

Last Days 651

Chapter 651: Reunite

"They should have their reasons as to why they didn't want to tell the content of the ceremony. Perhaps, there's a possibility of failure if there's disturbance in the early stage?" Ruben speculated.

Arnold arched his eyebrows and said, "In that case, they will have to find a secluded place to do their advancement ceremony. What if there's backlash for failure?"

They didn't know the content of the ceremony, so they could only guess bits and pieces.

With how the returnees were very secretive about the content of their advancement ceremony, it was obvious that they didn't want others to disturb them. The advancement ceremony is very important and no mistakes are allowed.

So until they advanced to rank 7, they would never spread out the methods of their advancement ceremony.

As for other returnees spreading theirs?

What does it have anything to do with them?

Every profession has their own advancement ceremony and they would not care too much about other people leaking their own secret. But they would never spread out their real advancement methods.

"Let's ask them after they come back," Stephen finally said. "There's no point talking about it here."

The others heard it and could only nod their heads.

They knew very well that even if they started discussing things, they could not come to any conclusion without those two people's explanation. The information about the advancement ceremony could only be known by the returnees and the others had to wait for them.

"I'm going to wait by the door for their return!" Amelia said without hesitation and ran out.

"Wait, Mel, I'll come along." Arnold came forward and held Amelia's hand helplessly.

Amelia was stunned and she glanced at Arnold. "Do you want Brother to beat you up? I don't mind, though~."

Seeing the naughty smile on Amelia's face, Arnold rubbed his face and shrugged. Well, it will come sooner or later, so he better be prepared first.

"Do you want to go too?" Ruben asked when he saw Sean was still staying behind.

"No." Sean shook his head. "I'll just wait here for them to come."

There was no hurry.

It would be better to let his brother beat up Arnold first and then talked about serious matters.

"Then I'll be going to watch the fun." Ruben smirked and then sneaked out too.

Sean: "..."

Sophia's eyes lit up and she looked at Stephen, who could only nod helplessly.

In the end, Sean was the only one left behind.

The young man rolled his eyes and could only follow along with the others.

Seriously, it was impossible for Samuel and Riya to get lost even if they didn't know their residence. But thinking that he could watch Arnold be beaten up... Sean felt that there would be no loss with him coming along.

So all six people were standing outside the gate.

Arnold saw the gloating look of the others and his fist hardened. It seemed that after this, he should find some time to ask them to go to the training grounds and beat them up.

Amelia was laughing while holding her stomach.

Everyone is a bad friend.

...

Samuel and Riya were fast in their travel.

After all, there was nothing much to see in the ruins, so the two of them chose to run to City I Base. Occasionally, there will be an unlucky magic beast that crossed their paths but most of the time, their journey was smooth.

It didn't take that long for them to come to City I Base.

Seeing the six people standing in front of the gate, Riya blinked her eyes. "Do they really have to prepare such a grand ceremony?"

They're just planning to come and pay a visit, but this group of people actually come out of the base specifically.

"They might have something to say that's inconvenient through phone," Samuel replied. He had received Ruben's message about work and so on. But there seemed that there were some things that Ruben didn't tell him.

His eyes moved towards Arnold and Amelia.

Even though he knew about his sister's preference for Arnold, she has always been restrained and only showed some... *cough* look from time to time when looking in his direction.

But Arnold himself also knew that it was not suitable for him to get close to Amelia before.

So their relationship so far was only that of a good friend.

Now...

Samuel saw that the two of them were holding hands and his eyes narrowed. "And it seems that I need to have a good talk with Arnold."

"Huh?" Riya was stunned and followed Samuel's gaze. Upon seeing what he meant, Riya laughed out loud. "I thought that Amelia's crush has always been very obvious."

"Yes, so I need to talk with him," Samuel replied righteously.

It was one thing for him to kidnap his sister and another thing to talk with the other party. Besides, Samuel knew about Arnold's background and the few things that happened in the past.

He had never been able to make a decision because of these.

Now...

He better have a good answer.

Tep.

The two of them were close to the gate in an instant and the six people quickly noticed their arrival.

Their expression changed when they saw this.

"They're fast."

"Riya's speed is not losing to Samuel now..."

"She's really a magician, right?"

The six of them were genuinely surprised when they saw this scene.

All of them knew that one of Riya's weakness was her body. This was the weakness that all magicians has and had never been changed.

But now...

Riya was even faster than Arnold.

Their look when they looked at Riya became a bit subtle. How did a magician has stronger body than a peak rank 4 magic warrior?

It seemed a bit inconceivable.

"It seems that you have been training hard." Samuel swept his gaze and then locked onto Arnold. "Have you decided?"

Arnold arched his eyebrows and knew what Samuel meant. He smiled. "Yes."

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After hearing Arnold's answer, Samuel nodded and then said, "Let's go to your temporary residence."

Huh?

They were all confused by Samuel's remarks and looked at each other. A trace of pity flashed by their eyes for a moment.

Everyone wanted to see Samuel beating up Arnold.

After all, they all knew how much Samuel doted on his family members. But now Amelia has been 'kidnapped' and Arnold was let off easily?

Tsk, it's not fun.

Only Arnold smiled faintly, understanding what Samuel meant.

They had a conversation many years ago when he had returned from his work and found that Amelia's liking for him had instead increased. It would be impossible for Samuel to separate them and he had seen that Amelia's liking was more like a crush.

Even though Amelia was a bit naive, she also knew that it was not suitable for her to charge forward like an idiot.

So the two of them could maintain that good state.

And the most important thing was his own decision and determination to let Amelia enter his world.

Even if it's dangerous... he will protect her.

'But he will definitely beat me in private later.'

Arnold rubbed his neck and sighed deeply. Well, he just had to be prepared for later.

"I'll check your training progress later... before that, is there anything that you want to ask?" Samuel asked straightforwardly after they sat down in the living room.

"Why do you have to be so serious? This is not a meeting room," Ruben complained.

"Relax, Samuel." Stephen patted Samuel's shoulder helplessly.

Seeing his friends like this, Samuel showed a wry smile and slapped Stephen's hand away. He leaned against the sofa and sighed. "Fine, I have made the report about the crack and Riya's advancement...."

"Riya! Are you really rank 7?" Amelia interrupted when she heard her friend's name.

Riya smiled. "Of course~."

"Then, can you make a more convenient magic scroll for me?"

"Tsk, you only want to get close to me for the magic scroll."

"Hehe~, please Riya~." Amelia had moved to the back of Riya and rubbed the other party's shoulder playfully.

Seeing Amelia acting like this, Riya laughed and then said, "I'll give you a better defense formation plate later. But considering that I don't have many materials in hand, you will have to wait for a bit."

"It's ok! Riya is the best!" With that Amelia snuggled close to Riya.

"Wait, I still want to ask for advice for my next magic pet!" Sophia also said.

"Hmm? I'll give advice after seeing your current strength and your pet's improvement later," Riya said.

They hadn't seen each other for more than half a year and Riya didn't know how much they have improved. There was no way she could give accurate judgement of which magic beast would be the best for Sophia.

Sophia nodded with a grin. "Great~."

With that, Sophia also snuggled from the other side.

Samuel who was pushed away by his own sister: "..."

He silently glanced at Arnold but saw the other party also had a helpless look on his face.

Their minds were rarely synchronized: My status is far lower than Riya (Amelia) in Riya (Amelia)'s heart.

Stephen, who watched this from the side also looked at his sister helplessly. He felt that his sister had to be brought out to meet with other people more often.

Right now, he was worried that if Sophia stayed with Riya all the time, her orientation will suddenly change one day.

Though, Stephen knew that the chance was slim.

These girls were more like sisters to each other and didn't have any other thoughts.

Only Sean rolled his eyes when he saw this scene.

"Brother, can I talk to you alone?" Sean finally asked.

"Hmm?" Samuel nodded and then glanced at Arnold, Ruben, and Stephen.

"I only want to learn some magic skills from Riya since we have reached rank 4," Stephen said while raising his hand.

"I want to learn more runes from her," Ruben added.

Arnold shrugged. "I'll wait next door."

Samuel looked at his friends and then at his sister. For some reason, he had the feeling that Riya is the most popular in their group while he was at the bottom. But he didn't dislike this feeling and only felt helpless.

"Alright, you can go with Riya while I talk with Sean."

"Yes!"

"Uhm, can Amelia and Riya stay?"

The others: "..."

Amelia rubbed her forehead and then glanced at Riya.

"I don't mind, but..." Riya arched her eyebrows as she looked at Sean up and down. "Aren't you going to talk about your future paths? This is not something that can be easily talked in front of outsiders."

She herself should be considered an outsider in front of Sean. After all, she could still remember that Sean didn't seem to like her that much when they met for the first time in front of the villa back then.

Before that, they barely have any interaction with each other because there was no need for that.

Sean has his own circle of friend.

And Riya is Amelia's friend, not his.

"How did you....?" Sean was stunned.

How did Riya knew what he wanted to talk about?

Riya looked at Sean's body and her eyes deepened. She could sense that Sean's mana was a bit disordered.

"Once you reach rank 7, your mana sensitivity will reach the level where you can even sense other people's emotion through their mana's movement," Riya explained briefly. "Of course, if you don't have enough experience, you will not be able to guess correctly."

"What kind of emotion?" Sophia asked curiously.

"Anger, happiness, panic, uneasy," Riya said slowly and after a moment, she added, "The perceptive one can even tell when you're lying or not through the movement of your mana."

When the others heard this, they were stunned and turned to look at Samuel.

"It's true." Samuel nodded. "Both magicians and magic warriors have heightened senses and sensitivity towards mana. They will be able to do this, especially if they trained themselves."

Chapter 653: Cheating?

"It feels cheating..." Amelia muttered.

"I think the existence of magic is already cheating in the first place," Sophia said as she released Riya's hand.

After all, if they didn't know the principle, it would really look magical. Now that magic truly existed, there were already many things that overturned their previous common senses.

"True." Stephen stood up and turned around. "Anyway, I'll wait outside."

"Me too."

Arnold and Ruben stood up one after another followed by Sophia.

The four of them knew that this was not the place for them to stay no matter how curious they were about what Sean might want to say.

"So, are you still letting me stay?" Riya asked again.

Sean nodded. "You're a returnee.... I believe that you have more knowledge about this matter."

"Depends on what you plan to ask."

"I... I want to know how good is my talent is good or not."

Sean looked at the two people in front of him and Amelia had already moved to another chair. After all, she felt that her brother's gaze was a bit too sharp when she was hugging Riya's hand.

Tsk, a jealous man is really not cute!

While Amelia was complaining madly in her head, Samuel had moved his gaze away and listened to his brother's words. His expression turned a bit strange. "Your talent is definitely not bad, Sean."

"How good or bad it is?" Sean asked.

Samuel looked at Sean thoughtfully.

The talent test machines didn't exist in this world, so he could only improvise it himself when he wanted to test his family member's talent. To be honest, except for Amelia's talent that was slightly off the chart in terms of fighting skills' improvement, the rest were actually pretty good.

"Both are above average," Samuel replied. "In terms of mana refinement, you're actually better than Amelia since her talent is a bit imbalanced. But in terms of physical strength improvement, you're far better than many other people."

"Huh?" Sean looked at Samuel, his expression contained disbelief.

"But... I'm the slowest in training," Sean muttered in a low voice.

In their small group alone, he was the slowest one in their training. No matter what he did, he didn't seem to be able to catch up with the others. This made him frustrated more than once.

But even if he forced himself to train over and over again, Sean felt that his training result was far from his expectation.

"Your mana is disordered, which meant that you have other thoughts when you're training," Riya replied. "Based on the degree of disorder, this has happened for months and you have too much thoughts in your mind. Meditation and training has to be pure for you to truly improve."

"Pure?" Amelia was stunned with Riya's words selection.

"I mean... why do you want to become a magic warrior in the first place?" Riya tilted her head. "Think about it and just let it be the sole focus when you're training. Your training will increase faster than when you're too busy thinking about the gain and losses."

Even though Riya said that, she also knew that it was hard for people to truly do this.

When one was training, especially one that lasted for a long time, there might be time when they doubted themselves.

Why can't they improve?

Why does it seem worse than yesterday?

Can I really do this?

This was something that people who trained day by day would definitely experienced.

But...

"Human's states are full of ups and down. Training will ensure that you're at least at the good state and will continue to maintain it. The improvement might be small or big in a day but what you have to do is

to continue training and training again," Riya said and then yawned. "A magician and magic warrior's path is extremely long... if you can't hold on after only two years, you won't be able to hold on for another hundred years."

Because they couldn't stop their training.

In order to keep their state at the peak, they would have to continue their training day by day until their death.

For Riya, the training might be boring, but she has a goal that she wanted to reach. So even if the improvement was in negligible percentage that she couldn't feel, she would never stop.

"Your body will be tired and your mind will be exhausted," Samuel continued. "The training will not become easier just because you reach higher rank but will instead become even more difficult. Because your improvement could no longer be seen by the naked eyes and you might fall into doubts."

He had seen people who stopped training because of their frustration.

Once they were no longer standing firm on their path, they would not be able to continue walking on this path.

Many of them chose to live a good life after abandoning their path forward.

They will stay stuck on that rank until the day of their death.

Some worse one even has their rank plummeted and eventually died earlier because they wasted their lives.

He had seen so much.

And Samuel believed that Riya had also seen them in that world.

What people would do when they couldn't reach their goal, especially when they lost what they used to have... the sense of frustration and the desperation that they felt was more than enough to push them even further.

What people could do when they were desperate...

It was definitely not ordinary.

Samuel didn't want to see his brother being pushed to the point of desperation.

"I..."

"Let's change the question," Riya interrupted and slowly asked, "Do you want to continue your practice to become a capable magic warrior or do you plan on following a different path and your practice as a magic warrior will only be your side profession?"

The fundamental reason why Sean asked this question should be related to this matter, so Riya directly asked the key question.

Chapter 654: Too Slow!

Amelia looked at Riya in confusion. "I never know that you're this sharp before, Riya..."

It seemed as if Riya had become a completely different person after her advancement to rank 7.

This was what Amelia felt and think when she saw her friend.

Riya was silent for a moment and looked at Amelia while pursing her lips. "What you can see after you reach rank 7... is far beyond what you can see when you're below this rank."

She couldn't explain it clearly, but everything that seemed to be unclear would become clear in her eyes.

Samuel chuckled. "Amelia, the most outrageous thing that a person could do is to lie in front of a rank 7 magician and magic warriors."

Because if they were not adept in acting, then they would be completely full of flaws in front of them.

This was something that Samuel had seen for himself.

After he reached rank 7 in his previous life, he also felt it very deeply.

The large amount of information that was immediately processed into conclusion when he saw someone... it was not something that one could experience or bear until they reached rank 7 themselves.

It was also because of this that they would not dare to fight against a rank 7 unless they themselves were of rank 7.

As for the magic beasts...

Those they have faced so far were the relatively weaker magic beast, which could still be handled to a certain degree. But the price they had to pay to kill those magic beasts were by no means low.

"It's really powerful..." Amelia looked at Riya with admiration.

Riya only smiled and didn't explain further. She looked at Sean in front of her, waiting for his answer.

"I... I honestly don't know," Sean replied. "I've been thinking about it for a while. Aside from the training from Brother, Father came to me and let me train various managements. It's all very unfamiliar and I often feel that he might want me to inherit City A Base after him."

Samuel nodded.

He knew that it was true.

His father wouldn't want City A Base to be managed by others in the future, but Samuel also knew that his father was worrying too much.

Their lifespan will be extremely long and it would not be too late for him to cultivate a successor in the far future. There was truly no need for him to be so anxious and put pressure on Sean.

It seemed that he should talk with his father about this matter soon.

"So you're thinking whether you should give up instead?" Amelia asked. She knew her younger brother well.

"Well... it seems that my talent is not as good as you because I'm the last one among the six of you..." Sean replied with a bitter smile.

"If you want me to be honest, Stephen and Ruben's talent in physical training is worse than you. But because they switched to become magician, they have their own way of training," Samuel replied as he glanced at Riya.

The two of them decisively abandoned the path that they used to take and become Riya's disciple.

It was clear that since their talent was better on one side, they would choose the extreme path instead of the stable one. They might not be able to advance as fast as others, but it was good enough for them.

Riya asked him, "Are you asking for yourself or for your family?"

"Huh?" Sean looked up.

Riya rubbed her neck. "While it's true that your family will help to make some arrangement, but it didn't mean that they will do it for the rest of your life. The most important thing is whether you like it or not. Because your decision will be related to your future and it's your life, you should decide in the direction that you think is right. Not for other people around you but for yourself."

"But... but..."

"If you think that father will disagree because he wants you to be City A Base successor, you don't have to worry." Samuel raised his hand. "I'll talk to him."

Sean looked at the two people in daze.

"No matter whether it's right or wrong, your family will support you if that's the path that you want to take." Samuel pointed at Amelia. "Even if you're like her and want to be a useless young miss... I mean young master, I can convince father."

"Brother! Why do you use me as the negative example?" Amelia immediately complained when she saw her brother was using her to be the example for her younger brother.

Samuel only glanced at Amelia with the look that said, 'Isn't it true?'

She crossed her arms with dissatisfaction. "There's nothing wrong with me being a bit useless. I have a family that support me."

Seeing her righteous expression, the others only shook their heads helplessly and ignored her.

Anyway, they knew that Amelia might say arrogant words, but her action was still well calculated. She will never let those who care for her truly worry about her.

At most, they would be annoyed by her pranks.

That one will never change.

"If you didn't want to inherit the family business, our father could just wait until their children grow up. After all, they could live for a long time with their current strength." Samuel added when he saw Sean's expression wavering.

"Pfft." Amelia laughed out loud. "Brother, why do you even want to calculate our children? We're not even married yet!"

"You all have partners, it's just a matter of time," Samuel said righteously.

"And the person who said this is single..." Amelia muttered and saw Samuel glaring at her, so she quickly shut up.

But this allowed her to know that Samuel really hadn't caught up with Riya yet.

Tsk, her brother is too slow!

They spent so much time together in the crack and he hadn't even confessed yet?

He's even more useless than Arnold.

Chapter 655: Special Magic Core

Thankfully, Samuel didn't know what Amelia was thinking or he would definitely let her train overnight.

Sean looked at the three people in front of him and laughed.

Riya looked at Sean in front of her and arched her eyebrows. The tangled mana was smoothed out and she believed that Sean's training in the future will be smoother, more than ever.

It seemed that he had been under such pressure for a long time, so when his doubts and concern were released, his path would be better than before.

This is a good thing.

"Have you made your decision, Sean?" Samuel turned his head to look at Sean calmly.

Sean looked at his older brother, the person who has always stood at the forefront and protected everyone behind him. He has always looked so calm and composed, very reliable and made people forget that he was only a few years older than them.

It was truly his luck to be born in this family.

He didn't want to be a burden for his brother, but at the same time, he also knew that his existence alone might have long restricted her brother.

But perhaps Samuel had never thought of him as a burden.

Samuel had enough power and qualification to protect them all and to let them live the lives that they wanted.

So why should they worry all the time?

They just have to live their lives to the fullest.

This is the best response they could give to their brother.

"I want to become a magic warrior and I don't want learn management anymore," Sean replied with a grin. "I'll let my son or daughter in the future be the one to take it over."

Amelia saw her younger brother said this and looked at him with dumbfounded expression. "I should have recorded it and send it to Joan."

"Don't you dare!" Sean glared at his sister.

Amelia stuck out her tongue playfully when she heard Sean's threat, but she was not afraid in the slightest bit.

Anyway, her brother couldn't do anything to her.

"Alright, I'll tell Father," Samuel replied and sent a message to Mr. Jones quickly and neatly. He didn't mind whatever decision Sean made because for him, it was more important for these two people to live the lives they wanted.

However, even if they wanted to pick other paths as the focus, they still have to train as magic warrior.

Just like their father and mother were still training even if their result was not very good.

"Also, if possible, I don't want to leave City A Base in the future," Sean said quietly.

He didn't like business and ever since he was a kid, what he liked was to fight with other children. He's an impulsive person and he wanted to be able to fight but he didn't want to leave City A Base.

For Sean, staying in City A Base seemed to be the best decision.

"Huh? Isn't it more fun to walk around the world?" Amelia asked in confusion.

If it was her, she would rather walk around the world instead of staying in one base all the time. After all, she would definitely feel bored if she had to stay in City A Base without coming out in the slightest bit.

"No." Sean shook his head. "I think that it's better to stay in the base."

Going out meant that he would be facing a lot of danger.

Besides, it didn't mean that he would not fight the magic beasts at all but only in the areas around City A Base. There were still some magic beasts there and Sean felt that it would be enough for him.

He liked to fight to a certain degree.

But if he had to put himself in a life and death battle, then he would have to refuse. It would better for him to find opponent that's weaker or more or less match with his strength.

If he went out of City A Base's range, the magic beasts might be far stronger than him, so Sean didn't want it.

"Alright." Samuel agreed readily and then added, "If you want to enter the military instead, I can make the arrangement."

"That..." Sean thought for a moment. "I would like to discuss this with Joan first."

"Sure."

"So, are we going back to City A Base, Brother?" Amelia asked another question when she heard Samuel kept on agreeing to Sean's words.

Samuel glanced at Amelia. "If you want to stay here, I don't mind... but the number of magic beasts have decreased rapidly."

He and Riya basically cleaned up most of the magic beasts they could find in the crack. Since the location was near City I Base, this also meant that the number of magic beasts here would decrease rapidly.

It would not be enough for their training.

'Since they have reached rank 4... should I let them enter the crack next?' Samuel felt a bit conflicted.

He didn't really want to let his family members and friend enter the crack.

The crack is much more dangerous than the ground.

The only reason why he came with Riya was because he knew Riya's strength and also confident in her ability to run away.

Never ever underestimate a rune master who was proficient in escape.

Because if they were not careful enough, they would be tricked by the other party and then the target ran away before they could do anything to them.

Who knew how many people have already felt the grievances of being unable to do anything against these unscrupulous rune masters?

'I'll ask them later.'

"I'll call the others back," Sean said as he came out to call the others to come back.

Riya looked at Amelia and took out a quarter of the special magic core. "This is for you. It'll help you to break through to rank 5."

"Huh?" Amelia was stunned. "This...?"

"Special magic core. You can absorb the mana directly and made the mana yours," Riya explained.

Chapter 656: You're Not Angry?

Special magic core?

Amelia had heard about it in the past, but she had never thought that she could get it. After all, this was an extremely rare resource that not many people could get their hands on.

"This... is it not good for you to give it to me directly?" Amelia asked with strange look. She felt that this thing was a bit too precious compared to other things that Riya had given to them in the past.

"It's fine. It belongs to me and I can give it to whoever I want to," Riya replied.

At this moment, the door opened and the others came back. Their eyes moved towards Amelia's hand that was still holding the special magic core.

"That's...?"

"A quarter of special magic core," Riya replied and took out three more pieces before handing it in the direction of Arnold, Sean, and Sophia.

"This is for us?"

"One for each. This is a rank 5 special magic core, which is a bit too much for magic warrior, so I divide it into 4 so that you can withstand the mana," Riya explained. After that, she took out two pieces that were clearly bigger than these four pieces. "This is half of the rank 5 special magic core."

These two were handed over to Stephen and Ruben.

The arrangement was clear.

Magician required more mana, so it would be no problem for both Stephen and Ruben to take the half of special magic core directly.

"...Isn't this thing very expensive?" Ruben asked while looking at the half special magic core in his hand. "If I'm not wrong, it's valued at millions of contribution points at the very least and even categorized as special resources."

"Millions...?" Sophia felt her hand trembled.

She didn't mind getting Riya's help from time to time, but this thing... it was a bit too precious, isn't it?

"Just take it. I have no use of this thing anymore." Riya waved her hand.

She's already rank 7 and the rank 5 special magic core didn't have much use for her anymore. It would be better to give it to those who could make a great use of it like her friends.

Seeing Riya's nonchalant expression, they felt a bit helpless.

"Listen to her," Samuel said. "This special magic core is extremely attractive for magicians and can help you increase your mana faster... Sean, you will probably need a lot of practice to make the balance."

"Alright."

"Shall we take it now?" Amelia was a bit curious about the special magic core.

"Just take it and we'll guard you. For the magic warrior, remember to slow down and don't be greedy. It's not that easy to absorb for you," Riya reminded.

"Yes!"

So under Samuel and Riya supervision, the six of them started to meditate and used the special magic core given to them. Even though it was either only a quarter or a half, the amount of mana was a bit too much for them.

Seeing them struggling, Samuel arched his eyebrows. "How did you absorb it so quickly back then?"

He had seen Riya's process of absorbing the rank 6 special magic core when they were in the crack. After all, Riya wanted to advance quickly and she would not miss any available resources that was handed over to her on a silver plate.

These special magic cores might look difficult to take, but for Riya, it was extremely easy.

The formation she made would help her accomplish it quickly.

"I'm used to it." Riya looked back at Samuel and then tilted her head. "Besides, my mana control is several times better than them."

She could tell that these people's mana control was still very limited. The one with the best mana control was Ruben, which might be because he was also a rune master. Though, Ruben is more of a magician than rune master.

"Right...." Samuel nodded.

"Also, I don't know any higher ranked magic spell." Riya rubbed her chin. "Do you plan to cooperate with the magic association?"

She didn't know if the magic association has any higher ranked magic spell, but if there was any, then they could probably cooperate something with them.

"There's no need for that."

"Oh?"

"There's a five element magician in Continent Y and she sold these magic spells for the military's help to enter the crack. Continent Z negotiated and exchanged the basic of rune masters and beast masters with them," Samuel replied calmly.

He had obtained some information and knew about these things.

There were also other information that the two continents exchanged with each other, but Samuel didn't pay attention to everything.

"It seems that they're making a good use of the information I gave them." Riya chuckled when she heard that.

"You're not angry?"

"Why should I be angry?"

Samuel smiled when he saw Riya's generous look. He knew very well that Riya felt that they have already traded things that she needed with her, so she didn't mind they use those informations to exchange for other things.

Besides, the knowledge of rune master was far deeper than what she had give to them.

It didn't even reach 1% of her entire knowledge reserve.

Why should she be angry?

In the first place, Riya was hoping that the knowledge can be exchanged.

"In any case, they can learn the magic spells on their own after they come back to City A Base by paying some contribution points," Samuel said and then added, "Of course, if you want to exchange it too, you can do it."

If he was not wrong, Riya had a large number of contribution points in City A Base. As long as she was willing to use those contribution points, it would be easy for her to get the information that she needed.

"I'll take a look after we get back." Riya nodded with a smile.

She has long been curious about the magic spells from these magicians. Even if she can't use it, she can just take a look.

Chapter 657: Condition?

After all, Riya is not a magician.

She has no interest to start learning various magic spells either.

But it would not hurt her to exchange for a few magic spells, especially those that she hadn't seen before.

"There are also other cooperations with Continent X and Continent W," Samuel said as he thought about what his father said to him.

He helped his father to secure some deals with the higher ups, so his father told him the result of some things to him. This included the cooperation between these continents.

"Continent W... If I'm not wrong, Ruth is from Continent W, right? Are they still willing to exchange information when she's here?" Riya asked helplessly.

Ruth's position was a bit awkward.

She couldn't return to her own continent and has been stuck in Continent Z. This matter was not exactly a secret and had even become a topic for those higher ups to have conflict with each other.

When Riya heard about this... well, she was not too surprised.

The importance of the returnees were extremely clear for many people. They couldn't afford losing even a single one of these returnees.

"Many information that I know and Ruth know overlapped with each other," Samuel replied helplessly. "Continent W found out about it and realized that even if Ruth is here, Continent Z didn't seem to take that much advantage. So they only asked her to transmit some information for exchange of some support that they paid Continent Z to give."

Riya arched her eyebrows. "Condition?"

"It seems that she still has to belong to Continent W and return when there's a chance in the future," Samuel replied. "I don't know the exact details because it's a confidential matter."

For him to be able to find this out was already quite remarkable and Riya didn't really expect Samuel to know more.

After all, it was impossible to expect these returnees to share information without getting anything in return.

"Ok." Riya nodded.

"The other information is about alchemist, but aside from sharing some recipe, they can't really share the ready made potion. The alchemist in Continent W is still a big failure," Samuel said with a hint of gloating.

After all, it was quite amusing that they have tried to train other alchemists but the result was not very good. So far, aside from Jonas Nolan, the other alchemists couldn't even be called an alchemist.

Their products were so poor that they might not even dare to use it themselves.

Riya heard this and was speechless for a moment. "I think that they just didn't want to let other continent get an advantage... besides, it's not that easy to trust the alchemist compared to rune masters."

The final product of an alchemist had to be eaten or drunk. On the other hand, a rune master only needed to draw on a piece of paper and then it could be used through ripping the paper or through infusing mana.

There was not much danger.

Well, there was some risks, but it was not as much as the alchemists where they have to swallow something that was unknown.

"It'll take some time to control the quality. Even the rune masters in Continent Z are not necessarily the best either." Samuel felt helpless when he thought about this matter. The other continents were also eyeing Continent Z's magic scrolls but the other rune masters couldn't really make too many of them.

They could only make enough for internal consumption.

"I have seen it before, but they still need more training." Riya sighed.

Even after more than a year of practice, these rune masters were still unsightly. While some magic scrolls can be used but most of it had to be scrapped.

Thankfully, many rank 1 and unranked magic scrolls can already be made.

It was commonly used by ordinary people and lower ranked magic warriors, magicians, and even warriors.

But it was still in short supply in most places, so Continent Z couldn't really sell these to other continents just yet. They had to wait until they train enough rune masters or these rune masters achieved better result.

"The space storage scroll is one of the most difficult one from what I heard." Samuel's expression was a bit strange when he remembered this matter.

The higher ups hoped that Riya could continue ask for the magic beasts' corpses just so that they could trade more space storage scroll with her. This made Riya had to spend a day to make a lot of space storage scroll each month just to trade with them.

After all, no other rune master can make the space storage scroll yet.

The last time one of them managed to make it, the space storage scroll was unstable and ended up unusable after a few hours.

It was quite miserable.

"It involved the space, so I'm not too surprised. Unlike other runes that are relatively simple and still has some tolerance range that can be accepted, the space storage scroll doesn't accept it." Riya shrugged. "That's why even rank 1 space storage scroll is very expensive."

Not all rune master would be able to make space storage scroll.

The requirement for rune masters to make space storage scroll was extremely high and before they reach high enough rank, not many people dared to attempt it.

Well, she was an exception.

Knowing how expensive it is, Riya practiced to make the space storage scroll with her mana in simulation before making the real one. Once she succeeded, she sold them and then make more.

In this way, she has a lot of money in her hand and could practice other runes and formation plates.

Thinking about those days, the corner of Riya's mouth curled up slightly.

It was truly a blessing for her to have such a high talent as a rune master. Otherwise, Riya would never be able to attempt creating a large number of space storage scroll as her first big pot of gold.

Chapter 658: Plan

"Did you remember something about that world?" Samuel saw that Riya fell into trance in the middle of their conversation.

"Well..." Riya scratched the back of her head.

She didn't mean to daydream, but she couldn't help but remember the hardship in that world. Thankfully, she was not completely poor and could still take care of her self back then.

Samuel didn't know what Riya was thinking but his hand moved to rub her head. "It's ok, you don't have to be so distressed."

Riya was silent.

She looked at Samuel with a confused look. When she was in trance, she didn't know what kind of look she made on her face to make Samuel console her in this way.

Even though Riya was confused, she chose to stay silent.

It would be better for her not to know.

"Master," Ruben called.

Riya turned her head and saw that Ruben had finished. Her eyes flashed in surprise before calming down. It seemed that Ruben's potential was better than what she thought.

"You did good." Riya smiled when she saw Ruben finished absorbing the special magic core so quickly.

"Thank you, Master~." Ruben was happy and even his tone was a bit jumpy.

Samuel was silent after hearing that wavy tone from Ruben. He silently rubbed his ear, feeling that his friend had started to awaken some strange attribute.

"I have prepared a few more books for you and I hope that you can study them carefully. They contain formations and not runes."

"Formation will be more complicated..." Ruben sighed deeply.

A formation was supported by a large number of runes and most of the time, a formation required other energy source. Because a magician's mana was definitely far from enough to be able to support such a big formation's operation.

"Take your time. You don't have to learn everything overnight," Riya said with a smile.

"Yes, Master!"

"Ruben, I hope you don't forget that you're also my assistant." Samuel felt his temple throbbed when he saw Ruben's action.

He could see that Ruben was trying to flatter Riya, but his action was a bit... annoying to see.

Ruben let out a dry laugh when he heard Samuel's words. "Don't worry, I won't forget such a thing."

It was simply impossible for him to forget that.

"Do you have any thoughts about which path you want to focus on?" Riya suddenly asked, remembering that Sean was so troubled with this matter not long ago.

But seeing Ruben's mana, Riya knew that Ruben was not troubled like Sean. Perhaps, this was because Ruben is older than Sean.

Uh... he's about to hit 30, right?

She was not entirely sure because she didn't know when Ruben's birthday is, but she knew that Samuel, Ruben, Stephen, and Arnold were more or less around the same age. They should be born on the same year but different date.

Ruben had experienced many things before, so when he was facing the fact that he had to split his time and worked as both Samuel's assistant and also training as magician and rune master, he was still calm.

Besides, meditation could replace sleep.

Riya estimated that Ruben hadn't truly slept for a long time and replaced it all with meditation.

"Ah? I'll probably focus on both of them since I can do it." Ruben chuckled. "I'm used to be Samuel's assistant and it'll not hinder my practice and all."

Besides, it was impossible for him to meditate and practice runes all day long. He just had to control his time well and make time for his practice.

"But if possible, I would like to stay in City A Base instead of going out." Ruben scratched the back of his head.

For him, it would not make much difference to his life. The runes are indeed good and magic would help to protect his life, but his own talent might not be very high. He didn't have the ambitions to fight on the frontline all the time, so he would rather go back.

Many rune masters and magicians were usually also staying on the back because their physical strength was not the best.

Ruben is following this path, so he felt that he would be more useful to stay in City A Base.

"I can make that arrangement. I'm sure my father will be happy to have a full time assistant." Samuel shrugged, not caring too much about it.

Ruben looked at Samuel blankly. "You also have to go back and work, Samuel."

"I know, I know."

Thinking about the pile of work waiting for him in City A Base, Samuel sighed deeply. It was indeed his fault for becoming the leader of City A Base even if it was only in name. There was no way for him to miss the work that he had to do.

Well, it couldn't be helped.

He had to work.

"By the way, you have reached the peak of rank 4, right?" Riya looked at Ruben up and down. Seeing that he had reached the peak of rank 4, Riya handed over a rank 5 special magic core to him.

"This is...?" Ruben was stunned.

"The complete rank 5 special magic core," Riya replied calmly. "You can take it later tonight after you finish your meditation training and push your condition to the peak. After taking it, you should be able to reach rank 5."

Rank 5!

Ruben's eyes shone when he heard Riya's words.

Due to the fact that he's training as a rune master and his work, his rank was actually lower than Stephen. The two of them were both magicians and had reached rank 4, but if one were to talk about their mana quantity alone, Ruben was actually far behind Stephen.

After all, he had many things to do.

"Of course, you have to trade your own contribution points to get the magic spells from the government. I can't really help you much here." Riya pointed out about another matter.

Chapter 659: Plan (2)

While Riya has enough contribution points, she wanted to exchange for some practical magic spells and try to see if she could make the specific formation or runes from these magic spells.

She didn't know the price of these magic spells, but she could guess that they were expensive.

Since Riya didn't specifically gather contribution points, she might not have enough to trade for what Ruben might need.

"It's fine, Master. I have enough contribution points." Ruben chuckled.

He had already checked those magic spells and their description. All he needed to do was to go back to City A Base and traded for them.

"Also, since you'll be using the special magic core, you might have to retrain your mana control again," Riya reminded.

She herself was fine because her own mana control had reached the level where she could even control the amount of mana that she took out from her body. It would not be difficult for her to bypass the ranks and so on.

But Ruben is different.

This was the first time he had reached rank 5 and the special magic core will definitely push him further.

After that, what awaited him might be the fact that he couldn't control his strength well.

"I understand." Ruben nodded.

Even though he would have to spend his time to train again, Ruben didn't care. Being able to get stronger faster was something that many people had dreamed in their entire life.

Riya still has more rank 5 special magic core and was thinking about what to do with it. After all, she couldn't give it to these people all the time. They were only following the simple paths that these returnees shared.

Compared to the returnees who have various means... their needs for mana was far lower than them.

Of course, if they were to make a good use of their talent, there was still a possibility for them to surpass the returnees after a long period of time. As for how long it is, Riya didn't know and didn't think that she should give them false hope.

'Hmm, need for mana?'

If Riya was not wrong, Ruben's element is dark element, which has practically saved his life when he did reckless things in the past.

Riya looked at Ruben and then smirked. "Ruben, do you want to have more mana compared to other people of the same rank?"

Ruben saw Riya's smile and suddenly had a bad feeling. "Uhm... is it possible?"

"Yes. I can engrave runes for you, but it'll be a bit painful," Riya replied.

"Is there any other advantage?"

"You can use more mana than people of the same ranks and the runes will make your element stronger but at the same time, you will really need to spend more time practicing your mana control because it'll be harder for you to control your mana," Riya replied honestly.

She had only remembered about this matter when she thought that Ruben has dark element.

The dark element was a relatively special element and there were not many people who knew about its special characteristic for rune master. Riya knew about it because she herself has dark element and her master mentioned it.

For dark element rune master, there was a special path that they could take.

When Riya remembered this, she felt that Ruben might be suitable.

Even if he didn't have any plan to truly reach the peak, this could help him to increase his strength at the fastest speed possible.

Uh, he will need more mana, though.

So his speed might slow down instead.

"Disadvantage?" Ruben asked again.

"Your training speed might slow down to a certain degree," Riya replied. "Because your need for mana in each stage will increase significantly."

Just like her, having to use a lot of special magic cores to increase her strength. But at the same time, she's also far stronger than those of the same ranks.

Right now, aside from the fact that she needed a lot of resources, she's definitely far stronger than many other people of the same ranks. It was also because all returnees have their own methods of getting stronger that they were able to deal with rank 7 magic beasts even before reaching rank 7 themselves.

The price was indeed tragic, but they were not completely helpless.

If they had followed the ordinary path... they would have never been able to reach that level.

"Then do it." Ruben grinned.

If this meant that he could get stronger than those of the same ranks, then he will take this risk.

He's not afraid for he believe that Riya would not hurt him.

Riya smiled and glanced at Samuel.

"Go to the room and I'll guard it," Samuel said calmly. He was curious about what Riya wanted to do, but he believed that she will not harm Ruben.

"Alright, let's go."

The two of them headed to the room and Samuel stood by the door. He could sense mana fluctuation from inside the room but he stayed there quietly and saw that Stephen had also finished.

"It seems that your mana control is the second best in the group," Samuel commented.

"I'm a magician, so it's natural that I'm better than magic warrior." Stephen shrugged and then he glanced at the door before looking at Samuel again.

"What is it?"

"Is there any way for me to get stronger faster?" Stephen asked.

After taking that rank 5 special magic core, he had already reached the peak of rank 4 and he felt that with a little tug, he will be able to reach rank 5.

But Stephen had the feeling that this rank was far from enough for him to deal with the Carson Family.

Those greedy b*stards would never feel enough unless they have enough strength. Besides, Stephen also knew that the Carson Family had reached some cooperation deal with the magic association.

If he couldn't get stronger faster, there might be some people who wanted to trample on top of them.

Chapter 660: Instruction

"No," Samuel said while looking at Stephen. He narrowed his eyes and said, "You should focus on reaching rank 5 and after Sophia had reached sufficient strength, go with her and the army to explore the crack. What you can find is yours and I'll give you the map so that you can go to the most suitable place for practice."

Stephen's eyes widened when he heard Samuel's words before he smirked. "Thanks."

Rather than giving resources directly, Samuel was basically training them to become elites on their own. Because at the end of the day, it was impossible for Samuel to protect them all the time.

They needed strength to stand up on their own.

If it was Amelia, then Samuel would not hesitate to pile up resources for her.

But he's not Samuel's brother and only good friend.

He also had his pride and wanted to get stronger on his own so that he could protect his sister and stand against his greedy relatives.

"Hmm." Samuel nodded.

He heard muffled groans from inside the room and his eyes narrowed slightly. Even though he knew that Riya did say the process will be painful, it was still not very pleasant to hear it from outside like this.

Stephen didn't say anything else and waited beside Sophia.

Inside the room, Ruben was sitting with Riya behind him. Her hand was placed on the back as she continued to draw the runes.

To be honest, this kind of runes were usually drawn by the rune master for themselves. Because only in this way could they guarantee their own absolute safety and the fact that no one else will know about the existence of the runes.

But Riya didn't tell Ruben.

The main reason was because Riya knew that for Ruben to be able to make such runes would take a few more years at the very least. Since he didn't follow the path of a rune master to the extreme, there was no need for him to use this kind of runes.

Swish!

"Ugh..." Ruben felt that his heart hurt so much.

He didn't know what kind of runes that Riya used, but he felt as if his heart was swallowed and squeezed hard. It was really hard for him not to scream when he felt the tremendous pain.

Yet at the same time, Ruben could feel that the mana around him was slowly following the runes and entered his heart.

Is his mana going to increase in this way?

Ruben couldn't help but think about it that way.

Riya didn't say anything and continued to proceed with drawing the runes. She was calm and composed as she finished drawing the runes and then retracted her hand.

The moment the runes were finished, Ruben felt the pain disappeared as if it has never been there and then he felt that the amount of mana in his heart had increased at least four times than before.

Ruben opened his eyes and turned around. "How is this possible?"

"Do you feel it?" Riya arched her eyebrows. It seemed that Ruben's mana sensitivity was good or it might be because he will reach rank 5 soon. "The runes expanded your mana capacity on the principle of

your own dark element. The dark element will keep on absorbing mana to keep the runes operating, so you don't have to worry about your mana capacity going back to the way it was before."

After hearing Riya's words, Ruben's eyes widened in astonishment.

"Space related runes?"

"Yes."

Only space related runes could possibly create such an effect like this. Moreover, Ruben himself might be able to make the first rank space storage scroll, but if he was asked to make rank 2 and above, he couldn't do it at all.

The requirement for mana control and even the runes control was extremely high.

So high that Ruben didn't have the confidence that he would be able to do it anytime soon.

No, even if he was given a long time, Ruben didn't have that confidence.

"Thank you, Master."

Riya nodded and then moved away. "By the way, if other people ask you to do this, you should refuse. Exposing your mana heart to other rune masters can be fatal."

Ruben was stunned for a moment and then grinned. "I know, Master."

He only did this because he knew that Riya will not hurt him. If she wanted to hurt him, there were countless more easier methods for her to do so and he was basically in passive situation when facing her.

Besides, having known Riya for some time, Ruben knew her temperament more or less.

Those whom she treated as her friends would never be hurt by her.

"Good."

Riya opened the door and saw Samuel was still standing there. She arched her eyebrows and said, "It's done. Thanks."

"No problem." Samuel glanced at Ruben and saw that he was fine. But the abundance of mana from Ruben still made him arch his eyebrows.

Ruben's mana amount might even be comparable with him, who was almost two full ranks higher than him. After Ruben reaching rank 5, it was estimated that his mana amount would surpass him.

Riya is really generous.

"You're not suitable for that rune even if you want to," Riya interrupted when she saw Samuel looking at Ruben.

"No, I don't need that much mana." Samuel shook his head. "Many of my magic spells are accompanied by physical skills, so the mana requirement is not very high but the requirement for physical strength and skills are high."

Riya nodded blankly.

After her advancement to rank 7, her physical strength was only comparable to rank 4 magic warriors. The runes she carved for herself will allow her to strengthen her physical strength through mana conversion.

But it would still need a long time.

She was no longer in a hurry, though.

In her own estimation, it would take her a few years for her to advance to rank 8 unless she could get a lot of special resources.