak nonsense to others so easily... even that Murin would not dare to speak about this matter."

Because if people were to know about the existence of domain, there would be a large number of people who would want to become a warrior and magic warrior. The concept of domain was really cool and the oppressive feeling that they could give to others was something that many people would like.

But at the same time, it was also something that required high talent.

Without enough talent, there was simply no possibility of them to learn about domain.

"I know, but there's no guarantee." Riya glanced at Samuel and slowly said, "Even though we all seem as if we have tacit understanding not to expose other people unless asked, but there might be other returnees on the other side of the Green Planet."

The other side of the Green Planet?

When talking about this, Samuel's expression turned solemn.

He knew very well what Riya meant and the fact that there might be other returnees out there whom he didn't know.

Thinking about this, Samuel felt faint headache.

Chapter 602: Safe Route

"Do you want to look for them?" Samuel asked while he was still busy cleaning up the magic beasts that suddenly came over.

These magic beasts were not very strong and it was easy to deal with them.

"No." Riya shook her head.

Even if she knew that there might be other returnees out there, why should she go on her own to look for them?

She was not so lazy that she would be willing to waste her time to look for other returnees.

Besides, does she really need them?

The knowledge that every returnees have in their hands would be different, but at the same time, there would be many overlaps too.

It was not necessary for her to look for those people.

Swish! Bang!

"We're here." Riya saw the large crack on the ground and glanced at Samuel.

"I know, I'll clean up the magic beasts around the area," Samuel replied without hesitation. The construction of a formation required an open space and at least, these magic beasts were not allowed to disturb Riya in the slightest bit.

It would not be so easy for Riya to make the formation by herself.

Thinking about how she had worked so hard to suppress the magic beasts' tide before, Samuel's expression worsened and his movement became even faster. He didn't like the feeling of having to wait for Riya on the back without being able to do anything.

Even though many people were being protected and he himself also has his own tasks to do, he still didn't like it.

He would worry whether Riya was doing her tasks well or not.

And now that they were here in this place....

Samuel just wanted to kill these magic beasts.

Swish! Slash! Slash!

Riya didn't notice Samuel's emotion as she was busy to arrange the formation. She was using the blood of rank 5 magic beasts and quickly set up the formation. It didn't even take 20 seconds and everything was done.

This time, she didn't purposely hastened her speed or anything like that, but even her normal speed has always been very fast.

The only problem was that the size was big, so Riya was running around the crack while making the formation. Since her physical strength had increased thanks to the formation, she managed to circle the large crack in such a short period of time.

"Alright, it's.... Done."

Riya looked at the large number of magic beasts' corpses that Samuel had killed and fell into silence.

Was Samuel so excited about the mission?

She had never seen him so enthusiastic about killing magic beasts before.

But there was a large pile of magic beasts in front of Samuel, all died after being chopped off for so many times.

This made Riya wondered whether there was anything wrong.

"Good." Samuel nodded and then packed the magic beasts' corpses into a space storage scroll and tossed it to Riya.

Riya caught the space storage scroll and arched her eyebrows. "I thought that you will treasure these things more."

"The last batch of the magic beasts' corpses had already given me a lot of these," Samuel replied. "Besides, I don't think that you will make lose money."

He might be a businessman, but when he was talking in front of people he cared for, he would never let them suffer any loss.

His family members all knew his temperament and his friends were also aware of it.

They just treated each other well and helped when it was necessary.

Riya looked at Samuel helplessly. "You know that these didn't worth much either for you or for me."

She might be collecting the magic beasts' corpses for her own reasons. But it was clear that this was not a mission that Riya prioritized.

Samuel has been with Riya for a long time and it was impossible for him not to notice such a thing.

She only collected these things 'on the way' because she needed it.

But the priority was not high.

"Yes, but it's useful. And the rest can be used by the bases to feed the people," Samuel said calmly. "The rest are the magic beasts that can't be eaten."

It could be said that he was lucky that Riya was not picky.

Otherwise, there would be a large amount of magic beasts' corpses littering the ground.

"I know that. They're basically treating me as recycling center," Riya complained. She knew what the higher ups and the government were thinking, but she allowed it to develop.

Mainly because she didn't know how to explain to them about what she did with the magic beasts corpses.

The method to turn them back into mana was a bit...

Well, it was not achievable in normal means.

Even the other returnees wouldn't be able to think about it.

So Riya chose not to expose this matter.

"Anyway, let's enter the crack." Samuel looked at the formation that Riya had erected and asked. "Can we still enter the crack when you have set up this formation?"

If he was not wrong, the protective mechanism of the formation would prevent people from getting close to the formation, right?

Can they enter the formation and then enter the crack?

"Don't worry. There wouldn't be any problem to enter the crack," Riya replied calmly. "You just have to follow me exactly so that you won't die."

There were safe routes within the formation.

As long as Samuel followed Riya, then she would not let him die.

And as long as Samuel followed her even once, then he would definitely be able to do it again in the future.

"Ok." Samuel agreed readily.

The two of them walked into the formation with Samuel following closely behind Riya, making sure that his steps were the same as hers.

He looked at the scene in front of him that didn't change from the beginning until the end and frowned.

"Riya, does this safe route applicable to all similar formation that you set up on the crack?"

Chapter 603: Calculate

Riya arched her eyebrows.

She could guess what Samuel was thinking.

Unfortunately...

"No, it's not," Riya replied. "The size of the crack is different, so the size of the formation that I make will also be different. It's impossible for the safe route to be exactly the same because there will be some deviation when compared with the size of the formation and so on."

Size of the formation?

Samuel looked at the crack in front of him blankly.

Sorry, he wouldn't be able to understand it, then.

Riya chuckled. "If you want to, I can teach you how to calculate it, but you better have good foundation in maths. Otherwise, you might want to vomit because of how complicated it is."

"I have good result in economy and management. There are some maths there, but I don't know how complicated the maths for formation calculation is," Samuel replied slowly.

Economy and management?

This time, it was Riya who had a blank look on her face.

Her course in the university back then was far away from these two topics. After all, she dabbled in things related to technology and stayed far away from economy.

After coming back to this world, she did review the lessons she had learned back then. Four years gap was not so easy to be overcome. There were many things that Riya had forgotten.

Thankfully, the basic was still there and Riya could learn everything from the beginning once again. It was more than enough that she managed to finish her thesis and defense back then.

But if she was asked to be as proficient as she used to be...

Then sorry, Riya didn't have that ability.

Four years in that world had already rewritten most of her memory into that of runes. She was far more proficient in drawing countless runes compared to writing program like before.

While Riya did think that it was a pity, but she didn't regret it.

If she truly wanted to, she could learn more after she had reached a certain ranks in the future and didn't have much hope for improvement anymore.

But that was for the far future.

It was definitely not something that she could do anytime soon.

The other good thing about her courses was the fact that she had to be good at math. Otherwise, one would be crazy when they thought about some things that had to be written in the code programming.

"Well, I don't know if it's relevant... but I'll try to teach you," Riya finally said with a sigh.

Samuel arched his eyebrows. "Is it fine for me to know these things?"

"It should be fine?" Riya tilted her head. "What I will teach you is just the common sense that even low ranked formation master will learn. Because a formation master didn't only need to be able to make formation but also know how to create the backdoor and loopholes. Afterwards, you have to be able to break down a formation yourself."

This was the common sense in that world.

The runes alone didn't have much meaning or their power was extremely limited until they were combined together to form formation.

A formation is a combination of countless runes, working together to create the effect that their maker longed.

"So... is it used universally?" Samuel asked carefully.

"Not really. There are types that you need to watch before you can count the escape route or the backdoor in the formation," Riya replied and then tilted her head. "To be honest, people without talent to be rune master might find it difficult... because you can't see the mana fluctuation in the air."

"Huh?" This time, Samuel was stunned and they had entered the crack. They easily bypassed the formation that Riya made and Samuel could see a magic beast rushing over only to be chopped into countless pieces.

"What?"

"Can you see... the mana fluctuation?" Samuel asked, his throat was a bit dry.

He knew that they could sense mana when they were meditating and then able to guide the mana into their body. After that, as long as they concentrate enough, they would be able to sense mana's fluctuation within their own body and when others were using magic spells or anything like that.

But on normal times, it was not that easy to detect mana within a person's body, no matter who they were.

And directly sensing mana in the air... it was even more outrageous.

"Ah, I didn't mean that I can sense the mana concentration in the air... that kind of thing is definitely impossible." Riya rolled her eyes as she continued to walk forward and then stopped before making the Protective Rune Circle.

This formation is simply the best when she wanted to do something.

As for the mana concentration in the air... it was impossible for her to detect without meditating on the spot and try to compare the result with her usual meditation or something like that.

"Then..."

"What I can sense is the mana fluctuation from the runes itself. When the runes are not activated, they will not actively stir the mana in the air and will usually lay dormant. It will remain undetected most of the time... but not for rune masters."

Riya looked at the formation that had started operating in front of her and the magic beasts that were directly slaughtered in front of her.

"I know that you can't see it, but for me, the entire place is covered with runes. Not all of the runes are visible, so I don't know their exact uses, but from the moment I step into this crack, I know that there are runes all over the walls... or more like, the entire place is under the effect of a formation."

It was precisely because she could see this that she knew the existence of those pillars and what formation it used after some investigation.

This could be said to be a kind of talent for her...

But whether this talent is a good thing or a bad thing, Riya didn't know.

Chapter 604: City I Base

Samuel pursed his lips.

"Forget it. I don't think that I need to ask so many things from you," Samuel said slowly.

He had always known that his parents told him that he had no talent to be a rune master, but he didn't expect that the world that a rune master saw would be completely different from him.

It was as if they came from a completely different world.

No, it was as if they were seeing a completely different world from the supposedly same world.

In a way, it was actually quite magical.

"Pfft." Riya chuckled. "You don't have to feel down. Your talent is actually higher than me."

Otherwise, it would be impossible for Samuel to reach rank 6 without using so much resources like her. After all, the mana she gained from the special magic core was quite a lot.

Without those special magic core, she would not have been able to reach rank 6 so quickly.

"Forget it." Samuel shook his head and then looked around. "Which way?"

"Here, just follow me."

"Okay."

...

The other's location.

While Riya and Samuel entered the crack, Peter led the others to leave City J Base.

For this matter, Dina only felt that her base was clear and then asked Jonas to help her manage the base well. She wanted to use this time to practice more and possibly reach higher ranks at the fastest speed possible.

Because if she didn't work hard, she would be left behind by Peter and Samuel.

This is something that Dina couldn't accept.

"Miss Dina, both Samuel and the rune master entered the crack... would you like to follow them?" Jonas asked carefully.

Follow them?

Dina was silent for a moment and then sneered. "If it's so easy to follow those two, I wouldn't have waited for so long."

It was impossible for her to follow Samuel and Riya.

A rune master's means were not something that ordinary people could content with. Moreover, in such a complicated world within the crack, Dina didn't have the confidence that she would be able to deal with her.

After all, the annoying tactic of running away when one couldn't beat the opponent was the signature of a rune master.

There were many people who were already angered to death because of these rune masters over the years. They were about to win but these b*stards ended up taking out teleportation formation and left instantly.

Who wouldn't be angry?

Even though it was not impossible for others to buy teleportation formation, the price was so high that they wanted to vomit blood, alright?

Moreover, who would dare to try using teleportation formation when fighting against a rune master?

As long as they distort the space and the coordinates, they could even be sent to the space!

There were already many tragedy in that world.

Dina definitely didn't want to replicate those miserable experiences in this world. There was no need for her to provoke the rune master unless it was absolutely necessary. Anyway, having more friends are better than having more enemies.

"Miss Dina..."

"Don't mind me, just focus on the base's reconstruction." Dina waved her hand. "Don't think that I don't know about the large formation that she had made. If there's another emergency, just activate it."

"Yes, Miss."

The formation plate was held by Jonas as Dina didn't have much interest in it.

While the formation was powerful, it was only a rank 5 formation. She heard it from the general who negotiated with Riya.

After all, building a rank 5 and rank 6 formation was completely different. The amount of resources they needed to invest in order to build a rank 6 formation was something that many of them couldn't obtain.

Splash!

Playing with the blood in her hand, Dina's eyes narrowed.

Now that the magic beasts' tide had passed, she just had to focus on improving her strength.

Despite the fact that there were a lot of magic beasts corpses used for the formation, the remaining blood was collected by Dina and the bodies were used by the base to feed and other things.

Dina didn't control this matter.

'Next time we meet... I won't lose so easily.'

...

Peter and the other's side

At this time, Peter had brought the group of people to City I Base.

City I Base was located not far from City J Base and also got hit during the magic beasts' tide. There were a lot of ruins in front of the base and the condition was quite bad.

After all, there were no powerful returnees who could protect the city.

The people and the soldiers had to work together to repel the magic beasts that tried to get close.

"Nothing is intact out here..." Amelia looked at the scene in front of her, feeling inexplicably down.

Even though they were not here when the magic beasts came, but the destruction caused by the magic beasts' tide was very clear for them to see.

This made them feel that they were really small.

The powerful returnees couldn't protect the entire world and there was a limit to how much they could protect the bases and so on. Other people would have to stand up if they wanted to protect their homes.

Right now, the situation was extremely precarious.

Well, to a certain degree.

"Things have only started to get better but it's already half destroyed here...." Ruben sighed deeply.

He was more involved in City A Base's development, so he knew how much they have worked hard in order to create a better world. The farming, the industry that was slowly rebuilt, and so on.

Everyone was working slowly and surely towards a better future.

But this magic beasts' tide caused several bases to go back to the state before liberation.

It was really miserable.

"Is it really enough to deal with the magic beasts?" Sophia asked in a soft voice.

"No, if people want to live well, there are more things that have to be done," Arnold said slowly and sighed. "But for now, the most important thing is to survive."

Chapter 605: Survive

Survive.

It was just one word but there were countless struggles behind it.

Struggles that were left unsaid.

"Well, you can enter City I Base for the time being," Peter interrupted before this group of people fell into memory or anything like that. He didn't have any plan to accompany them all the time.

His task was simply to send them here.

"I know. Thank you very much for your help, Peter," Arnold said with a smile on his face.

Peter looked at this man who was bigger than him and silently wonder whether Samuel ever thought that Arnold might be more suitable to be a pure warrior. But at the same time, he didn't dare to ask.

Samuel should have his reasons why he let Arnold become a magic warrior.

"It's a transaction, so you don't have to feel so burdened about it." Peter waved his hand and then left.

The others looked at each other and entered City I Base.

Arnold and Ruben explained their purpose and also stated that they would help with the defense. The people in City I Base simply welcomed them and didn't ask many questions.

But when they saw the situation in the base, they could understand the reason more or less.

City I Base was extremely poor.

So poor that the people lived in this base looked more like beggars than anything else. Even the soldiers' clothing were not in a good condition.

This might be the effect of the magic beasts' tide from before, but seeing such a scene...

It would be a lie to say that their conscience didn't hurt.

"Does any of you have a lot of clothes?" Amelia whispered in a low voice.

"No... I don't like to pack such a thing," Sophia replied helplessly. The only clothes that she brought with her was only the clothes that she has been wearing. There was no way she could give those clothes to others.

Looking at the others, they clearly didn't expect to see such a scene and didn't have much resources in their hand either.

"How about food?" Amelia asked again.

"If it's food, I brought enough," Ruben interjected when he saw them. "I have already given a space storage scroll containing grains to the leader of City I Base. They will open a canteen and let the people eat."

A canteen...

Looking at the large number of lifeless people, they felt a bit helpless.

The gap between the rich and the poor in this world had become bigger after the coming of the magic beasts.

There were many places that was basically destroyed and so on.

It was already their greatest blessing to be able to stay alive until now in such a poor base.

"Let's clean up the magic beasts first," Arnold finally said.

"Yes!"

In this way, their group was busy killing magic beasts for their training. Most of the meat would be eaten and if there were some leftover, they would bring it to City I Base to exchange with some things.

Though, Ruben was the one who negotiated.

He knew what City A Base needed and used this chance to trade some things that was more convenient to obtain in City I Base.

The others have no opinion about this.

"He's still working as the base's assistant even in other people's base," Sean complained but he still followed behind Ruben when the latter made the negotiation.

After all, Sean knew very well that his own father was trying to train him in this direction. Even though Sean himself didn't like it, he knew that this was also an option presented to him.

Because his talent is not very good.

Many other people might forcefully try to practice again and again, trying their best to break through the shackle and become the best in the poor environment.

But Sean didn't want to do it like that.

How many people could possibly survive and shine in such situation?

Not everyone was capable and the only thing they could do was to do their best to survive.

In such a big family, Sean knew that he was not the most capable nor most talented. So he could only try to work hard and help his family as much as possible.

"At least, the people in City I Base are not corrupt," Amelia commented when she saw the canteen that gave these people porridge.

She had asked about the water source and they said that there was a river nearby. While it was not the best place to get water, it was good enough for them.

"Indeed." Arnold chuckled.

"There are more and more people coming to City I Base," Amelia commented when she saw a group of people coming again.

Arnold glanced to the back and nodded.

There were a lot of people who had confidence in their skills and chose to enter war torn area.

Well, war between humans and magic beasts.

"Do you find someone familiar?" Amelia noticed that Arnold was looking at the group of people who came to the base.

"No... perhaps I'm seeing wrong," Arnold replied with a smile on his lips but he himself was not entirely sure about it.

"Hmm?"

Amelia frowned but didn't pester Arnold about it.

...

Within the Crack

In just a few days, Riya and Samuel easily found the formation inside. Seeing the familiar formation, Samuel sighed deeply.

"It seems as if these formations are waiting for you to find," Samuel complained.

"How could it be?" Riya laughed. "There are many people who could easily find these formations and it's impossible for me to travel half around the world just to find these formations. I can only find those that are nearby."

Samuel nodded in understanding.

Just to find this formation alone... well, they did spend some time.

But it was not that difficult.

"Do you know whose pillars this is?"

"I don't know," Riya answered honestly. "But it might be related to Dina or Ruth who were nearby."

Chapter 606: Special Magic Core

Samuel nodded.

"Do you plan to take the special magic cores now?"

"Don't worry, I set up the teleportation formation outside and we'll be teleported right away," Riya replied with a smile. "There won't be such a case where we have to run around while being chased by the magic beasts again."

Thinking about the past where the two of them had to run around because of these magic beasts, Samuel laughed.

It couldn't be said to be a bad past, but it was indeed very tiring for them to keep running around because the magic beasts were chasing after them. The main cause was naturally these formations that made trouble for them.

Samuel pointed outside. "I'll wait within the formation. When you're done, just come out and activate it."

"Got it."

Riya looked at the walls and studied it.

Seeing that the number had changed, Riya knew that either Ruth or Dina should have taken the special magic cores here.

But even if they took it, it didn't matter that much.

After all, Riya never stipulated that these special magic cores were hers. The rules for the resources in the wilderness has always been whoever got it could get it.

So she simply looked around and after confirming the use of the formation, took the special magic core and headed out.

The formation would not activate so quickly, so she went out and activated the teleportation formation.

Swish!

They moved away from the previous location.

Samuel looked at the dark cave in front of him and arched his eyebrows. "We're going deeper?"

"Yes."

"How many more special magic cores do you plan to take?" Samuel asked, half complaining.

"I don't know... but I think that my body will reach its limit soon," Riya replied as she rubbed her chest.

There were petal markings there, which had long formed the shape of lotus and had become clearer and clearer. From what Riya knew, taking too much special magic core could change their body's constitution.

At the same time, such natural resources couldn't be absorbed unlimitedly by humans.

Because too much of it would make their connection to nature closer and made them separated from their human's emotions.

This was one of the drawback of the special magic cores.

Normally, people would not be able to find more than one special magic core in their entire life. After all, the special magic cores were formed in extremely special places and it couldn't be obtained through normal means.

But these formations were all using special magic cores to power them up, which gave people chance to get it.

Of course, artificial special magic core could be formed...

But the price is very big.

Otherwise, there wouldn't be so many magic beasts dying within the crack because of this matter.

"I see." Samuel nodded, not too surprised.

Riya chuckled when she saw Samuel's expressions. "I don't plan to take this rank 5 special magic core... I plan to give it to Amelia."

Hearing the word Amelia, Samuel turned to look at Riya.

"I know that Amelia is naturally talented and could reach higher ranks faster, but at the same time, her concentration when meditating is extremely low," Riya said helplessly. "Her physical strength is far better than her mana, which is not very conducive for a magic warrior."

A magic warrior would try to strike a balance between their physical strength and mana improvement.

Normally speaking, it should be the same for Amelia.

But her talent was a bit special as in her physical strength increased rapidly during various battles. While battle would mostly hone people's experience, instinct, and so on, but for Amelia, it would also help her to increase her strength faster.

This caused some imbalance between her mana improvement and her physical improvement.

If Amelia could use the special magic core, her mana would be more abundant than before.

"I don't think that she can use one special magic core," Samuel said with a frown. "The amount of mana contained within it is too much for a magic warrior of the same ranks to absorb."

Not to mention, Amelia was only a rank 4 magic warrior.

If she were to take this special magic core, the mana amount within her body might be more than what a rank 6 magic warrior needed...

It was too much.

"How about dividing it into four?" Riya asked after some contemplation.

"Four?"

"Arnold, Amelia, Ruben, and Stephen," Riya replied. "Ruben and Stephen are magicians, so they need mana more while Amelia and Arnold have some disparege between their mana improvement and their physical improvement."

Samuel thought about it and then pursed his lips. "If it's Ruben and Stephen, they might need an entire special magic core rather than just half."

"Then I'll look more for them." Riya laughed. "For the first one, I'll just divide it into four like this. The quarter of a special magic core would be more than enough for Amelia and Arnold to practice for a long time."

As for herself?

A rank 5 special magic core didn't have much use anymore for Riya.

As for giving it to other returnees?

Sorry, she was not that selfless.

Unless they could come up with something that she needed, then Riya would rather give this to her friends that might need it more.

After all, the stronger her friends, the more reassured Riya would be.

She didn't want to worry about her friends all the time. Even though so, there were times when Riya didn't really want to involve them into this dangerous world. If not because the world itself changed and dragged everyone into this whirlpool, she would have never told any of them about this matter.

It was simply too dangerous and probably should be said to be magical.

"So you plan to get more?" Samuel asked in amusement.

"Yes~." Riya nodded with a smile.

"Then I'll help you."

"Of course you have to help me. Haven't you promised to accompany me when we're in the crack?"

Chapter 607: City I Base

Samuel arched his eyebrows.

The main reason why he agreed was because he could practice a lot within the crack as there were many magic beasts waiting for him to kill.

But if he could get other resources while exploring with Riya, it would also be worth it.

"In that case, your goal is the rank 6 special magic core?"

"Yes." Riya nodded. Right now, she's only a rank 6 magician... rune master. Rather than a rank 5 special magic core, a rank 6 special magic core would be able to help her much better.

"In that case, we have to work hard. It's not so easy to get a rank 6 special magic core." Samuel chuckled.

Recalling their previous experience, Riya also smiled.

The two of them chatted happily as they went deeper into the crack, completely treating this exploration as an outing rather than a dangerous journey.

...

City I Base

Some time passed ever since they had stayed in City I Base.

During this period of time, no one could contact Samuel and Riya but they were not worried about it. If there were any magic beasts that could kill them, then the entire world would be too unsafe.

Those two people were also taking risks by entering the crack, but this kind of risk was nothing much compared to the resources they could get.

With their strength, there was not much that others could worry about.

If they wanted to help, they should practice more and possibly get stronger faster than others. Right now, they were still far behind these returnees who have various tricks under their sleeves.

"Mel, you have only meditated for half an hour," Arnold reminded when he saw Amelia coming out of the room again.

They all rented two houses to live. One house for the women and the other for the men. When they have time, they would practice on the back courtyard that they connected with each other or go out to practice killing those magic beasts.

Life was quite peaceful and relatively harmonious during this period of time.

To be honest, Arnold himself was not sure what kind of mentality he had when they managed to live so well like this.

The battles were tiring.

But at the same time, they knew that they would not die so easily and could rest assured in this temporary residence. Because the protection that Riya gave to them meant that no one would be able to kill them in their sleep.

Moreover, Melly would always stay outside to guard at night.

Even if it was not completely safe and foolproof, but they were definitely not in the most tense state all the time.

It could be said to be quite monotonous.

"I don't feel like meditating today," Amelia admitted in a low voice and sat down on the grass. "Is it not possible for us to increase our mana rapidly through some methods? I feel that it'll take years for me to reach rank 5."

Before coming here, Samuel had told them that he hoped when he came to pay a visit, they had reached rank 5. Because only if they could reach rank 5 would it be possible for him to leave them be and didn't monitor them so much.

As for what Samuel was actually planning, Amelia didn't know.

But she could guess.

Probably leaving City A Base to see the world and helped to clear up the cracks.

After all, the magic beasts that managed to come out of the cracks were not very strong and if Samuel and Riya wanted to get stronger faster, they had to enter the crack on their own.

The two of them had basically cleared out all the magic beasts around City A Base.

It was not an exaggeration to say that City A Base was the safest base in Continent Z with how those two has been clearing out the magic beasts back then.

Now, they were basically replicating what they did around City J Base.

Whether it was for their own good or for something else, no one knew for sure.

But one thing for sure...

There was still a limit to the number of magic beasts.

If Samuel and Riya truly needed these magic beasts as resources to get stronger, it was obvious that the two of them would not stay in City A Base for a long time.

But could they leave them be without any worry?

It was impossible.

The safest method would be for them to catch up with them.

It was just...

That was a mission impossible.

If it was so easy to catch up with these returnees, it would be impossible for them to wait for such a long time.

"There might be some resources, but you have to ask your brother for that," Arnold said helplessly.

Amelia: "..."

Thinking about how her brother has always been punishing her, Amelia felt that it would be better for her not to provoke her brother any further.

She still wanted to live and didn't want to be punished again.

"How about if I ask Riya instead?" Amelia asked helplessly. Even though Riya will definitely diss and tease her, but she would not punish her. In terms of lethality, Riya was definitely less threatening than her brother.

Arnold was silent and he looked at Amelia with the look, 'Are you sure you want to bother her for this?'

Amelia coughed and then stretched her hand. "Oh well, let's just get out and hunt more magic beasts. I can't stand meditating all the time."

Hearing this, Arnold let out a helpless laugh and then nodded.

The two of them went out of the house and headed out of City I Base. Looking at the people who were still skinny and could only force themselves to work for the sake of a little bit of food, Amelia sighed slightly.

Should she be glad that the leader of City I Base was not a corrupt official or feel bad because even if they did help a bit, the situation in City I Base was still not very good?

Chapter 608: Arnold and Amelia

To be honest, there has always been gaps between the bases just like there were gaps between cities and continents before.

It was impossible for all places to be exactly the same.

City I Base was one of the relatively poor area. There were not many capable people here and the leader was barely scraping by for the people to live. Even though they did try to plant food and so on, the current situation was not very good.

Because of their low combat power, most of the people in City I Base could only focus on their survival.

For many matters, they could not think too much.

One of them was the problem of clothing.

"The temperature has gotten colder lately... do you think it'll be a good thing if they started to pay more attention?" Amelia asked when they walked on the street.

After becoming a magic warrior, it was not like they were not sensitive to the temperature changes. But that it would not affect their body too much and at most, they knew that the temperature was different from before.

But for the details, it would depend on how sensitive they were.

"I have talked with the leader, but they couldn't really spare manpower for this," Arnold replied.

"Hmm, does Ruben has any way?"

Ruben was the one who had the most connection and for some reasons, he also has a lot of resources in his hand. Amelia felt that if they really wanted to get more clothing for the people, they could try to ask him.

"Him?" Arnold was surprised by Amelia's question and tilted his head. "I don't know, but he could try to negotiate."

"Huh uh."

The two of them continued to walk out of the base. After a while, the two of them stopped and Arnold turned his head to the side. "Someone is here."

Bang!

A counterattack shield was formed right in front of them and blocked the bullet that was about to reach them.

However, Arnold's expression changed. "Sniper."

Firearms were not completely abandoned and only modified. In fact, many people still used guns, bombs, and so on when fighting against the magic beasts.

But what they were facing right now is a sniper.

Gun's distribution was restricted in Continent Z and strictly speaking, it should not be possible for ordinary people to get a sniper rifle in their current territory.

"Who is it?" Amelia looked up at the tall buildings in the direction where the bullet came from, but it was too far away to see clearly.

While the magic beasts' tide had destroyed many places, but it didn't mean that it completely destroyed City I. There were still some tall buildings remained and whoever built them before should be proud.

Because their construction materials was not only proven against earthquake but also against the rampaging magic beasts and won.

"Tsk." Arnold took out a telescope from his space storage scroll and looked in that direction.

Samuel had given them enough space storage scrolls so that they could do their missions easily. As for the price, it was simply taken from the contribution points they had earned so far.

No matter what, they would feel uncomfortable if they received things for free.

Unless they were close family members, no one would like to be taken advantaged of by others.

"...Yer," Arnold muttered in a low voice when he saw the familiar face.

Bang!

Another bullet came towards them and Arnold pulled Amelia out of the way.

"Who is it?" Amelia frowned, finding the name unfamiliar.

"One of the few people who wants my life back then," Arnold replied and took out a sniper rifle from his space storage scroll.

Amelia looked at the weapon that Arnold took out and was silent. She knew his previous profession, so she was not too surprised. But using this kind of weapon...

"A mercenary?"

"Yes."

Arnold raised the weapon in his hand but it was heading in a completely different direction. The next moment, he pulled the trigger.

Bang!

In the distance, a person fell down.

"That's...?"

"His men," Arnold replied. "They will surround this place soon, so let's go."

"Ok."

While Amelia has a lot of questions in her mind, such as why they were using firearms, but she chose not to ask it. Because Amelia knew very well that this was not the place for her to ask.

Swish! Bang! Bang! Bang!

As Arnold expected, the two of them were ambushed right when they were about to leave the street.

Seeing these people staying on the second floor of the ruined buildings or on top of a vehicles, Amelia's expression turned for the worse. The counterattack shield was turned on, but it was not of much use when dealing with bullets.

Because she couldn't shoot them directly.

"Use the weapon given by her," Arnold said as he took out the gun that Riya gave to him and started shooting too.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

What followed was explosion due to the fire and lightning elements.

The runes carved on the weapon allowed the elements to be used freely.

Amelia frowned, but she still listened to Arnold and started to shoot these people in front of her.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Gunshots rang out.

Both sides were fighting with firearms instead of magic and it created a kind of different situation.

But it didn't last long as these people couldn't match both Amelia and Arnold in terms of shooting skills. Many of them died on the spot when they were attacked and most of them were solved by Arnold.

Only a few were killed by Amelia.

Arnold could see the hesitation and uneasiness in Amelia's eyes, so he didn't force her.

roar

"The magic beasts are coming." Arnold frowned when he saw this.

"Leave it to me." Amelia immediately switched her stance and took out her sword and quickly killed these magic beasts. Compared to dealing with humans, she prefer to deal with these magic beasts.

"You..." Arnold looked helpless and then he saw someone throwing a grenade. "Watch out!"

BANG!

Chapter 609: Arnold and Amelia (2)

BANG!

The power of explosion would not harm a rank 4 magic warrior so easily.

But it would still cause them some pain.

Amelia frowned and looked at the counterattack shield that perfectly blocked the explosion with relief. If she hadn't been taught this shield by her brother in the past, she might end up suffer a lot from the explosion just now.

"Amelia!" Arnold called out.

"I'm fine. You deal with them first," Amelia replied and then moved nimbly around these magic beasts. The sword in her hand quickly and accurately slashed through these magic beasts' neck and ended their lives.

The movements were neat and there was no trace of hesitation.

After all, Amelia has long gotten used to this kind of thing.

"Got it."

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Retreat!" These people knew that they could not deal with Arnold and with more and more magic beasts attracted by the sound, they would be surrounded if they continued to stay here.

So it would be better for them to leave.

"Tsk." Arnold saw these people leaving but he couldn't stop them. He turned around and seeing that there were still many magic beasts, he simply shoot some of them before switching his weapon.

After being trained as a magic warrior, he hadn't used these firearms for a long time.

The one he used was the gun given by Riya because she made too much of them as experiments. Riya herself kept some for herself while the rest were given to them.

In her words: these were not very useful for her because the power was too weak.

Of course, if other people were to hear what she was saying, it was estimated that they would want to beat her up. Because for many of them, the power of the guns modified by Riya was extremely valuable.

“Amelia, how are you?” Arnold asked.

“I’m fine, but you need to explain to me what happened before,” Amelia replied as she kicked a magic beast that was about to bite her. These magic beasts were really annoying and they looked like they were about to kill her.

“Yer is the leader of the mercenary group that has conflict with my group,” Arnold replied. “We received the same missions more than once in the past and my performance is better than him... after that, this happened a few more times and the two groups are always competing with each other.”

Business competition?

Amelia was stunned.

She knew that Arnold is a mercenary, but she didn’t expect that there were such competition among them.

As for the fact that there were mercenaries, it was not exactly a secret. These people were usually active at the border and they would do many things for money. They basically didn’t have any scruples because they only cared about money.

Arnold also became a mercenary because of money and some other matters back then.

He didn’t have any other ability but to fight, so he simply left and signed himself for various missions.

For years, he didn't leave the border.

When he came back, he was no longer the same person as he used to be. He had his comrades, lost some comrades, and also killed people.

"Don't worry too much," Arnold continued and then shoot the last magic beast that was approaching. "The other mercenaries shouldn't have come to this area."

Continent Z is vast and strictly speaking, they would stay away from the capital city. The main reason was because the control over weapon in the capital city was too strict and it was too uncomfortable for these mercenaries.

For people who have gotten used to the lives at the border where they were basically facing danger all the time, not being able to hold their weapon would make their nerves tense.

Arnold had experienced it himself.

So he applied for weapon possession, but the weapons that he could bring to City A was limited.

"Haven't you quit your job as mercenary?" Amelia asked in a low voice while cleaning up the magic beasts' corpses that she had killed.

She never had any scruples from killing magic beasts because they were not human beings. They didn't have much thoughts on their own and only relied on instincts

After all, if Amelia has problems with killing animals, she wouldn't be able to eat meat with peace of mind.

But killing people was different.

Mercenaries had their own paper and so on, which to a certain degree legalized their existence. Many officials tacitly agreed of their existence and let them work for them. After all, there were some 'bounty' that was released from time to time.

For these mercenaries, the best thing that they could do was to be able to get a lot of money from finishing their tasks.

"I did quit, but some people are unreasonable," Arnold replied with a bitter smile.

There was an embarrassed look on his face as he looked at Amelia in front of him. To be honest, he didn't expect that these people would still have grudge against him after so many years.

They were no longer mercenaries.

But perhaps, the fact that he had restricted their development over the years had caused Yer's resentment.

Amelia looked at Arnold in front of her. It was rare to see this big man looked embarrassed like this. She sighed. "Don't worry too much, these weapon could no longer harm us."

It might sound arrogant, but Amelia was telling the truth.

Most firearms could no longer hurt either Amelia or Arnold because their bodies have gotten stronger over their practice. But for the sake of their safety, they would still make the counterattack shield when they were attacked.

After all, relying on the power of the flesh alone might not be enough.

"If they could modify the sniper rifle in the same way as what Riya did, it might be dangerous," Arnold said while rubbing his forehead.

He knew that he could not run from his past, but he didn't expect that his past would chase after him to this extent.

Chapter 610: Arnold and Amelia (3)

Amelia was stunned.

"Is there anyone who could use runes aside from Riya?"

"... I don't think so? If you mean someone stronger than her, then the answer is no, but if I'm not wrong, she shared this technology with the official," Arnold replied.

What he meant was the technology to apply runes into weapon.

Even though the known runes were limited, but if the officials tried to use their rune masters to apply it to other weapons, it was still possible for them to do it. At least in terms of firearms, their knowledge definitely surpassed Riya.

Before the earthquake happened, Riya was only a student but there were many people in the army under the government. They have extensive knowledge over various weapons and even have a complete directory of it.

So if they tried to replicate the runes that Riya used on other weapons...

They might be able to do it.

"It'll be troublesome, then." Amelia thought about the power of the weapon modified by Riya and felt some headache.

Moreover, Amelia knew her best friend very well. Riya made these weapons for them and didn't really care if others replicate them. Because what Riya wanted was a weapon that her friends could use to protect themselves.

As for Riya herself?

Unless she could make weapons that could kill rank 6 or even rank 7 magic beasts easily, it was estimated that Riya would not care too much.

The formation that she could make was more than enough for her.

"The mercenary has its own means to get information..." Arnold thought about his days as mercenary and felt more headache. "Let's go back for today and talk with the others. I'm sure Yer will not give up so easily. To avoid implicating you..."

"If you're talking that you're going to leave on your own again, then I'll not agree." Amelia interrupted before Arnold could finish speaking.

The two of them stopped their movements of collecting the magic beasts and looked at each other.

In this ruined city, the two of them seemed as if they were ready to fight.

Arnold took a deep breath. "You're Samuel's sister, Mel. You know very well that there are already many people who might want to take advantage of you and if my enemies are added..."

"So what?" Amelia took a step forward, her eyes were staring directly at Arnold's direction. "If you think that by running away, you can avoid the problem, then you're too stupid. I have already appeared here with you and it's estimated that the man called Yer should have seen me. Why do you even think that by staying away from me and the others will solve your problems? Are you afraid of them?"

"I'm not afraid of them, I'm more afraid of losing you!" Arnold replied without hesitation and then froze.

His expression contorted for a moment and he rubbed his forehead.

He really didn't want to tell Amelia about this matter right now because he knew very well that he couldn't live a normal life.

Even after coming back from his work, Arnold would still carry weapon with him. Because he knew very well that it was not so easy for him to get rid of his past and all.

Just when he thought that he could live a normal life and tried to move on, the earthquakes happened. The long lasting memory of the past and the instinct that was honed for so many years on the battlefield was instantly brought up.

Living this kind of life again was nothing much for Arnold.

What worries him was if there were no hope for them to defeat the magic beasts and so on.

Thankfully, the situation was not that bad.

But...

He never expected that what he used to fear would come up at this unfortunate time.

"My brother is afraid of losing me, Riya is afraid of losing me," Amelia said calmly, stating the facts in an indifferent tone.

Amelia might be a bit naive and childish, but she was by no means stupid. She knew very well that being pampered by others, especially someone as powerful as Samuel and Riya would definitely have the consequences.

Because she would be labelled as their 'weakness.'

It was also because of this that Amelia would still follow the training arranged by Samuel and Riya.

If she truly didn't want to, she could just be lazy all the time and tried to escape.

But she understood that because of this 'favor' given by them that she could enjoy a lot of resources and held an important place in their heart. So she had to have a sufficient ability to protect herself to a certain degree.

Even if she couldn't be as powerful as the others, she couldn't be lagging behind.

To be honest, Amelia still has the mentality of going with the flow along with a somewhat lazy personality.

After all, she didn't like training.

But after Victoria's incident, Amelia knew very well that it was impossible for her to live such a carefree life.

She has to get stronger.

Both for herself and for the people who cared for her.

"Arnold, I'm not weak," Amelia said slowly. "You would not be happy living by yourself without any of your friends and I will not be happy either. I don't think Brother will want you to be a loner either... the world is dangerous, so we just have to work hard to protect ourselves."

Arnold looked at Amelia in front of him.

She has always surprised him.

Childish, playful, naughty... this was all the label that many people had given to Amelia. But despite these characteristic, Amelia could also be quite mature and reliable at times.

A contradictory person.

Yet, she was also an amazing person in Arnold's eyes.

"What if...?"

"If something did happen in the end, it just meant that it's our fate and I'll accept it... but lives have to go on," Amelia said softly.