

Last Days 661

Chapter 661: Mana Stone

Later on, Sean and Arnold also finished their mana refining and left early to practice. They felt that they were full of strength and wanted to try their hand.

Ruben and Stephen were also the same and walked out.

Only four people left in the room now.

"What's your plan next?" Riya asked.

"Going back to City A Base, finish my work, and then advance to rank 7," Samuel replied calmly.

Riya was stunned. "You're planning to advance in City A Base?"

If he did it there, there would be a lot of people who would come to City A Base and made trouble.

After all, Riya knew very well that the temptation of blocking Samuel's path would be very high for other returnees.

Samuel has the highest offensive power.

If the other returnees truly wanted to attack him, this would be the best chance for them.

"No, I have selected a place," Samuel replied.

"Ok."

Riya didn't ask where Samuel was planning to hold his advancement ceremony. She herself didn't mind Samuel staying near the place where she started her advancement ceremony because she has confidence in her formation and that he would not hurt her.

Of course, another reason was because Riya knew that she could advance to rank 7 quickly.

But Samuel would be different.

There would not be anyone protecting Samuel when he advanced to rank 7.

He would be alone and Riya didn't want to disturb his advancement.

Samuel glanced at Riya.

To be honest, even if she wanted to know, he will tell her the location. Just like she trusted him that she will not disturb him, he also trusted that she will not disturb him.

Cutting off one's path of advancement would be like making mortal enemies.

It was simply impossible for her to do anything like that, so if she wanted to know, he will tell her.

But she didn't ask.

Before Samuel could speak again, the two slowest people were finally done.

"It really take a long time..." Amelia sighed deeply as she looked at her hand and then she grinned.
"Riya! I'm now rank 5! I have become very strong now!"

"Congratulation." Riya smiled sincerely when she saw Amelia being so happy like this.

Amelia giggled happily and hugged Riya tightly. "Can I have more of it? Or perhaps something that can help me to practice?"

With this thing, she didn't have to spend so much time meditating at night. It had made her frustrated for who knows how long.

Riya arched her eyebrows and took out a mana stone. "You can use it."

"This is?"

"Mana stone, it contain pure non elemental mana and can be used for practice. This is just one of the lowest ranked mana stone, but it should be enough for your practice."

Amelia nodded thoughtfully as she held the mana stone in her hand. Even though it felt different from the special magic core, but she could tell that it was also very helpful for her practice.

Riya is really good to her.

"I love you so much, Riya~."

"Hey, hey, I'm straight."

"Hahaha!"

The two girls joked around with each other before Amelia said, "Don't worry, I'm now with Brother Arnold. So even if I love you, it's only because you're my best friend~."

Riya chuckled when she heard that and said, "Congratulations once again. Do I need to prepare gifts for your wedding soon?"

"No, no, it's not that fast!" Amelia's face turned red when she heard the word wedding.

They have only confirmed their relationship with each other not long ago, isn't it too fast for her to get married at this juncture.

Amelia felt that Riya's mind was jumping around a bit too much.

Riya chuckled again.

On the other hand, Samuel heard this and stood up. "I'm going to find Arnold."

Amelia froze.

Riya didn't know whether to laugh or cry when she saw this scene.

When Amelia recovered, Samuel was already gone and she turned to look at Riya. "He... Do you think that Arnold can survive?"

"They're friends and Arnold is already rank 5," Riya said calmly. "I think that they'll be fine."

Samuel should be able to hold back since Arnold is not his enemy but his future younger brother in law. Considering that the two of them had been friends for a long time, Samuel should not kill him.

"...I hope so," Amelia said in a low voice.

She didn't want to accidentally let her boyfriend die in the hands of her brother. After all, it was obvious that Arnold is not Samuel's match. And it seemed that her words had accidentally provoke Samuel.

"Well, let's talk about Sophia's next magic beast." Riya glanced at Sophia, who had opened her eyes.

It seemed that Sophia's own talent was actually the lowest in their team. After all, without Melly's help and other magic beasts, there was no way Sophia would be able to reach her current stage.

If it was not to protect Sophia's privacy, Riya really wanted to mention this in front of Sean.

After all, it was obvious that Sean felt that he was the worst.

But in truth...

It was not true.

"Ah, right." Sophia smiled. "I want some kind of defensive magic beasts... actually, can I have flying magic beasts?"

"While I know that flying is an enviable matter, but before you reach rank 5, I don't suggest you to have any flying magic beast." Riya looked at Sophia solemnly.

"Why?"

"Because there are more terrifying magic beasts in the air and before you reach rank 5, the feedback on your body will not be strong enough to protect you if you were to fall from a high place," Riya replied without hesitation.

Fall from a high place?

Both Amelia and Sophia froze.

Then again, there was indeed this concern.

If they were not careful enough, the magic beast might fall from the sky and it was something that they had to pay attention to.

Chapter 662: Magic Beast's Evolution

Thinking about the battle between Riya and Murin, the two of them remembered that Riya had attacked Murin in such a way too before.

At that time, Murin had to suffer a lot in Riya's hand and wanted to vomit blood. After all, Riya was extremely ruthless and didn't give any chance for Murin to recover so quickly. If it was not because Murin had two flying magic beasts or that his control was good, he might have fallen down.

"That's... you're right." Sophia sighed.

She glanced at Akira, the lightning magic beast not far from her. Akira's size was extremely small and it was impossible for it to take her flying.

Riya saw Sophia's gaze and her expression changed slightly. "After evolution, Akira can actually become bigger."

"Really?" Sophia's eyes lit up.

"Yes, but a magic beast's evolution required specific treasure and I don't know the details." Riya scratched the back of her head.

She was not omnipotent and there were a lot of information that she didn't know about magic beasts. After all, her main concern when seeing magic beasts was to kill them at the fastest speed possible instead of thinking about how to increase these magic beasts' strength.

Besides, Riya is not a beast master.

If she was a beast master, then she might have paid some attention about this matter.

"Well, I guess I'll have to pay attention to the website," Sophia said helplessly.

Many information can be published in the website for them to see but there were also things that the government hid. They would have to pay some price to be able to get it and in the future, there might be a way to know these things.

After all, Murin might exchange such information for some resources.

Being suppressed by Riya like that and knowing that someone had advanced to rank 7 faster than him, it was estimated that Murin couldn't accept it.

His pride and arrogance would definitely make him unwilling to accept this kind of loss.

"That's the only way." Riya shrugged.

"Well, what magic beast do you suggest that I can get?" Sophia chose to continue asking about this matter.

She definitely couldn't before getting a magic beast. After all, if she didn't contract her fourth magic beast, her improvement to rank 5 would be extremely slow.

Her own training speed was already extremely slow and Sophia definitely didn't want to make it even slower.

Riya smiled faintly. "I would suggest a water type magic beast."

"Why?"

"Because it can bring you to travel in the water when you're in danger and there's a special magic beast that suited you very much." Riya thought about the magic beast that she saw in the crack and said, "If you want to see it, I'll bring it to you next time."

"Strength?" Sophia asked.

"Only rank 4. You know very well that there's a limitation in terms of magic beasts' rank that you can contract."

Beast master could only contract magic beasts of the same rank as them unless they wanted to experience backlash. Of course, if the magic beast advanced after they had formed the contract, it would be nothing much.

But the initial contract could only be lower or the same as them.

Since Sophia is already a rank 4 beast master, she could contract a rank 4 magic beast if she found them.

"Can you tell me more first?" Sophia asked.

Riya nodded. "It's a Castle Turtle, a special magic beast that can create defensive water shield for protection and its own body can be used as a shield. The size is a bit big and it likes to eat seaweed."

"Castle Turtle?"

The two people were confused.

They didn't seem to see this magic beast in the magic beasts' encyclopedia list that they saw before.

All known magic beasts and their information would be put in the website by the government. There were many magic beasts there and both Amelia and Sophia knew very well that they had to have enough information to be able to defeat their opponents.

Know yourself and your enemy and one would be able to win a thousand battle.

Well, in any case, they were also forced to memorize that list. Amelia was asked by Samuel while Sophia was asked by Stephen. Their brothers were concerned about their knowledge reserve and didn't hesitate to let these two people to learn many things.

It was something that Riya also knew.

"That's because it hasn't been found yet. The Castle Turtle was very big and it can only be found in lake. But because there's no cracks that appear in the middle of the lake, you can only found them inside the crack," Riya replied. "I found one last time but I didn't have time to take picture of it."

When she got back to the crack, she would have to spend some time looking for the Castle Turtle again.

Thankfully there was a teleportation formation nearby.

"How big is it?" Sophia had a bad premonition.

"Uhm, the size of this room?" Riya pointed at this room.

Sophia: "..."

Amelia: "..."

"How am I going to keep that magic beast if it's so big?" Sophia wanted to collapse.

Even now, Melly was already three times the size of an ordinary dog and Mo was already four times the size of a normal white tiger. Just thinking about how to keep Mo had already given her a headache.

Thankfully, Mo was able to roam around on his own and didn't make any trouble.

Otherwise, Sophia really didn't know how to bring it into the city.

"You just have to keep it in your pet space and summon it outside," Riya replied indifferently. "Anyway, it's a pure defensive magic beast, effective to protect yourself and you don't have to make Melly suffer all the time."

Melly is Sophia's current defensive magic beast. But it was using some magic to protect Sophia, which was not very convenient.

With this Castle Turtle, even the physical defense was top notch.

Chapter 663: Bicker

Sophia: "..."

While it was true, but the image didn't seem to be that good.

"This... how about the speed?"

"In the land, the Castle Turtle is really slow." Riya had to admit that this was one of the weaknesses. "But in the water, it's actually very fast."

She didn't know the principle either, but she felt that she didn't really want to know. Because Riya estimated that if she said this in front of Ruby, the other party would gladly start a lecture full of various biological terms that she couldn't understand.

"Let me take a look first next?"

"Sure."

In this way, it was settled for Riya to bring it for Sophia to take a look first. If she was not satisfied, she could pick from the list that the government had provided for them.

For this matter, Riya wanted to complain.

Her knowledge over magic beasts were actually not very thorough and could be wrong. After all, Riya is not a beast master and it would be better to rely on the profession to identify these magic beasts' strength and weakness.

But Sophia would rather choose Riya to help her.

"Also, I don't know where Mo is. He has been staying outside on his own," Sophia said while rubbing her forehead.

Mo was simply too active and Sophia didn't know what to say about this matter. After all, it was simply impossible for her to detain Mo and that white tiger seemed to have his own minds.

"Leave him be." Riya shook her head. "I only keep him because I want a mount in the first place."

The two girls: "..."

They silently gave thumbs up to Riya.

"Let's go out now. I want to see Arnold," Amelia said as she rushed out. They have talked for a long time, so the battle between Samuel and Arnold should be over, right?

Sophia didn't follow immediately and instead turned to look at Riya. "Do you want to see my progress?"

"It doesn't really matter." Riya shook her head. "I believe that your magic beasts are quite powerful and giving you the special magic core is just to increase your mana so that you can summon them in battle for a while longer."

These magic beasts' could use Sophia's mana through their contract. But in the first place, they would not take too much of her mana because Sophia's own strength was not high.

The best combination would be a powerful magic warrior and the powerful magic beasts. But those people who were already powerful on their own would not be willing to share their power with the magic beasts.

It was also because of this that the magic beasts' profession has become an unpopular one.

After all, keeping magic beasts were not easy.

"I know." Sophia smiled and then walked out to follow behind Amelia.

Riya arched her eyebrows when she saw this and chuckled. It seemed that Sophia had long known that she didn't care too much about what kind of paths that they wanted to take.

Everyone is different and Riya would never force others to follow the same paths as her. What they pursued in life, what they cherished, what they wanted to achieve, everything was different.

There was no need for her to force them to follow her way.

Since this was the decision they have made for their lives, then she would support them and only help when it was necessary.

Because what she wanted the most was for them to live well and happily.

As their friends, this is the greatest blessing that she could give.

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After coming out, Riya saw Arnold, who was half beaten by Samuel along with the laughing Ruben and Stephen. Even Sean's shoulder was shaking when he saw Arnold's miserable appearance.

"I thought that you're going to test your strength by fighting the magic beasts, but you end up fighting the strongest one among them all," Sophia lamented.

"Sophia," Stephen reminded.

Sophia grinned and said, "Don't worry, I'll be fine."

Samuel would not beat her up and this was something that Sophia knew very well. Since that was the case, she would not hesitate to talk openly about these things.

Besides, Samuel had no time to care about her.

"Brother!" Amelia looked at Arnold and felt a bit distressed. She glared at her brother and her arms were crossed as if she was asking for explanation.

"He get hits on purpose," Samuel replied lazily.

He wasn't planning on targeting Arnold's face, but this man chose not to hide when his punch arrived. So even if Samuel was not really using his real strength, Arnold's face ended up bruised like this.

It looked a bit miserable.

Riya saw this scene and shook her head in amusement.

"Let's go to the hospital," Amelia said.

"This is just light injury and there's really no need for me to go to the hospital," Arnold said, refusing Amelia's request.

In this case...

Amelia turned to look at Riya.

"Let me teach you a magic spell," Riya said as she slowly chanted, "I'm the messenger of light, borrowing the healing power to treat and heal injuries in front of me. Lend me your light, healing light."

The light came and fell on Arnold, healing his injuries at speed visible to the naked eyes. Since none of his injuries were serious, this low ranked magic spell was more than enough to let him recover.

The others looked at this scene and arched their eyebrows.

"It's really cool!" Amelia's eyes lit up and then she frowned. "No wait, I don't have light element, Riya!"

"Ah, but as long as the percentage is not below 1%, you can still have the chance to learn this magic spell."

"No! You're playing around me!"

"Hahaha!"

"Get back here!"

Arnold watched as Amelia was chasing after Riya and fell into silence. He glanced at Samuel and then said, "Do you need my help to get her?"

He felt that it would be better if Riya had a boyfriend so that she would not stay with Amelia all the time.

Chapter 664: Back to City A Base

Pfft!

Sean couldn't help but laugh out loud when he heard Arnold's words. He felt that the IQ of men who had fallen in love was terrifyingly low.

As for himself?

Eh, he would never consider himself among them.

After all, he believed that he's the smartest.

Samuel rubbed his forehead. "Just take care of my sister and don't forget about your promise."

As for Riya...

He planned to confess to her soon.

Before that, he should deal with his own problems.

Stephen understood Samuel's implication and chuckled. "Got it."

It seemed that he didn't have to wait that long.

...

Samuel and the others didn't stay in City I Base for a long time.

He heard about the incidents that happened before and felt that Arnold's past identity was indeed a bit troublesome. Thankfully, the problem was not that big and still under their control.

As long as they were strong enough, there wouldn't be anyone who could make trouble for them.

The group of eight returned to City A Base after two days and Riya also saw Mo again. Upon seeing the white tiger that was several times bigger than her, Riya fell into silence.

She had underestimated this white tiger's growth.

Thankfully, the space she prepared for it was big enough to accommodate it in her world.

And their group of eight also ride on Mo to return to City A Base because it would be faster this way. Of course, their formation shocked many people along the way but many of them could already accept it.

No way, who made beast master an official profession?

Even though some people wanted to eliminate all magic beasts, many others felt that the current situation was not that bad.

How it would develop in the future was still something that they needed to wait and see, though.

After reaching City A Base, Samuel was dragged by his father to work while Sean headed to find his girlfriend to explain his situation. Amelia and the others were busy training while Riya went back to her room and then entered her world to start preparing many things.

'First, I need teleportation formation plate.'

A formation plate would be much more convenient than drawing it on the spot.

Riya looked at her diminishing resources and sighed in her heart. She knew very well that she had to enter the crack again sometime soon so that she could get more resources. But before that, she better be prepared.

'Secondly, I need a space lock formation plate.'

Space lock formation plate was just like its name, it was used to lock down a certain radius of space, making any kind of space transfer impossible. Of course, the space lock formation was not omnipotent.

After all, there was still the limitations of ranks and so on.

But it would be enough in most cases because if they wanted to prevent a rune master from escaping, a space lock formation would be needed.

'But this can only trap rank 7 at most.'

Riya sighed.

The formation was definitely limited to her own ranks and this was something that Riya understood very well. The stronger she is, the stronger the formation that she could make.

But because she was only a rank 7 rune master, then her strength was undoubtedly limited.

Not that she minded that much, though.

After all, she didn't want to bite more than she could chew.

"Next..."

Riya quickly made the two formation plate as she wished. For teleportation formation plate, she made more than one as backup. There were cases when her opponents shattered her formation plate and it was very annoying.

Even if she could draw a teleportation formation on the spot, but it would not be as fast as a formation plate.

"Defensive formation plate and killing formation plate."

Looking at the remaining resources, Riya quickly built all the formation plate that she had long wanted to make. These formations were all at rank 7, which made her spent a long time in the world to finish it.

Thankfully, she had already set up the do not disturb note in front of her room.

Other people also knew that Riya had just advanced to rank 7 and it would not be strange for her to meditate for a long time to consolidate her rank.

It was just...

The returnees definitely knew that there was no need to consolidate their ranks.

They have already done that once in that world and knew what they should do to consolidate their ranks almost immediately. What they needed was to get used to their rank again.

A month passed before Riya came out of her room.

Amelia looked at Riya, who finally came down to have breakfast with odd expression. "I thought that you're about to become a monk, Riya."

Riya: ???

It was not that exaggerated, right?

"You've been staying in that room for an entire month. If it's not for my brother saying that it's normal for magician to meditate for months or even years, I really want to knock on your door." Amelia shrugged.

She felt that she was lagging behind in terms of adaptation.

After all, thinking about not eating and drinking for an entire month... Amelia felt that she really couldn't do it.

"I need to make preparation before going to find the magic beast that Sophia requested," Riya replied helplessly.

"Huh? You're going again?" Amelia was stunned.

They have only returned to City A Base for a short period of time and Riya was basically holed up in her room all the time.

Now, Riya was planning to leave again?

"Well, yes?"

"Did you get infected by my brother's workaholic trait?" Amelia rolled her eyes. "Come with me and let's pay a visit to Ruby. You haven't seen her in a long time. Don't you miss her?"

Ruby?

Riya thought about that girl and remembered that she seemed to forget everything when she was making those formations plates in her world and so on.

She scratched the back of her head with embarrassment and said, "Sorry."

Chapter 665: Back to City A Base (2)

"Don't apologize to me. I know you're busy, especially since you have reached rank 7 faster than the others. But I think that you shouldn't lose touch with your friends," Amelia said seriously.

She didn't think too much about it before.

But after seeing that the time spent with her friends had gotten lesser and lesser, Amelia started to treasure the time she could spend with her friends more.

Because she knew that it was impossible for them to be together all the time.

"I know..." Riya nodded guiltily.

The higher their ranks, the more they would need to spend their time in meditation. It was really easy for them to lose touch with the world outside.

Thinking about this, Riya sighed.

Anyway, she will live for a long time in the future as long as she didn't encounter any incident in the middle. Before it was time for her to spend her days in full meditation, it would be better to stay with her friends too.

"Then, let's go see Ruby?"

"Wait, let me eat something first."

"Ah, okay!"

...

In the past month, Sean had already made the arrangement for his future paths. He had talked with Joan and the latter didn't mind that Sean wanted to be a full time magic warrior in the slightest bit.

She herself wanted to stay in the hospital and treated people.

In this way, the two of them would work together from time to time or meet together after they finished their work.

It was a relatively ordinary schedule, but this was something that Sean liked.

As for traveling again?

Sorry, he refused.

But recently, his mother started to talk to him about officially getting married and live with his girlfriend... After all, it was really not convenient for them to do anything if they were still staying with his parents.

cough

So Sean has been planning this recently.

...

Carson Family

Stephen and Sophia could be said to be staying outside of the Carson Family for a long period of time. There was a few months gap because they followed Samuel to deal with the magic beasts' tide some time ago and then left to City I Base because these two didn't come back.

Through this, the two of them managed to train well.

But after coming back, Stephen realized that the atmosphere had changed somewhat.

"Father, what happened in the past few months?" Stephen asked with a frown. He could tell that his grandfather seemed to have been doing some kind of plans and it didn't seem to be good thing.

"This..." Stephen's father looked haggard. To be honest, he also tried to train but he found out that his talent was even worse than the others. It was unknown how he managed to have a son who was talented like Stephen.

"Father." Stephen looked at his father solemnly.

Stephen's father sighed deeply and said, "The Carson Family has entered various institutions. Right now, every link is important and it's still spreading out."

Various institutions....

When Stephen heard this, how could he not understand what his father meant?

His eyes flashed for a moment and narrowed slightly.

There was no way his grandfather wouldn't take advantage of the existing situation, so it meant that something had happened that allowed him to sneak his people into these institution.

"They're taking the privilege that used to be mine and my sister," Stephen said with certainty.

"Yes..."

Stephen could see his father's tired look and shook his head. He knew that his father was weak towards his grandfather's words and 'coercion.' In this way, he was not surprised that his father would allow them to step forward and took these things.

Besides, Stephen didn't think too highly about what his grandfather gave to them.

There's nothing free in the world.

This was something that Stephen had understood deeply from the very beginning. If they wanted something, they had to pay for it, one way or another.

What looked like free could be the most expensive thing in the world.

Because what they used to pay it could no longer be measured by money.

"About this matter..."

"Father, you don't have to worry too much." Stephen looked at his father and sighed. His sister cared for their father greatly and had a strong sense of responsibility, but Stephen was very clear that he was different.

Because from the very beginning, he didn't have much contact with his father.

Ever since he was young and confirmed to have enough talent, his father handed him over to their grandfather to be cultivated to be the successor. Stephen could never forget the day when his own father gave the report to Grandfather and let his grandfather made all arrangement for his own future.

The Carson Family has never been a warm world.

It was a cold blooded family where the blood relationship was extremely thin. They could stay together as long as there was profit in front of them.

But when there were troubles, they would not hesitate to run away and abandon whoever brought them bad luck.

How many people have been abandoned by Old Master Carson?

There were too many to count, including those distant relatives and those orphans who were picked up to serve the Carson Family through various methods.

Stephen had seen too much.

So when he saw his father like this, he didn't have much feeling.

But his sister is different.

As the 'useless' young miss of the Carson Family, she has been neglected by the family for a long time. They didn't care too much about her and let her do whatever she wanted. There was no pressure for her either because it was useless even if they wanted to care about her.

There were many more people more useful than Sophia in the Carson Family back then.

And with Stephen protecting his sister, no one could touch her even if they have some ideas.

Old Master Carson also turned blind eyes to this and even glad that Stephen has some weakness.

Chapter 666: Stephen and His Father's Confrontation

But the world has changed.

The Carson Family could no longer afford to lose any chess pieces in their hands. Everyone who had some values would be squeezed until all of their worth was gone. Everything for the sake of the 'family.'

To be honest, Stephen was disgusted by it.

However, he also knew that he could not get away from the Carson Family back then. They have various connections and it would be difficult to get away from them. Besides, where does he want to hide?

It was impossible.

He could only be one of the 'heirs' and managed business well for the Carson Family while protecting his sister.

Under his protection, Sophia didn't have to touch these dirty things.

Unfortunately, things didn't go in accordance to what he wanted.

The world changed and what awaited them was nothing more than the fact that it became increasingly difficult for Stephen to protect his sister.

His father?

It was already good enough if his father didn't hand Sophia over to their grandfather in a silver platter. His father's filial piety was extremely strong, so strong that Stephen didn't understand.

At the same time, Stephen knew that he couldn't be like this father of his.

The person he cared for the most is his sister followed by his father.

As for that grandfather of his?

Stephen couldn't really bring himself to truly care for that man who only saw his descendants as nothing more than chess pieces on top of a chess board.

If they were useful, they would be favored.

If they were useless?

Then they just had to wait for the day when they would be thrown out or having their entire value squeezed without anything left.

"Stephen." Stephen's father looked at his son who had a calm face and frowned. "Without the Carson Family, it's not possible for you..."

"Father, I know."

He knew but he couldn't agree to it.

Even if he knew that they have gained a lot of privilege by staying in the Carson Family, Stephen could not bring himself to truly stay loyal to the family and dedicated everything to his grandfather.

He's a selfish person.

It was precisely because he's selfish that he didn't think he would be able to sacrifice everything for the sake of other people.

These people might be related to him by blood, but the real connection between them was extremely faint. So faint that Stephen would not think it was strange if they suddenly stab him from the back.

Because he himself had no expectation for them.

"Only if the family thrives would it be possible for you to live well..." Stephen's father continued the words he wanted to say.

It was also the motto of the Carson Family.

Dedicate their ability for the family and only then would it be possible for them to truly thrive. Because only if the family is strong would they be protected by the family when they were outside.

In a way, it was true.

But only if the family was truly protecting them well instead of exploiting them as what they have done so far.

From what Stephen experienced so far, he felt that what Old Master Carson did so far was to suck out as much blood as possible from the family members around him. He never treated them as a person and more like a tool.

So this story about making the family thrive so that they could have a solid backing...

It sounded ridiculous in Stephen's ears.

At the same time, he had no doubt that if there was someone who tried to break away from the Carson Family, the others will definitely rush over to stop them or take advantage of the situation and destroy them before they could get out.

Because only if they were thoroughly crushed would it be possible for them not to affect their interest.

"No one can shine far too brightly and one can't be too bad either because it'll be trash." Stephen turned around without looking at his father. "Isn't this the way it has always been in the Carson Family?"

If they were too good, the others would be jealous and would do whatever they could to drag him or her down. Because they didn't want someone who was too good and possibly overshadow everyone else.

Old Master Carson also didn't like having a descendant who was too good because it would be hard to control the other party.

But if they were useless, it would be even worse.

Unless there was someone who protected them, the Carson Family would not even be willing to let them grow up and would rather throw them away like trash. That was what had happened to some people who ended up unable to do anything back then.

Stephen's father's face turned pale.

He looked at his son's departing back and silently lowered his head.

There was nothing that he could do.

This is the cruel reality of someone who had lived in this cruel and cold family for decades.

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While Stephen and Sophia were still living well in the Carson Family, the stiff atmosphere made Sophia realized that the family was different from before.

She didn't need her brother to explain it to her.

From the very beginning, Sophia knew very well that it was impossible for the Carson Family to place their bets on her and her brother all the time.

With so many people greedy to advance and take the dominant position in the family, how could it be possible for them to stay quiet and watch as Stephen and Sophia were advancing step by step?

They should have their own plans.

But Sophia didn't think that it was strange and chose not to care about it. The resources from the Carson Family was very scarce and she herself knew that she would be too naive if she thought that she could rely on it for the rest of her life.

Chapter 667: Eavesdrop?

Woof? <Are you alright, Master?>

Melly looked at her master worriedly and nudged Sophia's leg.

With her own contribution points, Sophia rented a house for her to stay not far from Amelia's house. The entire place basically belonged to Samuel and if he wanted to, it would be easy for sell these places.

But the monthly rent was expensive.

For Sophia, it was nothing much, though.

At least, it was 1000 times cheaper than her pets' food fees.

"Ah, I'm fine, Melly." Sophia rubbed Melly's head tenderly as usual. There was a faint smile on her face but the smile didn't reach her eyes.

She talked to her grandfather about moving out and he told her that if she wanted to stay outside, she had to pay for it herself. For Sophia, this small amount of contribution points was nothing much.

If this was the price she needed to pay to stay far away from the Carson Family, it was nothing.

But even if she was staying out here, Sophia knew very well that it was impossible for her to cut off contacts with the Carson Family. This was nothing more than a temporary measure because they would not care about her.

If only it was possible to stay further away from the Carson Family....

"Sophia, I know you like to sit on the floor, but can't you buy a carpet or something in your own house?"

Hearing the familiar voice, Sophia raised her head and saw her brother standing at the doorsteps. He looked at her with helpless expression and Sophia felt a bit guilty.

"Brother, why are you here?"

"I just talked with Father," Stephen replied and rubbed Sophia's head. "Don't worry about anything. They can't do anything to you."

Sophia blinked her eyes and hummed in a low voice.

Seeing her expression, Stephen knew that his sister didn't fully believe him, but he had no way of making her fully trust him. He rubbed his forehead and could only let Sophia live peacefully here for the time being.

Anyway, the base would not make any trouble and he just had to put up his guard against the Carson Family.

His grandfather is old, but there were still many people who supported him. He cultivated a group of loyal fools who only knew how to listen to his words.

It was really annoying.

After talking a few more words with his sister, Stephen let Sophia meet with her two friends instead. When Sophia was with Amelia or Riya, she was clearly more energetic.

"Okay, I'll go see them, Brother," Sophia said and patted Melly's head. "It's been a while since I played with them."

"Go."

Stephen watched Sophia walked out of the apartment and stumbled upon Amelia and Riya who were going to the research institute to pay a visit to Ruby. The three girls laughed and then walked away.

He himself headed towards the government's center in City A Base.

In the past year, it could be said that City A Base had transformed from a roughly made base to a real base that looked no different from an ordinary city. To be honest, Stephen didn't understand how Mr. Jones was able to transform the city so much like this.

After all, it was not so easy to make those people listen to his words.

Yet, Mr. Jones was able to do all of this.

Because of his identity as Samuel's friend, he could directly go to Samuel's office room. Even though Samuel himself rarely came here because he didn't think that it was necessary for him to be here.

His father could handle most of the work.

But since he had just came back for a short period of time, he quickly finished the pile of work that was left behind and needed his consent.

"Father, can't you... deal with it yourself?" Samuel sighed after he finally cleared out all the works that he had to do.

"City A Base is yours and I'm just helping you to manage it." Mr. Jones rolled his eyes. "Be thankful that Ruben is helping you or you won't be able to finish so much work so quickly."

This brat left for more than half a year and only gave some instruction through the phone occasionally. So they could only handle the most urgent matter while the rest was piled up here.

Now, it was finally done.

"Well, he's a good assistant," Samuel replied without hesitation.

In terms of paperwork alone, Ruben was definitely better than him. Moreover, he could see that Ruben was very meticulous in his work and also a loyal person. Otherwise, it would be impossible for him to trust the other party so much.

"He's not here today?"

"The work is almost done, so I give him a break." Samuel stretched his hand and then asked, "Does those people still cause trouble for you?"

"Thanks to your deterrence, they didn't dare to do anything," Mr. Jones replied. "There are definitely some ungrateful b*stards mixed in who likes to make trouble from time to time but most of them know how to behave themselves."

When talking about this matter, Mr. Jones also felt helpless. He didn't understand why these people wanted so much when they came to City A Base.

Didn't they see the devastation outside and now they still wanted to get something for nothing.

It was outrageous.

Samuel spread his hand. "A good person would not live long while the evil one will definitely last for a long time."

"Haha." Mr. Jones could only let out dry laugh.

There was nothing that he could say about that.

But Samuel also knew that there were still many good people out there. There was no need to look at people from the worst side all the time.

He raised his head to look at the door and arched his eyebrows.

"Stephen, if you keep standing there, I'll think that you want to eavesdrop."

Mr. Jones was stunned and looked at the door too.

Chapter 668: Eavesdrop? (2)

Even though he practiced, Mr. Jones' rank was not as high as many others due to age factor. He couldn't train that hard either and only enough to prolong his life to a certain degree.

The door opened and Stephen walked inside. "I was thinking of waiting until you finish talking, Sam."

"I'm done."

Mr. Jones rolled his eyes and nodded at Stephen politely before walking out. The two of them were friends and Mr. Jones had known about this for a long time, so he didn't care that much.

Klep.

After the door was closed, Stephen looked at Samuel and asked, "Do you know what kind of agreement the Carson Family has with the Magic Association?"

"Hmm?" Samuel thought about the paper that he signed and sighed. "The Magic Association negotiate with City A Base so that they could still be stationed nearby and absorb people to follow them. The Carson Family heard about this and approached them to learn magic spells."

He didn't tell Stephen the details of the negotiation and Stephen also didn't want to know about it either. After all, it was not exactly his business.

"If City A Base were to fight the Magic Association, will the Carson Family be involved?"

Samuel arched his eyebrows. "That's a harsh accusation."

A base fighting against the entire association?

Unless there was a good reason and profit that could be obtained, it would be impossible for this kind of thing to happen. Samuel was not a person who was very keen on world dominance and sh*t like that.

Be realistic.

It was impossible to do such a thing even if many parts of the world has been destroyed because of the magic beasts. The remaining people would not back down so easily.

"I just mean if... Murin is not exactly likable," Stephen replied.

Well, Murin was definitely not likable.

And there were also many other people whom Samuel himself didn't particularly like among the returnees. After all, they have their own conflicts when they were in that world and after coming back to the Green Planet, some of them retained these conflicts and some others chose to put it down.

It would be useless for them to fight among themselves, so they chose not to bother with such a matter anymore.

"As long as Murin didn't do anything that endanger the Green Planet, I don't think any returnee is willing to fight him." Samuel tapped the table and then smiled faintly. "Besides, you don't know how many people are trying to curry favor with City A Base now."

The fact that Riya advanced to rank 7 couldn't be hidden.

This has long spread all over the world, allowing them to know that there was an extremely powerful rune master in City A Base in Continent Z. Because of this matter, there were many bases who wished to have contact, including bases on the other side of the planet.

Samuel didn't tell this thing to Riya but he guessed that she should know.

After all, her advancement ceremony was extremely high profile and people all over the world has been working hard so that they could advance not rank 7 for a long period of time.

Now that one of them had taken that step...

No one wanted to lag behind.

He himself was also making his final preparation for his advancement in his busy schedule and had selected a place to hold his advancement ceremony.

"I see..." Stephen rubbed his chin.

He had heard about Samuel's secret preparation to advance to rank 7. Moreover, he also checked the forum and knew that some people discussed about this matter.

They said that advancement to rank 7 is a big matter and the officials were paying close attention to this matter.

But it was only now that Stephen realized how big of a deal this is.

"Well, it's still far away from you," Samuel said lightly as he looked at Stephen in front of him. "I don't think that you're only here to discuss this, right?"

"I need a favor to figure out what the Carson Family has been doing in the past few months," Stephen replied.

After coming back to the Carson Family, those people were not willing to let him know what they have been doing in the past few months. The alienation was very strong and Stephen completely understood that they were trying to isolate him and his sister.

Was it because they were too strong?

What a ridiculous family.

But if he didn't know anything about their movements, Stephen felt that he wouldn't be able to be prepared in case they suddenly attacked him. After all, he didn't believe the Carson Family was willing to stay quiet for a long period of time.

"They divided their family into three parts, joining three different forces," Samuel replied. "The Martial Arts Association, the Magic Association, and the military. You have to figure out their identities yourself as I have no time to check them."

The Carson Family has expanded slightly in the past few months through marriage and so on. After all, their number had decreased sharply after the magic beasts' tide and many of them didn't survive.

So the remaining few people were used to expand their connections and so on.

"I understand." Stephen nodded with a frown.

Samuel looked at the tangled Stephen and asked the question he has been wondering about for a long time, "Why don't you ever think of leaving the Carson Family? The world is no longer the same as before."

If it was before, he understood why Stephen would rather stay and kept their strained relationship with the Carson Family. After all, there was nowhere they could go so easily without the Carson Family's influence.

Besides, who would like to live in hiding for the rest of their lives?

Stephen was clearly not someone who like such a thing.

So it would be better for him to live while accepting half control of the Carson Family.

Chapter 669: Reason

"I do think that way, but... do you remember the story of how to tame elephant?" Stephen smiled coldly. "Tie the young elephant's legs with a chain so that it couldn't get out and when the elephant grow up, even if it's only an ordinary rope, the elephant will think that it can't get out at all."

It was the same for the Carson Family.

Stephen had watched the education that his father, uncle, and aunts received when they were young. Their spirits were crushed and they were made to be loyal to his grandfather no matter what happened.

It was to the point that they would not have any thoughts about rebellions.

When it came to the grandchildren, they were also taught in a harsh way, trying to repeat these things. Stephen himself is a rebellious child and since his grandfather didn't have time to care for all of his grandchildren, his control over him was not as strong.

Only his sister was more affected and didn't dare to fight against the Carson Family. But with her being useless in the past, they didn't pay much attention either.

They lived in peace.

But now... they were in the limelight because of their abilities and the Carson Family's resources tilted towards them for a period of time. Now that Old Master Carson had set his eyes on the associations, the attention had decreased to a certain degree.

The problem is that Stephen understood that Old Master Carson would not want to let them get out of control.

Otherwise, he would not have put pressure on his father.

Thinking about his own father, Stephen had a headache because he didn't know how to make his father stopped being so loyal and stupid like that.

"Ah... I have heard about that." Samuel frowned. "But humans are different from elephant. But I guess not many people dared to take that step to release themselves."

Because they have gotten used to be oppressed and live a comfortable life under Old Master Carson, his children didn't think that there was anything wrong. Even if the world changed, these people were still listening to Old Master Carson.

In a way, this old man was quite terrifying and cold blooded.

"That's just how messed up my family is." Stephen spread his hands, not bothered with this matter. "Besides, there are more messy families... like your little girlfriend."

Riya is not his girlfriend yet, but Samuel has no interest to correct Stephen's words.

"Well, those people are surprisingly tenacious and ruthless," Samuel replied helplessly.

After the incident in where Ciera, Riya's half sister, killed Mrs. Thompson, Riya's biological mother, there were more people from the Magic Association coming. For some reasons, Ciera and her father had contact with them and become magicians.

As for Mr. Thompson, he didn't have any talent and was still busy taking care of his comatose son.

It was really miserable.

Riya's mother was staying in different city base and Samuel hadn't heard about them again. But he guessed that they wouldn't die so easily because Riya's mother's family background was really strong.

To be honest, Samuel himself wondered why would she marry someone like Riya's father.

After all, in terms of status, Riya's father was far from being comparable to Mrs. Taylor and it was already odd enough that someone of such high stature was willing to be the third party.

Then again, Samuel couldn't understand their strange way of thinking.

"Well, maybe you can play the script of a hero saving the beauty," Stephen joked.

"I think that the beauty is violent enough to kill her enemies on her own," Samuel complained.

If these people could pose any trouble to Riya, who has already reached rank 7... then he would think that the sun had risen from the west. There was no way such a thing could possibly happen.

Stephen laughed and said, "I don't think she'll be happy to be called violent."

"Well, her attacks are indeed beautiful enough." Samuel nodded in agreement. After all, Riya used various kinds of magic. Even though the magic selection was relatively straightforward because Riya was not the kind of person who liked fancy magic, it still looked very beautiful.

"Right."

"Are you going to deal with them yourself?" Samuel turned the topic back.

"Well." Stephen nodded thoughtfully and then said, "I don't think I have any other choice."

"If you truly offend the two associations... I can still help you, but you better not offend the military openly," Samuel advised.

For him, the two associations were nothing much. Even if they have some conflicts, they still needed each other so a negotiation will probably take place. Besides, this could be considered to be a family dispute.

But if Stephen were to offend the entire military, it would be a bit difficult to handle.

After all, they were still staying in Continent Z and Samuel didn't have the interest to offend the entire continent.

"I know." Stephen smiled. "Don't worry, I won't make things difficult for you."

"Good."

The two of them talked a bit more before Stephen left while Samuel stayed in his office. Stephen still has some things that he had to do. There were not much things that Samuel had to do for City A Base.

What left was the things for his own advancement ceremony.

Samuel glanced at the box on the table.

This was something that he traded with Continent Z's official right after his return.

"I really didn't expect that they can actually find this thing in this world... after this, you can return to your glory, are you happy?" Samuel patted his sword.

Buzz!

The sword made buzzing sound and Samuel could clearly feel it's delight.

He smiled faintly and tapped the sword.

Now that he had collected all the materials... he just needed to talk with Riya.

In a few days, he should be able to advance to rank 7 and become the second person on the Green Planet to advance to rank 7.

Chapter 670: Teasing

At this moment, Riya was heading to the research institute with Amelia and Sophia.

"I can also take this time to check Melly's rank," Sophia said with a smile. "There are not many beast masters in the world, but they have a complete database to help the magic beasts' improve."

"It should have been given by Murin," Riya replied leisurely.

She could guess that Murin should have exchanged a lot of information in exchange for resources. He had to take care of a lot of magic beasts and their food needs was definitely not small, so Riya was not surprised if he ended up using the information in his hand to exchange for many things.

Besides, the largest knowledge that Murin has would be the various information about magic beasts.

If it was general knowledge, other returnees could also give it.

But things related to their advancement, training, and evolution... he's the only one who could give it.

Of course, the officials would test these things to prove that Murin was not lying to them before handing over the agreed deal.

"He's surprisingly generous," Sophia muttered.

"Because he couldn't do it himself," Riya said calmly. "Many venues for training these magic beasts can't be prepared by himself. He will need help of the continent to look for the suitable place and then head there for his own practice."

If it was not because of this limitation, Riya was sure that Murin would never want to look for them and ask for help. The information about how the magic beasts improved has always been something that only the official beast masters would pay attention to.

Riya couldn't help in this regards.

Her knowledge was limited.

"I don't think it's possible to build anything on large scale aside from making walls." Amelia's lips twitched.

After she came back, she saw her father who was on the verge of collapse because he was having headache about the construction matters. Even if they have a lot of projects and something like that, the materials were limited and it was impossible for them to build specific training place for the magic beasts.

At least, not at this point.

"True." Riya chuckled.

She felt that aside from Murin who was so eager to have his magic beasts get stronger, other people didn't care too much about this matter. They would rather spend their time practicing or focus on their own survival rather than caring about unnecessary matters.

"Oh, we're here." Amelia looked at the research institute. "I think Ruby should be very happy to be able to stay here all the time. I wonder what kind of research she has been doing."

"Some research required confidential agreement," Sophia reminded.

"I know, I know. I won't ask her to tell me anything that's not allowed from the agreement."

The three of them walked inside and then stopped when they saw that Ruby was not alone. Ruben was there and the two of them were talking about something.

"Huh? Ruben is here?" Amelia's eyes lit up and then she grinned. "I thought that he's given a vacation by Brother, but he's actually here to accompany Ruby?"

When the others heard that Ruben was on vacation, they also looked at the two people's interaction curiously. Riya had never heard anything about her student's interpersonal relationship.

Then again, with her teaching style that often let her student learn by themselves... it would be a miracle if she knew.

"Wow." Sophia's eyes were also shining with gossips. It seemed that next time, they could also tease Ruby.

Thinking about the time when she was dragged to study by the other party, Sophia rubbed her hands in excitement.

It's time for her playful revenge!

Riya and Amelia suddenly saw Sophia's smile and silently took a step away. They didn't want to be implicated when Sophia wanted to trick someone, especially if it was Ruby.

Click!

Ruby turned her head and saw Sophia was holding a phone and took a pic. She didn't even bother turning off the sound and there was a big grin on her face.

"Sophia!"

"Hehehe! It's rare to see Ruby so happy when talking with boys, so of course I have to save it~." Sophia laughed heartily and put her phone away.

Ruby looked at Sophia and her teeth itched a bit, but she didn't bother with the other party. "Ruben is here to talk about the research conference that will be held in two week's time. I have a project presentation on that day."

"Oh?" Sophia tilted her head. "It seemed that you have made a breakthrough in your research."

"Of course!" Ruby raised her chin proudly. "I proceeded with the dark element's research and I found that there are parts of the dark creature's body that can hold more mana. After processing and then synthesized it with the....."

"Stop! Stop!" Riya quickly raised her hand to stop Ruby from giving them a lecture. She had the feeling that they were about to go back to university whenever Ruby started her outrageous lecture.

Moreover, Riya hated biology back then.

She still didn't like it even now, so she had no interest to listen to Ruby's long lecture about biology's topic like this.

Ruby laughed when she saw the clear resistance on her three friends' face and smirked at Sophia, making the letter's teeth itched.

When it was time for exams, Ruby would give lecture to Sophia on the day before so that she could catch up with the classes. Who made Sophia often felt sleepy in class and couldn't listen to whatever the teacher was saying?

Now that Ruby started again... Sophia wanted to tickle her friend!

"Ahem, girls." Ruben interrupted. "I'll be going back first. Also, there are some places that magic beasts can't enter."

He pointed at Melly, who was following Sophia.

"Woof!" <Don't worry, I know>

Melly could understand that Ruben was talking to her, so she responded.

"Well, Ruby, how about we talk while Sophia test her Melly?"

"Sure~."