

213 Another reward

CRACK! 1

Some darts still managed to get through and were only stopped because of the bubble that Anabela conjured. As the three of them were looking at the creature, Kayden was amazed at the style of mana manipulation he had seen at that moment. Only part of the spell was made by the creature, more specifically it conjured 90% of the wood and the rest was completed by a force that Kayden could not understand. It was the same wood, there was no difference, and he only noticed it because of the difference in mana. It was the absence of mana, as while the part created by the creature was made by mana, the other part didn't seem to be made of anything. Kayden just watched the next attacks and couldn't see how it was being done.

BOOOM!

A lightning attack landed directly on the creature, but it defended itself by closing itself into a wooden ball. Then, a huge meteor fell directly on her and the most it did was break her

barrier into pieces. His wooden ball followed the same casting process as his attacks. Anthony tried to approach the figure but was cruelly shot by dozens of wooden darts. Furthermore, some vines were on his legs to impede his movements.

SWISH!

An aura attack from Kayden cut through the vines, allowing Anthony to retreat. Meanwhile, Ashley had used dragon breath towards the spirit, and again the same bubble rose to protect the spirit.

SWISH!

Kayden used another aura attack along with another lightning bolt and managed to break the wooden ball, exposing the creature inside to Anabela's meteor, this time smaller and weaker, but still efficient.

BOOOM!

Another wooden ball absorbed the impact easily and deteriorated in the air. For the next few minutes, the group just played attack and defense. It didn't seem like either side had any advantage, as the wooden balls were practically unbreakable from what they noticed, and Anthony's blanket, added to the bubble supported by the four, was enough to hold thousands of darts.

This was a test that only mages could pass. Any melee combatant would have been overwhelmed by the enormous amount of attacks coming towards them at all times.

"Anthony, can your blanket give me speed and strength?" Kayden's question came as the group held off another wave of attacks. At this rate, they would be overcome by attrition.

"Yes, but how are you going to get near that thing?" The ball made the creature a being of perfect defense. It was only visible for a few milliseconds.

"Anabela, use the meteor. I will attack at the

perfect time. It will just be a chance. If I fail, we will die here, as I will no longer have mana to support the bubble," Kayden's tone left no doubt.

'Come to me wherever you are.'

All the mana in the region, and even beyond the door, began to come towards Kayden. There seemed to be no end to it as he became a massive ball of mana. This was very different from when he just used it for an aura or lightning attack because after that attack he would not have the ability to pull any mana from the region, as it simply would not have mana.

"Now."

As Ana's meteor began to fall, Kayden used mana to accelerate his body to a ridiculous speed. Every muscle in his body was trembling from the effort, and if it weren't for the treasures he had utilized over the past few months, he would have exploded from the inside out. His skin began to burn from proximity to the meteor's flames, yet he didn't care. Some bubbles began to appear over the redness of his skin, his hair had already

caught fire, and as ridiculous as it seemed, Kayden was bald and had no eyebrows.

BOOOM!

The ball defended the meteor and opened for just an instant, but it was enough for Kayden to use the biggest aura attack of his life. There wasn't even the sound of the wind being cut off. It was so fast that the only sound was...

BOOOM!

The aura slash cut the spirit into two halves as it descended towards him vertically and continued towards the ground, where it exploded without managing even to cause a scratch.

Kayden fell to the ground without even being able to lift his arm. Every muscle in his body stopped working. It would take him a few minutes to be able to circulate the mana in his blood to heal himself minimally, but his injuries were more superficial and would not cause any additional problems for him.

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"I accept."

"How can you exchange your body for strength? Have you no honor?" Anabela screamed upon hearing the interaction.

"What am I doing wrong? I'm gaining strength and it's not even something that causes pain," Ashley replied dryly to the girl. Anthony remained silent as his morale swung this way and that.

"When you're at the top, only strength matters, even if it costs your dignity or honor," Kayden said to no one and waited for the other two's decision. Anthony was the first to deny it and then Anabela.

Ashley didn't know if they could take the rewards to the next room. Her desire for power was so great that she preferred not to take that risk and asking Kayden to tire her by facing her was out of the question, as the boy would certainly refuse to waste so much strength and run the risk of getting hurt.

"Wait here for a while then, we'll come back when we're done," Kayden asked as he made Ashley sign a contract promising a favor. The next room was identical to the previous one and had a large green lawn.

Kayden sat on the floor and immediately ate his apple in a few bites. Unexpectedly, the altered mana with aphrodisiac effects was only dormant, Kayden got rid of it before it suffered any effects.

Over the next few minutes, he felt his body begin to catch fire. It felt like it was heating up to the point of turning into liquid. His movements became ridiculously difficult, it felt like his body didn't respond to his actions. The pain was quite loud and would have made anyone scream Ashley was rolling on the floor as she screamed in pain. Kayden just sat there and focused on his progress so much so that he couldn't even hear the sound.

With each minute that passed, Kayden felt his body becoming more and more limp and difficult to control. His skin seemed to be sagging, it



looked similar to when we use a bag filled with something and then take out its contents.

Slowly the pain began to pass as Kayden began to lose his senses, it was a very strange feeling when he just fell to the ground face down, he didn't have the strength to hold himself up sitting down and couldn't even feel his body.

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