

Paragon 381

Chapter 381 - 381: Meeting the 2nd Incarnation

Although they were not that common, it was widely known that soul weapons were not casually handed to just anyone since they were directly linked to the soul.

If someone wanted to harm you, attacking your soul weapon would directly affect your soul.

So, soul weapons were not easily entrusted to others, especially those who you can truly trust with your life. However, between Klaus and Hanna, Klaus didn't even need to ask. Hanna had already planned to let him examine it.

When he asked, Hanna didn't hesitate to hand it over. Klaus gently reached for the bow, but as soon as he touched it, he felt something move from the bow into his mind.

Instantly, his consciousness was pulled away, and he dropped onto his back, firmly holding the bow.

"Brother..."

"Klaus..."

Everyone shouted, rushing toward him. Hanna, being the closest, reached out to take back the bow. But before she could touch it, a voice invaded her mind.

[Don't.]

She jumped back, startled by the commanding tone. "Nobody should touch him," she said, halting everyone in their tracks.

"Why?" Klaus's mom asked, worry etched on her face.

"Don't worry, Mom. He's not in any trouble." Though the voice was harsh, Hanna sensed it was more concerned for them than for Klaus. This meant Klaus wasn't in any real danger. They all nodded, but none of them stepped back.

Klaus, immediately after he touched the bow, felt something shift within it, sending his consciousness away. But unlike the others who panicked, Klaus didn't.

That was because the pull was so familiar, so unlike how panicked he was when Number Three and Fruity visited. This time, he wasn't scared.

However, when he appeared in the place he was pulled to, a cold sweat broke out on his back.

"What the fuck is this place?" Klaus muttered, ready to run. But he knew it wasn't possible. But he sure damn would have like a good sprint right now.

Standing inside a raging storm, he couldn't believe himself. Well, he could perfectly believe himself, after all, it was his past self that came calling.

The landscape appeared to be a valley with a storm raging above. The storm was so intense that Klaus immediately felt his hair being pulled. His white hair stood up as if he had been electrocuted.

"Mesmerizing, isn't it? This was one of the places we came to train and unwind." Suddenly, a voice spoke from behind him, prompting him to turn around.

Turning, he was greeted by a bare-chested man with the best physique he had ever seen. Between him and Fruity, the handsome man standing before him looked much more refined. His abs were cleanly cut as if he had been meticulously sculpted from the finest clay.

He also had an unusual set of whitish-blue hair, thick and twisted into 16 strands that seemed to possess a life of their own, extending as if the lightning ahead was calling them.

He had blue eyes and a handsome face, and at least he was wearing simple trousers and old mythological sandals like those only a deity would wear.

"Damn, another handsome bastard," Klaus sighed, looking at the face staring back at him—his own face, but much more handsome. But at least, this one was smiling a genuine smile, or so it seemed.

"Let me guess, you are the second incarnation," Klaus said.

"Smart. I guess I didn't reincarnate into an idiot this time," the blue-haired man said with a mocking smile. "By the way, you can call me Knox. Pleasure meeting you."

Klaus stared at the man for a full minute before chuckling. "I guess I shouldn't have expected anything different."

"But why am I here? If it's another set of memories, let me have them. I don't really need a lecture on how important my past memories are meant to help me," Klaus said with a defeated smile.

He had even stopped thinking about it. Somehow, the incarnations he had met were almost lifelike, as if they had never died. It was bizarre in a way he just couldn't put his finger on.

"You don't seem pleased meeting your past self," Knox asked with a slight smile.

"No shit, Sherlock... Although I don't know how you guys are doing it, next time you take possession of my body, try not to use it to anger the heavens, and then run off, leaving me to deal with the fallout," Klaus glared at Knox.

Knox was the one who had taken possession of Klaus's body during the tribulation and struck the base of the Lightning Tower, angering the heavens enough to send down a gatekeeper.

"Sorry about that... I just wanted to have some fun," Knox said, maintaining his smile.

"Well, you're dead, so maybe act like a dead person next time," Klaus fired back.

"Dead, huh? It's been a long time since I heard that word," Knox muttered, appearing as if he had forgotten what death was.

"By the way, congratulations on awakening Skybound," Knox said. With a quick wave, the bow Hanna had awakened appeared in his hands.

"I wasn't the one who awakened it, it was my sister," Klaus said.

"I know, the Star Light," Knox responded, making Klaus frown.

"You knew about the Star Lights?" Klaus asked. Number Three had already mentioned them, but a fresh perspective was always welcome.

"Well, duh, I am the second incarnation, remember?" Knox said, making Klaus sigh.

"So, if you are the second incarnation, does that mean you have already found your Star Light?" Klaus asked.

"I mean, if there are nine Paragon Stars left to awaken, there would be nine Star Lights, right? And since it was our mission to find all nine Star Lights, that could only mean each incarnation has already found one."

Klaus's question made Knox sigh. This deepened Klaus's frown. "Well, what am I missing, Knox?"

"It's not as easy and simple as it seems. We indeed need the Star Lights to unlock the Paragon Stars so we can accomplish what we want, but that doesn't mean each incarnation will birth a Star Light," Knox said.

"I don't understand," Klaus frowned.

"Think of it this way: the first incarnation, our original self, was the one who discovered the existence of the Star Lights. However, he never figured out how they would appear. You could be considered the first to actually meet a Star Light.

I reincarnated during the Chaos Era, but even after thousands of years, I never found the Star Lights, which could only mean my era wasn't destined to birth a Star Light.

That being said, the other incarnations failed in one way or another. But that was to be expected, considering we had already foreseen such outcomes."

"Foreseen as in seeing into the future?" Klaus asked, his curiosity piqued.

"Well, our first self was a rather unusual monster, I must say. You don't remember yet, but when you do, you'll understand one thing: our original self wasn't just a psycho, he was also a maniac and a genius.

He was the strongest of his era and, well, he was also a playboy—something I see you've picked up as well," Knox said with a smile.

"Seriously, who are you people? How is it that all of you seem to know more about me than I do myself?" Klaus asked, clearly disturbed by the situation he found himself in.

"Duh, have you ever heard of 'me, myself, and I'..."

Chapter 382 - 382: Sky Piercing Bow Art

Klaus glared at Knox for a full minute before sighing. There was no point in trying to make sense of all the weirdness in his life.

"So, if none of you managed to locate any of the Star Lights, does that mean I'm the one who has to do all the work?" Klaus asked.

"Among other things... yes," Knox replied with a smile.

"Among other things?" Klaus narrowed his eyes just enough to let Knox know he wasn't joking.

"Let's not dwell on that yet. The most important thing is you've managed to find a Star Light and even awakened the legendary Skybound. You've already completed at least 4% of the journey," Knox laughed.

"4%... Are you for real?" Klaus asked though he knew it was pointless. "Why am I here?" Klaus questioned.

"Isn't it obvious? You came here after unsealing the first seal on the bow, allowing you to unlock the Sky Piercing Bow Art," Knox said. As soon as he spoke, Klaus felt the technique enter his mind.

"Let me guess, you're the creator of this technique," Klaus asked, even though he already knew the answer.

"It was one of my masterpieces... our masterpiece," Knox answered with a cheerful smile.

"This works well for me. I guess I won't have to worry about finding the perfect technique for Hanna," Klaus muttered.

"That you don't have to worry about at all. After all, this is more than enough for the Star Light to protect herself and unleash the true power of the bow," Knox said.

"Her name is Hanna, and if you truly are the past me, then she is also your sister. Do you get that?" Klaus narrowed his gaze at Knox.

"I do," Knox nodded.

"Now, what can you tell me about the bow and why Hanna was the one who awakened it and not me?" Klaus asked.

"It's simple, actually. The bow is linked to the Paragon Star, and since she is now a carrier of a key to unlock one of such stars and is even in possession of a stolen Heavenly Lightning constitution, the bow deemed her worthy to summon her.

But fear not, you can summon her anytime you want," Knox explained.

"Her... is the bow a person?" Klaus was struggling to understand many of the things he had been hearing and seeing over the past few months.

"You've only unsealed the first of the Seven Seals, so you won't truly know what the bow is actually made of, but soon you will. And trust me, you wouldn't want to underestimate her, even now, in her dormant state. Don't underestimate her"

Klaus sighed and decided to take a step back while he was still sane. At least, as far as he was concerned, he was the one alive, not the others.

"You can send me away now, Knox. I think I've had my fill of you. Any more time I spent here, and I'm afraid I'll lose my mind," Klaus said with a sigh.

Knox laughed, shaking his head. "Just so you know, no matter what, never let anything happen to the Star Light. Her soul is now linked to Skybound, so soul attacks can't hurt her. But until she fully awakens her constitution, you have to make sure she stays safe.

Also, a part of my life is in the bow. When you feel like remembering, you know what to do."

"You don't have to tell me what to do. Hanna is my sister; naturally, it's my job to make sure she's okay," Klaus shrugged.

"I hope you remember that. Now, off you go..." Knox waved his hand, and Klaus opened his eyes to the outside world.

"Weird fellow," he muttered.

"Brother..."

"Klaus..."

Everyone moved toward him with worried expressions. Klaus's mother immediately cupped his cheeks, turning his head to check if he was alright.

"I'm fine, Mom, no need to be dramatic," Klaus said with a laugh.

"Thank the heavens," his mother said.

Klaus laughed, knowing full well the heavens would have been rejoicing by now if something bad had happened to him.

"What happened, brother? I can feel the bow is stronger now," Hanna said, looking at it.

"About that..." Klaus smiled. "Come closer," he gestured, and Hanna stepped closer. Klaus placed his thumb on her forehead and transmitted the Sky Piercing Bow Art technique to her.

"Is that..." Hanna began but couldn't finish her sentence.

"Yes, that is a technique made specifically for this bow," Klaus replied. "No need to think too much about it. Just master this technique, and your skills will become unrivaled."

Hanna looked at Klaus for a few more seconds and then reached in and hugged him, tears streaming down her face. "Thank you, brother," she muttered through her sobs.

"No need to cry, Hanna. It's just a technique," Klaus said, rubbing her back.

Although it was a normal thing for him, the others weren't exactly used to such advanced techniques. Even the academy wouldn't be able to provide them with half of what Klaus planned on giving them.

After a while, Hanna broke the hug. "Now that we're done crying, do you all want to team up and see if you can shake my foundation, or should we call it a day?" Klaus asked.

"We want to team up," Lily was the first to answer. Klaus just smiled and waited for them to get ready. After a few minutes, all seven of them stood before him, ready for a combat session that lasted only 20 minutes.

In the end, Klaus defeated them, ensuring they felt the pain deep in their bones. By the time he was done, none of them were able to move their fingers.

Luna and Nuna used their shadow abilities to move the others to their rooms to recover.

"That was brutal, Klaus. Not even your girlfriends were spared," Nuna said to Klaus, who was munching on an apple.

"The monsters and zombies won't make it easy on them, so I'm just drilling the pain into them before they face the real thing," Klaus replied, showing no hint of sympathy for what he had done to his friends.

"Still, you could have gone easier on them, especially, your girlfriends and your sister" Luna commented. However, they all knew Klaus was right—no monster would show them mercy.

The rest of the day was spent talking about random things. That night, Klaus spent time with Miriam, who had missed him dearly, even though it had only been a few weeks since they last saw each other.

They spent the entire night embracing each other, only stopping when the sun rose. They eventually fell asleep, and Klaus woke up three hours later to hold a meeting with the twins.

It was time to make his move against the Dark Order. He had only seven weeks before it would be time to go to the Academy.

He wants to speed-run things before leaving.

Luna and Nuna were more than happy to help him take down their mother and her organization. After all, just a few months ago, she had been their slave master. No slave would ever wish goodwill upon their master.

Chapter 383 - 383: Aya Middlestone

In the suburbs of Hilton City, located in the eastern region of the Northern Union, Aya Middlestone is known as a single mother, a loving parent, and a devoted family woman.

She is the ideal image of a perfect woman—the type who wakes up early in the morning and drives to her job as a cashier at a large mall owned by one of the influential figures in Hilton City.

Aya is a mother of two, who sent her daughters to the capital to receive the best warrior training available in the Northern Union.

Because of this, she has become known as a hard-working mom, dedicated to earning more money to support her children's needs.

Everyone admires her. Mothers praise her tenacity and work ethic; children wish she were their own mother. However, her own daughters wish the earth would split open and swallow her whole.

While Aya may seem like the most caring and hard-working mom on the surface, in reality, she is one of the most ruthless assassins in the world.

Her code name is Lady Death. She has carried out some of the most daring assassinations, earning numerous accolades from the organization she works for—the Dark Order.

She had risen through the ranks and become one of the strongest assassins in the Dark Order, particularly when it came to operations in the Northern Union. Aya was in charge of their unit in the Eastern region.

For years, everything had been going smoothly. She had issued countless hits and executed many of them herself. However, everything changed one day when she received a high-priority target: a young rising star named Klaus Hanson.

The assignment was marked as a priority kill, meaning failure was not an option. She delegated the task to her most capable subordinate to ensure swift execution.

Initially, the mission was deemed successful. But after about 70 days, the unimaginable happened—Klaus, who was supposed to be dead, rose from the grave, and that was when her troubles began.

Klaus made sure the Dark Order felt his wrath. His first move was to humiliate them, and he succeeded in doing so to an unprecedented degree. In response, Aya issued another hit order on him, but from then on, all she received were reports of failure.

Weeks passed, and frustration took root. Desperation drove her to send Sages and even Great Sages after Klaus, but no matter what strategy she employed, Klaus was always one step ahead.

The pressure from her organization grew unbearable. They threatened to strip her of her position if she did not put an end to Klaus Hanson.

This ultimatum did not sit well with her, so she resorted to tapping into her private network of elite assassins which consisted of 12 Great Sage assassins, including her two twin daughters.

The same daughters who were believed to be away at a warrior training academy were, in fact, under her seal, serving as her weapons.

She sent her own daughter to pursue the elusive Klaus, but even after months, all she heard were reports of obstacles her daughter encountered when making her moves. Her daughter even messaged her, saying she was seeking help from her sister.

This situation puzzled her greatly. She had expected her daughters to complete the task easily, but it seemed she had underestimated Klaus's supposed hidden protector.

For months now, she had deployed all 12 of her personal assassins, along with some from the Dark Order, yet Klaus was still alive. Every week or so, she would receive reports of the deaths of her assassins.

She had become frustrated, but with her two daughters out there, she kept assuring her superiors that she would get the job done.

Since Klaus was set to leave for the Celestial Mountain Academy, they wanted him eliminated before then, as it would be difficult to infiltrate the academy.

Today, Aya woke up like any other day and prepared to head to work. She took some time to perfect her persona as Aya Middlestone before leaving the house.

As expected, the neighbors greeted her with smiles, and she responded with the same smile.

One had to admire her acting skills.

She went to work as usual, striving to work harder so that the Employee of the Month award wouldn't slip through her grasp. She had been so dedicated to her job that she couldn't afford to let this side of her make a mistake.

However, today, she did slip up. In the middle of her work, she received a text from the last person she would have wanted.

The text came from Klaus and read:

"Sorry you had to hear this from me, but Nuna and Luna said they loved you before I severed their heads from their bodies... Lol.

"By the way, when are you sending the next wave of assassins to bless me with EXP points? I'll be waiting. Oh, and I don't know what you did to your daughters, but they screamed rather loudly when I was torturing them for your contact."

That's all...

From your very best assassination target, Klaus Hanson."

A murderous look appeared in Aya's eyes, making her, for the first time since she started working at John and Jameson Mall, ask for a sick day. Naturally, it wasn't denied.

She left work and headed straight home. When she arrived, she went to her room and accessed a hidden section that housed her office as the infamous Lady Death.

She began checking through some information on her system, but a few minutes later, she felt her eyelids grow heavy.

She shook her head and returned to her task, but it didn't take long for the same dizziness to come over her again.

"What is happening to me?" she muttered.

"You've been poisoned, dummy." Suddenly, a voice came from the inside of her bedroom. In her haste, she had forgotten to close the door.

She stood up and walked back to her room. There, on the bed, Klaus was lying with a drink in his hand.

"Surprise..." Klaus said with a mocking smile.

Aya's primal instinct kicked in as she retrieved a dagger and lunged at Klaus. However, she only managed to take a step before feeling her strength vanish.

"Oh... Performance issues?" Klaus asked, tilting his head.

"What did you do to me?" Aya shouted, but her voice wasn't as loud as she intended.

"What do you think?" Klaus said, still maintaining his smile as he sipped his tea. "I had to level the playing field somehow, Lady Death," he added.

"You..." Aya tried to move, but her legs gave out. She couldn't move or even shout. She wanted to clench her jaw, which meant only one thing: to kill herself.

But before she could bite down on the poison hidden in her tooth, a kick landed on her jaw, sending the poison capsule and some teeth flying.

"Hi, Mom," Luna said, stepping out of the shadows.

Another kick landed on her ribs, breaking a few. "Long time no see, Mom," Nuna also said, appearing with an angry yet satisfied smile.

Klaus looked at the twins and smiled. Then, with a snap of his fingers, a lightning bolt moved and paralyzed Aya completely. Nuna delivered another kick, knocking her out cold.

Chapter 384 - 384: Torture

"So, what are you going to do?" Nuna asked Klaus after knocking her mother out cold. Two days ago, Klaus had sat down with them and asked for every detail about their mother, who was also their slavemaster.

Naturally, they were more than happy to sing like birds, giving Klaus all the information he wanted. With that, he devised a strategy involving the creation of a potent poison meant to strip someone of their cultivation base for a few minutes.

This poison had been taught to him by Yuying during their time—or rather, during his time as Fruity with her—in the Tormented World.

He had asked Madam Fei for help in gathering the ingredients a few months back. As promised, he didn't require the twins to do anything other than escort him to their home, where he would lie in wait for his target to return.

The twins, however, requested a few moments to vent their frustration, which he allowed. He knew that, given the chance, they would want to kill their mother themselves.

Not that she deserved any better. She had exploited them and stripped them of their freedom, so it was only natural they would seek revenge.

But because of the deal they had with Klaus, they stepped aside and let him take the lead.

"Nothing too severe; I will just send her mind and soul down the deepest, darkest abyss filled with pain and terror. Then, once she is broken, I will extract her memories. The rest, well, you will see later," Klaus replied with a cold smile.

This made the twins stiffen slightly. However, they did not panic, knowing Klaus would do them no harm.

"Then make it very painful, and make sure she cries blood," Luna said, tears streaming down her face. Finally, they were free from their mother's dominance.

They had suffered for nearly 34 years under her tyranny, and for the first time in their lives, they felt true freedom.

Nuna held her sister back from doing anything drastic, but her own tears fell as well. Klaus looked at them and sighed.

"You two are in no condition to witness this, so go out and get yourselves some ice cream. By the time you return, this will all be over," Klaus said. The two nodded and faded into the shadows.

Klaus turned to the unconscious woman and smiled. "You shouldn't have done that to your children. S

But since you did, I won't make your death simple or easy... You will wish you had never given birth."

With that, Klaus took her into her secret office and shut the door, cutting off all sound from the outside world.

Inside the room, Klaus sat down and stared at the face of the sleeping woman. A few minutes later, he sighed, and with a wave of his hand, ten Viper Piercing Needles shot out and punctured countless holes through her legs, instantly waking her up with a scream of pain.

She didn't even have time to process the pain before she felt the atmosphere in the room shift. Instantly, her soul was assaulted by a powerful and horrifying pain, forcing a guttural, agonized scream that instantly filled the room.

But it didn't stop there. Her mind was overwhelmed with a cascade of terrors, each one more harrowing than the last. She turned and looked at Klaus, but the gaze she met made her break into a cold sweat.

"Enjoy the ride," Klaus said with an evil smirk, looking down at her with eyes bloodshot red.

He had activated the Eye of Malevolence and linked it to the Eye of Despair, making it contain every conceivable horror imaginable.

But it wasn't just her soul and mind being assaulted—her body was enduring its own torment. Klaus manipulated the needles, slicing and puncturing non-vital areas of her body. He wasn't holding back.

Before using the technique the senior had taught him to extract her memories, he would first ensure she experienced a world of pain.

Klaus's mind and soul had grown immensely powerful. He activated all his soul and mind-torturing skills and was simultaneously using his mind to control the Viper Piercing Needles.

Of course, he had already used the Soul Hook to latch onto her soul, so all the soul energy being exerted came from her, making the process much easier.

Klaus knew that facing her head-on at full strength would have caused disturbances and drawn unwanted attention, so he chose the most logical route—poison.

And it worked spectacularly.

[Brat, her mind has lost all defenses. You can use the technique now,]" the senior said.

Although he had warned Klaus that these actions would add more karma to his stockpile, Klaus didn't care.

He wanted nothing more than to make her suffer, ensuring she felt every ounce of the pain her children had endured all these years.

"It's only been an hour; she can endure a few more. This way, her soul will imprint this agony so that when she reincarnates, she will never repeat this to her children again."

Klaus was taking the situation rather personally, considering this lady to be the opposite of his mother. Klaus's mom was loving and very supportive, unlike Aya Middlestone who was manipulative and cruel.

Even during their hard days in the slum, Klaus's mom was always supportive, making sure Klaus had enough to eat, even at the expense of her own meals. Sometimes, she would go an entire week with only water.

Klaus remembered the day he made the decision to drop out of school and start working so he could support his mom. That day, his mom cried her heart out, probably feeling like a failure who couldn't provide for her own child.

That day broke Klaus in many ways, so watching a woman who was the complete opposite of his mother caused the anger and pain he had buried deep to resurface.

Luna and Nuna had suffered at the hands of their own mother. This made Klaus want her to experience all the pain he could inflict, and right now, Aya Middlestone had even lost her voice.

Her body was twitching on the floor, her mind was broken, and her soul—well, let's just say that even after reincarnation, she would still remember the pain.

Four hours later, Klaus sighed and formed a couple of hand seals. A rune mark appeared and entered Aya's forehead.

Klaus formed another seal, causing the mark that had entered her head to glow faintly. At the same time, Klaus felt a wave of information pour into his mind.

Every last one of her memories, from when she learned to talk to her high school days, her first kiss, and even her intimate moments, poured into Klaus's mind, overwhelming him immediately.

He took a few minutes to settle his thoughts, making sure the foreign memories didn't interfere with his own. Once he had done that, Klaus looked at the lady who continued to twitch on the ground.

"I have changed my mind. You don't deserve a swift death. You can die this way." Now, with access to her memories, Klaus saw the worst of Aya Middlestone making him change his mind about ending her life that instant.

Twelve hours later, Klaus finally received confirmation of her death and the experience points that came with it.

He sighed.

"Now, I have to kill every last one of the assassins on this list," Klaus said, glancing at a list he had printed a few hours earlier after accessing Aya's memories.

"What a beautiful headache" He muttered, with a smile.

Chapter 385 - 385: Savagery...

Klaus snapped his fingers, reducing the remains of Aya Middlestone to ash. She had caused enough damage, and now it was Klaus's turn to correct some of those mistakes.

From the memories he had extracted from Aya, he could tell she had wreaked significant havoc.

Klaus saw how she became an assassin and who had recruited her. She had been in college studying to become a surgical doctor when the apocalypse descended.

She awakened a darkness-related talent and an Assassin Class, just like her daughters. However, she never had the privilege of moving through the shadows as they did.

Nevertheless, after a certain woman discovered her talent, she approached and recruited Aya to join the Dark Order, where she adopted the code name Lady Death.

What followed was her rigorous training and testing phase until she became a fully-fledged assassin for the Dark Order. She was ruthless, showing no regard for others' feelings. She killed without question, and for years, that was her life. Until...

Thirty-four years ago, she became pregnant and gave birth to Nuna and Luna, two beautiful twin daughters.

Then her savagery extended even further. After discovering that her daughters possessed a peculiar set of talents and classes, she decided to do whatever was necessary to control them, placing a hex on them.

Where she obtained it from, however, remained a mystery. Klaus could never see the face of the person, or rather, Aya had never seen the face of her secret master and lover.

Klaus tried to cross-reference their meetings to track down who had been financing her campaign to rise through the ranks and take over the Dark Order.

Yes... That was Aya's ambition. She was aiming for the top position. She had already secured some allies and was even planning to break through to the Transcended stage, where her secret lover promised to grant her the power needed to ascend quickly and become an Ascendant.

It had been smooth sailing for her until Klaus's name appeared on her desk.

"So, there were four Sovereigns, thirty-four Great Sages, 240 Sages, and 500 Saint assassins in the Northern Union," Klaus muttered.

"I knew the data from their safe houses wasn't reliable."

The last time he raided their safe house and accessed their systems, he had only uncovered the tip of the iceberg. However, this knowledge was further enriched by Cynthia Ross who had a relationship with someone in the dark order years back.

Now that Klaus had access to Aya's memories, he fully understood the kind of woman his mother-in-law had been.

"Damn, Mother-in-law was a wild one back in the day," Klaus said with a grin, already imagining how he would use this information to tease her.

"That being said, there are now only three Sovereigns, 24 Great Sages, 170 Sages, and 430 Saints left to clear the Northern Union of the Dark Order.

Now, this is something I can work with," Klaus said.

He had the identities and addresses of every remaining assassin in the Dark Order within the Northern Union. If he intended to eradicate them, he would need to kill them all, and Klaus was not one to back down from a fight.

"First, I need to get my affairs in order over the next few days and then scout these people to make sure they aren't aware that something bad has happened.

If her memories are accurate—and they are—it would be another two weeks before Aya issued the order she had been planning."

In her memories, Klaus saw that she was preparing to issue a kill order for his friends, which, of course, extended to Nadia, the fashion designer Klaus was fond of. He thanked his lucky stars that he had reached Aya when he did.

Although Anna and the others would be safe because they were leaving with him, Nadia would have undoubtedly been killed if that order had been issued.

'Such savagery...'

"I have seven weeks before it's time to head to the academy. I can finish this within the next three weeks so I can spend as much time as I want with Mom before leaving," Klaus said with a smile as he leaned back in his chair.

A few hours later, Luna and Nuna returned, literally holding ice creams as Klaus had instructed them to. When they appeared, they looked at Klaus, seemingly waiting to hear something important from him.

"It's done. She is dead now," Klaus said, causing the two women to sigh, tears rolling down their cheeks. After a while, they calmed down.

"Thank you, Klaus," Nuna said, dropping to her knees. Luna followed.

"You two are just being dramatic. I only did what I did for the information; you shouldn't bow to me like I'm some god," Klaus said, lifting them up.

"Still, thank you for breaking the seal and setting us free... We will forever be in your debt," Luna, the younger, added.

"Well, you can repay the debt by going out there and living a good life for yourselves. You deserve it," Klaus said with a laugh, taking the ice cream meant for him and starting to eat.

"By the way, where will you two be going?" he asked.

The twins exchanged puzzled glances, and for a moment, they didn't know how to respond. It wasn't their fault though — throughout their lives, everything had been about training, killing, and finding ways to escape their mother's tyranny.

They had never had the chance to truly live. It was as if their entire existence had been intended only to serve as weapons for their mother.

"We don't know where to go..." Nuna replied with a dazed expression. "Can we stay with you until we figure something out?"

"I don't have any problem with that. You can stay as long as you want," Klaus replied.

He knew that once he left for the academy with his sister and friends, Ohema would return home, and Miriam would enter seclusion to prepare for her breakthrough.

This would mean his mother would be lonely for a few months. However, if Nuna and Luna stayed with them, at least they would keep her company.

"Then we'll stay there for a while," Luna said with a cheerful smile. Klaus smiled back and resumed eating his ice cream. A few minutes later, Nuna spoke up.

"So, what's next? Now that you've gotten what you came for, what is your next move?"

"I have the names of all the assassins and even a few influential people involved with the Dark Order. So, a week from today, I'll start visiting them one by one," Klaus answered.

"And you plan on doing it alone?" Luna asked after hearing his response.

"Of course. They're just a few bugs; no need to stress too much about it," Klaus said confidently.

"Can we join you? I know we said we wouldn't work for you or anyone after helping you get to our mom, but since we don't have anything to do now, we can help you take them out once and for all," Nuna offered, and Luna nodded in agreement.

"Why not? The more, the merrier," Klaus said with a smile, knowing full well they wouldn't take no for an answer at this point.

This would also simplify things for him. Besides them, Miriam would likely want to join, and even Cynthia Ross would probably insist on being involved.

'I guess we are in the endgame now,' he thought.

Chapter 386 - 386: Overpowering His Friends (1)

"MMmmHHhh,"

Miriam moaned as Klaus released loads into her for the fifth time. They had been at it for a few hours since Klaus returned from his mission with the twins. He had already told Miriam the real reason he was going.

She had even protested, saying she wanted to go with him, but Klaus had already made up his mind by the time she asked. He wasn't about to send his woman on a mission he could handle with ease.

A few minutes later, they seemed to have somehow recovered from the pleasure and exhaustion.

"That was awesome," Miriam said, lying on Klaus's chest.

"I know," Klaus grinned. Since Anna and Lily still weren't ready, Ohema hadn't finished cultivating the technique, and Lucy was away at the academy, Klaus was left with Miriam every night whenever he was around.

Miriam had been the only one pleasuring him for the past few months. Their bond had also grown stronger during this time.

"I will miss you when you go to the academy," Miriam said with a defeated expression.

"All the more reason to enjoy now," Klaus teased, making her smile slightly.

"I guess I can't be selfish. Sister Lucy is waiting for you there, along with Sister Nia and Asha," Miriam said with a small smile.

"Hey, when did you start using 'Sister'? For a moment, I thought someone as old as the universe wouldn't bother with such a title," Klaus teased her again. "And why would Nia and Asha be waiting for me? Who said I'm in love with them?" he continued teasing.

"You..." Miriam pinched him.

"In case you're not aware, we've all agreed. Whether you like it or not, Sister Nia and Asha have already been added to the harem. Even Sister Nadia has been included, so you better man up and do what's required of you," Miriam said, hiding her face.

"Hehe, what a bunch of weirdos," Klaus chuckled. However, deep down, he loved the idea.

"That being said, are you ready to receive your techniques now?" Klaus asked.

"I am, but wouldn't the cultivation technique destroy my foundation?" Miriam asked, concerned.

"Maybe a lesser technique than the one you're using would destroy your foundation, but the one I am about to give you is hundreds of times better in every aspect. Instead of destroying your foundation, it will rebuild it into something much more powerful."

"Okay," Miriam said.

"Wait, you're not going to ask where I got the techniques from?" Klaus asked, puzzled. He had expected Ohema to ask as well, but she never did. Seeing Miriam's reaction, he could tell she also had no intention of asking.

"I love you, Klaus. We all do. So no matter what crazy idea or gift you bring, we won't question you. If and when you want to share any of your secrets, we will happily listen," Miriam replied with a smile.

"Thank you," Klaus said sincerely.

The senior had told him that, for now, he shouldn't disclose his past to anyone, not even to him. Hearing that he wouldn't have to lie to his lovers because they don't want to pry for his secrets made him genuinely happy.

"I will be giving you three techniques. One is a cultivation technique, and the other two are martial techniques. I have reviewed your status page, so these techniques are better suited for you," Klaus said, pressing his finger against her forehead and transferring the three techniques to her.

"The cultivation technique is called [Immortal Sword Body]. It will help refine your body, making it sharp and refined, similar to a sword. Since your class is Light Sword Dancer, this will be perfect for you.

The first martial technique is called [Divine Light Sword Ascendance Art]. As the name suggests, it harnesses your talent with the Light element and complements your swordsmanship class. With your sword intent, this technique will enhance your combat prowess many times over."

"How much are we talking?" Miriam's warrior side emerged.

"For now, since I haven't witnessed your full strength, let's estimate it between 700% to 1000%," Klaus replied.

"Wow, by that much?" Miriam was taken aback.

[Stop underestimating her, brat. With the technique you've given her, even just the first form is enough to increase her current combat prowess by 2000%.]

'What?' Now it was Klaus's turn to be shocked.

[You underestimate someone with sword intent. Although she has just awakened it, if you were to face her in a true sword battle, you wouldn't last even ten minutes,] the senior used the moment to lecture.

'Thanks for correcting me, senior,' Klaus said sincerely.

[It's not your fault for getting it wrong. The techniques you are providing your friends are so powerful that even I can't clearly gauge their value. Whoever created them must have been a true genius.]

Klaus smiled at that. He was the creator of these techniques—well, his past self was—but it still counted as his achievement, so all the praise went to him, the one currently living.

He refocused on Miriam. "I might have downplayed my initial estimation. The [Divine Light Sword Ascendance Art] has seven forms, and just the first form alone could currently increase your fighting strength by as much as 2000%."

"What..." Miriam's eyes widened. "I know I said we wouldn't ask, but where the hell did you get such a monstrous technique? You know what, don't tell me," she said, deciding to give up and simply accept what was and what would be.

Klaus laughed and continued "The second technique is called [Sword Dance]. It also resonates with your class, but it's more of a movement technique. Mastering it will elevate your movement on the battlefield to the next level."

"Thank you, Klaus," Miriam said with a cheerful smile.

She had just received universe-altering techniques; if that wasn't enough to make her happy, nothing else could. Of course, she had no idea of the true value of what she had just gained.

Klaus smiled back. It was no big deal for him. With the knowledge he now possessed, he could fight without holding back.

"With this cultivation technique, I can reach the Transcendent stage much faster than I anticipated. However, I'll hold off on that and train the martial techniques to at least two levels before advancing in my cultivation," Miriam decided, and Klaus nodded.

Since her upcoming tribulation would be much stronger, it was wise for her to first focus on the sword techniques to bolster her combat power.

"Are you also going to give these techniques to Sister Anna and the others?" Miriam asked.

"Of course, but before we head out, why don't we have another round to celebrate you receiving three heaven-shattering techniques?" Klaus said with a grin.

"Tsk..." Miriam chuckled but didn't object. With that, Klaus's sword entered her body for another round, continuing for an hour before they stopped. They dressed and went out to meet the others.

A few minutes later, everyone was seated except for Ohema, who was in seclusion, cultivating her Virgin Poison Body so she could finally be with Klaus.

"I've reviewed your status pages and chosen the best cultivation and martial techniques that will turn you all into monsters..." Klaus said with a smile, watching the eager expressions on his friends' faces.

Chapter 387 - 387: Overpowering His Friends (2)

"Danny, buddy, you're first!" Klaus called out, making Danny smile. Danny had a unique class called Juggernaut Warrior and a rare physique, known as the Herculean Build, as far as Klaus was aware.

He had discussed this with the senior, who believed that Danny had the potential to awaken a rare body constitution in the future.

Because of this, Klaus chose three of the best techniques from his arsenal for Danny. He didn't know how, but somehow, all of his friends seemed more likely to grow into something greater than ordinary warriors.

Each one possessed something unique.

Klaus pressed his thumb to Danny's forehead and transferred the techniques to him.

"The Diamond Unbreakable Body is a cultivation technique that will help build your body and core into something worthy of the Juggernaut Warrior class. This will also require you to start tempering your body."

"...Uhm, what is that?" Danny asked.

"It's where you train your body rigorously. This can be done through physical exercise or by soaking your body in medicinal baths," Klaus explained.

"Oh, I see," Danny nodded.

"This means you should do your best to earn more Celestial points at the academy so you can buy treasures for the medicinal baths," Klaus added with a grin.

Danny sighed and said, "Well, that will be a problem. I heard that to get more points at the academy, you have to take missions, and the missions there are very hard."

"All the more reason for you to master the techniques I gave you," Klaus said.

"The World Breaking Axe is a martial technique that focuses primarily on the axe. It has five levels, so between now and when it's time for us to head to the academy, focus on mastering the first level."

"The other is Supreme Axe Domain. This one combines both axe and movement techniques, so mastering the first of its six levels would be great as well."

Danny nodded with a determined expression. Klaus then turned to the other brute fighter, Daniel.

Like Danny, Daniel also had a unique class called Flame Titan and a physique known as Colossal Titan. He was uniquely suited to wield heavy weapons.

Klaus transmitted the techniques to him and explained them.

"Just like Danny, the Demon Body Tempering Technique requires tempering your body in various ways. It will help form a core capable of accommodating the strength you'll unleash as you grow stronger.

"As for the martial techniques, the Judgement Hammer Art is the primary one. It focuses on the hammer, similar to Danny's technique. The second one, the Mountain Descent Hammer Art, is more for movement and defense, but if you master it well, it will greatly enhance your offense."

"Thanks, Klaus." Klaus nodded and then turned to Mark, the spearman. He quickly transferred the techniques to him.

"Your cultivation method is unique to your Vanguard Spearman class. The Halo Ascended Technique will help you form a core that links directly to your wind element.

Like Lily, if you cultivate this technique, it will greatly enhance your speed, which is something a spearman like you should prioritize.

As for the martial techniques, the Genesis Spear Dominion Art is your primary offensive technique, while the Infinity Spear Art serves for both movement and offense. You should focus on mastering it, as it includes some of the most impressive skills you can develop."

"Thanks, Klaus."

Kay was next. "The Flame Body Tempering Technique is exactly as its name suggests. You need to temper your body using fire or materials containing flame essence. This means you should concentrate on absorbing fire elemental-type cores.

This advice applies to all of you. You should focus on absorbing cores that match your elemental affinities. This not only strengthens your elemental powers but also conditions your body, allowing you to use your elements more effectively."

They all nodded, and Klaus continued.

"The Phoenix Sky Bow Art is primarily for the bow and is the most powerful technique I have given out so far."

Kay and the others exchanged looks. While they knew the techniques Klaus described were powerful, hearing him say that this was the strongest yet left them all bewildered.

Klaus just smiled at them. "The Archer class is more versatile than you think. It can do much more than just shoot arrows made from your element, and through this technique, you will all understand what I mean."

"Can you show us what else it can do?" Klaus's mother suddenly asked with a cute and teasing smile.

"Of course. Kay, give me your bow." Klaus took Kay's bow and, tapping into the Phoenix Sky Bow Art, activated the first form.

Unlike his friends, who needed time to master the techniques, Klaus only required Star Qi, which he now had in abundance thanks to his nine qi seas.

The moment he activated the first form, called Phoenix Feather, a massive fiery projection appeared, immediately triggering the fire alarms in the room.

The entire space grew intensely hot. Klaus pulled the bowstring, and within the large projection, as well as the bow in his hands, a giant flaming feather materialized.

"As you can see, instead of just an arrow forming from the fire element, the entire bow takes on that form. I can adjust its size as I wish and even make it denser if I have the essence to support it," Klaus explained before deactivating the technique.

The place was getting hotter by the second.

"What a terrifying technique, and it's just the first form," Klaus's mother said, drenched in sweat from the few seconds Klaus held the technique.

"It's not even close to the true first form," Klaus smirked and then activated the Ice Lotus, bringing some much-needed coolness to the hall.

Everyone quieted down after hearing that. Klaus gave them a moment to process the information before speaking about the next techniques.

"Since every archer needs powerful arrow techniques, the Hellfire Arrow Tempering Art is the best for you. Later, I will teach you how to create a few trump cards from this technique. Even at your current level, killing a Tier 8 expert won't be impossible."

Klaus watched the shocked expressions on their faces and smiled. While he was known for accomplishing the impossible, his friends were not the same.

However, from what he said, it seemed Klaus was suggesting that if Kay managed to master the technique, he could take down a Tier 8 expert. That was almost too unbelievable to process.

"You're all overreacting. The current Kay couldn't defeat a Tier 8 expert even if there were ten of him. But with the Hellfire Arrow Tempering Art, he could carefully temper an arrow that, when released at the right moment, could be fatal to a Tier 8 expert."

"Still, it's too shocking. Killing a Tier 8 expert is something only other Tier 8 experts would consider. Tier 4 experts like you have no business thinking about such an impossible task," Miriam said, shaking her head.

As a Tier 8 expert herself, she fully understood the level of power involved in killing such an expert. The idea that a Tier 4 expert could kill someone like her was both surprising and hard to believe.

"Watch this," Klaus said, pulling out a meter-long arrow from his space ring.

He held it in his hand and began channeling his fire qi into it. At first, it appeared to be just a normal arrow, but after five minutes, Miriam's eyes widened.

"This... what is this, Klaus? Even I would struggle to defend against such an arrow," Miriam said, disbelief evident in her voice.

"As I said, with careful tempering and practice, even Kay could take down a Tier 8 expert."

Chapter 388 - 388: Overpowering His Friends (3)

Everyone continued staring at Klaus, or more precisely, at the arrow in his hand. Before the tempering, it had been dark and ordinary, but after Klaus used the Hellfire Arrow Tempering Art to infuse it with an abundance of fire qi, it had become a deadly weapon.

The arrow now glowed red, adorned with intricate markings.

"You see these markings? They are runes that hold the fire qi inside. Once I lock this into a bow and release it, it will unleash all the energy stored within, and let me tell you, that will be a lot," Klaus said.

After a few seconds, he placed the arrow back into his space ring and waited for everyone to calm down. When they did, he smiled and turned to Kilian, transferring the techniques to him as well.

"Your Agni Sword Domain cultivation technique is special. Cultivating it will allow you to harness fire in a way similar to mages. This means that when you fight, it will be as if you're battling within a sea of flames," Klaus explained.

Both Kilian and his sister wielded swords, but Kilian had an affinity for the fire element, which made his offense quite formidable.

However, he had previously lacked the appropriate techniques to fully utilize this power. The Agni Sword Domain technique would change that, allowing him to channel flames actively and passively during combat.

"As for the martial techniques, there is the Infinity Sword Art and the One Flame Transcendence Sword Art.

"The first one focuses on how you control flames through your swordsmanship. The second one, however, might be out of reach for now, as it requires an immense amount of spiritual qi to summon the flaming swords.

But with the cultivation method I provided, you'll eventually be able to use it. Focus on building your Star Core to its strongest state. Once you reach the Saint level, you should be able to use at least the first two levels of this art freely."

Kilian nodded with a smile on his face.

Klaus then turned to his girlfriend, Lily, and transferred her share of the techniques.

"The name of your cultivation method is cute, right? Immortal Wind," Klaus said, making Lily smile. "Its name might be cute, but it's also incredibly powerful. As the name implies, you will be cultivating your wind until it attains a state of immortality.

Now, that might sound a bit dramatic, but trust me, after a week of practicing it, you'll start to understand what I mean.

That being said, your martial skill, One with the Wind, is a movement technique. If you manage to master even the first level, I will have a hard time keeping up with you."

Lily smiled.

"As for the Wind Vanishing Sword Art, you'll have to discover its secrets for yourself, as it's difficult to explain. But don't worry, it's well-suited for your skill set, and I know you'll become a force to be reckoned with once you master it."

"Can I duel you again after I master it?" Lily asked.

"Of course, but I doubt you'll be able to do much," Klaus teased.

"We shall see," Lily said, her competitive spirit flaring.

She only seemed to be this competitive with one person, and that person was the monster known as Klaus—whom they all knew they could never surpass. Perhaps her ambitions were just that high.

"And now, for my Ice Princess, I have some good ones for you," Klaus said to Anna, making her blush slightly.

"Your cultivation method is called Ice Queen Body Tempering. Essentially, you are transforming your body into ice, and the longer you practice this technique, the faster your ice power develops.

However, that's not all. Your strength will also increase, and your ice qi will grow immensely. Your entire being will be tempered with ice, making even your touch would be cold enough to freeze. With your mage class, I am certain you will become formidable.

Regarding the martial techniques, one is a control technique that utilizes your water element. It is called the Water Domain Control Art and is excellent for commanding the battlefield.

For offense, the Infinity Ice Summoning Spell Art will serve you well. All you need is spiritual qi to summon hundreds of monsters and creatures to assist you in battle.

"These are also some of the best ancient spells, and their power is far more lethal than you can imagine." Anna nodded obediently, refraining from asking any questions despite the many thoughts running through her mind.

When Klaus finished, he turned to his sister, Hanna.

"Initially, I had prepared a Bow Art and an Arrow Art for you, but after receiving the Sky Piercing Bow Art, the one I had prepared is no longer necessary. The Sky Piercing Bow Art is far superior.

Therefore, you will only be receiving the Divine Arrow Tempering Art, which is similar to Kay's Hellfire Arrow Tempering Art. The cultivation technique is called Divine Lightning Body Tempering Art. Practicing it will without a doubt, elevate your prowess with the bow to the next level."

"Thank you, brother," Hanna said with a small smile.

"No need, sister. As your brother, it's only natural for me to spoil you rotten," Klaus said with a mischievous grin. "By the way, I'll be borrowing the bow for the next few days."

"Okay, brother," Hanna replied before moving to sit beside their mother.

His mother looked at him with a smile and said, "Thank you." Klaus nodded and turned back to his friends.

"Now, you all have some of the most powerful techniques out there. What you do with them will depend on what you want to achieve. But even if you don't have any ambitions, know that just being associated with me will bring many troubles.

With that said, make sure you use the next six weeks to at least master the first forms or levels of your martial techniques."

They nodded and, without hesitation, ran off to practice.

"I'll let you know when I'm done with the bow," Klaus said to Hanna before she left to begin her training.

Klaus spent a few hours with his mother before visiting Cynthia Ross, his mother-in-law to discuss his recent discovery of the Dark Order and his plans moving forward.

As expected, she was quick to offer her help, something Klaus had anticipated, knowing that she would love nothing more than to erase her past.

The next day, Klaus, along with his mother-in-law, Miriam, and the twins, left Ross City for Harmony City, where the first Sovereign-stage assassin resided, along with four Great Sages, 30 Sages, and 130 Saints.

Thankfully, Cynthia Ross was kind enough to let them use the Valkyrie V-X Thunderstrike, an upgraded model of the combat helicopter Klaus had used during the invasion of Arcadian City. Not only was it fast, but its camouflaging abilities were also top-tier.

Since Klaus had no intention of announcing his presence when entering these cities, it was the best model he could think of for the task.

They planned to use the helicopter until they were a few kilometers or even miles from their destinations; the rest of the way would be covered on foot, by flight, or through shadow techniques.

A few hours after departing Ross City, they arrived in Harmony City, one of the cities in the Northern Region.

Chapter 389 - 389: Klaus's Revenge Arc (1)

Klaus and his team of women stopped two miles from Harmony City to plan their next move. Klaus did not need any planning since he knew where every last assassin would be, but since he brought along some help, he had to assist them in deciding how they would proceed.

"I will be going after the Sovereign because I need the experience Points, so stop looking at me like that, Miriam," Klaus said, glancing at Miriam, who was frowning at him. Cynthia Ross watched them with an unblinking stare.

By now, Cynthia Ross had managed to calm down. When she discovered that Miriam, the infamous War Goddess of the eastern region, was now Klaus's woman, she had almost fallen on her backside.

She was shocked beyond her imagination. Strangely, Miriam didn't act cold toward her.

On the contrary, she seemed rather fond of Cynthia, which was surprising given her reputation for being cold and arrogant.

Still, Cynthia couldn't quite wrap her head around it. She needed time to process that Miriam was now dating Klaus, and from the looks of it, he had completely won her over.

"Are you sure you can take him out?" Miriam asked. "I could do it, you know."

"That would require you to get close to him, which would draw unnecessary attention. My way will be quick and effective. When I'm done, not even his body will be found," Klaus said.

"If you say so, just don't do anything reckless," Miriam replied.

"I won't, my love," Klaus smiled. "Now, how about you all? Do you think you can handle four Great Sages, 30 Sages, and 130 Saints?"

"What do you take us for? Of course, we can handle them," Miriam said, glancing at the three women beside her.

"Okay," Klaus said, smiling. "Don't forget to take the pictures as I instructed," The ladies nodded.

"So, how are you going to do it?" Klaus asked. It was almost 5 p.m., and they planned to use the cover of the night to eliminate their targets.

"I will go after the four Great Sages and ten Sages. Nuna will take care of the rest, while Sister Cynthia and Luna will go after the Saints," Miriam said.

"Smart. Well, we have the night to rid Harmony City of the Dark Order. As for the Grandmasters, most are suppressed by the Sovereigns, so once they're dead, they'll be freed. That being said, the rest are the worst of the worst, so don't hesitate," Klaus advised.

He reminded them before disappearing and reappearing 300 meters away.

Now that he was a Grandmaster with enhanced stats, he could use the second form of his movement technique, the Vanishing Step.

The first form, [Phantom Steps], was ideal for quick and ghostly movement. Very effective during one-on-one battles.

However, the second form, [Vanishing Step], true to its name, allowed Klaus to vanish and reappear 300 meters away. This was his current limit, but as he grew stronger, the distance would increase.

A few seconds later, the women also departed to carry out their missions.

Somewhere in Harmony City, Lex Nelson, a truck driver, was finishing up his shift and signing out when he received a text from someone he knew all too well.

"Aya, why are you messaging me at this time of night?" he muttered before opening the message.

"Huh, so you've heard that Klaus Hanson is in Harmony City. How lucky for me. At least you're not greedy and chose to inform me," Lex smiled.

"I suppose I'll give you part of the credit once I kill him," he said with a grin. "No, that woman can be annoying sometimes. This time, I'm taking full credit," he added before signing out and leaving.

He got into his car and started driving to a specific part of the city, instead of heading home to his cat.

He was single, with only a cat as his companion. He is a lonely existence within the Dark Order. Of course, Klaus knew this from Aya's memories. That woman has more dirt on some of the Higher-ups in the dark order.

Because of this, Klaus even planned to text animal protection services to find a better home for the cat once its owner was dead.

The animal deserved a good home, not a murderous psycho as its owner. After driving for a while, Lex parked his car and began walking in a particular direction.

A few miles away, there was a carnival where many young people could be seen enjoying themselves. It was a celebration for the young warriors who had passed the academy trials and would be heading to the academy in six weeks.

Although the event was specifically for the Northern Region. Many would come to the same conclusion after finding out Klaus was in Harmony City. However, this time, Lex's deduction was incorrect.

Klaus was indeed present in Harmony, but he was positioned east of the carnival grounds. He was currently using the Hellfire Arrow Tempering Art to create a god-killing arrow. His senses were spread out, tracking Lex as he moved slowly toward the carnival.

"Tsk, this guy is a terrible assassin. Look at how he walks like he thinks he's some kind of a god," Klaus muttered.

"Well, he is a Sovereign, and I'm just a Grandmaster, so it's only natural for him to underestimate me," Klaus added, though the disdain on his face said it all.

He already hated the man and would have killed him even if he weren't part of the Dark Order.

"Now might be the right time to assign points to certain aspects of my status. I have more than enough points now, especially after that huge boost when I broke through," Klaus thought. With that, he momentarily shifted his attention from the Sovereign to check his status page.

Name: Klaus Hanson

Age: 16

Talent: Celestial Elemental Overlord

Class: Weapons Overlord

Bloodline: Dormant

Physique: Nine Reincarnation Divine Body

Realm: Grandmaster

Star Core Formation: 0/9

Strength: 2,130 | Agility: 2,370 | Stamina: 2,340 | Defense:1,600 | Intelligence: 2,000| Health: 6200

Star Qi: 600,000,000

Stat Points: 2000

Klaus stared at his status page for a few seconds before a small smile tugged at his lips. "Looks like my status page has changed compared to how others look," he muttered.

When he accessed the status pages of Anna and his friends, he noticed that while they all had 'Star Core Formation' added, there was something different. Instead of the usual levels 1 to 9, their status displayed 'Low.'

Klaus had asked Miriam about this, and she explained that from the Grandmaster stage onward, there were only four levels, although they corresponded to the previous levels 1 to 9. These new levels were Low, Medium, High, and Peak.

When your core formation showed Peak, it meant you were close to completing it. According to her, Low represented levels 1 to 3, Medium was 4 to 6, High was 7 to 8, and Peak was level 9.

However, on Klaus's status page, these four levels were absent. Instead, it displayed the number of cores he had left to form, referring to his nine Qi seas. He would need to saturate and refine all of them into Star Cores before he could ascend to the Saint stage.

"This is convenient," Klaus smirked before examining his stats. "Looks like I got 500 points added to all my stats and 2,000 to health. The Star Qi pool is larger than ever."

He paused for a moment.

"I guess I won't need to waste points on these idiots after all. I'll save them for the Tier 8 monsters." With that, Klaus stood up.

The Sovereign came within range. It was time for him to take an arrow through the heart.

Chapter 390 - 390: Klaus's Revenge Arc (2)

With his senses extending over a 70-kilometer radius, Klaus was able to track the Sovereign Assassin, who was strolling toward the carnival in hopes of finding him there.

The temptation of being the one to kill the most elusive target ever noted in the Dark Order's records was too enticing for the assassin to resist.

Unbeknownst to him, he had just entered the kill zone Klaus had meticulously set up for him. Klaus uses Star Q instead of Spiritual Qi.

So although he hadn't exerted much effort to hide his presence, the Sovereign couldn't sense the presence that was now just 400 meters away.

Klaus watched with a smile on his lips. He took out one of the three special arrows he had crafted and notched it onto his bow. He pulled back the bowstring but then paused, lowering the bow to take out a phone.

The phone belonged to Aya Middlestone, the mother of Luna and Nuna. Before killing her, Klaus had ensured he used her thumb to unlock it and change the phone settings to his own. Now, he had access to her contacts, and Lex was among them.

He opened the messaging app and typed a text to him. As soon as he sent it, he raised the bow and notched an arrow.

Lex, who was walking casually toward the carnival, suddenly felt his phone chime. He took it out and tapped on Aya's name.

When he saw the message, he froze. It read, "Look to your right and say cheese. You will see the face of your killer."

Lex froze, but then he turned. However, as soon as he saw Klaus's face, his energy surged—or tried to. Before he could release his cultivation, a red, crackling light appeared and shot through his chest, digging a hole through it.

It pierced his heart, leaving no chance for recovery. Lex looked dazed as he watched Klaus approach through his darkening vision.

Klaus stood before him with a small smile. "Aya will be waiting for you on the other side." With that, a ball of flame appeared in his hand. He used Aya's phone to snap a picture of Lex's lifeless face before tossing the flame onto him.

What followed was a quick, ashy burn that consumed him so fast that even his core was destroyed.

[You have killed a Sovereign Stage Warrior named Lex Nelson. You have earned 1,000,000 EXP.]

Klaus smiled reading the system message.

[You couldn't have saved his core?] the senior asked.

"It would have contaminated my Star Core once formed. The EXP was enough," Klaus replied, without a trace of regret. The Tier 8 Core he had just burned was sufficient to make significant progress in forming his first Star Core.

But he was so disgusted by the assassin that if he had the chance, he would have rejected the Exp Points too.

After using the ice element to bury the ashes, he walked toward the carnival, stood on a hill, and began to watch.

Somewhere in the city, Miriam moved across rooftops only stopping when she appeared on top of a building. Inside a certain room, a young man was scrolling through his phone, laughing now and then.

Miriam narrowed her eyes as she observed the smug expression on the young man's face. His name was Rick Shelly, an assassin for the Dark Order. Over the past 15 years working for them, he had killed 410 people.

Among these kills, 24 were innocent, but because he was ordered to assassinate them, he never even blinked.

Miriam wanted to proceed slowly, but seeing the nonchalant, smug look on Rick's face made her blood boil.

Inside the room, Rick, who was happily watching a cat video, suddenly felt his body freeze in place. He couldn't move his hands or legs. The only thing he could move was his eyes. Surprisingly, his voice was also silenced.

On the roof, Miriam raised an eyebrow as she watched the result of using her power to immobilize him. Although Rick was a Great Sage, Miriam expected some resistance. However, to her shock, he couldn't move at all.

But she didn't let that distract her. She moved and glided through the air, entering through the window that was already open — Rick had a habit of watching the night city, so he kept it that way.

With her face covered and clad in dark clothing, Miriam stopped beside Rick and spoke coldly, "In your next life, don't kill the innocent."

Her palm glowed, and she gently tapped Rick's forehead. Light engulfed him, and before he could even scream in his head, he disintegrated into a flash of light, vanishing forever.

Miriam stared at the spot where Rick had been for a few seconds before she, too, disappeared from the room. The skill she had used was one she gained when she broke through to the Saint stage many years ago.

When Klaus saw her use that skill a few weeks ago, he felt envious. With her light element, a simple touch could disintegrate anything. The name of this OP skill is [Annihilation Touch].

It was the kind of ability any assassin would kill for. As for Miriam, she only used it for close-up kills or to disintegrate her opponents' weapons.

She doesn't truly depend on it since she prefers brutal battles where blood and sweat will cover her entire body. She is that weird.

She moved to her next target, and then the next, ensuring she left no trace of a foreign presence in the places she visited.

In another part of the city, Nuna was also making her moves. As a Great Sage, taking out Sages was effortless for her. Thanks to her Shadow Manipulation abilities, she could move through the shadows with ease.

Her first target was a cashier who was just about to leave work. However, she never made it to her car before the shadows consumed her. Nuna dragged her into the shadow realm before taking her out.

Klaus once asked why they preferred to bring their targets into the shadow realm before killing them. Their response was rather chilling.

In their shadow realm, they were supreme. The moment someone entered, they would be cut off from their cultivation base, rendering them mere mortals in the shadow realm.

Killing them after that was as easy as picking up stones. This made it their primary killing ground. Even more terrifying, the two shared the same shadow realm, so anything that entered would be subject to both of their dominions.

One could only imagine what their shadow realm would become once they ascended to Sovereigns.

Somewhere else in Harmony City, Luna, and Cynthia Ross were also taking out dozens of targets by the hour. Cynthia had some affinity with shadows, but her control wasn't as strong.

This was likely due to the fact that she was just a Sage. However, she wasn't any slower than Luna. While she could travel through shadows, she couldn't use them to trap her targets the way Luna could.

But since her targets were Saints, surprise attacks were enough. With her and Luna working together, they were able to move swiftly. When the situation called for it, Luna would handle it; otherwise, Cynthia was doing most of the killing.

By 5 a.m., the last of the Dark Order assassins in Harmony City had been eradicated. Klaus received texts from all four ladies, informing him that they had returned to the helicopter.

Klaus wasn't back yet...

At some point during the night, Klaus decided to join the carnival. When he returned to the helicopter, he was covered in paint and sparkles.

Miriam and the others looked at him with varied expressions. A few seconds later, they all sighed.

"Don't tell us," Miriam chuckled.

Klaus just smiled, and soon, they were off, headed to Arcadian City where the next cleanup exercise would take place.