

Last Days 631

Chapter 631: Do you think it's possible for me to go back to City A Base alone?

Samuel looked around him and frowned. "This is...?"

"A building between City J Base and City I Base," Riya replied calmly. "We can walk to City I Base while you familiarize yourself with your affairs."

Samuel had an official position and other things to manage.

There was still some distance between this place and City I Base, so they could use this chance to settle some things first.

"Right." Samuel took out his phone and sighed. "It seems that my father has left a lot of message."

Riya chuckled. "Does he want you to go back quickly?"

"That's one of them..." Samuel looked at the pile of messages on his phone and raised his hand weakly. "Let's rest for a day and then go back later."

He had completely forgotten about his business when he was inside the crack. Now that they were out... he had to deal with these things.

"It's fine. There's no hurry." Riya looked around before heading to one direction and started to set up various formations and runes around her.

Samuel looked at Riya's movement and arched his eyebrows.

It seemed that Riya chose this place to set up the teleportation formation not without reasons. But he didn't have any plan to interfere with her decision and focused his attention on his phone.

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City I Base

For more than half a year, Amelia and the others were also staying in City I Base. They were busy hunting magic beasts one after another. The amount of resources they could obtain through their own hunt was definitely less than what Samuel could get.

But it was enough.

They needed to learn to be independent to a certain degree.

Samuel would not always be there to pamper them.

As for their progress...

All of them were still in rank 4 of their respective profession. Even though they were working hard to reach rank 5 as soon as possible, they realized that it was not so easy to advance through ranks after reaching rank 4.

The fast improvement they used to have now have become snail pace.

It was only then they realized why the other returnees didn't seem to be in a hurry either after reaching rank 4 or rank 5.

They knew that their improvements could only be done step by step.

Among them, the one with the highest rank was definitely Arnold and Amelia. After these two people confirmed their relationship, their 'date' was to go out and hunt magic beasts together.

The others who watched this fell into silence.

They could only silently gave thumbs up.

"The brother and sister are definitely very similar," Ruben complained when he heard that. "Samuel has been going out to hunt magic beasts all the time and didn't even come home. Now, Amelia is following his route."

"Indeed... Now I'm worried that Sean will be the same," Stephen said.

The two of them turned to look at Sean, who looked dumbfounded.

"Don't look at me like that! I'm not stupid like my sister!" Sean yelled in anger. He had gone to normal date in the past before the world changed!

There was no way he would arrange such a bizarre date this like.

Who in their right mind would choose fighting together as a way of dating?

Definitely not him!

"Who did you call stupid?" Amelia was standing behind her brother.

Sean froze.

And what followed was another scene of brutal beating where Sean was beaten up miserably by Amelia.

After more than half a year, Sean had only managed to advance to rank 4 some time ago and currently the weakest in the team followed by Ruben, Stephen, and Sophia.

For this matter, the two mages expressed their helplessness.

The improvement for mages relied more on their mana refining and it was harder to take shortcut compared to these magic warriors who could still use the flesh of magic beasts to improve their strength. From what they heard, even warrior's improvements were also similar in terms of method aside from the fact that it was harsher on the daily practice.

Their mana improved slowly and the two people chose to practice their mana control most of the time.

Because this would help them to speed up their mana refinement.

And talking about mana refinement, both Arnold and Amelia were also having difficulty in improving their mana. Before they could have sufficient mana, it was estimated that they would not be able to reach rank 5 anytime soon.

In any case, the six of them were still doing well.

And after being beaten up by Amelia, Sean stopped targeting his sister. He really didn't want to die suddenly because his strong sister beat him up.

But...

Sean felt at loss.

He's a magic warrior and technically speaking, he should be able to improve his strength faster through eating magic beasts' meat just like others. However, it was also a fact that his rank was the lowest among the team.

It was as if the Heaven was mocking him for having the lowest talent when everyone around him was improving very quickly.

Sean could also sense that he didn't seem to have any advantage, be it in terms of physical training or in terms of mana refining.

The speed was average.

Perhaps, it was better than many other people because of the resources dumped on him.

But it was definitely not as fast as his siblings and the people around him.

People were not afraid of their incompetence... they were afraid of comparison.

And this was what Sean was feeling.

Seeing everyone walking further and further ahead of him, Sean really felt that he had no place here.

He felt at loss.

"It's still early, Sean..." Ruben yawned as he walked out of his room. They all rented a big residence together and everyone lived in separate rooms. After all, it was more convenient and saver to have each other to take care of them.

This morning, Ruben woke up early and saw Sean standing near the door.

"Ruben... Do you think it's possible for me to go back to City A Base alone?"

Chapter 632: Well...

Ruben paused in his steps.

He looked at Sean in front of him with strange expression and slowly asked, "Do you want to go back?"

They have been staying in City I Base for more than half a year. Ruben knew that Sean missed his girlfriend and the two of them called each other repeatedly in the past few months.

But it was inevitable that Sean would miss her very much.

From what they had known, Joan had advanced to rank 4 some time ago and made good improvement. Her light element was very suitable for her professions and Joan was happy to be able to help many people in the hospital.

"Do you want to see Joan?" Ruben asked back. "It's not realistic to go back on your own with your current strength. Unless you can reach rank 5... otherwise, it's better for you to stay in City I Base honestly."

Rank 5 again.

Sean's face turned a shade darker when he heard Ruben's words.

If he could reach rank 5, he would not have asked this question in the first place. After all, Sean knew very well that with his current speed improvement, it would be pipe dream for him to reach rank 5 anytime soon.

"It's really hard," Sean muttered in a low voice.

Ruben looked at Sean helplessly. "Otherwise, just wait until Samuel and Riya come back. With their help, you can definitely go back to City A Base quickly."

Even if the number of magic beasts out there had decreased with their effort, it was still dangerous for them to travel such a long distance on their own. After all, Sean was not extremely powerful or anything like that.

He's only a rank 4 magic warrior.

And right now, there were already many rank 4 magic warriors in the military. With the effort of the country, they were pushed forward, reaching the height that many people couldn't reach in their lifetime.

After all, Sean could clearly feel that his advancement to rank 4 was not so smooth.

There seemed to be a layer blocking him, which made him have to train harder and harder.

For this reason, he was also the last one to advance to rank 4.

"I... I know," Sean finally said.

Seeing Sean was still staring at the backyard, Ruben silently took out his phone and sent a message. He was not close to Sean, but there should be someone who could talk with Sean more freely.

After sending the message, Ruben left.

Sean sat on the chair, still looking at the backyard while thinking about Ruben's words. He has been following his brother for a long time and in the first place, the reason why he started practicing was also because his brother ordered all of them to practice.

It was hard and tiring.

But it was worthwhile.

At least, in this changed world, he would not be someone who was washed away by time and all. It has been more than a year since the earthquake happened and the situation out there had stabilized.

Many people had become stronger, there were no other outrageous magic beasts' tide, and everything seems to be going in the good direction.

And Sean felt at loss.

His talent is average, his ability in various aspects are average.

Does he really need to continue torturing himself in the practice?

Practice has never been easy. It required him to spare some time and repeated the content of the practice over and over again. It was so tiring that Sean didn't know what to say.

Many people worked enough just for them to live.

If he really wanted to, he could actually not do anything because his family background allowed him to live a salted fish life.

But what did he really want to do?

Sean felt at loss.

Bam!

And what greeted him was the iron fist of love from his sister.

"Ouch, ouch, Sis! Do you have to attack me out of nowhere?" Sean wanted to cry when he saw Amelia standing behind him with her fist clenched. He swore that his sister's violent nature was completely unleashed in the past year.

These magic beasts didn't only make their lives difficult but also made people who used to be doing well to engage in violence...

"Hmph!" Amelia snorted and then pulled a chair to sit down beside Sean. "Ruben texted me, saying that you want to go back. Are you lovesick, homesick, or it's because of another thing?"

She knew her brother well and Amelia could guess that if Sean could be so troubled, there should be more troubles. It shouldn't be because of lovesickness because Sean has never been such a love brain dead person.

As for homesick...

To be honest, Amelia didn't think that Sean would miss their parents that much.

They were all living in their university's dormitory in the past and if it was not because of their parent's urging, it was estimated that they would not go back in the slightest bit.

They wanted to stay outside more than going back.

"Well..." Sean looked at his sister and then said, "I'm just thinking that my talent is really bad and that I might have a completely different option if I go back...."

In front of his sister, he didn't mind telling these things.

Because he knew that his family members were willing to listen to him and would not be perfunctory.

It was his blessing to have such family members.

But at the same time, he was also troubled by his own poor talent.

"I want to be like brother or you, but I feel that I have no talent to become a magician nor a warrior," Sean said in a low tone.

He felt that he was really useless.

Perhaps his talent could be considered average... but what was the good in it?

Compared to these geniuses, he was nothing more than a burden.

Right now, Sean really felt like giving up and take other paths.

Chapter 633: The Favored Have no Fear

Amelia frowned.

She could guess why Sean thought this way.

Because their rate of improvements were really different.

In the beginning, Amelia and Sean were still competing with each other childishly as if they children. During that period of time, Sean even showed better talent in terms of mana control compared to Amelia.

Moreover, his mana refining was actually better than Amelia to a certain degree.

So if one wanted to say about his talent...

His talent as a magician was better than Amelia but his talent as a warrior was worse than Amelia.

"No, your talent is definitely better than many people," Amelia said without hesitation. She could sense it keenly, especially since the two of them started training at almost the same time.

In fact, Amelia used to be almost unable to catch up with Sean's improvement because she was really lazy. By half fishing and half serious in her training, she could barely meet the training requirement from her brother.

If it was not because of Victoria's incident...

Perhaps, Amelia would not change herself nor try hard to become a powerful magic warrior who could stand on her own.

She will not deny that her brother's pampering and Riya's favor helped her a lot.

But her own hard work couldn't be denied either.

Without her own hard work over the years, it was impossible for her to reach her current rank. It was the combination of both luck and effort that allowed her to come this far.

"Believe me, Sean, I know that your talent is not as bad as you might think," Amelia said solemnly as she looked at her younger brother.

The two of them were closer in age, so they often played together when they were young. At the same time, Amelia knew very well how her brother's temperament is. He looked quite heartless and also sharp tongued, plus quite bad tempered. But at the same time, he was actually quite thoughtful in his heart.

Amelia knew that Sean was troubled by the fact that he couldn't be as good as her and Samuel.

When she was busy training, she did forget about him to a certain degree.

But now that her own affairs were more or less settled, she had just realized that her brother's state was wrong.

"Even if it's not that bad... do you really think it's possible for me to reach rank 5? Even if I can reach it, how many years do you think it'll take?" Sean whispered in a low voice, his mood was extremely low.

He knew very well that with the abundant of resources that they could get along with what their brother had given them, it would not be impossible for him to reach rank 5 in the future.

But such a way of advancement...

Sean had to say that he didn't feel comfortable. Because he would think that he was taking advantage of his family to reach the height that he shouldn't reach in his life.

"So what? You're born in the Jones Family and it's fine even if you use the family's resources for your own practice. I have done that for so many years and you can also do the same." Amelia looked at Sean and snorted. "Family background is also a kind of strength, you know?"

They were not like some orphans on the street who didn't have anyone to support and helped them.

Their family backgrounds were also a kind of resources.

Is it fair?

But even if it's not fair, there was nothing that other people could do but to accept it. Because this was just the way the world is. Not everyone has the same background and it was clearly an impossible request for everyone to be the same.

Since they were born in the Jones Family, had more resources than others, then it was obvious that their target would be different from other people.

"...You're really the epitome of the favored have no fear," Sean muttered in a low voice.

Because Amelia was really pampered from left to right that Sean himself had difficulty saying anything else.

She was used to being pampered by others.

But Sean was different.

He did receive pampering from his parents, but he would feel guilty if he didn't do anything in return. Because no matter what, he didn't want to be unable to do anything.

"I can't say that I understand why everyone is pampering me, but since they're willing to do so, then I just have to be myself." Amelia spread her hands. "If they need me to do anything, I'll not hesitate to help them because I know that it's impossible for me to reach this point without their help.

But more than anything else, I just have to be myself and live a good life. As long as I live well, I know that they're happy for me."

It was a bit strange indeed, but Amelia understood her positioning very well.

Samuel wanted his family members to live well and even if Amelia didn't do anything but only having fun for her entire life, he would not say anything. Because she's his sister and their parents asked him to take care of her.

They were family members and Amelia knew her brother had helped her a lot over the years.

Her parents only wanted her to live well.

Even her younger brother wished for the best for her.

As for Riya, the two of them were best friends and they also hoped each other would have a good life. Perhaps in the beginning, Riya didn't want to let Amelia know about Riya's other side, but the world's change made it impossible for her to hide these things.

So Riya told Amelia everything clearly.

And she also arranged for a lot of protection.

It was clear that what Riya wanted Amelia to do was to keep alive and well.

This was the wish of everyone around her and Amelia will definitely live well to the fullest.

Chapter 634: Good Boy

She's a pampered young miss.

This was something that Amelia knew very well.

After the threat of Victoria was gone, Amelia did keep most of her practice, but she would not wrong herself anymore. When she was tired, she would figure out a way to take a break and if she was bored, she would think of a way to entertain herself.

To a certain degree, her life was actually very fulfilling.

And after confirming her relationship with Arnold, it was clear that the other party was willing to pamper her too.

This often made Amelia really wanted to lie down and did nothing.

Because she knew that there were still many people who would help to take care of her even if she did nothing.

But Amelia couldn't do that.

She knew very well that she had to live well and to be able to live a long life in this world, she had to have enough strength. So she still forced herself to practice and followed behind Arnold.

With the talent she had, she has become one of the best in their group.

Well, putting aside Samuel and Riya who were definitely far ahead from them.

But Amelia's progress was definitely one of the fastest among them.

"You're really... carefree." Sean didn't know whether to laugh or cry when he heard Amelia's words.

But at the same time, he understood that Amelia was right.

She has such right because of the pampering that other people gave to her. And Amelia took it well because she knew very well that her own capabilities were not high.

They never requested anything from her.

And the best thing she could do for them was to live well.

Sean didn't know whether to envy Amelia or just laugh it off. No matter what, Amelia is his sister and he also hoped that she can live well.

"Well, if you're still worried, how about if you wait for Brother and Riya to come?" Amelia asked tentatively. "My evaluation of your talent might not be accurate, but if it's them, I'm sure that you will trust them."

The image of Samuel and Riya had been firmly rooted in their mind. They knew very well that both Samuel and Riya were indeed qualified to make judgment of a person's talent.

Because they have seen more geniuses and should know other people's evaluation far better than anyone.

"...Alright," Sean finally agreed.

To be honest, he really wanted to go back but he also knew that it was not realistic. The road was not that safe and if he insist on going to City A Base in this condition, he might end up losing his life.

He might be confused but he didn't want to die.

Especially dying in such a confused way...

There was no way he wanted it to happen.

"Good boy." Amelia grinned and raised her hand to mess up Sean's hair.

Sean: "..."

He slapped Amelia's hand and complained, "Are you treating me like pets? Don't touch a man's hair so easily."

"You're my younger brother," Amelia retorted without hesitation.

"I..."

Seeing the smug smile on Amelia's face, Sean belatedly realized that he really couldn't do anything to his sister. In the end, he could only wave his hand with amusement, letting her leave and lay with Arnold again.

Amelia also didn't plan to stay here any longer.

It was still early and Ruben's text message woke her up far earlier than her waking up time.

So she simply slipped off to her residence again.

"She's really carefree," Sean muttered as he watched Amelia rushed back and shook his head in amusement.

But he did feel a bit better.

There was no rush for him to do anything right now. Patiently practicing and then waited for his brother to come back would be the best thing for him to do.

With that in mind, Sean silently made his way back to his room.

...

yawn

"My younger brother can be quite worrying," Amelia muttered to herself in annoyance. If it was possible, she really didn't want to talk with her younger brother about such a problem.

But perhaps, it was because Amelia herself didn't really mind being the 'useless' one in the family.

She already had that position for a long time.

And if she couldn't really keep up with the others' progress, Amelia wouldn't feel much and only think that as a matter of course.

After all, Amelia has never been an ambitious person.

She preferred a relaxed life.

If the situation didn't make her have to train hard, Amelia was sure that she would have lived a salted fish life as the young miss of the Jones Family.

"It's rare to see you wake up so early, Mel." Sophia was awake but her expression clearly tell that she was also sleepy.

"Huh? Why did you wake up?" Amelia looked at Sophia in surprise and then thought of something. "It's not because of me, right?"

Sophia rolled her eyes. "Nah, Akira just made trouble in the pet's space. I think that I need to hunt more lightning element magic beasts for it to eat so that it wouldn't trouble me so early in the morning."

Amelia thought about Sophia's pet and chuckled. "You've reached rank 4, have you thought about your next pet?"

"No, I plan to talk with Riya after she comes," Sophia replied honestly.

While there was indeed the list of magic beasts in the official website, but if one wanted to find a specific one, it was not that easy.

After all, there were so many of them and they didn't know how powerful these magic beasts were compared to many other magic beasts.

The development of these magic beasts were also unknown.

Sophia felt that she should ask Riya instead if she wanted the best option.

"Huh, you have a defense, mobility, and even attacking... how about support?" Amelia asked while thinking.

After all, a magic beast that could support Sophia would be good.

Chapter 635: Discussion

"Support huh?" Sophia thought about Murin back then.

She had seen the pet selection by Murin and to be honest, she felt a bit amazed. She knew from Riya and Samuel that Murin's talent allowed him to have twice the number of pets compared to other beast masters.

This talent was really enviable.

And as a beast master, Sophia clearly realized what kind of advantage that Murin could have in battle.

But after having three pets...

Sophia clearly understood that there was one problem that would stop her from having too many pet beasts.

Money.

None of these pet beasts were easy to feed and thinking about the large amount of resources that she has to invest, Sophia already felt that her wallet was crying. Among the six of them, Sophia was undoubtedly the poorest.

Because she has four mouths that she has to feed!

Moreover, three of them were voracious eaters and Sophia had to find a lot of magic beasts' corpses to feed them. If not for their own ability to fight, Sophia had the feeling that she wouldn't be able to support her family.

"What do you think?" Amelia asked again. She felt that if Sophia really wanted to, she could just ask Riya for help.

In return, Sophia could take care of Mo.

Speaking about Mo.... That white tiger has been staying in the backyard and often went out on its own and only came back a few days later with its entire body covered in blood. If not for their familiarity with Mo, it was estimated that they wouldn't be able to recognize the white tiger.

"Well, I'm thinking whether to focus on defense or offense," Sophia admitted helplessly. "Because my own fighting capability is not high and I think that having more life-saving methods is more important. Just like Murin... he has four magic beasts that can help him to save his life."

This information was known through Riya and Samuel.

These two people didn't really care that Murin's information was exposed to their friends. After all, these people all knew not to share this kind of things with others but it was enough to let them know to a certain extent.

In this way, they would be able to deal with Murin if they were to go against each other in the future.

Though, it wouldn't be that easy.

"...You want to be a mobile fortress?" Amelia asked with difficulty.

For a moment, she felt that the people around her were really afraid of being killed. But with the protection that Riya had given to them, it was actually not that easy for them to die.

"Well, I just think that it's better to have more defense." Sophia stuck out her tongue playfully. "But I'll wait for Riya's opinion. There's no hurry to get more magic beasts."

Another reason why she was not in a hurry was because Sophia really couldn't be sure that she had enough resources to keep so many magic beast around her. These magic beasts would all eat a lot of her resources.

For the poor Sophia...

It was definitely not a very good thing.

"Mhm." Amelia nodded in understanding.

They trusted Samuel and Riya more, mainly because of these two people's past.

yawn

After talking about these, Amelia started to feel sleepy again and sighed deeply. She rubbed her forehead. "I think I'll sleep for a few more hours before coming out again. I don't think I can go out much today."

"You better meditate rather than sleeping." Sophia shook her head and then asked, "Have you solved the problem?"

"Hmm, rather than solving, it's more like I temporarily calm him down." Amelia scrunched her face. "Really, these people can be very troublesome from time to time."

She wanted not to care, but these people's action just made it impossible for him not to care.

"Well..." Sophia laughed out loud.

"Stop laughing!"

"Well, he's your brother, so even if he's troublesome, you just have to deal with it." Sophia smiled.

Just like her own brother. If there was something wrong with Stephen, Sophia would not hesitate to put down everything on her hand and rushed over.

Because she didn't want anything bad to happen to her brother.

"I know." Amelia sighed deeply and waved his hand. "Stop laughing."

"I'm not laughing."

"Oh yeah?"

"Hahaha! Don't tickle me!"

"You can't get away!"

The two girls were having fun with each other and Melly looked at these two people with her head tilted. She didn't understand why these two people liked to play around so much.

...

Samuel and Riya's side

"Hmm?"

Samuel, who had just finished settling the matter with his father, turned his head to the side when he sensed the mana fluctuation. Without hesitation, he jumped down and headed to the location where Riya was located.

He stopped at the door and paused.

Riya is inside a gym building and Samuel could sense the mana that was surging inside. It was clear that she was using some kind of formation to make the mana concentration increased rapidly.

The mana concentration of the Green Planet hadn't changed much after the earthquake. It was still at the level where it was far lower than their previous world and also lower than the crack.

But at this moment...

He felt that the mana concentration was so high that it almost materialized.

"You're there, Samuel," Riya said as she turned around and her hand was still drawing runes on the ground.

The walls and even the ceiling of the gym hall had been completely painted red with blood, forming countless markings. And the floor was almost over.

If one didn't know better, they would think that Riya was a member of a cult or something.

The scene in front of him was a bit eerie.

Samuel was silent and didn't walk inside. He remained still on the door and looked at Riya inside. His brain turned rapidly before he asked, "Are you planning to advance to rank 7?"

Chapter 636: Rank 7

Rank 7 is a special rank.

The main reason why it was special was because one who could reach rank 7 meant that they had stepped onto the higher realm.

Every three ranks were another realm.

And the gap between rank 6 and rank 7 was extremely big.

Moreover...

Advancing from rank 6 to rank 7 meant that they have to prepare a 'ceremony.' Every profession has their own ceremony and it was clear that Riya's ceremony involved the matter of forming various formations.

"Magicians have to wait until their mana is full and warriors have to wait until their blood was at their peak state," Riya said calmly as she continued to draw on the ground. The blood red markings looked very eye catching.

To be honest, many people might feel this image in front of them a bit disturbing.

But Riya didn't feel anything.

From the moment she chose to become a rune master, she knew very well that the materials that she used would mainly be magic beasts' blood.

Collecting the magic beasts' blood and processing them has become the norm for her.

People with blood phobia would definitely not be able to last long in this profession.

The only good thing was probably she didn't have to collect people's blood. If she had to, then Riya might have to start doubting whether her decision is correct.

"That's not an answer," Samuel said slowly.

"We have already reached rank 7 once... so you should know that the most important thing is the state of mind. Everything else is auxiliary and could use other means to push our state to the peak."

If their minds were not ready, then no matter how they prepared themselves, it would be useless.

But if they were prepared, then it was good.

Other things were simply related to their situation after their advancement, which was not very important.

However, they have never been told by others.

At least, not before they reached rank 7.

It was only after they reached rank 7 did they realize that the meticulous preparation was actually more or less for their state of mind. As long as their minds are firm enough, they could actually advanced to rank 7.

They didn't dare to tell the children about this because it might affect their state of mind instead.

And if they were to take things for granted during their own advancement, they were basically putting themselves on the risk.

"You have reached the peak of rank 6," Samuel whispered in a low voice.

Since Riya's physical state had reached the condition and her mind had long reached the condition to enter rank 7... why should she hold back?

So Riya came here not only because she wanted to let him manage his affairs first but also to reserve a venue for her advancement to rank 7.

Because of the commotion caused by a person's advancement to rank 7... it was definitely not a good thing. Only other returnees knew how much danger a person would have when they advanced to rank 7.

Samuel looked at these formations.

"I guess if I dare to enter, I'll die, am I right?" Samuel continued, his voice was calm.

Riya finally stopped drawing and raised her head to look in Samuel's direction. There was a faint smile on her lips as she said, "Even if I trust you to a certain degree, I can't let you truly by my side at this point."

The ceremony is extremely important for any profession.

Because this is the formation that would determine whether they could reach the peak or not.

No matter how much they trusted someone, they would not allow them to stay with them so closely and gave them a chance to interrupt the ceremony. If they failed, it would be something that they would regret for the rest of their lives.

And their lifespan after becoming a rank 6 was no longer as short as they used to be.

For so many years, they would regret this one decision...

It was not worth it.

Rather than putting the trust bet on such a matter, it would be better to keep their own guard up and didn't give him the chance from the very beginning.

"I understand." Samuel nodded and leaned against the door with his arm crossed. He didn't walk into the room and instead watched Riya from outside.

As someone who had experienced the rank 7 advancement ceremony before, Samuel naturally understood why Riya was so cautious. Even he himself would not let others stay close so easily around him when he advanced to rank 7.

Even though his means were different from Riya, but there was still some similarities.

For example, finding a secluded place.

Secondly, arrange traps and so on.

In this way, those who wanted to get close to him would not be able to come and take advantage of the situation.

"Sorry." Riya showed an apologetic smile and then added, "And thank you."

After that, Riya turned around and continued to draw the formation on the ground. It was almost done and Riya was basically using the highest ranked magic beasts' blood that she could use.

The rank 7 magic beasts' blood coupled with rank 6 magic beasts' blood.

These magic beasts' blood was extremely precious because there were not many magic beasts rank 7 that she and Samuel hunted over the years.

But this was also the best material for her advancement.

After all, Riya knew very well that the large amount of mana that she needed for her advancement couldn't be supported by lower ranked magic beasts' blood. The purity and the mana that could be driven by rank 7 magic beasts' blood was several times that of lower ranked magic beasts' blood.

It was precisely because it was really precious that Riya knew that she only had one chance.

If she failed this time, she would have to take a long time to make the preparation for the second one.

Chapter 637: Rank 7 (2)

"I'll stay outside... I guess the small formation around should be your handiwork." Samuel couldn't sense these formations, but he guessed that Riya should have put up some guards around the gym.

The reason why he didn't trigger it might be because Riya added some special rules.

She still allowed him to come close to the main venue.

But she would not let him participate in the core part.

"Yes," Riya replied calmly and with a stroke of her hand, the formation under her was done. She looked at it a few more times before she was satisfied and turned to look at Samuel who was still standing by the door.

"Do you want to watch?"

There was nothing interesting from their advancement ceremony. It was nothing more than the process of integrating their heart, mind, and body with mana, reaching a completely new realm.

The lifespan would also be greatly extended.

People who have reached rank 7 would live much longer than ordinary people and could see several generations of people.

That is if there was no accident in the process.

"Yes," Samuel replied. "I guess it'll be very different from magic warrior's ceremony and I'm interested."

He couldn't see many people's advancement ceremony because these people would always be secretive of that. In that world, competition was even harsher and there might be people who backstab others for various reasons. The laws and regulations were not that strict and many people were willing to bet everything for the sake of a chance to advance to higher rank.

Because in their eyes, power is everything.

Samuel had seen so much people like that in his previous life that he was no longer surprised when he saw the depravity of human beings after the world had changed. How many of them could keep their moral grounds after being tempted so much?

Not everyone has such a firm mind.

Yet at the same time, only those who had firm mind in their ideals, be it crooked, righteous, or even eccentric, could possibly reach the top.

Because the process to reach the top will definitely take a long time and each and every single one of them definitely had to experience many things. If they didn't have something that could keep their mind stable and firm, they would never be able to reach that step.

There were two ceremonies that every profession had to undergo if they wanted to reach the top.

From rank 6 to rank 7 there would be an advancement ceremony.

And from rank 9 to rank 10, there would be another ceremony.

But that was not something for Samuel to concern himself about. After all, it would definitely take a long time for him to reach that rank.

"No one would allow you to get close to their advancement ceremony in normal times," Riya said quietly and then added, "But you should lower your presence and stay quiet."

"I know," Samuel replied with a smile.

He had watched one advancement ceremony, one that was done by his cousin in that world. Even though there were some competition between the family members in that world, but their relationship with each other was relatively harmonious.

To be honest, it might be a bit hard to imagine considering that there were some interest involved.

But that was how it is.

There were some internal conflicts but there were also many of them who have good relationship with each other. This one cousin was one of them who had good relationship with Samuel and they watched each other's advancement ceremony.

Of course, there were still formation that separated them.

After all, they didn't want to tempt the other party to make a move no matter how good their relationship were.

"Good."

After getting Samuel's confirmation, Riya stopped paying attention to him.

The mana around the place had surged and she could guess that it would soon be the most ideal place for her advancement ceremony.

As a rune master, her advancement ceremony naturally had to be accompanied by the runes.

But before that...

"Rise."

With a flick of her hand, several magic cores came out from her storage scrolls and Riya activate the defensive formation. She would be focusing on her breakthrough for the next few hours. Considering that the amount of mana she has in this life was much more than her previous life, Riya guessed that her breakthrough would definitely take a long time.

The special magic cores that she used had increased her mana quantity and quality to a certain degree. It was a good thing yet at the same time, it also made things troublesome for her.

After all, Riya would have to stay longer to fully put herself to the peak state and then started the process.

The defensive formation is a necessity.

And it had to be able to block up to peak rank 6 attack.

'Let's hope there's truly no rank 7 magic beasts nearby.'

Other returnees wouldn't be able to stop Riya even if they wanted to as the formation would stop them completely.

And the formation that she had just drawn would be the key for her advancement.

The first step for magician to advance to rank 7 was to meditate and compress their mana to the purest form. So much that it would even squeeze their heart to a certain degree.

There would be pain.

But it was a necessity.

Riya took a deep breath and sat down in the middle. Several mana stones appeared in her hand and flew towards the corner of the room. It was placed at the marked place and the next moment, light shone from the blood colored formation.

The eerie atmosphere was instantly turned into a magnificent view from the formation as beautiful light intertwined around.

Dense runes were dancing around Riya, tightly protecting her as mana surged up.

The blood color had completely disappeared, turning into gold and silver color. The entire formation seemed to be a beautiful golden house, protecting their princess inside.

Chapter 638: Rank 7 (3)

It was beautiful.

This was the only thing that Samuel could think when he watched the formation that was activated by Riya.

Putting aside the bloody formation outside the gym that was responsible for protecting Riya's safety, the formation inside the gym was exactly the type that would definitely attract people's attention.

Simply because it shine beautifully and brilliantly.

It was nothing short of the word performance.

Samuel kept quiet and looked at Riya in the middle of the formation. He could sense the mana around was slowly but surely surging towards Riya. .

Riya could sense that the mana in her surroundings started to move towards her. Some of the mana were absorbed into her body, which would help to strengthen her body to a certain degree through the formation in her heart.

The amount of mana was a bit too much and Riya could feel her muscles screaming. As a mage, their physical bodies have always been their weakness and the 'cheat' that Riya made for herself was not exactly the best.

It could only make sure that she still has a certain degree of defense when facing other magic warriors.

And right now, Riya had no time to pay attention.

She could only pay attention to her own mana heart.

The process of breakthrough would last for a few hours at the very least.

During this period of time, it could be said that a mage was at their weakest point. Some people would use potion to help them advance but since there was no potion... Well, there was no doubt that they had to rely on themselves.

Riya knew that there was an alchemist in the Green Planet, but she was not sure which side that alchemist is on.

Besides, can she trust the potion made by someone she didn't know?

Even Samuel had to stay outside of the formation because she couldn't fully trust him. Much less the alchemist whom she didn't know and had never met before.

And in this process of condensing her mana heart, Riya could sense that the surroundings had started to change. The mana that was gathered inside the gym room was decreasing at the speed visible to the naked eyes.

It seemed as if there was a strong suction power coming from Riya.

The mana gathered into her body.

And the runes were medium that Riya used to guide the mana into her body along with the golden colored runes that was dancing around the room.

After swirling around, the runes rushed towards Riya, entering her body through her hands.

It was amazing.

Samuel watched as dense runes drawings appeared on Riya's hand slowly extending towards other part of her body. He guessed that there would be runes marking all over Riya's body by the time she was done.

But since Riya is wearing clothes, he couldn't see it.

Not that he wanted to see it...

cough

The mana disturbance even reached outside the gym. The formation that Riya made was not enough to completely cover up the movement made by her advancement.

Samuel glanced out and saw that the mana in the air started to distort.

Yes, distort.

Because the mana was forcefully pulled by Riya and the movement was relatively violent. The areas around the gym was slowly but surely got affected and they could even see faint distortion in the air.

To be honest, it does look a bit creepy.

But Samuel was calm.

This was not the first time he saw mana distortion.

'But the movement is indeed a bit too big.' Samuel rubbed his forehead.

It couldn't be helped.

In that world, there was some special places dedicated for these people for their advancement ceremony. There were various formations and protection that they had set up so that the disturbance would be limited to a certain degree.

Those formations were all above rank 7 and could certainly protect them.

No matter how noisy they were, no one outside could disturb them.

Various families also have their own special advancement ceremony's place where they would be protected and the disturbance caused by the ceremony would never be noticed by others.

But in this world?

The Green Planet didn't even have that much mana in the first place and it was unlikely that the amount would increase significantly anytime soon.

Most of their mana source came from the magic beasts' corpses that died or through the leak from the crack. Samuel was not sure about the principle of the formation, but he knew that the mana concentration in the Green Planet was not that bad.

Well, compared to their previous world, it was far worse.

But it should be enough for them to start practicing compared to before the earthquake happened.

And now, Riya was violently taking the mana.

There was no doubt that the disturbance will be very big and many people would know about it.

The Green Planet is about to welcome the first rank 7 magician.

Swish!

The mana around Riya surged as she continued to compress her mana heart.

It spread further and further with Riya's progress.

1 meter, 2 meter, 10 meters, 30 meters...

To a certain degree, the larger the distance of the mana disturbance, the greater one's potential and ability. This was something that was known by many people, but the degree of disturbance has never been made clear.

After all, everything was suppressed by the formation.

Only the rune masters would know how it is through looking at the impact on their formation.

rumble

The mana distortion was not only to the side but also to the sky and the ground.

Mana is essentially the energy of the nature.

And because of Riya's action, the nature was disturbed and a storm was brewing.

The previously clear night sky turned dark.

Clouds gathered and lighting was flashing from time to time.

There was great contrast between the scenes within the gym and the scenes outside the gym. It was as if the world was split apart into two completely different scenes.

Chapter 639: Pattern in the Sky

As the one standing by the door, Samuel naturally watched all of this.

But he didn't have much thoughts about it.

He only looked at Riya who had quickly compressed her mana heart and arched his eyebrows. As expected from someone who had experience before. There was no way other people would be able to do it as fast as her.

Samuel saw that the runes drawing had reached Riya's neck and it was slowly forming silver and gold colored rune lines on her face. The movements seemed to be getting faster, which meant that Riya was about to enter the second stage of her advancement.

But before that...

'Those people should notice this disturbance.'

The changes in the sky outside were getting bigger and bigger. Due to the lack of mana, the formation had to pull mana from even further away to make up for the gap, so the disturbance would be even bigger.

And this will directly affect other people.

...

As Samuel had expected, many people noticed the changes in the sky.

But ordinary people would not associate this with the advancement ceremony of rank 7. Because no one knew that they had to experience a ceremony when advancing from rank 6 to rank 7 aside from the returnees.

After all, there were only a small handful of people who finally reached rank 5 after exhausting a large amount of resources. Or perhaps, they hadn't even reached rank 5 and still at the peak of rank 4 since neither Riya or Samuel paid attention to this matter.

There was no need to say anything about it, they definitely used up a large amount of resources in order to advance to rank 5.

But after reaching rank 5...

They would realize that their training was simply a bottomless hole and it would take much more resources for them to advance from rank 5 to rank 6.

And from rank 6 to rank 7?

It was simply impossible for anyone to take that step aside from the returnees for the time being.

So they didn't know.

Added with the fact that the seasons hadn't been very peaceful lately, what they thought was that there were more odd phenomenons nearby. The temperature had changed from extreme hot to cold.

There was no snow, but people could sense that the temperature was getting colder and colder.

At this moment, many people had already started to wear thicker clothes.

Especially those who didn't succeed in their practice.

They could only rely on various clothings and so on to protect themselves.

"Is it a storm?"

"I don't know, but the atmosphere is really strange."

"Yeah, yeah..."

People in City I Base

"Hmm, the weather today is really strange..." Amelia looked outside with a strange expression. She was thinking of going out and hunt more magic beasts with Arnold.

But at this moment, she felt that she should change her decision.

"The mana in the air is distorted," Arnold said with a frown.

Being at the peak of rank 4, their sensitivity towards the mana's movement and concentration in the air was higher. Coupled with the fact that the mana distortion was visible to the naked eyes, it was only obvious that these two people noticed it.

The current situation didn't seem to be very good.

"Will there be another catastrophe?" Amelia asked, her tone clearly reflected her worry.

If there were another earthquake like before, it was estimated that the people wouldn't be able to survive.

Because there might be more powerful magic beasts coming out to greet them.

How many of them could possibly deal with powerful magic beasts without the returnees?

If it was only rank 4 to rank 5, the elites cultivated by various forces could still have a chance to deal with these magic beasts.

But if it was higher?

Other than the returnees, the others simply didn't have any hope of dealing with them in the slightest bit.

"I don't know," Arnold said and then pushed Amelia back to the room. "We better stay inside and stay with each other. If something bad really happened, we'll be ready to deal with it."

"Um."

The six of them quickly gathered in one of their temporary residences. The two residence were connected either way and it didn't feel good to stay in two places when such an incident happened.

Ruben was looking outside and watched the sky above him.

"There are runes in the sky," Ruben muttered in a low voice.

Even though it was faint, Ruben could see the runes in the air. Countless runes, some he knew and some he didn't know, seemed to be filling the sky. And these runes were not staying in one place but moving in one direction.

"Runes?" Arnold heard this and thought about something. "Is it Riya?"

The only person who could possibly cause such a phenomenon and related to runes seemed to be Riya.

"Huh? Can Riya create such a big scene?" Sean was confused.

They all knew that Riya is very powerful, but the greatest incident that she made seemed to be the great formation that could cover up the entire city, right?

They have never heard of anything more than that.

"I don't know..."

"Well, let's just wait."

At this moment, everyone could only wait.

...

City J Base

The other base that was close to the disturbance was naturally City J Base. The two returnees who were busy there seemed to sense something as they looked at the distance. Upon seeing this scene, their expression changed slightly.

"It's rank 7 advancement ceremony," Dina muttered in a low voice, her expression was a bit strange. "Who is it that advanced so quickly through ranks? Samuel? The rune master? Or it's Peter?"

As for why Dina didn't think of the others, it was because she knew their situation more or less.

Murin was still at rank 5 the last time they met and it was impossible for him to advance quickly when all of his magic beasts were bottomless pit.

Chapter 640: Reaction from Various Parties

It would be good enough if Murin didn't die because he couldn't feed his magic beasts.

As for Ruth, Dina had seen the other party and knew that Ruth was still a bit further away from reaching the peak of rank 6.

The two of them had only reached rank 6 a few weeks ago and consolidating their ranks plus gathering more resources to reach the peak of rank 6 definitely took time.

They couldn't possibly reach the peak instantly.

And this world was not very friendly for them because the mana concentration was not very high. If they wanted to practice faster, the best choice would be to enter the crack but most of them would only stay near the crack's entrance.

In this way, if something happened, they could go back directly.

But now, someone had taken a step ahead.

"Ah, the feeling of being overtaken is really not good." Dina clicked her tongue and then took out her phone. "Jonas, go and investigate the movements of other returnees. I want the result as fast as possible."

"Yes, Miss."

After hanging up the phone, Dina looked at the distance and clicked her tongue.

She really wanted to go there and checked it herself.

But Dina had the faint feeling that even if she went there, she wouldn't be able to do anything. Every returnees have their own way to deal with their advancement and definitely put a lot of protective measures around it.

Some courageous b*stard even dared to do their advancement ceremony next to a rank 8 magic beast back in that world.

Dina could only say '666' to them.

Because she wouldn't dare to do that.

But she herself was also making the preparation for her advancement ceremony even though she knew that it would take at least a few more months or even more than a year for her to reach the peak of rank 6.

"Should I hasten my preparation..." Dina thought about these people who had practiced to become demonic magician before restraining herself.

If she did that, it was estimated that there would be a lot of troubles waiting for her.

It would be unwise to offend the entire world at this juncture.

Especially with the first rank 7 magician, magic warrior, or a warrior out there.

She just had to be patient and continue to practice.

"Tsk."

Not far from Dina's place, Ruth was staying beside the closest crack to City J Base. Because Dina was recuperating and didn't make any movement, she took this chance to enter the crack for practice and come out at night.

She had just finished fighting a powerful rank 6 magic beast when she sensed the mana fluctuation and came out of the crack.

When she saw the mana distortion in the air, Ruth understood what had happened.

"So someone had taken that step... it's really fast."

Only slightly more than a year since the earthquake happened and someone had already reached rank 7. This speed was definitely very fast and could create a record.

Because even in that world, it was rare to see such a genius.

"But upon reaching rank 7... the progress will slow down a lot." Ruth sighed and sat down. Seeing the mana distortion in the air, she was not in the mood to practice.

Besides, practicing during this period of time was the same as seeking death.

The mana was surging towards one direction and unless they were already rank 7 or above, they would never be able to compete with it.

Anyway, the ceremony would last a few hours at most.

Once it was done, the world will return to normal. At that time, practicing would not be hindered at all.

All they have to do was to be a bit more patient.

"The next question is who it is..." Ruth muttered to herself and sighed.

She only knew that it was definitely not Dina or Murin nor could it be someone who was on the other side of the world.

There were only a few options and all of them didn't seem to be bad.

Because if everyone had to say, everyone is fine to advance to rank 7 except for Murin and Dina from this side. If either one of these two advanced to rank 7 as the first person, then it was estimated that Continent Z would be in chaos.

These two people had their own goals and their methods were not exactly what most people could accept.

So if they gained the power they wanted while other were still lagging behind...

sigh

Ruth didn't want to imagine it.

She might be only cooperating with Continent Z's officials, but she knew very well that every returnees were only waiting.

Waiting for them to have enough power to overturn the world.

Rank 7 was the first step.

Thankfully, not all of them have such wild ambitions and those three people were still relatively normal. In this way, Ruth were not that worried.

...

some distance away

"Hmm?" Peter was doing his missions from Martial Arts Association. One had to say that in terms of doing mission, Peter was really obedient.

Of course, that was if one ignored his violent way of beating up the magic beasts and the fact that he would be the one to get the most of the reward. But nevertheless, Peter was really easy to use as a thug by the Martial Arts Association.

Even the government also liked Peter's way of doing things.

As for the magic beasts' meat, it was treated as payment for Peter's work.

"What is it, Peter?" Peter's assistant saw Peter suddenly stopped and thought that something happened.

"There's mana distortion... someone is advancing to rank 7," Peter replied as he looked in one direction.

The mana distortion was a bit weak from his position, so he could guess that the distance should be quite far away. In any case, Peter had no intention of coming over to make trouble.