

Last Days 611

Chapter 611: Arnold and Amelia (4)

Arnold was silent.

Amelia took a deep breath and raised her head to look at Arnold in front of her. Her expression showed a certain kind of determination and encouragement.

He has experienced a lot of losses and didn't really want to see anyone close to him died again.

It was painful.

But Amelia was right.

"Life is short, so just enjoy it?" Arnold said slowly.

Amelia chuckled. "That's right~. I don't know how long I'll live or what I'll experience in the future, so what I can do is to enjoy the current life I have."

Besides, another reason why she could do this was because there were many people who pampered her and allowed her to do whatever she wanted. No matter what she wanted to do, there will be people who were willing to support her and allowed her to live well.

So Amelia's outlook of life was still very positive.

"Alright..." Arnold sighed. "Let's deal with him next time and discuss it with the others."

"Good." Amelia smiled happily, showing the dimples on her cheek.

Seeing Amelia like this, Arnold felt his hands were a bit itchy and wanted to poke her cheeks.

She's really cute.

This was the only thing that Arnold could think of as the two of them reached City I Base.

...

Inside the Crack

After a long time walking around and killing unknown number of magic beasts, the two people finally reached the pillar where the rank 6 formation was located.

Of course, along the way, they have already obtained another rank 5 special magic core.

Samuel was still not interested in it and left it to Riya while she kept it inside her world so that she could give it to the others later.

"This is the rank 6 special magic core, right?" Samuel asked for confirmation when he saw the familiar formation and pillars.

To be honest, he couldn't see the differences between these places one after another aside from the fact that after the third one the entire place would turn blood red. The scenes were really eerie and Samuel felt that it was hard for him to see it.

Because he understood that the blood red markings meant warning.

"Yes." Riya stretched her hand. "Based on estimation, we took around a month to reach this place... which is not much different from before."

She was trying to estimate the strength between these formations inside the cracks and the result was not surprising.

After all, there was restriction to the shape of the formation due to the calculation and so on. Riya had some estimation about the direction but since this formation was basically build in 3D shape, it was not so easy to calculate everything.

Even Riya still has limitation in this regards.

Her brain was not supercomputer that could calculate everything clearly so quickly and she needed time to sort out everything.

"Do you need help?" Samuel asked.

"Just wait outside and I'll be done. If possible, stay inside the formation," Riya said with a smile.

She had built the teleportation formation not far from this formation.

"Okay." Samuel nodded and agreed to Riya's approach. Sometimes, he did look like Riya's thug, only responsible to beat up the magic beasts that got close to Riya and listen to her words.

But Samuel didn't mind that much.

His biggest gain from following Riya was various resources that he could take from the crack. Riya never stopped him from taking the few ores and minerals they found along with countless magic beasts' corpses.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to put the living magic beasts into the space storage scrolls.

There were some advance space storage scrolls that could hold living beings but Riya said that she couldn't make it for the time being. Even if she could make it, she would probably only make it for herself and not spread it out.

Samuel didn't mind that much.

Everyone had their own reservation of what they could and couldn't share. It was simply impossible for Samuel to ask Riya to hand over her research to others. What she had taken out was already more than enough to cause turmoil for many people.

Swish!

As Samuel walked out, Riya studied the formation once more.

"As expected, a formation at this rank can still make me marvel from time to time," Riya murmured.

There was a hint of regret within her voice.

Because Riya knew very well that she would not have any chance to learn formation from others again.

She could only study and open up this path on her own.

Many things after rank 7 had become relatively intangible and hard to describe. Riya knew very well that achieving rank 7 would become the very first step for her to truly become a high ranked magician.

This is a step that many people wanted to take but unable to do so.

'Calm down.'

Taking a deep breath, Riya studied the formation for a while before taking the special magic core and walked out of the formation calmly. She headed to the formation where Samuel was located and activated the formation, sending them far away from this place.

Swish!

Seeing the different scenery around him, Samuel sighed. "No matter how many times you use it, I still feel amazed by the teleportation formation."

"I think that you should have used it very often in the past," Riya said without hesitation and walked towards a stone and sat down while holding the special magic core in her hand.

"Are you planning to take it now?" Samuel's eyes revealed surprise when he saw this.

Riya nodded. "Don't worry. We're far away from the formation and even if it activated, it'll only harm the nearby magic beasts."

Samuel nodded helplessly.

Those formations definitely only harmed the magic beasts because they ran fast enough.

"I'll guard."

"Thank you." Riya smiled and started to absorb the rank 6 special magic core. The process didn't really take that much time and soon, the special magic core dimmed.

Chapter 612: Soul Attack

Crush!

With a little force, the core turned into dust.

Riya looked at the special magic core in her hand and sighed deeply. Even though she herself is a rank 6 rune master, but most of her mana was used to strengthen her physique.

This delayed her own advancement, making her need more mana compared to ordinary magicians.

If it was her disciple here, he might be able to reach rank 6 in one spot.

sigh

Forget it.

From the moment she chose to become a rune master, Riya knew very well that the amount of mana she needed might be outrageously high. After all, it was not so easy for her to take a 'shortcut' to increase her physique.

Riya took out a mirror and lowered her collar to look at the markings that appeared from the absorption of these special magic cores and saw that the mark has become clearer. If this continued, it was estimated that the markings might glow and it was impossible for her to hide it anymore.

'I might not be able to take too many special magic cores anymore.'

Thinking about this, Riya shook her head but didn't feel surprised.

The highest ranked special magic core only reached rank 9 and the rank 9 definitely contained some kind of power that could not be absorbed directly by humans. The limit for the special magic core that humans could take directly was rank 6.

Afterwards, the special magic core had to be treated or suppressed by people of the same ranks as the special magic core before it could be used.

'Is it because of the special characteristic of the special magic core above rank 6 that these formations are only using rank 6 special magic core at most?'

Riya speculated inside her mind for a moment.

To be honest, it would not be too surprising even if this was the case.

Is it?

Rubbing her forehead, Riya tossed the thoughts in her mind away. No matter what the person who made the formation thought, it was a foregone conclusion that the world was fused together. What she had to do was to cope up with the change and so on.

"You're done?" Samuel noticed Riya's movement and turned his head around in surprise. He thought that it would take some time, but Riya finished it very quickly.

"Yes," Riya replied and stretched her body. "It's not that difficult to absorb the special magic core after you have done so repeatedly."

"Is that so?" Samuel nodded when he heard that.

"Have you never tried to use the special magic cores?"

"No. I don't need it." Samuel thought for a moment before saying, "My family in that world had special medicine that I can use to improve my strength. There's no need for me to use the special magic core that can only increase my mana."

There were some methods that could increase one's physical strength through the use of mana. But those methods were expensive and Samuel couldn't really replicate most of them.

The best he could do was to practice normally and used various resources to temper his body.

"Right, your family is really rich." Riya had a helpless tone when she thought about that.

Samuel chuckled. "If you want to, I'll tell you some stories about my life in that world.... Not that I think it'll be interesting, though."

His life consisted of studying, practicing, and fighting. Because of his status, he never needed to worry about lack of resources. At most, his family would want to send him away to participate in some test and so on.

Those things were not very difficult and Samuel would passed it quickly.

The most remarkable thing that he had done was probably the global competition that was attended by many geniuses from various families not long before the large magic beasts' tide.

It was at that time that he became famous and many people came to look for him.

"I think that your life will be very interesting compared to me." Riya shook her head bitterly.

Compared to Samuel who had everything and has an easier starting line, Riya could remember her own suffering in that world and felt really tired when she thought about it.

Because she had to work hard for the sake of herself...

It was really tiring.

"But I think that the child Riya would be quite interesting," Samuel commented.

When they came to that world, their body was adjusted appropriately. At the very least, they were back to the time when they were teenagers. Not too young to the point that they wouldn't be able to exert their strength properly but not too old to the point that they were practicing too late.

For warriors, it would be best if they started training under 18 years old while magicians were advised to start training after 12 years old but under 20 years old.

To be honest, their age in this world had long exceeded the requirement.

But because they were basically starting over the practice that they had succeeded before, they didn't really have much problem.

"It might be because we have a completely different experience," Samuel analyzed calmly. In his opinion, to be able to experience a completely different life was a unique experience in itself.

After all, not many people would have such chance in their entire life.

"Haha, you're right." Riya chuckled.

The two of them were relaxed but the next moment, their expression changed. The atmosphere around them changed from calm to gloomy in almost an instant and the two of them moved away from their original position.

Swish!

A flash of white light passed by the place where they originally stayed and Riya's expression distorted slightly. Her hand quickly moved to form the Protective Rune Circle with both hands, her nerves were tenses and she understood that this was a moment of life and death.

Samuel saw the incoming enemy as he took out his sword and his expression changed. "Riya! Move away! It's soul attack!"

SWOOSH!

Chapter 613: Soul Attack (2)

SWOOSH!

The flash of light passed by and Samuel's heart was on his throat.

Soul attack.

It was a completely different kind of attack and also one of the most dangerous type of attack. Because if any of them failed to resist the attack, it was not impossible for them to turn into a fools.

And there was a magician who specialized in soul, named soul magician.

Soul magicians were relatively weaker in the early stage because their own soul was weak and they couldn't really attack others. But their training focused on enhancing their mental strength, slowly but surely to surpass other magicians.

Many magicians have strong mental strength but they were nothing compared to the soul magician.

At the same time, the soul magician has one great weakness.

Their physical strength was definitely the weakest among all of them.

"Riya!"

"I'm fine!" Riya replied and moved away from her position. Her eyes were locked onto the white and black figure that was floating in front of her. "It's a rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast."

Ghost Transformed Beast was a special kind of magic beasts. This magic beast has dark element and upon reaching rank 7, their soul would be sublimated to the point that their own body would no longer have any physical entity.

If one wanted to deal with a Ghost Transformed Beast, they had to use either light element or soul attack.

Moreover, because it was in the form of soul, many types of attack would not be able to hit it and various defenses were useless. The Protective Rune Circle has a certain degree resistance towards soul attack but it was still fairly weak.

Riya is only a rank 6 rune master.

If she really wanted to face a rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast, her current strength was definitely far from enough.

"Tsk..." Samuel gritted his teeth and lightning element enveloped his body. Even though the lightning element was not the best element against Ghost Transformed Beast, it could resist the Ghost Transformed Beast to a certain degree.

"Don't get close to it!"

Swish!

The Ghost Transformed Beast moved once more, as fast as light, towards Samuel.

He could only kick the ground and slashed upon the Ghost Transformed Beast while moving his body away.

The most difficult thing to do when facing the Ghost Transformed Beast was that they could not touch the Ghost Transformed Beast's body in the slightest bit. Because the touch might harm their own soul.

Any magician, magic warriors, and warriors under rank 7 were weak against soul attack.

This include soul magician.

Even though soul magician should have the strongest soul, but their methods of attack was relatively similar to magician in the early stage. Because they could not touch upon the power of their soul yet.

Unless they used some kind of forbidden technique to forcefully raise their soul power, these soul magicians could not use their soul power recklessly.

But a rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast could do it.

After failed to get Samuel, the Ghost Transformed Beast moved away once more. At this moment, a melodious sound rang and the Ghost Transformed Beast sensed danger and rushed over to Riya.

"I'm the messenger of light, borrowing the healing power to treat and expel the impurities in front of me. Lend me your light, purification."

As Riya moved away, she continued her chants.

The purification magic spell was definitely not the strongest light elemental magic spell that she knew, but it was the only magic spell that could be casted in wide range.

In other words, it could create protection for both of them for a period of time where the Ghost Transformed Beast wouldn't be able to get close.

Swish!

After dodging the Ghost Transformed Beast, the magic spell was casted and light spread out with Riya at the center.

Her hands quickly moved and runes were formed at extremely fast speed. Her expression was tense and Riya was basically racing against time.

The purification magic spell wouldn't last long and she had to create sufficient defense against the Ghost Transformed Beast during this period of time.

This is not easy.

Not far from her, Samuel was also accumulating his mana. He knew that the purification magic spell would only stop the Ghost Transformed Beast for a few seconds at best and even then they had to be prepared to be attacked.

Because the purification magic spell was not an attack magic spell.

At most, it could only hinder the Ghost Transformed Beast.

When it knew that this spell couldn't harm it, the Ghost Transformed Beast would definitely come closer towards them.

This is a bet.

But, isn't it fun to bet on their lives like this?

The corner of Samuel's lips curled up slightly, a hint of madness appeared within his eyes. He had fought on the frontline for a long time, betting his life to fight against countless magic beasts. This is just one of them and he's excited.

The Ghost Transformed Beast hovered around the areas, looking towards the two nasty people below. It wanted to get close but the light that surrounded these two people made it uneasy.

As the light dimmed, the Ghost Transformed Beast saw that Riya had already formed shield in front of her.

Beads of sweat poured on her forehead and Riya's expression was not very good. She was using a large amount of mana to make this shield.

'It's a rank 6 formation after all...'

Even though Riya had already absorbed that special magic core, she still couldn't make too many rank 6 formation. At most two before her mana bottomed out. Considering that she had already used her mana and runes for other things, she could only make one.

"Samuel!" Riya called out and then added, "Don't resist!"

Samuel was still accumulating power when he sensed something came to him. His instinct was to resist but the next moment, he calmed down and let the runes seep into his body.

His sword suddenly trembled and Samuel's expression changed.

Chapter 614: Soul Shield

"Riya! What about you?" Samuel yelled when he realized what it is.

"I'm fine."

"You..." Samuel wanted to scold but the Ghost Transformed Beast had already come forward and he swung his sword and lightning spread out.

hiss

The Ghost Transformed Beast seemed to be scared of something and moved away once more, avoiding Samuel's attack.

Riya was on the side, taking out a mana stone and crushed it on her hand as her mana was recovering. There was some loss because she was in a hurry, but this is the best that she could do.

"Protect me for 5 seconds, Samuel," Riya said and then started to make runes and formation once again.

"You're really reckless." Samuel took a deep breath and his eyes turned sharp and focused. He knew very well that he had to kill this Ghost Transformed Beast at the fastest speed possible.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

For the next few seconds, Samuel attacked the Ghost Transformed Beast relentlessly. His sword drew arcs in the air and lightning spread out, destroying the rocks, grounds, and even the ceiling.

But none of the attack could hit the Ghost Transformed Beast cleanly.

In this contest of speed, Samuel was on the losing end and even if he used lightning to stimulate his body, he could not be faster than the Ghost Transformed Beast in front of him.

The realization made Samuel extremely unwilling.

But the Ghost Transformed Beast seemed to have other thoughts because it suddenly moved in Riya's direction.

Swish!

Samuel moved to block the Ghost Transformed Beast, lightning spreads out. There was determination within his eyes as he turned over in the air and slashed his sword once more.

Boom!

The place were in ruins due to the battle and the Ghost Transformed Beast avoided Samuel and twisted its body before rushing over to Riya once more.

"Riya!" Samuel saw this and gritted his teeth. He knew what Riya was doing, but he couldn't stop the Ghost Transformed Beast.

For the first time in his life, Samuel felt that his attack power was far from enough. He wanted to get stronger, faster, and more.

The sword in Samuel's hand trembled as if responding to Samuel's thoughts.

Swish!

Bang!

The Ghost Transformed Beast was about to get close to Riya, but something blocked its path and Riya swiftly moved away from her position. "Don't worry, I'm done."

Even though her face was pale and her back was covered in sweat, there was still a smile on Riya's face. She had faced countless dangerous situation more than once in the past and this was nothing much.

Putting one's life on the line...

It was a common thing.

Because if they didn't dare to bet with their lives, they would never get ahead in that world.

hiss!

The Ghost Transformed Beast seemed to be angry with Riya's reaction and tried to get close to her again, but Riya was prepared and several runes surged, forming dense arrows heading straight towards the Ghost Transformed Beast.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

"The shield?" Samuel asked with a frown.

"Soul shield," Riya replied.

What she has been making was the soul shield, the type of shield formation that could protect one's soul. While a rank 6 formation was still weaker than a rank 7 soul attack, but it could protect one's soul to the greatest extent.

To be exact, this was the best formation that Riya could make with her current ability.

She's not strong enough to truly contend against a rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast, but Riya didn't want to give up. Because she knew that the moment she gave up would be the moment of her death.

She didn't want to die yet.

So she had to fight.

"You better be fine," Samuel muttered under his breath and then looked at the Ghost Transformed Beast that was coming towards him. His eyes were cold and he asked, "Do you have a way to make it stop moving for one second?"

One second is enough.

Because for people at their level, one second was all they needed.

"It'll be difficult, but not impossible." Riya smiled faintly and took out another mana stone. When facing against a magic beast that attacked their soul like this, many of her formation could not work that well.

And one's soul was not something that they could bet.

Flesh and mind injuries could be healed with some methods. But soul injuries might take decades to heal and might even cause irreparable damage. One could not be too careful when dealing with soul attack.

"But before that... O mighty force of timeless might, Weave thy threads of silver light, Shield us from all wrath and harm, Enclose us now, safe and warm."

As Riya started singing, the Ghost Transformed Beast seemed as if it has been hit by something and rushed far away.

Samuel arched his eyebrows. "That's a low ranked magic spell, right?"

That kind of magic spell would not be able to block the Ghost Transformed Beast's attack in the slightest bit.

"Yes, but it didn't know," Riya replied calmly while her hands were moving to form formation to trap the Ghost Transformed Beast. Runes after runes were formed in Riya's hands as the light shield slowly dimmed.

As if sensing something, the Ghost Transformed Beast rushed over towards Riya once again. It seemed to have completely ignored Samuel because it sensed threat from Riya.

But it was too late.

The next moment, a large formation spread from under Riya's legs, completely trapping the two of them inside.

The Ghost Transformed Beast squirmed, trying to escape to its utmost desire.

"Now!"

"I'll be the channel of thunder, transmitting the power of lightning and projecting it towards my enemy... the great lightning spear!"

Rampaging lightning element spread out from Samuel's sword and with his hastened chants, the sword strike against the Ghost Transformed Beast.

hiss!

As the sword slashed through the Ghost Transformed Beast's body, it screamed loudly.

"Watch out!"

The next moment, the Ghost Transformed Beast suddenly exploded.

BOOM!

Chapter 615: Explosion

The explosion caused earthquake within the crack.

From the very beginning, countless magic beasts have stayed far away from this place in fear that they would be implicated.

And now, the ceiling was half broken with countless rocks falling down.

cough *cough*

Riya clutched her chest and felt a faint burning pain. It seemed that a rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast was still not something that she could deal with in a short term.

There were many types of rank 7 magic beasts.

The previous Giant Rock Golem was the type that could still be dealt with as long as their attack power was strong enough. With Samuel present, the returnees were not too worried and simply pushed him forward.

And they themselves knew that the Giant Rock Golem would not come towards them.

But this rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast was different.

The soul attack.

Ah, unless they were soul magician at the same ranks, it was almost impossible for them to be unscathed when facing an all out mutual destruction from the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast.

Riya gritted her teeth and communicated with her world before warm light soothed her soul.

Thanks to the soul shield, the damage to her soul was not that much. The world was also connected to her soul, so it helped her to soothe the soul that was shocked by the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast's last attack.

Estimating the injury, Riya was relieved that there was almost no injury.

After a few days, she should recover as before.

Now..

"Samuel! Samuel! How are you?" Riya asked, her tone was somewhat urgent.

When the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast suddenly decided to explode, the person closest to it was Samuel. The explosion power was basically another type of violent soul attack.

It was so powerful that it could even affect the areas where they were located, so Samuel, who was the closest to the Ghost Transformed Beast might be heavily injured.

cough *cough*

"I'm fine." Samuel was half crouching on the ground, using his own sword as a leverage to make sure he would not fall to the ground.

The last attack almost caught him off guard, but he still used his reaction ability to push himself as far away as possible and put the sword in front of him to block. Well, the sword was now complaining, though.

Samuel looked at his own sword that had faint cracks and felt a bit distressed.

His sword was connected to his soul and in a way, the sword is also his soul's protector. The soul shield that Riya gave to him was broken after bearing the maximum damage from the Ghost Transformed Beast's attack.

What left was damage that was born by the sword.

His own soul was fine, but he could guess that his journey of recovering his sword would definitely take a long time. In the past few months, he had already collected a large number of ore and let his sword swallow it.

But it was far from enough.

These treasures were too low ranked in his sword's opinion.

"Are you sure?" Riya asked carefully.

"Rather than me, why don't you care about yourself more?" Samuel narrowed his eyes. "My reaction speed is faster than you and I can still avoid the Ghost Transformed Beast's attack. But if you're not careful enough, you will be caught in a moment. The soul shield would have been more useful to you than me."

Samuel looked at Riya's pale face and felt really distressed. If only it was possible, he hoped that she could put her life first rather than worrying about him.

He's powerful enough to deal with the Ghost Transformed Beast's attack on his own.

"Because if I put the soul shield on myself, I would not have enough time to put it on you," Riya answered seriously.

"You..." Samuel looked at Riya and sighed. "Forget it. How's your soul? The last attack definitely still cover you even if you're far away."

The formation that restricted the Ghost Transformed Beast was a large formation, but Riya still has to be within a certain distance. Otherwise, the formation wouldn't work well.

Because of this, Samuel was sure that Riya was also hit by the Ghost Transformed Beasts attack.

"I just need to rest a few days," Riya replied.

Before the world was destroyed, her soul would be fine.

This might be one of the few advantages of having a soul treasure... and it might be their benefit from coming to that world.

Samuel's expressions changed when he heard that. "You stay and meditate. I'll guard first."

"You have to recover your mana too." Riya frowned.

"Then I'll let my sword guard."

Buzz!

The sword moved as if complaining. It had already ore the attack towards Samuel and now he wanted to squeeze its labor again?

The sword refused!

Samuel saw the sword's protest and silently suppressed it.

Riya saw their action and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Samuel's sword has its own consciousness and always acted like a child.

Though, it did look like Samuel was squeezing child's labor force.

Riya chuckled when the thoughts crossed her mind and took out a formation plate. "Just use this. It can create a shield to protect us and unless another rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast come, it would not be broken so easily."

"Alright." Samuel accepted it and then pushed Riya to the relatively intact area. "Go and meditate."

With the formation, they didn't have to worry so much and the impact of the battle would make the other magic beasts stay away. After all, the aura of a rank 7 magic beast was still very prominent.

Riya smiled and sat down.

But as she sat down, she was actually thinking about the battle just now.

'Samuel is right that I should have cared for myself more...' In that moment, she decisively put the soul shield on Samuel, completely forgetting that she herself is also very weak in terms of soul defense.

Why?

'Do I care for him because he's my friend or it's something more?'

Chapter 616: Soul Damage

Riya felt that there was something wrong with her conclusion, but she couldn't think of anything more.

There seemed to be something illusory that existed.

It just she didn't seem to be able to grasp it.

Riya shook her head and choose to quickly recover her mana and let the world nourished her soul. The pain had completely disappeared, but Riya still didn't dare to use her mana in fear that she would accidentally hurt her soul again.

'But that pain is not the pain of having my soul torn apart... but rather the world's soul was damaged slightly.'

The connection allowed her to know that the world was hurt, which transferred the pain.

But when Riya checked herself, she realized that she was not hurt in the slightest bit. The world was the one that got hurt due to their connection.

"When I reach rank 7, I'll build the best soul formation," Riya muttered in a low breath.

She calmed herself down and then focused on recovering. Within a few more months, she should be able to collect the other rank 6 special magic core and if her estimation was correct, she should be able to reach rank 6 late stage.

After that, she had to rely on herself to reach the peak and prepare for the promotion ritual to reach rank 7.

There were still many things that she had to do.

Buzz

Samuel was sitting on the side, silently recovering his mana and physical strength. Even though the Ghost Transformed Beast was mainly attacking his soul, but he still felt tired physically.

"Thank you," Samuel whispered in a low voice as he patted the sword in his hand.

Without the sword and the soul shield, Samuel didn't know what would happen to him.

The soul attack was something that rank 6 magician, magic warriors, or even warriors couldn't contend against.

The Ghost Transformed Beast was one of the most dangerous opponent for them at this stage.

Buzz!

The sword moved away from Samuel before hitting his arm.

"I know... we're a bit too arrogant lately," Samuel replied with a sigh. Since they never met with powerful rank 7 magic beast that they couldn't handle, the two of them didn't seem to have the same caution when they were exploring the crack.

While exploring the crack, they would still avoid the places where powerful rank 7 magic beasts were located, but they forgot that there were also some rank 7 magic beasts that could hide their presence.

This caused them to be unable to react when the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast came.

The sense of danger still allowed them to react in time but if they had been more careful, the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast wouldn't have been able to come so close to them.

Buzz

The sword moved again.

"I know, I'll find more treasure to let you recover as fast as possible," Samuel said in soothing voice.

As he was thinking about it, he turned his head to look in Riya's direction.

The soul shield that Riya made should have been the highest ranked soul type defense formation that she could make. But the last attack from the Ghost Transformed Beast still managed to shatter it into pieces.

At that moment, Samuel could clearly felt that the impact of the attack of a rank 7 magic beast was above what their body could tolerate.

They had indeed reached rank 7 in that world.

But right now, they were still too weak.

Exploring the crack was for the sake of recovering their strength at the fastest speed possible. But at the same time, they were exposing themselves to the danger that might come to them at any time.

Powerful rank 7 magic beasts were around and if they were not careful enough, they might bumped onto them.

It's dangerous.

Yet at the same time, Samuel didn't want to back down.

Buzz

The sword buzzed as if responding to Samuel.

'Riya...' Samuel whispered the woman's name in his heart and turned to look at Riya, who was sitting peacefully to meditate. He knew that she had to recover her strength at the fastest speed possible and wanted to speak more but in the end, all words were swallowed back to his throat.

Her decision to give that shield to him nearly caused him heart attack.

Because Samuel knew very well how selfish everyone is. When facing with the option whether to save one's life or save other people's lives, how many of them could decisively save others?

Even Samuel himself couldn't do it.

Only if the people whom he wanted to save were his family members that he might hesitate. Depending on the situation, he would prioritize them as he could protect himself.

And in that decisive moment where they only have seconds to decide, Riya decisively gave the soul shield formation to him.

Both of them understood the danger of soul attack better than anyone.

They knew very well that any damage to their soul might shatter their lifelong dream without any chance of recovery. So as much as possible, neither of them were willing to come close to that rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast.

And any kinds of means that could protect their should were extremely precious.

So why?

Why did she choose to give it to him from the first and might be the only chance?

Samuel wanted to open his mouth and ask, yet at the same time he was worried that he was thinking too much.

'No... not yet.'

Samuel took a deep breath and calmed himself down.

Buzz

The sword looked confused.

"It's fine." Samuel only smiled and then closed his eyes to meditate.

Neither of the two were injured and they only needed to recover their mana. Their own treasure has some damage but it was all superficial and what they needed was to find some treasure to recover it.

In this way, when the two of them had finished recovering their mana, they quickly set off and explored the crack again.

Chapter 617: How Did You Die?

They didn't talk about the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast.

It was as if this matter had never happened and that their confusing actions during that time didn't have any other meaning.

The only difference was probably the atmosphere was a bit ambiguous.

Buzz?

Only the sword looked confused by the action of these two people.

"Do you want to go back?" Samuel asked after they had walked a distance away from the battle site against the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast.

"No," Riya answered calmly. She looked at Samuel. "I can't stand still and wait for my strength to recover at normal pace. The best chance to get stronger is to stay in the crack and get more resources."

Even if these resources might not be what they needed the most, but accumulating more magic beasts' corpses allowed Riya to create a lot of mana stones. In the battle against the rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast, she had used three mana stones to recover her mana as soon as possible.

She's not an alchemist, so she couldn't make any potion to recover her mana quickly.

When facing the Ghost Transformed Beast, Riya had to use the best formation that she could make. The best way to recover her mana was to use these mana stones.

And to make the mana stones, countless magic beasts' corpses of various ranks have to be used.

Well, that battle did consume a lot of her resources.

But as long as she managed to survive, these didn't seem to mean much.

After all, her life is more valuable than these materials.

"I know," Samuel replied and smiled. "In that case, let's continue."

Riya watched as Samuel continued to walk and arched her eyebrows. "I thought that you asked me to go back because you want to leave."

"No." Samuel shook his head. "If I have to travel alone, then I naturally didn't dare to stay so deep within the crack. But since you're here, I dare to take the risk and I won't leave you alone."

Riya blinked her eyes when she heard it.

For a moment, she felt her heart skipped a beat.

Pursing her lips, Riya chuckled. "I believe other returnees have their own way to stay in the crack even if they couldn't go too deep."

Riya didn't believe the other returnee would not have any ambition. From the moment they decided to show their strength and negotiate with the higher ups for their treatment, Riya knew that all of them have their own impatience.

After all, they used to be a powerful rank 7 magician or magic warrior or warrior in that world.

After coming here, they resumed their own life.

An ordinary life without those things.

If the world was still the previous normal modern world, most of them would not make any splash and would stay hidden. Because they all knew very well that even if they were to do anything, it would not change the world too much.

The mana concentration was low and they could only be patient.

In that situation, being able to reach rank 7 within a decade was already very good and none of them were people who lacked patience.

But the earthquake changed everything.

From the moment these magic beasts appears, they were destined to be unable to live an ordinary life. They would not be so patient to wait for these resources to come to them but would seek these resources on their own.

The crack is the place where both danger and opportunity exist.

Everyone was doing things on their own pace and grabbed resources as much as they could. Without taking too much risk, they could enter the crack and found some resources and fight stronger magic beasts.

But they would not choose to enter too deep for they could not risk everything.

And when the magic beasts' tide suddenly came... all of them should realize that their time was limited. These magic beasts were also getting stronger and crawled their way out of the crack.

Time waits for no one.

If they didn't want to be washed away by the tide of time, they could only step forward and took the first step.

"Yes. There should be more sense of urgency," Samuel replied. "And I believe you have it too."

Because he himself felt it.

It was as if the world was urging them to move faster and faster...

Riya nodded and silently raised her hand to make Protective Rune Circle. "It's better to have this circle protecting me at all time."

She didn't want to be attacked by a rank 7 Ghost Transformed Beast again.

"Can that Protective Rune Circle protect you from soul attack?" Samuel asked.

"No." Riya shook her head. "The resistance is very small and I don't have enough capability to make powerful soul shield merged into the Protective Rune Circle yet."

"Yet?" Samuel caught the key point.

"After I reach rank 7, I modified the Protective Rune Circle with some additional runes that can protect me better," Riya replied calmly. "Soul shield was just one of them."

Just one of them....

For some reason, Samuel had the feeling that Riya had become a mobile fortress.

It would not be so easy for other people to attack Riya when she had reached rank 7...

"You have asked me how I died... how did you die exactly in that world?" Samuel asked curiously.

In the past, Riya had asked him how he died and Samuel could only say that he was trapped by the magic beasts during the great magic beasts' tide. Even with his strong power, he was not a match against a large number of magic beasts.

He thought that Riya might have an accident before the great magic beasts' tide.

But...

With Riya's self saving methods, how did she die?

"...I was surrounded by a few magicians and magic warriors who wants me to die," Riya replied briefly.

She was not killed by the magic beasts but by other humans.

Chapter 618: Can You Do It

Samuel arched his eyebrows.

"You don't seem to be the type that attract hatred."

And not many people would be willing to offend a powerful rune master. Even if Riya might be only a rank 7 rune master in that world, but Samuel knew this very clearly.

That there would be no way Riya could offend them so easily.

"Ah... it's a battle of life and death." Riya shrugged. "There can be only one person who survive and there are hundreds of people there. There's a space lock that prevent me from using teleportation formation and then there's a time treasure that prevent me from forming runes..."

If Riya had to say, the situation at that time was really miserable.

She was attacked from all sides and those people were using various treasures that wanted Riya wanted to vomit blood.

Space lock, time lock...

Samuel heard these two types of treasures and fell into silence.

If he was not wrong, even his family would not use that kind of treasure easily because it cost a lot to use even once.

Moreover....

"Did you face opponents higher than rank 7?"

"Yeah," Riya replied. "Opponents of the same ranks will never be able to beat me... I think that it's the same for you."

Samuel nodded weakly.

Facing against rank 8 and rank 9 magic beasts at large number, Samuel could only try his best to fight until the very end. He did everything possible to save his life, but when he saw the fortress destroyed... he knew that there was no chance for him to go back.

Then he simply went all out and killed as many magic beasts as possible.

"But for the magicians to fight against themselves before the great magic beasts' tide, they might face great punishment." Samuel thought about something else.

"Ah?" Riya blinked her eyes and then tilted her head. "I don't think that they can bear any punishment when they're half dead. I basically self destruct at the last moment to kill as many opponents as possible."

Samuel was silent.

The two of them looked at each other and the look in their eyes were surprisingly similar.

Because if they were truly forced to the dead end, what they would do was to fight until the very end even if it meant their own destruction.

"Self destruct should have also destroyed your soul," Samuel suddenly said.

"I know. That's why it's strange." Riya chuckled. "I believed that I have died in that world and when I come back to this world... there are times when I thought I was dreaming."

Dreaming of going back to that fateful moment when she should have died.

But there wouldn't be anyone who would want to weave such a realistic dream for her and Riya knew this very well. So she didn't think that she was still dreaming right now.

"Right." Samuel chuckled.

It was the same for him.

He also thought that he had died... many times he thought that it was that way in the beginning. Until he accepted everything and then simply strived to become stronger and reach the rank he used to have.

"Let's go, there are more magic beasts in front of us," Riya said as she sensed magic beasts coming.

"Ok."

Samuel smiled.

For the next few months, they will stay in this crack and continued their battle.

...

City I Base

Arnold and Amelia told the others about what had happened when they gathered for dinner. After all, everyone had their own activity and it was impossible for them to stay together at all times.

Night time was basically the best chance for them to gather and shared the information they had received during the day.

Well, it was also time for them to relax.

After all, they were tired after such a long time fighting, training, or others during the day.

"Your former enemy is coming?" Ruben frowned when he heard Arnold's words. He knew what Arnold has been doing over the years.

Unlike Samuel who was busy with business and Ruben who was busy with his work as an architect and also Samuel's assistant, Arnold's profession was a bit dangerous. Stephen was also a businessman and didn't touch anything dangerous or strange.

Sean looked at his sister. "Sister, are you alright?"

"What can happen to me?" Amelia rolled her eyes. "I'm already a rank 4 magic warrior and those people can't do anything to me."

It was nothing more than bullets and the power of these bullets could only deal with rank 2 magic beasts at most. With her own physique, Amelia could easily deal with these people who tried to shoot her.

"It's a bit dangerous." Stephen rubbed his chin. "Do you want me to try looking up for their information?"

As a businessman, Stephen was proficient in using various resources to get what he wanted. While the resources he could mobilize now was limited, he still has his own way to get information that he needed.

"Can you do it?" Arnold asked with a frown.

"It's easy, but you might need to pay with some magic cores," Stephen replied.

One of the most valuable resources in the current era was naturally magic cores. There were many people who could get magic cores but not all of them were qualified to get it.

These magic cores could also help many magicians and magic warriors to practice, so their price had increased again and again.

Stephen still paid attention to this matter and if it was possible, he would sell the excess that he had.

After all, there were some elements that they didn't need.

As for why he didn't use the official exchange, it was because he wanted to look for connection and also figure out the current market.

"Sure," Arnold replied with a grin.

"Then I'll give the information to you tomorrow."

"Tomorrow?" Sophia looked at her brother in surprise. "Have you build a connection here, Brother?"

The others also looked over curiously.

Chapter 619: It Sounds Beautiful~

"Just a little bit," Stephen replied and rubbed Sophia's head.

The others heard that and arched their eyebrows. They were sure that Samuel and Stephen were both quite similar with each other.

"I can ask the officials too if you want to, but I don't think they pay that much attention to the mercenaries," Ruben added.

"...Did you already have official position?" Amelia asked with difficulties.

"Huh? No, but I'm close to the leader in City I Base." Ruben smiled brightly. "After all, if Samuel wants to start a business in the future, he will need to have connection and good communication."

The others: "..."

This was the first time they truly felt the power of these people who used to reign the business world. Even though the world had changed, they still had their own way to make sure that they would not be lagging behind.

"But those officials are still quite greedy," Ruben complained. "Even though the situation is poor but some of them are only thinking about filling their pocket with wine and money. It's annoying."

"Ruben... can you please not use that tone?" Stephen heard Ruben's high pitched tone and felt that his heart couldn't take it. While he knew that it was hard for Ruben to be serious and often played around, but there was truly no need to imitate that strange and odd voice.

"Hmm?" Ruben arched his eyebrows. "But it sounds beautiful~."

"No, it's not!"

"Hahaha!"

The farce ended with Ruben being punched by Arnold and had to stay quiet. The man was busy painting circles on the end of the room while the others just laughed at their antics.

Arnold saw Amelia's eyes lit up and she probably had some ideas about how to annoy Samuel again in the future.

Thinking about this, Arnold rubbed his forehead.

These people really couldn't be serious for long.

"Anyway, what can you ask from them?" Arnold finally asked Ruben, who quickly returned to his seat and stopped his circle drawing.

"I can ask for the entry log to see their activities within a certain range." Ruben thought for a moment and then said, "The purchase log might not be that useful. From what I know, mercenaries didn't really like to buy things from the official stores."

Arnold nodded in agreement when he heard this. "We usually buy things from the black market, so it's indeed not very useful."

"Your connection is really wide, Ruben." Stephen looked at Ruben in surprise. While he himself had already talked with some people in the market and had some influence, what he did was definitely far less than what Ruben did.

"Nah, if it's Samuel, he can easily control the entire base if he wants to." Ruben shook his head and said, "I'm just doing some small dealings under the table."

Arnold and Stephen nodded.

The other three people: "..."

"This is the first time I realize that the people around my brother are really outrageous," Sean muttered in a low voice.

He was the youngest in the group and his age gap with his brother was more than 8 years. So when these people gathered around, Sean didn't usually participate in their discussion and often stayed far away.

After all, he couldn't understand what they were talking about.

This made Sean not very close to the people around Samuel.

"They're all amazing in their own field," Amelia said with a shrug. "And I always feel that Brother Arnold is the best~."

Sean: "... you love brain!"

While Sean was feeling exasperated, Sophia laughed at these two people's conversation. She herself knew what her brother was doing to a certain degree.

After all, the Carson Family was a big and complicated family where there were not much affection exist among the younger generations. Everyone took what they needed and their relationship was more of a cooperation rather than family.

In the Carson Family, Sophia knew that her talent was not very good, so she tried her best to stay low key.

By not stepping on other people's thunder, she could live a good life.

However, Stephen was completely different from her.

He had great talent and learned many things very quickly. It was also because of this that Old Master Carson appreciated Stephen and allowed her brother to be involved in business ever since he was young.

Due to this, Old Master Carson also brought Stephen to various parties and introduced him to the other talented younger generation.

One of them was Samuel.

Sophia didn't know what Stephen thought about their grandfather, but at the very least, he was grateful for Old Master Carson that allowed him to meet Samuel and befriend the other party.

Because both of them have sisters of similar age, Sophia and Amelia also ended up meeting each other and grew closer. They went to the same school and played together from time to time.

Since both of them were determined to be the second generation young misses... the two of them often caused troubles and pranks.

It was their older brothers who would wipe up their messes.

Of course, punishments would definitely await them.

But the greatest difference between Sophia and Amelia lies in the difference of their family background and treatment.

This allowed Sophia to understand more or less about her brother's capabilities and was not surprised by his action that might be walking on the grey road more than the upright one.

After all, some businessmen often had shady dealings in secret.

"Anyway, I'll be counting on you," Arnold finally said after the three people had determined the course of things that they wanted to do.

"Don't worry." Stephen chuckled.

"As long as you paid enough, the job can be done," Ruben added.

Arnold arched his eyebrows. "You sound like you would work for anyone, Ruben. Are you thinking of jumping ships now?"

"No way. No one can give me better treatment than Samuel and Riya," Ruben denied without hesitation.

What a joke, with such big thighs behind him, how could he be willing to jump ship?

Chapter 620: Dangerous

The six of them continued to laugh and have fun.

To be honest, they were not that worried about Arnold's enemy. Unless he had also become a magic warrior rank 4, then they might have to face a lot of troubles. But even in the military, there were not many people who had reached rank 4.

The amount of resources that they needed to invest in order to reach that rank was enormous.

It was not something that a single person could obtain in such a short period of time.

After enough talking and laughing, they all went their separate ways to rest.

...

The next day, Ruben and Stephen handed over the information through their phones to Arnold. So Arnold, who was training, received information in the afternoon.

"They're very efficient." Amelia was stunned when Arnold said that both of them had sent him the necessary information.

"Of course." Arnold chuckled. "Some businesses are time sensitive. If they can't grasp the chance at the right time, the profit they can obtain will be reduced. For these businessmen who valued money more than their lives... it's unacceptable."

Amelia: ???

"No, I don't think that my brother and his friends are people who value money more than their lives."

From what she had seen, they were simply using money as a means to obtain their goal.

After all, for the business to keep going, the money had to continue flowing from one side to others. There were also employees that he had to pay and so on. Though, the profit that he accumulated over the years would be more than enough to make him live comfortably.

That was if the world hadn't changed like this.

"I know." Arnold chuckled. "And I don't really talk about them specifically because I know that they will not be blinded by profit. The most important thing is to use the resources you have in hand to live the life you want."

Amelia nodded blankly.

She didn't quite understand what Arnold meant. Besides, it didn't seem to be that important for her?

After all, Amelia didn't really manage her money herself and most of it was handled by her parents. She only has a portion of money and resources that she used to train herself.

"Can I see the information now?" Amelia asked curiously.

"Yes. It's just detailing their activity," Arnold replied and handed over his phone to Amelia. Yer has been staying in City I Base in the past four days and busy selling various resources he managed to obtain through hunting and so on.

Not everyone wanted to live in the base and people like him who used to be a mercenary was even less likely willing to stay in one place.

Because all of them knew very well that they would be restricted by the rules and laws.

Mercenaries were used to live freely.

They didn't want to be controlled by others and would rather take things into their own hands.

Back then, mercenaries were basically people in the grey area. Their existences were acknowledged by the officials and as long as they didn't commit crimes, they were basically let off.

Many of them could even be called bounty hunters.

After all, there were also bounties released by the officials in the dark web. If they could finish the task, they could receive a remuneration and so on.

"Hmm, they're outside right now," Amelia commented when she saw the last line of the information.

"Yes and unless I keep on paying attention to them, it'll be hard to track them down," Arnold replied.

He used to be a mercenary himself, so he knew that it wouldn't be so easy for others to track their whereabouts when they didn't want to be found. After all, many mercenaries have blood in their hands and they didn't want to be controlled by others.

In this chaotic world... it was simply the best place for them.

"Do you plan to come to them?" Amelia's expression changed.

"Yes." Arnold nodded.

"But it would be..."

"Dangerous? I know," Arnold replied calmly. "Since they can carry sniper rifles around and have enough ammunition, they should have made some dealings with some people or even the officials. Even if I have Samuel as my backing, they can still make trouble for me."

Some mercenaries would cooperate with the officials and even Arnold did the same back then. At least, before he chose to retire from his position and took a long break to stay with his friends.

Arnold has never been a coward.

"So I plan to take risk and trap them in turn... besides, some of their members have died in my hands and Yer would not be willing to let me off easily," Arnold said calmly.

From the moment he took them out, he had been prepared that they wouldn't be able to live peacefully with each other.

Facing people who killed their men... how could one calm down?

At least, Arnold couldn't do something like that.

And he didn't think that Yer could do it either.

"Then I'll follow you," Amelia said without hesitation.

Arnold frowned. "That will be inappropriate. My life might be in danger and..."

"No matter what, I'll follow you. When fighting against the magic beasts, when did our lives not be in danger?" Amelia retorted and crossed her arms. "I don't want to see you go forward on your own again."

Hearing Amelia's words, Arnold's hands trembled for a moment. He looked at the young woman in front of him and wanted to persuade her to stay back.

Yet at the same time, he had the feeling that it would be impossible.

In the end, Arnold sighed. "Alright. But you should stay close to me and if the situation turns to the worst... you have to go."

"I know, I know." Amelia pursed her lips.

As for leaving when the situation turn for the worst?

No way!

She didn't want to run away on her own.

Arnold looked at Amelia's expression and sighed in his heart.