

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 221: Shall we go for second round then?

Swoosh!

Max and Leticia appeared in front of her room with a gust of wind.

Leticia's face, which was previously filled with anger and worry, now had a hint of bashfulness. She knew what was going to happen next.

"My lady, would you please open the door?" Max laughingly said.

"Mhm." Leticia nodded and quickly opened the door.

"Kya~~!"

Just as she was about to turn around to invite him inside, Max suddenly lifted her in his arms and entered the room, closing the room behind him.

Leticia had a blessed expression and happily snuggled in his arms.

Max led her to the bed, and a frown appeared on his face. The bed was like the one Max had before buying the new one: very old and uncomfortable.

Leticia saw his expression and panicked. "I was going to buy a new one after completing my monthly mission. Let's go; we also need... need to prepare for the mission."

Saying this, she tried to climb down.

"That can wait," Max said, gently putting her on the bed. Then he also climbed onto it.

His fingers gently caressed cheeks, lips, and neck. He then slowly moved his face towards her.

Thump! Thump!

Leticia's heart thumped in anticipation as she saw his lips come close to hers, she closed her eyes, and her lips puckered slightly.

Max's lips gently embraced her adorable thin lips and kissed lightly. He slowly continued kissing her lips, cheeks, and neck while occasionally sensually biting her earlobes.

Leticia lay there enjoying being cherished by the man she loved.

Max then returned to her lips and put his lips on hers as his tongue pried open her teeth and intertwined with her sweet little tongue.

Leticia didn't remain passive as her tongue also moved, and both started to savor each other's taste.

Pah!

After a while, they broke their hot kiss and looked at each other with burning eyes. However, there was a 'slight' difference between them.

Leticia's eyes were filled with pure affection, only a slight hint of lust. Max's eyes, on the other hand, were filled with lust, followed by a bit of affection.

Leticia noticed this, but instead of becoming sad, she was happy. In the start, whenever they had sex, Max's eyes only had lust.

Just as he had started to show some affection to her, it was time to return to the academy, and she was afraid that this slight trace of affection would be lost after returning.

However, seeing that her eyes still contained that hint of affection, she was overjoyed.

Max gave her a light peck before his lips slowly traced her cheeks, neck, and finally, cleavage. Here he had stopped since she was still wearing her clothes.

"Let's take them off. Shall we?" Max whispered in her ear as he bit on her pinkish earlobes.

"Mmm~" Leticia nodded as she let out a low moan.

After that, she started to undress, and Max helped her with pleasure.

In a few seconds, she was lying naked under him. She clenched her thighs and covered her breasts with one hand in embarrassment. She then pointed toward his clothes and bashfully said, "You... you are still wearing yours."

"Oh?" Max exclaimed before undressing.

After he was done, Leticia reflexively looked below his abdomen and felt the place between her legs twitch in anticipation.

Max was already aroused, and his little brother was erect, waiting to enter the battlefield.

However, he didn't rush since he wanted to comfort her and let her enjoy herself without worrying about anything.

He slowly started licking one of her nipples while rubbing and squeezing the other one.

Ahn~

Leticia closed her eyes with a pleasure-filled expression as her hands went behind his head, pressing it as if asking him to use some more force.

'As you wish.' Noticing this, Max started using more force while squeezing, licking, or sucking her breasts and nipples.

At the same time, his free hand went below her belly and slowly started to rub her thighs before reaching towards her pussy which was slightly wet.

He then used his index and middle finger and started rubbing her fold and clitoris, making her moan in ecstasy.

Ahn~ Nngh~ Mm~

In just a moment, her pussy was completely wet and ready to embrace his cock in its depths.

Max smiled and came down. Grabbing her slender legs, he put them on his shoulders before putting his cock on her sacred entrance.

Unlike before, he didn't rush to thrust it in one go but slowly pushed it past her puffed-out folds and inside her wet, warm, soft pussy.

Nngh~~

Leticia moaned as she felt his bulging hot cock entering her depths, and her warm and soft inside started squeezing on it, giving Max intense pleasure.

He reached out his hands and intertwined his fingers with hers and leaned slightly forward so that he could move with relative ease.

Squelch! Squelch!

He started moving his hips as his cock began to slide in and out of her wet pussy as their wet and erotic sounds filled the room.

...

...Trading peak...

Two enticing beauties in white walked through the market, causing males young and old to look at them.

They were Rima and Belen. After Max had taken Leticia to 'comfort,' they came here to buy some necessary stuff.

"Belen, how many Mana stones do you have?" Rima asked as they arrived in front of a tall building.

"I've four hundred left." Belen took them out and handed them over to her.

"Good. I also have a little more than four hundred. We should be able to buy it." Rima nodded and then walked inside the building.

It was the Merchant Association's building, where you could buy almost everything mages in or below four-star mages could need. Of course, the prices were slightly higher.

...

Ahngghhh~~~

A loud moan that threatened to go past the soundproofing formation reverberated in the room as Leticia's body jerked up, and she ejaculated along with Max.

After filling her insides, Max took his cock out and lay beside her.

Leticia hugged him with a satisfied expression and rested her head on her arm. She whispered. "It was amazing."

"Shall we go for one more round then?" Max asked with a smile.

Chapter 222: Two weeks

"We can't. Rima and Belen must be waiting." Leticia reluctantly said.

She wanted to continue but knew that Rima and company would be waiting for them since they had to leave soon.

All the missions assigned to the disciples had a time limit. If they were late by even an hour when submitting the mission, they would be considered failing the mission.

"You are right." Max nodded. He also remembered that Anna said she would return a few hours later. She must have come back by now. Who knows what reaction will she have if she didn't find him there?

After that, they bathed together before leaving the room and headed toward Rima's room, where they were to meet.

...

Inside Rima's room...

Belen and Rima had just arrived from the trade peak and were waiting for Max and Leticia to return.

Knock! Knock!

There was a sudden knock on the door. Rima went and opened the door. Seeing Max and Leticia standing there, she smiled and invited them inside.

Belen and Rima were looking at Leticia, whose face was radiant, with envy.

After talking for a few minutes, Belen took out the things she had bought for Leticia and gave them to her.

"Unfortunately, we have to go to different places for the mission, or we could have left together." Rima looked at Max and sighed.

Leticia and Belen had gotten the same mission, so they would go together. Although Rima had a different mission, the direction she was going was relatively the same as theirs, so they could travel together before splitting up.

However, Max needed to go in the opposite direction. Therefore, he couldn't leave with them.

"It's okay. We will meet again soon." Max smiled.

"Mhm." Rima nodded. She then took out a red crystal bead from her spatial bag and gave it to him.

Max frowned as he reached out his hand to take it.

Before he could say anything, Belen said, "Although you didn't ask us to buy anything for you, we still bought this bead for you since we had a few extra Mana stones."

"What is it?" Max asked, looking at the small bead.

Leticia also looked at it curiously.

"It's an enchanted bead that contains a full-powered attack of a middle-stage three-star mage. If you encounter a situation where your life is being threatened, you can use it." Belen explained.

Sii

Both Max and Leticia took in a cold breath. A full-powered attack from a middle-stage three-star mage?

An attack at that level can easily kill everyone and everything below three-star and seriously injure or cripple those in the same realm, such as early-stage or middle-stage three-star mages.

He looked at Belen and Rima with a face full of gratitude. He knew they bought it after learning that he was being targeted, and given how powerful it was, it must have cost a lot of Mana stones, not a few.

Moreover, things like this weren't something that mages like them could get their hands on even if they had enough Mana stones to buy it.

However, he didn't ask how they got it and stored it in his inventory. He didn't even thank them since he knew they wouldn't want him to do that. So, he silently swore that he would care for them even more from now on.

...

Max returned to his dorm room after Belen and company left the academy.

Creak~

The door opened, and he walked inside to see Anna sitting on the bed with tears in her eyes.

Shua!

In an instant, he arrived beside her and asked with a face full of concern, "What happened, Anna? Why are you crying? Did someone bully you?"

Anna looked at him, and suddenly her teary face blossomed with a radiant smile, and she threw herself in his arms.

Max hugged her before asking again, "What happened? Tell me."

"Nothing happened." Anna shook her head and said, "I thought you left on the mission without waiting for me to return." She pouted her lips cutely.

Max had a weird expression and shook his head helplessly.

"Since you asked me to wait, is there something you want to tell me or something else?" He asked, changing the topic.

"Yes." Anna nodded and extended her palm toward him. "Give me your spatial bag first."

"Okay." Max gave it to her. Anna then transferred some things from her bag to his.

After she was done, she gave it back to him and said, "I've stored two weeks' worth of food and water in it for you to use."

"Oh? Okay." Max nodded, thinking, 'It seems I was overthinking after all.'

"Have you prepared everything? Pills etc.?" She asked again.

"Yes."

"Very good. However, you haven't told me about what your mission is yet." She said grumpily.

"It's nothing significant. I have to hunt down a few bandits in the sun feather town area." Max said casually.

Hearing that, Anna had a worried expression "Max, All these bandits are very tricky opponents. You have to be extremely careful when dealing with them. If you find yourself at a disadvantage, don't force yourself and retreat, okay."

"Okay. You don't have to worry about me." Max said before hugging her once again.

"By the way, what about your monthly mission? " He asked.

"The outer sector disciples are usually assigned missions after the inner sector disciples," Anna said.

After talking for a while, they left the room and headed towards the transport place where all the eagles of the academy were.

The disciples were allowed to use them to go down the mountain since almost no two-star or weaker disciple could climb down on their own because of the presence of many powerful beasts.

Max found a flying eagle who was about to leave to drop the disciples at the foot of the mountain and paid the required Mana stones.

Before boarding it, Max turned to Anna, gave her a few grade two healing and Mana replenishing pills, and said, "You too take care of yourself when on the mission. I'll be back in two weeks if nothing goes wrong."

"Mm, I will." Anna nodded as her eyes became wet.

"Come on up, everyone. We are ready to go." The eagle operator shouted.

Max gently wiped her eyes and caressed her cheeks. "I'm going now." Saying this, he climbed the eagle's back.

Whoosh!

The eagle flapped its large wings and took off.

"Two weeks, huh?" Anna murmured to herself as she watched him fly away.

Chapter 223: System evolving once again[1]

In a couple of minutes, the eagle landed at the mountain foot, and after dropping the disciples, it flew upwards.

"Is anyone have the mission in the purple mountain?"

"Please group up with me if you also have a mission in the royal city."

All the disciples who had been assigned to do solo missions started yelling out to see if there was anyone who had a mission in the same place so that they could group up to complete their missions easily and quickly.

"Is there anyone going to sun feather city?" Max also tried his luck. After all, it was easier if he could group up with someone.

"What?"

Suddenly, out of more than forty disciples present here, one-third exclaimed and looked towards him with weird looks, which quickly became one of pity as they shook their heads.

"Mm?" Max's eyebrows shot up at their reaction.

"Friend, are you assigned to handle bandits there?" A girl with short light greenish hair asked after noticing that Max seemed oblivious of the reason behind their reactions.

"Yes. Is there any problem with that?" Max asked.

"Sigh! If I'm right, you mustn't be from a nearby region." The short-haired girl sighed.

"Sun feather city is infamous for its bandit groups...." She started explaining.

Sun feather city was one of the many cities under the control of the Cloud academy. It had a few mines of some materials necessary to craft magic artifacts.

Initially, it was very prosperous because many merchants would go there to buy the materials in large quantities at low prices and trade some of their own products.

However, because of this, many groups of bandits had made the area around it their hub and would rob the weak merchants. Because of this, the number of merchants going to the city decreased dramatically, causing the city many losses.

Therefore, Cloud academy sent out many disciples and Elders on a purging mission and annihilated every bandit group in the vicinity of the sun feather city, which caused the trade to prosper once again.

Unfortunately, this peace was short-lived as bandit groups started popping out once again. Helpless, Academy had to send some three-star mages to kill them. However, no matter how many they killed, more would come after some time.

Because sun feather city was a few thousand miles away from the academy, the academy couldn't afford to send people time and time again. Therefore, it decided to assign missions to kill them whenever any new group emerged.

"However, although these bandits are weak, they are very cunning and would set traps to kill the disciples. That's why most of the disciples don't dare to go there." She explained.

Hearing this, Max's eyes flashed. He realized that he was in a dangerous situation right now.

'There are only two ways out of this.' He sighed.

One was to give up on this mission. Although he would be punished by the academy and wouldn't get any resources for a few months, it wasn't a problem for him since he could just kill some beasts and sell their cores. However, this would reduce his chances of participating in the selection competition.

The second way was to go ahead and somehow complete the mission. But his chances of dying would be high.

"Thanks for telling me." Max thanked her before speeding in the direction of the sun feather city.

The short-haired girl was stunned. She hadn't expected him to head toward sun feather city even after hearing how dangerous the situation was.

However, she shrugged. It wasn't her concern whether he lived or died. She only told him all this because he was pleasing to look at.

...

After coming a few miles away from the foot of the mountain, Max took out an escaping talisman and crushed it.

Whoosh!

In the next instant, a strong surge of energy enveloped him, and his speed increased by at least a dozen times, and he seemed to disappear from where he was.

After less than half a minute, three clocked figures arrived where he was previously.

"Fuck! That guy used an escaping talisman." One of them cursed.

"It's okay. Its effects won't last for long. Let's give chase." The one in the middle calmly said before speeding in the direction Max had gone.

...

In just thirty seconds, Max crossed a dozen miles.

"Amazing!" He exclaimed. The feeling of running at hundreds of miles per hour was just amazing.

'This should give me some more time.' A smirk appeared on his face as he glanced back.

When he was talking to the short-haired girl, he had already noticed a few people looking at him with murderous intent and knew they must be the people sent by Dalton.

Therefore, he suddenly ran out and used the escaping talisman he had gotten after killing Bartan.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, he changed his direction, ran for more than half an hour, and arrived in a forested region. Looking back, he didn't see anyone in the distance.

'It's time to raise my Mana to peak two-star.' He sat below a nearby tree before opening his status screen and raising his Mana count to ten thousand points.

Hu~~

Mana around him became restless and started entering his body. His Mana core was filled to the brim in just a few seconds.

"Nice. Now I-" Max became excited. With this much Mana, he could afford to squander a little when he fought against the people chasing after him. However, he stopped celebrating as his expression changed dramatically.

[Ding. The requirement for the second evolution has been met. The system will start its next evolution in three seconds.]

"Damn it. Why now." He gritted his teeth in frustration. If this had happened at any other time, he would have been happy and expectant of this evolution.

But right now, he was in the middle of a forest where some beast could pop out at any moment and was being chased by people who wanted his life. Therefore, he couldn't afford to pass out right now.

Hu~~~~

However, before he could do anything, time was up, and just as he feared, the Mana around him started being sucked inside his body.

"Argh!" He groaned in pain as he felt countless needles stabbing all over his body, and his consciousness started blurring.

He could only pray that no beast or the people chasing him find him before he woke up.

Chapter 224: System evolving once again [2]

Twenty minutes ago...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Three figures stopped in the middle of the forest.

"That guy must have changed directions, or we would already have seen his tracks." The clocked figure in the middle, who from his physique was a male, said. He was the leader of this group.

"How long are we going to run around like headless flies? Why don't you take out your 'tracking bee' now?" One other clocked figure, who was also a male, said impatiently.

"Okay." The leader in the middle nodded and reluctantly opened a bag.

Buzz~

A fist-sized, yellow-colored bee appeared in front of them.

This bee was called a 'tracking bee.' It specialized in tracking people using their aura. Even if the target was a few hundred miles away, it could still find them.

However, to do that, it would need a special type of honey which was very expensive. That's why the leader didn't want to use it until now. But they had been running for around ten minutes and didn't find any tracks of Max, so he didn't have any choice but to use it.

"Give me the aura sealing orb." He glanced at the other figure in the group. She was a female with only half of her face exposed like the other two.

The female waved her hand, and a metallic-looking cubical crystal appeared on her hand. It had Max's aura sealed in it. She gave it to the leader and looked at the bee curiously.

After taking the metallic crystal, the leader directed his bee toward the crystal.

Buzz~

The bee hovered around the crystal for a while before flying in the left direction.

Whoosh!

The three of them closely followed behind it.

After running after it for ten minutes, they started feeling the change in Mana around them.

"Where is all this Mana going?" The leader's expression became serious because this situation wasn't natural.

"Let's go check it out." The other man said and ran toward the source, leaving the bee and the other two behind.

Boom!

Just then, a loud boom sounded in front of them, and the leader and the female's expressions changed drastically.

Shua!

The leader appeared beside the man and dragged him away while simultaneously taking his tracking bee back.

"What? We should check it out. Maybe that guy is the source of this commotion." The man said as he resisted, but the leader's strength was higher than his.

"Are you dumb? How can a new peak two-star mage be the cause of such intense disturbance of Mana? It must be some three-star beast there breaking through. If you want to die, go ahead." The female, who was quiet until now, said coldly before increasing her speed and running in the opposite direction.

Hearing this, the man, although unwilling, followed them.

The leader looked at him and smiled. "Don't worry, with my bee here; we can definitely find him, although it would cost us a lot."

Not only did they feel the disturbance in Mana, but the beast nearby too, and fled away in panic.

On the main peak of the Cloud academy...

An old man in the depth of the main building opened his eyes. His eyebrows furrowed as he murmured, "There's again disturbance in the Mana. However, it's very weak compared to before."

Thinking this, he closed his eyes, not bothering with it.

Unknowingly, Max had avoided his secrets being exposed. If his core weren't unstable when he was in the academy and increased his Mana there, he would have been found out.

However, right now, Max didn't know what was happening around him and had fainted from pain already.

Mana continued to pour into his body for a few minutes before eventually stopping. Following this, everything returned to normal.

In a far-away place... In a tattered underground palace covered in darkness...

A good-looking man draped in black clothes could be seen lying on an altar hanging in the air. There weren't any movements in his body, nor was he breathing. He was like a corpse.

Hu~

Suddenly, a tiny part of the altar faintly lit up. Following this, the man's eyelashes trembled, and his eyes opened slightly. At this moment, all of the underground palace seemed to shake. His slightly opened eyes were blood red.

His lips moved unnoticeably, and a very faint sound sounded. "It seems... my efforts weren't in vain. I... will return. Little guy, work hard."

After that, his eyes closed, and he became like a dead man once more.

"Cough...!" Max coughed and opened his eyes. He was lying under the tree, drenched in sweat.

"Argh...!" His face contorted in pain when he tried to move his body.

"How come it's more painful than before?" He gritted his teeth, trying to endure the pain.

[It's because of the second awakening of the system host.] Suddenly system's voice sounded in his ears.

"What?" Max was surprised. Not because of the second awakening but because the system took the initiative to tell him this and sounded more human-like.

He remembered clearly that it could only answer the questions he asked after the first awakening. The only time it took the initiative was when he was choosing spells for himself. Even then, It was in a monotonous voice.

However, right now, it had taken the initiative and was more human-like.

"You can converse with me now?" He couldn't help but ask.

[Yes, host. I can. Thanks to the second awakening.] The system replied.

"How many more times will you awaken?" He asked.

[Not sure host. But next time will probably be when the host reaches the mortal boundary.]

"Okay." Max nodded, then commanded in a slightly excited voice, "Open the system."

The last time system awakened, it also evolved, and the shop function was added to the system. He was excited to see what other things might be there.

[Yes, host.]

The next moment his status screen appeared in front of him.

[Name: Maxwell Garfield]

[Age: 18]

[Strength: 80]

[Agility: 80]

[Stamina: 100]

[Vitality: 100]

[Intelligence: 70]

[Mana: 10,000] (Mana enhancement: Allowed)

[Element: Fire (Concentration: 70%)]

[Lust Points: 150,000]

Shop...

"Mana enhancement?" After scanning it, he only found this function in front of his Mana and was confused.

However, suddenly he thought of something which caused his breathing rate to quicken.

Chapter 225: Mana enhancement

"System. What's this Mana enhancement?" Max asked, trying to calm down the surges of excitement in his heart.

[Since the host has already reached the peak of the two-star realm, the host should know one of the most important and time-consuming parts when trying to break through

to the three-star realm, right?] System's voice was almost human-like as it counter-questioned.

Max was surprised but was too excited to bother about it and nodded. "Yes, it's to condense and purify it enough so that one particle of Mana in the Mana core is a hundred times stronger."

[Host is right. However, this process of purifying and condensing is too long. On average, it takes at least six months to one year of rigorous cultivation if the person has outstanding talent. If not, this can easily take a couple of years before reaching the next step.

However, using the system's Mana enhancement function, the host can use your Lust Points to shorten this process. If the host has enough points, this whole process can be done in just a day, depending on the host's constitution and the condition of Mana core.] System explained, its voice contained a hint of pride.

Max's heart thumped. He was so excited because he had guessed this based on its name. However, he wanted to confirm it before celebrating.

He suppressed his excitement and asked, "How many LPs do I need to enhance my current Mana to the level of a three-star mage?"

[One unit of current Mana can be enhanced to the next level by using 100 Lust Points.] The system replied.

"H-Hundred...?" Max almost choked. If he calculated by this rate, he needed one million LPs to enhance all the Mana.

He then glanced at his status window and saw one hundred and fifty thousand LPs. 'I only have fifteen percent of the required amount.' He sighed.

"Tell me, can this function be used on others?" He asked. Given his progress thanks to the system, he would need countless times more LPs, but his women, Belen, and others won't be able to break through to the three-star realm anytime soon.

This meant he had to find other stronger women to have sex with and gain the LPs he needed.

However, if he did that, not only Belen and others would be left behind, he would have others to worry about, which he didn't want. After all, all women won't be like Jasmine, who would be okay with being a sex partner.

The system was silent as if thinking about it. Then it said,

[Yes, it is feasible. However, that would take double the Lust Points.]

Max could almost hear the gloating in the system's tone and felt that he was going to faint. He needed a couple of million LPs if he wanted to help his women.

[Host, I can tell that your current women aren't capable of providing you with enough Lust Points, I suggest you find some strong ones or use a method to extract more from your current ones.] The system suggested.

As Max heard the first part, he shook his head; it was true, and he felt helpless about it. However, the next part made him pause.

"What do you mean by 'extract'?" He asked, his eyebrows raised.

[There is a method in the shop that you can use to forcibly extract more Lust Points from the women you have sex with.] The system replied.

"What's the catch?" asked Max.

[The woman the host use this method on will be weakened for some time, and some of their life force would be lost too.] The system said.

"Fuck. Was the creator some demon or what? How can he have such a method?" Max instantly rejected the thought of using any method like that. Although he wanted to become strong, he won't do anything that might harm his loved ones for the sake of power.

"..."

The system didn't speak anything after he said this.

Max shook his head and tapped on the 'Mana enhancement.'

Instantly another window opened, asking how many units of Mana he wanted to enhance.

"Fifteen hundred." He smiled and put the amount, and clicked on agree.

Weng~~~

Just as he clicked on the agree button, his Mana core buzzed, and a surge of energy entered it, which then started merging with his Mana.

"Argh...!" As the merging process started, he felt a slight pain in his core, which gradually worsened, and cold sweat appeared on his forehead.

"Fuck!" He gritted his teeth and endured since he didn't want to faint. If he did, he might not wake up again because he knew that the beasts in the forest and people chasing him should be coming here after noticing the commotion he caused.

After a dozen or so minutes, the energy stopped pouring, and the pain subsided.

Hu~~

He took a deep breath and inspected his Mana core.

"Amazing!" He exclaimed as an excited expression appeared on his exhausted and sweaty face.

One-seventh of his total Mana in his core had turned a faint shade of orange and wasn't in misty form anymore had become liquid, and he could feel that if he used this Mana to cast his spell, it would be countless times stronger.

"Now, I can easily kill those flies and complete the mission. Keke." He laughed wickedly.

'Hmm?' Noticing this, his eyebrows furrowed. He could feel that he was a bit excited about killing, which he shouldn't.

Rustle!

Just as he was thinking about what could be the cause of this change, he suddenly heard some bushes behind him rustle, and a cat-like beast jumped toward him.

"Tch, only a one-star beast." He identified its rank and casually threw a fist-sized fireball at it. However, it wasn't a simple fireball since he used his enhanced Mana to cast it.

Boom!

The fireball collided with it and exploded. After the fire died down, there was no sign of the beast, and even its bones seemed to have evaporated.

'Strong!' He exclaimed in his heart. Previously, a fireball of this size could only injure a one-star beast slightly. He could only wonder what would happen if he used [Calidus Brachium] with all fifteen hundred units of the enhanced Mana.

Whoosh!

He then ran in the direction of the sun feather city.

Chapter 226: Killing the trio

The sun feather city was situated a few thousand miles away in the south-western direction of the Cloud academy.

For a normal person, traversing such a long distance was an arduous task and would generally take a few weeks to a month or two.

Moreover, because over five hundred miles of the area around Cloud academy was a forested and hilly region, countless beasts resided here, making traveling here even more difficult and dangerous.

However, a figure was dashing through the forest without any concern about the possible danger.

"It's going to be night in a while. I need to speed up." Max murmured.

It'd been around three hours since he enhanced his Mana and had been running at 80% of his top speed, but he was still a little more than 200 miles away from leaving this forested area.

If he continued at this pace, he wouldn't be able to get out of the forest before nightfall, and the danger of the beasts would rise.

Whoosh!

Thinking this, he started to control the enhanced Mana in his core and directed it towards his feet. The instant he did so, his speed increased dramatically. He was only a bit slower than when he was using escaping talisman.

"Amazing!" He couldn't help but exclaim in shock. As long as he had enough stamina, he could cross the remaining distance in less than half an hour.

...

There was a town called Belsh, a few miles outside the forest. It was closest to the Cloud academy in the southwestern area of the Green Leaf kingdom.

Everyone traveling to the academy from this region or vice-versa would rest there. Therefore, it was very affluent, and one could see people entering and exiting the town at every moment.

Three figures in cloaks were hiding some distance away from the town gate. A fist-sized yellow-colored bee was hovering in front of the guy in the middle, looking in the forest's direction.

"How much more time is he going to take?" The female asked, bored. After running away from the 'three-star beast' who was breaking through, they decided to intercept Max before he entered the town.

"It should be soon." The leader replied after looking at the bee's movements.

"Are you sure that guy isn't dead already?" The other man in the team asked, his brows raised.

"Sigh. I've told you many times. He is alive. My bee's senses are always right, and you know this." The leader said in a displeased tone.

"Your bee had pointed in the direction where that so-called 'three-star' beast of yours was breaking through. If that Max guy had gone there, the beast should have sensed him. So, tell me, how come he is still alive?" The man asked mockingly.

He was suspicious that it wasn't a three-star beast but something else and wanted to go check that out, but his 'cowardly' teammates didn't let him.

Neither the leader nor the female had an answer to this question. It should be as he said; Max should have died since no beast would let a threat live in its vicinity when breaking through.

"Maybe the beast didn't bother with him since it was busy with its breakthrough." The female guessed.

"Yeah, right!" The man scoffed and stopped wasting his saliva. He had a feeling that they had made a grave mistake when they decided to retreat.

However, remembering that all three were peak two-star mages, his heart calmed down.

Whoosh!

After two hours, they suddenly felt movement in the woods. As they glanced in that direction, they could see the figure of a youth slowly walking out of the forest.

"Mm? He seems to be worn out?" The female looked at him with furrowed eyebrows.

"Haha, it's good that he is, or it would have been troublesome to kill him given his speed." The leader laughed and stored the yellow bee.

"Let's go and complete our mission." The leader said and charged out of his hiding place.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The other two followed behind him.

"Mm? As expected, you guys were hiding here." Max looked at the three figures that suddenly appeared in front of him and revealed a smile.

...

Although Max's speed was much faster after using his enhanced Mana, it exhausted his stamina even more quickly.

When he was fifty miles away from the forest boundary, his stamina had depleted by more than 60%.

Therefore, he rested and replenished his exhausted stamina and Mana before continuing the journey.

However, he didn't use his enhanced Mana again because he wanted to be in his top condition when he left the forest since he knew the people chasing him wouldn't give up and might be waiting there.

That's why right before he exited the forest, he decided to act as if he was worn out to trick them.

Just as he had guessed, they were indeed hiding here.

Whoosh~~~

The three clocked figures surrounded him and circulated their Mana, ready to attack. The female took out a grade two barbed whip which seemed to have a greenish coating on it.

Weng~

Max also circulated his Mana and released his aura at the same time, which caused the trio's expressions to change slightly.

"How can his aura be this strong when he is only a peak two-star Mage?" The man looked at him incredulously.

"Could he have started to condense his three-star Mana already?" The female guessed as panic appeared on her face and clenched her whip tightly.

"Humph! So what if he has?" The leader harrumphed in disdain and released his aura, which was also stronger than a peak two-star mage's.

The other two let out a relieved sigh seeing this. Although their leader's aura was somewhat weaker than Max's, it wasn't by too much.

"Oh?" Max was surprised by this, and when he thought about what would have happened if his Mana hadn't enhanced before meeting them, he shivered.

Thinking this, his gaze became murderous. Following this, he raised his hand, and a football-sized fireball condensed above his hand.

"Heh, what can a fireball-" The trio leader scoffed and started casting his spell. However, before he could complete his sentence, his expression changed dramatically.

Whoosh!

Just after the fireball was done condensing, which didn't take more than two breaths since his mastery over it was almost perfect, faint orange-colored Mana covered his feet, and he seemed to disappear from where he was standing.

"Watch out!" The leader shouted in panic, but it was already too late.

Hu~~

With a gust of wind, Max appeared one foot behind the female and threw the fireball at the back of her head before retreating a few meters.

BOOM!!

The female felt the sensation of death wash over her, but she couldn't even move her head away when the fireball crashed into her head and exploded along with her head.

[Sigh! What a waste!] The system's sighing voice sounded in Max's head.

"Nooooo...!" The leader and other man cried out with pale faces.

"Don't worry. I'll send you guys to accompany her too." Just as they were grieving over the death of their companion, a cold voice sounded in their ears, and their hair stood on ends.

"Run!" The leader and other man shouted simultaneously and ran toward the town at their top speed.

After they witnessed him effortlessly and without any resistance killing their companion, their will to fight him disappeared.

As for the mission to kill him, it was ridiculous to even think about. They regretted ever agreeing to complete this mission and wanted to curse Dalton.

'We'll survive if we can enter the town.' Both had this thought in mind as they ran desperately.

Because the Belsh town was nearest to one of the kingdom's top academies, many people came here daily, making the town very profitable. Therefore, the kingdom's royal family made some rules so that people staying in the town won't have any problems.

The most significant rule was that no one could fight inside the town. If anyone were to break the rule, whether a two-star or even a three-star mage, they would have their Mana core crippled or be directly killed.

Max watched them run and sneered, "Do you think I will let you run away?"

He then raised his hand, and fire arrows started materializing in the air, radiating intense heat.

...

A few miles away, in front of the town gates, stood two guards and a dozen more on the town walls.

"It seems someone's fighting over there." One of the guards above the town walls noticed the explosion in the distance and murmured.

"It's none of our concern as long as they aren't in the town." One other guard with a big mustache said.

...

Swoosh!

They had run only half a mile when the fire arrows were done materializing. Max turned into an orange streak, caught up with them the next moment, and pointed toward them.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

"Nooooo....!" The leader and other man heard the sound of something piercing the air behind them, and when they looked behind, horrified expressions appeared on their faces as they cried out in despair.

Chapter 227: Eliana

Pak! Pak! Pak!

The fiery arrows were like the judgment of the god, which couldn't be avoided. The man running behind the leader turned into a sieve before the burning effect activated and turned him into cinders.

The leader, a few meters ahead, trembled upon witnessing this.

Shua!

At death's door, his reaction speed became lightning quick, and he took out a transparent crystalline pearl and crushed it.

Weng~

A ripple of water elemental Mana spread from the bead and formed a barrier around him. All fire arrows injected with three-star level Mana were blocked with ease.

He then increased his speed and shouted, "You bastard! Wait for your death. Not only young master Dalton but also my family will do their best to kill you. Hahahaha!"

"Is that right?" Max's voice sounded beside him and caused his body to stiffen.

While running, he turned his head to the side. "Pl-please don't kill-"

BANG!

He tried to beg, but he couldn't even finish his words when a punch landed on his nose, his skull broke apart, and brain matter splattered around.

...

Si!

On the town wall, a female guard was looking toward the area where Max and others were fighting with squinted eyes. Although it was quite a few miles away, it was as if she could see everything happening there clearly. All of a sudden, she took in a cold breath.

"What is it?" A guard beside him asked curiously.

"That youth killed all three people with overwhelming strength." The first guard relaxed, and his eyes turned to normal.

"What's there to be shocked about?" The guard beside him laughed and slapped his shoulder.

The female guard looked at him, shook her head, not bothering to explain, and sighed inwardly. 'That youth is too fierce, cold-blooded even.'

...

After killing the trio's leader, Max stood there looking at his corpse with a frown on his face.

"What's happening? Why don't I feel any sympathy or guilt after killing them?" He was puzzled. As a human being, it should be normal to feel a bit guilty after taking lives, even if they were his enemies, right? But he wasn't feeling anything like that.

[Host, there is no need to complicate things. If you hadn't killed them, you would have been the one to die. Your subconscious mind knows this, so the host isn't feeling any guilt or sympathy. It would be good if you could also accept this fact.] The system said.

Max felt what the system said made sense. He wasn't supposed to feel guilty for killing those who wanted to kill him.

'It seems I still haven't adapted to this world properly.' He sighed.

After that, he searched their bodies and found three spatial bags.

He found a total of Nine hundred Mana stones, some pills of different types, and a few magic artifacts, one among which was the greenish barbed whip, a bottle of 'Foundation strengthening liquid,' and it wasn't low tier grade two like the one he had bought to use but was mid-tiered.

"Good stuff." He nodded and stored everything in his inventory before looking at a small bag.

At first, he thought that the leader of this group had two spatial bags, but when he looked inside it, he found that it also had a small pocket dimension, but there were only some bushes, a small water pond, and a fist-sized yellow-colored bee.

"A pet bag!" He exclaimed. A pet bag was similar to a spatial bag but many times more expensive and rarer because it could store living things. Even his inventory couldn't keep living things yet.

However, he was a bit disappointed at the same time. If it were some flying beast that could be used to travel instead of a bee, he could have saved much of his time traveling.

'It should have some value since he kept it, right?' He thought before tying the pet bag on his waist.

Afterward, he threw a fireball on the leader and the woman's bodies and turned them to ashes. As for the other man in the group, there was no need since the fire arrows had taken care of him already. Then, he moved toward the town.

...

In a few minutes, Max reached the town gate.

"Hm? How come you aren't injured? Weren't you the one fighting over there?" One of the guards asked curiously. This guy obviously came from there but didn't look like someone who just came out of a fight.

"Is it necessary to be injured when fighting?" Max chuckled and asked, "How much should I pay to enter the town?"

"It's ten Mana stones. However, you only need to pay half since you are an inner disciple of the Cloud academy." The guard said, pointing toward the emblem on Max's chest.

Max nodded, paid the five Mana stones, and entered the town.

Above the wall, the female guard had her eyes trained on his figure. 'From his age and looks, who can guess he would be someone so ferocious?'

Swoosh!

As if feeling her gaze, the blue-haired youth turned his neck around and smiled at her, which caused her heart to throb, but she didn't move her gaze away and looked at his face intently as if trying to imprint it in her mind.

Max chuckled and walked inside the town.

Although it was called a town, it was almost two or three times larger than Claymore town.

After entering the gate, one could see many shops and stall on both sides of the road.

Max didn't bother looking at the things on the stalls or shops. He wanted to find an Inn as soon as possible and rest. However, just then, he noticed a familiar figure in the distance.

She was the beautiful core disciple Eliana, but right now, she wasn't in the academy's usual white uniform but in a purple dress and looked even more stunning.

"Shopkeeper, do you think I'm a little girl? I won't give you any more than hundred Mana stones. If you want to sell it or not, it's your choice." Eliana said as she glared at the middle-aged woman at one of the stalls.

Chapter 228: You followed me?

'This young lady looks like someone from a good background but is haggling so much.' The shopkeeper looked at her weirdly and said, "How about young miss pay 150 Mana stones for this? I can't sell it below this price."

Eliana stared at the necklace on the stall with fiery eyes. However, in the end, she reluctantly shook her head.

"What are you trying to buy?" Just as she was going to leave, a voice sounded from her side.

"It's this water pearl neck-, Mm?" Unconsciously, she started answering but stopped mid-way and looked at her side.

Unknown to her, a handsome blue-haired youth had appeared by her side and was looking at the things on the stall with interest.

"It's you." She yelled and hurriedly took a few steps back.

Max was dumbfounded by her reaction and couldn't help but ask, "Am I some ghost? Why do you react like this after seeing me?"

"Oh? I-I'm sorry. I was surprised, yes surprised, to see you suddenly standing beside me out of nowhere." Eliana hurriedly gave an excuse after realizing that her reaction must have 'offended' him.

"Okay." Max nodded. He knew that reason was something else from her reaction, but it was clear that she wasn't going to tell him.

"How come, someone like you can't buy something worth only Mana stones?" He curiously asked.

Hearing his question, Eliana's face became embarrassed. "That's none of your concern." She said in anger and turned around to leave.

"How about I buy this for you?" Max suggested. He wanted to help her since she also helped him and Anna.

"Really?" Eliana suddenly stopped in her tracks and looked at him in excitement.

Max became speechless by the 180-degree change in her attitude.

"Yes." He nodded and started to take out Mana stones to pay the shopkeeper when Eliana suddenly said, "There is no need. I don't want it."

After that, she turned around to leave once again.

Max frowned and could only sigh at the fickle nature of women.

"Little friend. This young lady mustn't want to feel indebted to you." The middle-aged shopkeeper whispered with an amused expression.

"Oh?" Hearing this, Max's eyes lit up in understanding, and he quickly said, "How about I buy it now, and you can pay me later?"

Eliana stopped and considered for a while before nodding, "Okay."

Max looked at the shopkeeper with a grateful look and paid her the Mana stones.

"Mm?" After counting the Mana stones, the shopkeeper looked at him and smiled knowingly before handing him the necklace. "Here you go, young man."

Max took it and gave it to Eliana.

"Thank you!" She happily took it and put it on.

"What is it?" Max asked curiously. Given its price, it shouldn't be something of value, but she was being happy as if it was a high-graded treasure.

"Something great." She said, not explaining anything. After that, she turned around and added, "I'll pay you when I return to the academy."

Whoosh!

Before Max could say anything, she had left toward the town center. Her speed was easily comparable to his when using enhanced Mana.

Max looked at her departing figure and shook his head before leaving to look for an inn to stay the night.

"Hello, young master. Do you need a place to stay? Our inn is cheaper than the rest and gives food for free." A young boy, around 12 years old, in humble clothing, ran up to him and asked.

Max glanced at him and seemed to remember the little girl from Zexin city. "Okay. Take me there."

The boy led him to a two-floored inn which was situated beside a grand-looking three-floored one.

He could feel that boy had become nervous as they neared the inn and hurriedly led inside the smaller inn.

"Aunty. We have a guest." He called out to a woman who looked to be in her forties, standing behind the reception.

"Welcome, esteemed guest." The woman bowed and greeted.

"May I know how long you would like to stay?" She asked.

"Only tonight," Max said.

"That would cost esteemed guest five low-grade Mana stones, and food will be provided for free." She explained.

"Okay." Max nodded and paid the stones.

The woman then took out a key, gestured for Max to follow her after her, and led him to the second floor.

There were six rooms on the second floor, three on each side.

The woman walked up to one of the rooms and opened it. "Please come in."

Just as Max was about to enter the room, the doors of the room behind him opened, and a beautiful girl in a purple dress walked out. She was Eliana, who he had met a while ago.

Max reflexively glanced at her and was surprised. However, before he could say anything, the girl frowned and asked, "You followed me here?"

"Who said I followed you?" Max smiled and shook his head.

"Then how come you came to the same Inn I was staying?" She asked.

"Ask that little guy. He brought me here." Max chuckled and pointed toward the boy.

Eliana looked at the boy, who immediately tensed up and nodded.

Seeing him nod, she frowned slightly before turning toward the woman and saying, "Please bring me the food I ordered."

After that, she re-entered her room and closed the door.

Max's expression was strange. He had been trying to be nice to her since she had helped him, but she seemed to have some prejudice against him.

...

After one hour, Max was sitting crossed-legged in his room and took out the bottle of mid-tier grade two 'Foundation strengthening liquid' and drank its contents in one gulp.

The process of Mana enhancement seemed to have negatively affected his Mana core. Moreover, the enhanced Mana also put pressure on his core constantly. Therefore, he needed to strengthen it more.

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Chapter 229: Eliana's request

After half an hour, Max and Eliana sat inside a restaurant facing each other.

"So, what did you want to talk about?" Max asked, looking at her with interest which caused Eliana's face to redden slightly.

Bam!

She slapped the table between them and angrily said, "Would you please stop looking at me like that?"

"What do you mean? I'm looking at you normally." Max raised his brows.

He still couldn't understand why she would react so exaggeratedly when facing him.

'Have I offended her somehow before?' He couldn't help but think like that. However, he knew he had never met her before the small episode with Karon in front of his dorm room.

"I..." Eliana was speechless. It was right. He was looking at her with a normal gaze. 'It seems I'm overreacting.'

She took a few breaths before saying, "I apologize for that."

"If I'm not wrong, you must be going in the southwestern direction to complete some academy mission, right?" She asked right after, not giving Max any chance to speak.

"That's right." Max nodded. Although he wanted to ask about the reason why she seemed to treat him differently, it was clear that she didn't want to talk about that. So he could only answer her question.

"I'm also going in the same direction to complete a gold-ranked mission." She puffed out her chest proudly and looked at him smugly.

"So?" Max asked. Since she was already a three-star mage, it was normal for her to go on gold-ranked missions. Was there something to be proud of?

Her expression faltered hearing this, and she said, "Although it's a solo mission, I realized that I need someone to help me with some things, but I didn't bring anyone with me. So, I want to hire you. If you agree to help me, I'll pay you 200 Mana stones."

"No thanks." Max shook his head and rejected.

"What?" She didn't expect him to reject her offer and asked, "Are 200 Mana stones too low? I can raise them if that's the case."

"No, it's not that." Max shook his head.

"Then what it is?" She asked, exasperated. Because she didn't have enough Mana stones, she couldn't hire anyone other since they would want the payment first. However, if he agreed, she could pay him later.

"Because I need to travel quite far away to complete my mission, and if I were to help you, the deadline for my mission would be over."

He wanted to complete his mission as soon as possible and return to the academy to grind more LPs from Jasmine and others and enhance the rest of his Mana.

So, he couldn't afford to waste his time to earn a few hundred Mana stones.

"Oh? Where do you need to go?" Eliana asked.

"Sun feather city," Max replied.

"Good!" She exclaimed and quickly said, "I also need to go somewhere near the sun feather city, and I can take you there in under one day since I have a flying pet with me."

"If that's the case, I don't have any problem helping you. However, what exactly would I need to do?" He agreed since that would be quicker, and maybe he could work things out with her.

"I'll tell you after we go there." Eliana smiled and stood up. Max followed behind her as they walked out of the town.

After exiting the southwestern gate, Eliana opened her pet storage bag.

Whoosh!

A purple sparrow with a wingspan of eight meters appeared in front of them. On its forehead was a strange red mark.

Chu! Chu!

It happily flew around them before landing in front of Eliana. It then rubbed its head at her chest with a happy expression. Eliana also happily caressed its head.

"Is it a male?" Max asked instinctively.

"Huh? No, it's a female. Why do you ask?" She looked at him in puzzlement while the sparrow glared as if displeased by his question.

"No, it's nothing." Max shook his head.

"Okay then, let's go." She didn't bother with what he meant and climbed on the sparrow.

Whoosh! Thud!

Max also tried to climb up, but the sparrow shook its wing, causing him to fall. However, he landed safely on his feet due to his fast reaction.

"Hehe, little purple. Why are you being rude?" Eliana laughed and acted as if she was rebuking it.

Max looked at the duo with raised eyebrows. He could see that they did this on purpose.

Chu! Chu!

The sparrow glanced at him and chirped a few times which caused Eliana to burst out in laughter.

"Hehe, although what you are saying is right, he is my helper in this mission, so let him up, okay." Eliana gently stroked its neck while giggling like a child.

Chu!

The Sparrow chirped again and opened its wings, ready to fly.

"You can come up now. She won't misbehave now." Eliana said, trying to suppress her laughter.

Max was speechless seeing her childish antics. However, he had to say that she looked very enchanting while laughing.

Whoosh!

After Max climbed up, the sparrow flapped its wings and shot into the air. In an instant, it was more than 500 meters above the ground.

Because Max couldn't stabilize himself when it took off so suddenly, Max grabbed Eliana's waist so that he wouldn't fall off.

"Ahh ~~ What are you doing?" Eliana jumped up in fright and yelled in anger.

"Holding onto you." Max awkwardly said.

"Don't touch me if you don't want to die." She gave him a death glare, and her three-star Mana started to radiate from her.

"Sigh! I didn't do this on purpose. Your bird took off before I could stabilize myself on it. I had no choice but to grab whatever was near me." Max explained with a helpless expression.

After Max said this, the aura stopped radiating from her, but her expression remained the same. "No matter the reason, it would be best if you didn't touch me."

'The fuck! What's your problem, woman?' Max wanted to shout this out loud. He had just praised her, but she immediately made him regret it. He suppressed his anger and felt it would've been better if he hadn't agreed to her request.

Noticing that his expression had become ugly, Eliana realized she had gone overboard again. However, she didn't apologize this time.

...

When it was evening, they could see a city in the distance. Rocky hills surrounded it on three sides, and on the fourth side was the forest.

"Is that the sun feather city?" Max asked.

"Mm. That's right." Eliana nodded.

However, the sparrow didn't stop and flew past the city.

Seeing this, Max realized something and asked, "Are we going to the kingdom's border?"

"Yes." Eliana nodded.

"Shouldn't you have told me that beforehand?" Max said in displeasure.

The southern border was a dangerous area because the Green leaf kingdom was on bad terms with the neighboring Red Moon Kingdom.

It was on par with the Green leaf kingdom in terms of strength. However, it was very ambitious and wanted to extend its territories in the Green leaf kingdom, which caused both kingdoms to become hostile.

The Green leaf kingdom's border aligned with the Red moon kingdom's from south to northeast. However, because the Royal capital was near the northern border, it was safe, but the southern border was constantly under attack.

The Red moon forces would have already conquered the southern border if it weren't for the Cloud academy's support, which was situated near it.

"What? Are you scared?" Eliana mockingly asked.

Max looked at her speechlessly. Why wouldn't he be scared? Even though he was a tier stronger than other two-star mages, he was still a two-star mage, and at the chaotic border, a two-star mage wouldn't even know when he died. Even early-stage three-star mages couldn't confidently say that they would survive there.

"Hehe, don't worry. We won't be going too near to the battlefield." Eliana laughed after seeing his expression.

By nightfall, they arrived above the stretch of a desolate region. There was nothing in sight but endless sand.

"Little purple, land there." Eliana patted the sparrow and pointed toward a small hill.

Chu!

The sparrow chirped in exhaustion and landed above the hill.

"Good job, Little purple. Here eat these." After they climbed down, Eliana patted the sparrow, took out a few fist-sized fruits, and gave them to the bird.

Chu! Chu!

The purple bird chirped happily and nibbled on the fruits. After the sparrow was done eating them, Eliana put it in the pet storage bag.

She then turned toward Max and said, "Someone had accidentally found a colony of black beetles. That colony has at least a few dozen two-star and two early-stage three-star black beetles."

Eliana took a deep breath and said, "I need you to stall two-star ones while I kill two three-star ones."

Max's expression became solemn hearing this. He had read about black beetles. They were infamous for their sharp teeth that could cut through almost anything, including Mana attacks and turtle-like defense.

Max was sure that he could kill them one by one without much problem, thanks to his enhanced Mana. However, there was no hope if he had to fight a few dozen simultaneously.

Chapter 230: Luring the Beetles away

Noticing his expression, Eliana smiled, "You don't need to fight them."

She then took out a grayish metallic ball and gave it to Max.

"This is the black beetles' favorite mineral. Use this and lure them away. I'll handle the rest." Explained Eliana and then asked, "You can do this much, right?"

Max took the metallic ball and looked at her with raised brows, "Yes. However, are you sure you can handle two three-star beasts?"

"Yes. You don't have to worry about me?" Eliana nodded with a confident look.

"Okay." Max shrugged and then asked, "We aren't going to attack now, are we?" It was already night, and their vision was restricted, while black beetles wouldn't have any problem at night since they were nocturnal creatures.

"No, we will take action after sunrise." Eliana shook her head. She then walked toward a flat area on the hill, took out a bed, and said, "You can find someplace to sleep on this hill. There isn't any danger here."

Max looked at her for a moment and walked away. He found a flat surface a few meters away and took a Mattress out of his spatial bag to sleep on.

As he lay on it, he smelt an intoxicating fragrance from the mattress. It was Anna's. She had been using this mattress before moving in with him.

"Aren't you going to cultivate before sleeping?" Eliana's voice sounded.

"No. I'm worn out after sitting on your bird. I'll be sleeping now." Max shook his head and closed his eyes.

Eliana looked at him with a frown and murmured, "Such a lazy guy. I hope he can complete his task without causing me any problems."

"Don't worry about it." Max's voice sounded, which caused her to almost jump up in surprise. She hadn't expected his senses to be so strong.

This also caused her opinion of him to improve a bit. She then sat on the bed and started meditating. On the other hand, Max had fallen asleep in just a few minutes.

...

Chu! Chu!

In the morning, Max woke up after hearing the chirps of Eliana's sparrow.

"You are awake." Eliana glanced toward him. She was feeding her 'Little purple' some fruits. She then said, "We will be taking action in one hour. Get ready."

"Okay." Max yawned as he stood up and stored the mattress.

After one hour, Max and Eliana sat on the little purple and flew a few dozen more miles into the desert.

A rocky hill appeared in sight. Eliana pointed at it and said, "That's the lair of those beetles."

They then landed in front of the hill. A cave was dug out in the hard rocks, which was the entrance to the lair of black beetles.

Eliana stored her pet sparrow and said, "I'm going to hide while you lure them out of the cave. Okay."

"What if those three-star beetles also came after me?" Max asked.

"They won't. This piece of mineral isn't too attractive for three-star beetles." She shook her head. "Go. You need to stall them for around only around five minutes." Saying this, she moved away from the cave entrance and hid behind some rocks.

Max looked at the cave solemnly, took a deep breath, and entered it without making any sound.

The cave wasn't too big and had a downward slope. After walking for a minute, he saw at least a few hundred black metallic-looking beetles lying on both sides of the cave or more like a tunnel.

The smaller ones were half a meter large and were most in number, while the bigger ones were a little more than one meter large and numbered only two or three dozen.

He could faintly see the figures of two beetles, more than three meters in size, at the end of the cave.

He let out a breath after seeing that all of them were sleeping and controlled his breathing in case he woke them up.

After that, he took a few steps back and brought out the metal ball.

Hu~

When the metal ball appeared in his hand, all one-star and two-star beetles seemed to sense it, opened their eyes, and looked toward him.

Max's breathing almost stopped after being stared at by so many beasts simultaneously. He unconsciously took one more step back.

Clatter~

Noticing him move, all the beetles stood up on their fours and ran toward him, making clattering sounds.

Whoosh!

Seeing this, orange-colored Mana enveloped his feet, and he shot out of the cave like a bullet.

Eliana saw him run out of the cave, followed by a swarm of countless black beetles. As she noticed his speed, she paused. 'This guy...'

After Max and the beetles had gone more than a mile away, she charged into the cave.

...

Max turned around and noticed that the distance between him and the beetles was increasing. Due to this, some one-star ones had stopped chasing him and turned back to return to the cave.

'If this continues, all of them will lose the motivation and return to the cave.'

Thinking this, he stopped using his three-star Mana and ran at sixty percent of his Maximum speed. This made two-star beetles close the distance, and one-star ones also used their all to close the gap.

When the distance between them was only one hundred meters, he increased his speed and continued to run. Very quickly, they had run for twenty miles.

By now, most of the one-star beetles had stopped chasing and turned back, while two-star ones also realized that they wouldn't be able to catch up, so they also stopped and started retreating.

"It's been more than five minutes. She should be done by now." Max murmured as he watched the beetles go back.

'I should kill a few two-star ones to sell their cores later.' He thought and raised his hand, and his three-star Mana surged out.

A few dozen fiery arrows materialized and then shot toward the group of two-star beetles.

Chapter 231: Eliana's advice

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The fire arrows shot toward a group of two-star beetles. As they collided with beetles' steel-like shells, dust and sparks flew around.

Krrr~~~

The beetles screeched in pain. When the dust cleared, the beetles that were hit on their shells, although alive, their shells were scorched and broken, while those hit in unguarded areas like the neck were killed.

Max smiled, seeing this, and once again cast [Death Rain], but this time he had to two-star Mana since the last attack had consumed thousand out of fifteen hundred Mana points.

Although this weakened his attack a few times, the already injured beetles were killed with ease. As for the others, Max didn't pursue them.

He quickly dug out their Mana cores, and his face blossomed with a smile.

"13 black beetle cores. Hehe, these will get me quite a few Mana stones." Max laughed. Black beetle cores were precious compared to other cores because they had pure dark elemental Mana and were helpful in making dark elemental artifacts and other things.

After storing the beast cores in his inventory, Max ran back to the hill to see how the fight between three-star beings had gone.

However, when he reached there, the hill was replaced by rubbles, and bodies of three-star black beetles were blasted into pieces. Eliana was sitting on a rock playing with her sparrow.

From the looks of it, she was unharmed, which was unusual since she fought two three-star beasts at once.

"Oh? You are back." Noticing his arrival, Eliana glanced at him with a smile on her face. When she saw his surprised expression, her smile widened, and she felt satisfied.

"Mm?" She paused for a moment when she saw that he was also unharmed and looked the same as before. 'Heh! He must have only run and didn't fight any.' She scoffed in her heart.

"Let's go back now. I'll drop you in the sun feather city. As for the payment for your help, I'll give it to you after returning to the academy." She said and climbed on the little purple.

"It's no problem." Max nodded and climbed up.

After flying for a while, Max looked at her and asked, "With your current strength, which rank do you think you can achieve in the inter-academy competition?"

Hearing his question, Eliana looked into the horizon and sighed, "I'm not sure if I can get in the top ten."

"Oh?" Max exclaimed and thought, 'It seems simply breaking through to the three-star realm won't be enough if I want to rank in the top three.'

Eliana turned to look at him and asked in a strange tone, "Are you also aiming to participate in the ranking competition?"

"That's right." Max nodded.

Hearing his confirmation, she didn't say anything and continued looking ahead.

...

Chu!

After three hours of continuous flying, they arrived above the sun feather city. Eliana directed her pet which then landed in front of the city's gate, causing the guards and other people patrolling the vicinity to become alert.

"You're on your own now," Eliana said.

"Thanks." Max nodded and jumped down.

"If you are aiming for the inter-academy competition, I advise you to stop playing around and put more effort into improving your strength. You should be at least a mid-stage three-star mage with above-average spells to rank in the top ten." Eliana suddenly said before flying away.

"Mid-stage, huh?" Max murmured as he watched her disappear on the horizon.

He then walked toward the city gate. His mission was to destroy a bandit group called one-eyed bandits.

This group was newly formed and had a dozen one-star mages, a middle-stage mage, and a high-stage two-star mage as their leader. He was to report to the city lord's mansion, which would tell him about their current location.

Guards didn't stop him after seeing that he was a disciple of the Cloud academy.

After entering the city, he realized that although there was a risk of getting robbed by bandits, the city was filled with merchants and other people who were there to trade.

The market here was a few times larger than that of Belsh town. Before going to the city lord's mansion, Max roamed around the market. He wanted to sell the things he got after killing the trio and didn't need, such as the green barbed whip, some pills, and the pet storage bag.

He found a shop set up by a group of merchants focused on buying, selling, and exchanging things.

"Welcome, dear customer. Are you here to buy or sell?" A middle-aged woman in leather clothing came forward and greeted. From her looks, she looked like a warrior, not some shopkeeper.

"I want to sell some things," Max said.

"Okay, please follow me." She then led him to a small room for privacy and asked him to take the things out that he wanted to sell.

Max was a bit surprised by this. He only wanted to sell some small things, and there wasn't any need for such secrecy.

Noticing his expression, the woman smiled and explained, "You should know that the sun feather city, although very prosperous, is filled with bandits that not only operate outside the city but also inside. They have people here who keep an eye on everyone, and if seen buying or selling some valuable things, you are sure to be robbed the moment you step out of the city."

Hearing this, Max nodded in understanding and realized that the bandit problem was indeed very severe. If not for the fact that Cloud academy provided protection inside the city and things produced in the city were valuable, the city would have become barren.

He then took out the things he wanted to sell and placed them in front of the lady.

"A high-tier grade two whip, grade two Mana replenishing pills, healing pills, poison pills...." The woman gave the things a cursory glance and recognized everything, showing her expertise.

"If you want to sell things, I can give you 700 Mana stones." She stated her price and looked at him.

"And what about this?" Max nodded and took out the pet storage bag.

"A pet storage bag? Are you sure you want to sell it too?" The shopkeeper's eyes twinkled.

Chapter 232: Underestimation?

"Yes." Max smiled and handed the pet storage bag to her.

Right now, he only wanted to gather as many Mana stones as possible to buy the medicine to heal Flavia's scar. Apart from that, Anna and others also needed quite a lot of them to improve their strength; this was especially true for Anna since she wasn't like Belen and others who could benefit from Max.

Moreover, as his strength improved, the enemies he encountered also became stronger. When fighting them, his Mana consumption also increased drastically. Therefore, he needed Mana stones to replenish his Mana since mana replenishing pills took a lot of time to do so.

Furthermore, keeping this bag would be useless since he didn't have a pet beast yet, and even if he had, the space inside wasn't enough for a larger beast. So, it was best to sell it and gain much-needed Mana stones.

"As you wish." The attendant hurriedly took the pet storage bag and started to inspect it.

However, after inspecting it, her slightly excited expression was replaced by disappointment as she sighed, "It's a low-tier storage bag, and the space inside isn't big enough for most of the beasts. Still, I can give you two thousand Mana stones for it."

"What about the beast inside it?" Max asked with a faint smile on his face.

"Is there a beast inside?" The attendant was puzzled and carefully scanned through the small dimension and noticed a fist-sized bee lying amidst the bushes.

"It's a tracking bee!" She exclaimed, and her expression recovered a bit. She then took it out to inspect it.

Buzz!

The bee immediately tried to fly away. Beasts only obeyed their masters because they were enslaved by imprinting a slave seal in their bodies which also worked as a spiritual connection between them and their masters.

After Max killed its master, it obviously felt the slave seal disappear, but because it was in the pet bag, it couldn't come out on its own. Therefore, when it was taken out, it instinctively tried to flee in case it was enslaved again.

"Get back here!" The attendant unleashed her aura and suppressed the bee instantly.

Max felt her aura and realized that she was a three-star mage which caused him to be a bit surprised. However, on further thought, it wasn't surprising since how can a normal person become a merchant in a place like this if they didn't have enough strength to protect themselves?

She inspected the bee and said, "I can give a thousand Mana stones for it as it is only a one-star beast."

"Okay." Max nodded. Although he didn't know what should be its maximum price, one thousand Mana stones should be more than enough for a one-star beast that didn't have any other ability apart from tracking.

After that, the attendant paid him a total of three thousand and seven hundred low-grade Mana stones and asked whether he wanted to buy anything.

However, Max didn't need anything, so he departed from the shop and headed toward the city lord's mansion to report and gather information about the one-eyed bandit group.

...

The two guards, one man and one woman in their thirties, stood in front of the city lord's mansion's gate. Noticing Max walking toward them, they were about to stop him but noticed his uniform and the inner disciples' emblem on his chest.

They smiled and greeted, "Hello, fellow disciple. Are you here for a mission?"

"Hello, seniors. Yes. I'm here for the mission." Max nodded as he returned the greeting. These guards used to be inner disciples of the Cloud academy that's they addressed him as a 'fellow disciple.'

Until disciples weren't thirty years old, they would be a disciple and could stay in the academy. After one became thirty years old, they needed to leave.

However, those who didn't want to leave and reached the three-star realm were allowed to apply to become Elders of the academy or protectors of the academy. As for those who were below the three-star realm, they had to become 'workers' for the academy.

This way, they would still be considered a member of the academy and get resources according to their strength and the work they were assigned to. These two guards were in the latter category.

They glanced at the badge and allowed him to enter. After Max had disappeared into the depths of the mansion, one of the guards sighed with pity, "He must be a new disciple. Sigh! Such a young life will be lost."

Most of the disciples who came to the sun feather city were either new disciples who wanted to prove themselves or seasoned three-star disciples. However, unlike three-star disciples, the new disciples weren't able to go back alive in most cases, and from his looks, Max was obviously a new disciple.

...

"Hello, fellow disciple. How may I help you?" A petite woman in skin-tight beige-colored clothes came forward and greeted Max when he entered the front hall; her eyes fixated on his face.

Max looked at her and remembered Mina, his stepmother. Except for the fact that her breasts weren't as large as hers, and she seemed to be an outgoing type, she resembled her quite a lot.

"I'm here to report for the mission and ask for its details," Max said and smiled at her, causing her to blush slightly. It was obvious she was attracted to him.

"You aren't here for the mission to kill bandits, right?" The woman's expression changed, and she asked.

"Yes. I am." Max nodded and felt a headache brewing. He knew what she was going to say.

"Where is the rest of your group? Don't tell me you are alone?" She asked again.

"You are right. I'm alone. Can you please tell me where to report?" Max said impatiently. He didn't want her to preach to him now.

"You...!" She became speechless by his reply and stomped her foot in anger, and walked away. "Follow me."

Max shook his head and was amused seeing a grown woman behave like a little girl and followed after her. She led him to a room in the inner area of the mansion and knocked.

"Elder, may I come in?"

"Come." An exhausted voice sounded from inside the room.

The petite woman pushed open the door and entered inside. Max followed.

When he stepped into the room, he saw a middle-aged woman in Elder's robes sitting behind a big wooden table full of papers; under her eyes were black circles, and she looked as if she would fall asleep anytime now.

Since this city was under the control of Cloud academy, the academy had to send people to manage it. This Elder was sent here to take care of transactions and the daily business of the city and some other stuff.

"Elder, this disciple here is to ask for his mission details." The petite woman said.

"Mm?" The Elder glanced at Max and shook her head. "What are the people in charge of assigning the mission doing? How can they send someone so young?"

Max's eyebrows furrowed. "Elder, is age a deciding factor if someone is strong or not?" He asked. He didn't like being looked down upon like this by everyone.

The petite woman looked at him and then the Elder. She was afraid that the Elder would be angry with his retort. She knew that the Elder was always in a bad mood due to the various things she had to take care of all day.

However, the Elder didn't get angry and laughed instead, "No, but it tells whether you are experienced or not, which is equally important."

Max didn't say anything since what she said was logical.

The Elder then laughed. "Hehe, little boy, you must be unhappy because you think I'm looking down on you, right? However, let me tell you that I'm not."

"I can see that your talent is among the best, considering that you have already reached the peak two-star realm at such a young age. However, you won't be able to complete your mission."

Hearing this, Max frowned. He hadn't even stated what his mission was, but this Elder seemed so sure that he wouldn't be able to do it.

As if she knew what he was thinking, she said with a smug look, "I'm the one who requests the academy to put the missions related to sun feather city. So, the academy keep me informed about which mission has been assigned or which not.

This month there were only three mission that I've sent out. Of which only two have been accepted and the disciples who had accepted the other mission has already reported. So, I know exactly which mission you are assigned to."

She then calmed down and said "Although, based on the one-eyed bandits description given in the mission, you, as a peak two-star mage, should be able to handle them or at least return alive, I've been informed that the bandit leader has recently acquired a grade three elemental weapon. Therefore, even if you have strength to fight their group, you won't survive against that grade three weapon. I've already asked academy to change the mission's rank. If you were to give up on this mission, academy won't punish you."

- Chapter 233: Hunting the bandits |

Chapter 233: Hunting the bandits

"A grade three elemental weapon?" Max exclaimed in surprise and understood why she was so sure that he won't be able to complete this mission.

"That's right." The Elder nodded and rubbed her sleepy eyes, and continued, "I've already asked the academy to change the rank of the mission. So, you can choose to give up on this mission, and the academy won't give you any punishment."

Max thought for a second and asked, "If I do that, will I be considered to have completed this month's mandatory mission?"

If this were the case, he didn't have any problem giving up on this mission. After all, after learning how dangerous a bandit-killing mission in the sun feather city could be, he had decided that he would give up if it was too dangerous for him.

The Elder looked at him and shook her head. "I'm afraid not. At most, You'll be given some compensation for wasting your time coming here and then assigned another mission."

"Is that so?" Max was disappointed. He knew that if any situation where mission difficulty was higher than mentioned in the mission details or some other anomaly were to occur, the academy would compensate the disciples who took the mission and went to complete it.

However, this 'compensation' was ten, only percent of the promised reward of the assigned mission. Since this silver-ranked mission was worth only a thousand Mana stones initially, he would be given only a hundred, which was too low for him, and he would have to waste more time to complete another mission.

The Elder noticed his disappointed expression and frowned unhappily. She hated disciples who acted like this the most and said, "If you don't like the situation, you are welcome to go and try to complete the mission. No one is going to stop you."

Max could see that the Elder seemed somewhat angry from her tone, but he didn't care and asked, "If I were to complete it, how much reward would I receive?"

"Hm?" The Elder looked at him weirdly. She hadn't expected him to ask this despite knowing that the difficulty of the mission had gone up and the previously hard-to-complete mission for a solo two-star mage had become even more difficult.

'Could he be aiming for the grade three weapon...?' She suddenly realized this. First, she became surprised, then disappointed, and lastly, a mocking expression appeared on her face. 'Your greed will be the cause of your death.' She sneered inwardly and laughed,

"Hehe, if you can finish this mission, I'll reward you with 5000 Mana stones, and everything you get from the bandits will be yours. However, it won't be my responsibility if you were to die."

"Are you sure?" Max's eyes twinkled upon hearing that he would be able to keep everything he got from them.

He would have tried to complete this mission since he didn't want to waste more time. Moreover, it didn't matter much to him if they had a grade three weapon as long as they weren't peak two-star mages with some of their Mana converted to three-star Mana.

However, after hearing that he could keep everything, his resolve to complete this mission became even more firm. It should be known that a three-star weapon's rarity and value were at least a dozen times more than grade two weapons. Moreover, it wasn't a normal grade three weapon but an elemental one.

If he could get this, the wealth he could gain after selling it should be close, if not enough, to buy the required medicine for Flavia. After hearing that girl's plea in front of Flavia's room, he didn't want to wait until the inter-academy competition to heal her scar if he could.

The petite woman standing beside him looked at him in surprise, which soon turned to disappointment. 'This guy is too greedy and overconfident.' On the other hand, the Elder stopped laughing and gave him a deep look before nodding, "Of course."

Although she also thought that he might be underestimating himself, seeing that he didn't show any signs of fear all this while, she felt that this youth might have some means to complete the mission successfully, and this caused her to become hopeful.

This one-eyed bandit group had been causing too much trouble lately, causing the city lord's mansion to be flooded with complaints and requests to deal with them as soon as possible. This made her head hurt.

She even considered going out herself and killing them off, but she knew that these bandits had a strong information network in the city and would flee after finding out that a three-star mage was heading toward them.

That's why she requested the academy to send a peak two-star disciple to deal with them. Unfortunately, the bandit leader happened to acquire a grade three weapon, causing her to send another request to modify the mission and cancel the old one.

She knew it would take a few more days before some other disciples accepted this mission, if at all. All this while, these bandits would cause more trouble. However, If he could deal with them, that would solve all problems.

"Okay then. Please give me all the necessary information." Max nodded and asked.

"Come here and sign this form first." The Elder gave him a form titled 'consent form.' Signing this mission meant that he would be responsible if anything were to happen to him and that the Elder had informed him of the current situation.

After he signed that, she told the petite woman to lead him to the bandits' hideout and tell whatever she knew about them.

...

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two figures flashed through the forest and arrived in front of a small canyon.

"That is the one-eyed bandits' hideout." Hiding in a tall tree, the petite woman pointed inside the canyon.

Max glanced ahead and noticed more than fifty caves some distance in the canyon. His brows furrowed, and asked, "Didn't the information say that there were only fourteen members in this group? There should be fourteen caves at most. Then why are there so many?"

The petite woman smiled and explained, "The information is correct. There are indeed only fourteen people if they hadn't managed to recruit more in the past few days. The purpose of creating so many caves is to trick and trap the enemies. Most of these caves have trapping formations that can trap anyone below the three-star realm and alert the bandits at the same time. After that, the bandits can easily take care of them."

"Oh? That's really troublesome." Max murmured.

If anyone attacking the bandits didn't know about the exact cave where they were staying, they would be trapped and killed by bandits without much trouble, and Max was in the same situation. He didn't know about the exact cave they were in, and even if he knew, it wasn't like he could just charge in and kill them.

"Yes, that's indeed troublesome. Therefore, I advise you to wait here, and when they come out, you can consider attacking." The petite woman advised.

"I'll have to do this." Max nodded.

"Okay then. My job here is complete. I should head back. Good luck." She bade farewell and went away.

Max watched her leave and then sat down on the tree branch, waiting for the bandits to come out or come back if they were out robbing people.

...

Very soon, it was evening, and Max had started to feel hungry. Just as he was about to take out something to eat, he noticed three figures in black clothes walk out from the caves.

He immediately became alert and started to prepare [Calidus Brachium] in advance. He didn't use his three-star Mana because even if he used the two-star Mana, it was strong enough to kill some early or middle-stage two-star mages.

Moreover, he had only had a limited amount converted, and it would be best if he saved it in case he suddenly encountered some other danger.

After coming out of the cave, they headed in his direction. Max didn't make any movement and waited for them to travel a few miles away from the canyon before attacking so as not to alert other bandits.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

The three bandits rushed past the tree on which Max was hiding and headed in the direction of the sun feather city.

Max stealthily followed behind. When they were more than five miles away from the canyon, Max closed the distance between them and raised his hand.

Swoosh!

Fiery arrows materialized above him and shot toward them at lightning-quick speed due to him using some extra Mana.

"Watch out!" The bandit at the back suddenly heard something flying toward them from behind and called out to the other two as he jumped to the side.

Although his reaction was quick, an arrow still pierced his leg. While the other two were taken completely off guard and were pierced by multiple arrows. HSHDA AHHFAH
HADFHAS HAHFAS

Chapter 234: Don't expect to return alive

"Tell me, how many of you bandits are still in the caves?" Max raised the bandit in the air by the neck and asked coldly.

"Argh! Who are you?" The bandit struggled to speak. He wasn't able to breathe properly.

"Tell me what I asked." Max used a bit more strength but his expression remained emotionless.

"Argh! I'll... I'll tell you." Fear flashed in the bandit's eyes. Max nodded and loosened his grip to let him speak more freely.

"No... Cough! There is no one there. The gang leader has taken everyone with him in the morning..." The bandit started to speak.

After telling him everything, the bandit had a begging expression and tried to speak
"Can you let me-"

Crack!

Max didn't bother with him anymore and snapped his neck without hesitation, instantly killing him.

After that, he took their spatial bags and found a total of four hundred Mana stones, a few pills, and one grade-two weapon. He then stored everything in his inventory and tossed a fireball on the bandit's body before moving in the direction of the city.

After interrogating the bandit, he found out that the bandit leader had received the information that a relatively wealthy merchant group was coming to Sun Feather City to trade.

Therefore, he had taken all of the members with him to ambush this merchant group a dozen miles away from the Sun Feather City.

Half an hour later, Max neared the place where the bandit group should be waiting for the merchant group while making sure not to make any noise.

"Hm?" When he was half a mile away, he suddenly heard some fighting sounds coming from the direction of the main road.

Whoosh!

He increased his speed and sped off in that direction.

...

Meanwhile, on the main road...

"Keke, Resistance is futile. I advise you to hand over all the precious things you have if you don't want to die." A one-eyed man in black clothes laughed wickedly while swinging a yellow-colored spear in his hand. Six more figures in black clothes stood behind him.

In front of them were three people, one middle-aged man, and two females. One of which was very young, while the other one was a middle-aged woman.

"Young miss, we should just give up. It's not worth it to die for some wealth." The middle-aged man suggested as he looked at the young girl in a red dress in the middle.

She was barely nineteen years old and looked very pure. However, right now, her expression was deathly pale. Blood was flowing down from the corners of her mouth, and she was clutching her stomach, which had a deep bloody wound.

"Yes, young miss. He is right. We need you to get treated as soon as possible, or you might die due to blood loss." The other woman also agreed with the suggestion. She was even more heavily injured, and her whole body was bloodied. She looked as if she would collapse anytime now.

The girl in red glanced at the two of them and could see that the current situation wasn't in their favor. However, when she looked at the corpses around them, her expression became deadly.

She looked at the bandit group, and her eyes radiated intense killing intent as she spoke through gritted teeth, "I can't let the deaths of my people in vain. These bastards must die."

As she said this, a strong surge of Mana exploded out from her body. A flame lit on her hand, which she used to burn the wound on her stomach and stop the bleeding.

"Young miss!" The middle-aged man and the woman's expressions changed seeing this. They knew that their young miss, although somewhat arrogant and short tempered but was very kind and couldn't see her subordinate suffer. But they didn't expect her to treat herself so brutally.

Even the expressions of the bandits changed. They hadn't thought a young girl like her would be so cruel to herself, and the expression of the bandit leader became grim, and killing intent flashed in his eyes.

Whoosh!

After stopping the bleeding, she moved toward the bandit leader and punched out. Two large fire fists materialized, which also followed her motion and punched at him.

"Hehe, little beauty. You have quite the temper, huh?" The bandit leader laughed grimly and thrust the spear toward her.

Bang!

The spear collided with the fire fists and easily destroyed them, and then continued toward her chest.

Whoosh!

A deep gash was left on her chest as she was thrown backward, spitting out blood.

"Young miss." The middle-aged man and the bloodied woman appeared behind the girl in red and stopped from crashing. The middle-aged man then quickly took out some pills and made her eat them.

The woman looked at the bandit leader and said in a hoarse voice, "We'll leave everything here. So, let us go."

"Let you go? I would have if you had agreed a moment ago, but now I'm going to kill you all." The bandit leader said with a murderous expression. From how decisive and

vengeful this girl was, he knew that if he let her leave, there would definitely be problems in the future.

Right now, his group was already on sun feather city's radar due to how active they have been recently, so he didn't want to increase problems for himself.

Weng!

The spear vibrated lightly as he poured his Mana into it and then stabbed toward them.

Whoosh!

The middle-aged man wanted to carry the girl and move out of the trajectory of the spear. However, the spear radiated a heavy aura, and he couldn't even move his body properly.

He and the bloodied woman watched the spear stab toward them with unstoppable momentum, their faces turned pale, and despair flashed in their eyes. The woman dragged her body in front of the spear to block it with her body and give them a chance to escape.

"Nooo...!" The expression of the girl in red changed as she cried out. She didn't want anyone to die because of her. She regretted not leaving when he gave them a chance and attacked him in anger.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Just then, a few fire arrows rained down on the bandits in the back, and a few also pierced toward the bandit leader.

"Hm?" The bandit leader reacted the instant he heard the piercing sounds, turned around, and waved his spear in a crescent arc, destroying all the arrows heading toward him.

He then shouted at his underlings, "Watch out, you idiots!"

The bandits were off guard and were watching their leader kill the trio leisurely. So, when they suddenly saw him turn around, they were dazed for a moment before reacting and dodging to the side. After all, as bandits, they had been in many life and death situations which had sharpened their reaction speed.

However, two of them were still hit. But it only caused some injuries, and none of them died.

"Sigh! So unfortunate." On top of a tree behind the bandit group, Max sighed in disappointment.

He arrived just as the bandit leader attacked the trio. In a hurry, he couldn't cast his spell properly, which caused its power to be reduced by more than half, or else he could've killed at least half of them since they were completely off guard.

Shua!

Seeing that none of them had recovered from the sudden attack yet, he jumped down in front of a bandit who was slightly injured and punched toward his head with his full power.

Bang!

The bandit was caught off guard, and Max's punch landed on his forehead, and his head exploded.

Everyone was stunned by this sudden change in the situation.

"A disciple of the Cloud academy?" The bandit leader's eyes furrowed as he recognized him by his uniform and the emblem on his chest.

The middle-aged man and company looked at Max, and their hope was reignited.

"You quickly take the young miss and escape. I'll try to stall these bandits as long as I can." The woman said in a hurry.

From Max's looks, he looked of the same age as their young miss, and at most, he would be a two-star mage. However, he still wouldn't be the bandits' match since the bandit leader had a grade three earth elemental weapon.

The middle-aged man shook his head. "You take her away. With your injuries, you won't be able to stall them. It's best I stay and give you some time to enter the sun feather city." Saying this, he stood up and started circulating his remaining Mana.

The woman looked at him, and sadness flashed in her eyes. However, she still stood up and carried the young girl, ready to escape.

Whoosh!

However, the bandit leader suddenly pointed the spear toward them, and an earth barrier enveloped the trio.

He then turned toward Max and said in a surprised tone, "I hadn't expected you to come even after knowing about my grade three weapon."

Then his expression became deadly as he laughed. "But since you were dumb enough to come, don't expect to go back alive."

Chapter 235: First mission completed

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The moment the bandit leader finished his sentence, the rest of the bandits moved and surrounded Max. They had deadly and mocking expressions when looking at him.

"Hehe, although this boy is very handsome, our bandit group's ranking among other groups would improve greatly after killing him." A mature and beautiful female bandit, who apparently was the one-eyed bandit's wife and the second strongest person with the cultivation of middle-stage two-star, giggled.

Since there were many bandit groups in the vicinity of sun feather city, they had established rankings based on their strengths and influence.

The higher ranked groups had the privilege to boss around lower ranked groups and extort protection fees. That's why every bandit group was constantly trying to raise their rankings.

Since the one-eyed bandit group was newly formed, their rankings were obviously very low among other groups. For the past few days, they had been robbing people to make their existence known in the bandit circle and raise their rankings.

However, if they were to kill the disciple of the Cloud academy who was sent here to destroy their group, their ranking would go up quite a bit.

Max glanced at the bandit woman before ignoring her and focusing on the one-eyed bandit and the spear in his hand. This caused the bandit woman's expression to darken. She knew he was looking down on her since she wasn't much of a threat to him. Although other bandits were also a bit dissatisfied, they knew that no two-star mage would put them in their eyes with their one-star strength.

'Sigh, this is an earth elemental weapon.' Max sighed in disappointment. He had hoped it to be an elemental fire weapon so that he could use it in case its worth wasn't enough to buy the medicine for Flavia.

He then moved his gaze away from the spear and focused on the bandit leader. Seeing him walk toward him with leisurely steps, Max's eyes furrowed. He knew this bandit was overconfident and looking down on him.

'Heh! If that's the case...' Max scoffed and moved toward the bandit woman at his fastest speed.

Shua!

In the next moment, he appeared in front of her. The bandit woman was dazed; she hadn't expected him to have such speed or the guts to try to kill her when he himself was in such a 'dire' situation.

The expression of the one-eyed bandit also changed. Although he was a bandit and was cruel by nature, he still cared about his woman. His leisure footsteps became hurried as he brandished his spear and moved toward Max as fast as he could.

On the other hand, the bandit woman suddenly sneered, "I wanted to leave you for the leader to kill, but since you are so eager to die. Let me fulfill your wish."

Whoosh!

Just as she finished speaking, a dagger appeared in her hand and stabbed toward his chest at a terrifying speed. Because she was focused on him, the moment he moved, she knew he was aiming for her and had circulated her Mana.

Although Max was surprised to see her fast reaction, he showed no sign of panic. Just before the dagger reached his chest, he twisted his body out of the dagger's trajectory, successfully dodging the strike.

"What?"

The bandit woman's expression turned to disbelief. She hadn't expected him to be able to dodge her attack at such a close distance. However, before she could react, Max smiled at her and punched out.

If he wasn't trying to kill her, she definitely would have admired his enchanting smile, but right now, she could only compare it to a devil's smile. Seeing his fist becoming larger in her eyes, a chill ran down her spine, and her body froze.

"Stop, you bastard." Just before the punch could land on her, the bandit leader, who was still a dozen meters away, shouted and thrust the spear toward him.

Whiz!

A beam of condensed Mana shot toward Max at an extreme speed. Max felt a strong sense of danger from it and instantly jumped to the side.

Bang!

The beam of Mana shot past him and collided with the trees in the distance, one after another, leaving fist-sized holes.

"A grade three weapon is indeed very powerful," Max murmured as cold sweat appeared on his forehead. He could see that the bandit leader didn't do anything apart from pouring some of his Mana into the spear and thrusting it out.

Even so, the resulting beam was so powerful. This caused him to be extremely surprised, and at the same time, he was also relieved. 'Fortunately, he is just a high-stage two-star mage and can't use its full power, or I won't have any chance to fight him at all and would have died.'

Shua!

After forcing Max away, the bandit leader arrived beside his wife and stood before her. The bandit woman was relieved that she was still alive, and anger burned in her eyes as she spoke in a vicious tone, "Leave him half dead. I want to kill him by my own hands."

"Okay." The bandit leader nodded and looked at Max with an angry expression.

Whoosh!

After stabilizing himself, Max raised his hand, and a few dozen fire arrows materialized in the air above him.

Weng!

Seeing this, the bandit leader immediately poured his Mana into the spear, ready to defend.

However, his expression suddenly changed when he noticed Max looking toward the rest of the bandits and shouted, "Watch out."

Shu! Shu! Shu!

However, his warning was a bit too late. Before anyone could react, the fire arrows had pierced all of the one-star bandits' bodies and started to burn them.

After killing them, Max felt dizzy and took a deep breath to calm his mind. Because these bandits weren't standing in the same place and had some distance between them, he had to focus his Mind on targeting them at the same time.

Seeing this, the one-eyed bandit's face turned red in anger and shouted, "Bastard, I'll kill you no matter what." With much difficulty was he able to recruit these bandits, but now Max had killed all of them. This caused him to lose his rationality as he poured all of his remaining Mana into the spear.

"I don't think so." Max snickered coldly as faint orange-colored Mana surged out from his body and started to condense around his fist. He couldn't afford to be careless when facing someone with a grade-three weapon.

At the same time, he used his two-star Mana and threw two big fireballs toward them in order to interrupt or at least slow down the speed at which the one-eyed bandit injected his Mana into the spear.

Boom! Boom!

"You continue injecting Mana in it." The bandit woman said and used a spell to condense two long spears, which then slammed into the fireballs, causing them to explode.

Seeing this, Max's expression became solemn. From what he saw earlier, the one-eyed bandit only needed to inject his Mana to use the spear. Therefore, he immediately ran into the forest to buy some more time. He only needed ten seconds to cast his [Calidus Brachium] successfully.

"Where do you think you are going?" The one-eyed bandit barked and chased after Max. However, he couldn't run at his full speed since he had to focus on injecting Mana into the spear because he wasn't like Max, who could do so even when running at his top speed. The bandit woman also didn't dare to chase him alone since Max could easily kill her.

After three seconds, Max was half a mile away from the bandit duo since he wasn't running at his top speed. The one-eyed bandit's speed suddenly doubled as he was done injecting all of his Mana into the spear.

Noticing this, Max immediately increased his speed and put more distance between them since he knew that the spear's attack range was relatively high.

After seven seconds, Max was done casting as his fist burned with crimson fire.

'The intensity of this fire is several times higher than before.' After noticing this, Max was pleasantly surprised and turned around before charging toward the bandit duo.

"Hm?" The bandit duo was surprised to see this. The one-eyed bandit laughed coldly and raised his speed.

"Be careful. He seems to have cast a spell." The bandit woman warned from behind.

The one-eyed bandit didn't respond and continued toward Max. He had already noticed his burning fist and guessed that he must need to be in close range to his target before he could use it.

However, he didn't need to fear it since the range of his spear could attack was a hundred meters. The moment Max entered his hundred-meter range, he would attack and kill him.

Seeing this, Max snickered coldly. He knew what this bandit was thinking. When he was two hundred meters away from him, faint orange-colored Mana wrapped around his feet, causing his speed to rise dramatically, and he seemed to teleport in front of the bandit in the next moment.

"What?" The one-eyed bandit exclaimed in disbelief, and suddenly, a heavy sensation of death appeared in his heart.

Chapter 236: Mission completed [2]

A few hundred meters away from them, the bandit woman's face also turned pale. However, remembering that her husband had a grade three weapon, she was a bit relieved. However, in the next moment, her expression froze.

Shua!

After closing in on him, Max raised his blazing fist and punched out with all his strength. The one-eyed bandit felt a horrifying sensation wash over him and hurriedly thrust his spear at him.

BOOM!!!

A loud explosion sounded as his spear and Max's blazing fist collided. Everything in more than a dozen meters from the center of the explosion was annihilated, the trees, the rocks, and the ground; nothing was left intact.

Arghh~~

Right after the explosion, a shrill and pained scream resounded in the area, and the half-burnt body of the one-eyed bandit flew back, crashing into trees after trees. After falling to the ground, he struggled for a few moments before dying.

Cough! Cough!

Amidst the cloud of dust at the center of the explosion, Max spat out some blood and coughed a few times.

"As expected, [Calidus Brachium] is several times stronger when cast using three-star Mana." He muttered with a happy smile on his face and slowly walked out from the cloud of dust.

When his fist collided with the spear, Max felt a strong pressure that caused his blood flow to become chaotic. However, when [Calidus Brachium] exploded, the spear developed a crack on it, and its power weakened dramatically, and the one-eyed bandit had to bear the brunt of his attack head-on.

"He... he died?" The bandit woman mumbled in disbelief.

"Don't worry. I'll send you to accompany him soon." Max's cold voice sounded in her ears. Hearing this, she shivered.

Whoosh!

She immediately turned around and ran away. However, she was enraged and saddened by her husband's death. There was nothing she could do, and could only think of her own survival now.

"Hehe, do you think you can escape from me?" Max laughed and stored the spear and one-eyed bandit's body before chasing after her.

In just a few seconds, he caught up with her and started casting [Death Rain] to finish her off, but suddenly system's voice sounded in his mind.

[Host, since you are going to kill her, why not use her to get more Lust points?]

"Mm?" Max paused for a second and couldn't help but glance at the woman escaping. She was indeed a beauty, and he could certainly do it.

However, he shook his head and coldly said, "No, and I don't want you to suggest this to me ever again, understand?" Although he needed a large number of LPS, he wasn't a rapist and had his morals.

[Understood, host."] The system replied in a somewhat helpless voice.

Max then ignored it and quickly conjured a few dozen fire arrows and shot them toward her.

However, before they could even reach ten meters away from her, her speed suddenly shot up as she sped into the woods, vanishing from his sight.

After seeing that she wasn't able to escape from him and he had caught up to her and was about to kill her, she had lost every hope of survival. However, when he suddenly paused for a moment, she immediately took out a grade three escaping talisman and crushed it.

Max watched her disappear into the woods and sighed helplessly. He would have tried to chase after her, but all of his three-star Mana had been used up when casting

[Calidus Brachium], and his two-star Mana wasn't able to boost his speed enough and was also almost empty.

Moreover, his mission had already been completed after killing most of the one-star bandits and the one-eyed bandit leader.

He then went to the place where the merchant group had been ambushed. After arriving there, he noticed that the merchant trio had already escaped from the earth barrier along with their carriage.

Therefore, he started to gather the spatial bags of the bandits he had killed, including the ones that had already died when clashing against the merchant group.

After that, he glanced at the corpses of the people who were with the merchant group and thought, 'Well, you guys are already dead. It's better that I take whatever you have instead of others.' He then gathered their bags too.

"Hmm, a total of 1600 Mana stones. Not bad." Max nodded in satisfaction. The number of Mana stones he had received after killing the bandits was almost double the reward amount he would have received previously on the completion of the mission. Moreover, this was without counting in the bandit leader's wealth and the grade three earth elemental spear.

After scavenging their corpses, he returned to the sun feather city, and seeing that there was still some time before it was night, he directly went to the city lord's mansion to report the success of his mission.

"Oh, you are already back." The petite woman was a little surprised to see him return so soon. It had been only a few hours since she left him in front of the one-eyed bandits' hideout.

Then a smile appeared on her face, and thought, 'He must have realized that this mission wasn't something he could do alone.' Thinking this, she nodded. At least this guy had some self-awareness and opened her tiny mouth to speak when Max interrupted her.

"Is Elder still available?" He asked. Since it was already late in the evening, he wasn't sure if she was still 'on duty' or not.

"Elder? Yes, she is." The petite woman instinctively answered. However, she was displeased that he didn't let her say what she wanted.

"Okay. I'm going to meet her then." Max nodded and walked inside the mansion.

The petite woman stomped in anger and followed after him. It was her duty to lead anyone that wanted to meet the Elder, but this guy had walked inside on his own.

However, she didn't say anything because she could feel that his mood wasn't good right now.

...

"You are already back. Didn't I say you won't be..." Seeing Max enter the room, the Elder chuckled with an amused expression.

"Yeah. I've completed the mission." Max said, not letting her finish.

"Completed?" The Elder and the petite woman looked at him as if he was joking.

Thud!

Seeing their expressions, Max waved his hand half-burnt body of the bandit leader fell to the ground. As for his spatial bag, he had already taken it.

"You really killed him?" The Elder was astonished as she looked at the corpse on the ground and then at Max.

After seeing that Max was so confident about completing this mission, although she was also a bit hopeful, she had never thought that he would be able to come back with the bandit leader's corpse in such a short time and without any visible injury whatsoever.

The petite woman was also stunned. She had never thought that this handsome and harmless-looking youth was strong enough to kill a bandit who had a grade three weapon in his possession.

"It seems I've underestimated you." The Elder gave him a deep glance before taking out a spatial bag. "Here, this is your promised reward."

"Thank you, Elder." Max took it, and after checking that there were 5000 Mana stones, he emptied them into his inventory and returned the empty bag to her.

Just as Max was about to turn around and walk out, the Elder said, "If you don't mind, can you show the grade three weapon you got from him."

"Hm?" Max paused and frowned.

"Don't worry. I won't take it from you. I only want to see what kind of weapon it is." She smiled and explained.

"Okay." Max nodded, and took out a seven-foot-long, pale golden-colored spear, and threw it toward her.

The Elder caught the spear and started examining it.

"Hm? It's damaged." She immediately noticed the small crack on it. 'It must be because it was a damaged weapon that he could kill him so easily.' She thought.

The possibility of Max damaging it during the fight never appeared in her mind since she knew that even an average low-tier grade three weapon wasn't something that a two-star or even an average three-star mage could damage, and this spear was among the stronger weapons among low-tier grade three weapons.

Seeing her examining, Max asked, "Elder, what is the approximate value of this spear?"

"It's a low-tier grade three elemental earth spear, and its value should be at fifteen thousand Mana stones. Unfortunately, it's damaged and can be sold for half the price." The Elder explained.

She wasn't surprised that he wanted to sell it. From the condition of the bandit leader's corpse, she could see that he was an elemental fire mage, and this spear was an earth elemental one.

Max became happy when he heard he could sell it for fifteen thousand Mana stones. However, after hearing the last part, his happiness died down, and he cursed in his mind, 'Why did I have to damage it?'

Chapter 237: Keep it a secret

After that, the Elder gave the spear back to him. Suddenly she smiled and said, "If you want, you can stay the night in the mansion."

"Thank you. I'll do just that then." Max nodded. Although he planned to return as soon as possible to the academy, since it was going to be night soon, he had to spend the night in the sun feather city. So, it was convenient and safer if he could stay in the city lord's mansion instead of some in.

"Good." The Elder nodded and gestured to the petite woman, "Arrange a place for him to stay."

"Yes, Elder." The petite woman nodded, led him to the mansion's residential area, and gave him a room. This room wasn't as big as the one he had back in the Garfield mansion, but it wasn't too small either.

Plop!

After sending the petite woman away, Max flopped in the bed lazily. After all that fighting and chasing, he was exhausted.

He then took out the bandit leader's spatial bag and scanned it. As he did so, his expression became colorful.

Bam!

"What kind of lousy bandit leader was he? There are only a hundred Mana stones." Max grumbled in anger.

However, after thinking about it, he understood why this was so. 'He must have used all his wealth to buy that grade three spear.'

As for why he was sure about that, the bandit leader bought it and did not rob it because anyone that could have a grade three weapon, even if he was a two-star mage, shouldn't be someone the one-eyed bandit could compare to.

'Forget it. I've already gained eight thousand Mana stones and the spear. Even if it was damaged, I should be able to sell it for more than five thousand Mana stones. Which means, In just three days, I have earned thirteen thousand Mana stones worth of wealth.' Max thought in glee. At the same time, his determination to become strong also strengthened.

It should be known that because his father wasn't strong enough to face count Wiley, the Garfield family was suppressed to the point where they couldn't receive even a single Mana stone from the Royal family.

'Just you wait, count Wiley. I'll definitely kill you.' As he remembered count Wiley, suddenly he grew angry, and Mana started to flow uncontrollably around him.

...

Knock! Knock!

After two hours, someone knocked on his door. Max got up and opened the door. The petite woman standing there. He looked at her waiting for her to speak, but she just stood there, looking at him with a dreamy look.

"Do you need something, Pretty Lady?" Max smiled as he asked.

"Oh? No. I'm here to lead you to the dining hall for dinner." The petite woman came out of her trance and blushed when she heard what he called her.

"Okay. Let's go then." Max nodded, stepped out of the room, and followed after her.

After five minutes of walking, they reached a big hall where many people were eating. Three big, long tables with many chairs placed on their side.

As they stepped inside the hall, many people noticed them. They nodded toward the petite woman and looked at Max in slight surprise and awe. Especially the females in the hall gave Max fiery glances.

The petite woman looked at these women in disdain before explaining, "This is the dining hall of the city lord's mansion. Everyone working in the city lord's mansion eats here." She then pointed at a door at the end of the hall, "See that room; only important people such as Elder are allowed to dine in there." Saying this, she walked past the tables and toward the room.

After reaching the room, she took out a token and put it into the groove.

Weng!

The door flashed with faint light and then opened. Max looked at this in surprise. Was there any need to protect it with a formation? Isn't it just a room to eat in. He thought.

However, when he stepped inside the room, he immediately understood why this was so.

The room was filled with at least five times more concentrated and pure Mana than out in the sun feather city, and the walls were decorated with paintings of mountains, rivers, and flowers that seemed to improve one's mood when looking at them. If the hall outside was an ordinary cafeteria, this room was like a five-star restaurant.

"Please wait here. Elder would be arriving soon." The petite woman gestured for him to sit down at the table.

Max nodded and sat down and started to look at the paintings. The petite woman glanced at him before going out.

After fifteen minutes, the door opened, and a middle-aged woman in a beautiful pink dress walked inside. Her body was well proportioned, skin smooth as jade, and a bit of cleavage was revealed that looked very captivating. Max looked at her in surprise.

This was the Elder, but the difference between her previous self and her current one was quite significant. When he met her earlier, she was always sitting behind the table, so Max couldn't see her properly, but from what he could see, she looked like an average middle-aged lady. However, right now, she was several times more enchanting, comparable to Jasmine.

"How do I look?" Seeing him looking at her, the Elder revealed a smile and asked.

"Beautiful," Max said without hesitation.

"Hehe, thank you." The Elder chuckled. She then pointed at the paintings, "How are these? Do you like them?"

"Yes, these are amazing and good to look at. The painter must be quite skilled." Max looked at the paintings and honestly praised them. Hearing this, the Elder revealed an even more beautiful smile.

After that, she sat in the chair in front of him and started talking about other things, such as when he joined the academy, his cultivation, etc.

Max was slightly puzzled about this change in her attitude and didn't dare to be too casual.

From the fact that she was tasked to look after one of the important cities under Cloud academy's control, he could guess that her status must be very high among other Elders, and an Elder like Jasmine couldn't compare to her.

Therefore, he didn't believe the fact that he was an inner disciple and had completed a silver-ranked mission was enough for her to treat him like this.

After a while, the petite woman entered the room with a few maids carrying food. She then also sat down and instructed the maids to serve them.

Max looked at the petite woman with a look of confusion. From his point of view, she was only an assistant of the Elder, but she didn't even ask for her permission before joining them.

The petite woman noticed this, and after the maids had left the room, she smiled and said, "The Elder is my aunt."

"Oh! That's why." Max nodded in understanding. After that, they talked while having dinner.

The petite woman's behavior was also more unrestrained right now, a big contrast from before. She proudly talked about her aunt and how talented she was.

Apart from being a powerful three-star Mage, she was also proficient in formations and had made the mana gathering and purifying formations in this room.

Moreover, she was also a painter in her free time, and the paintings on the walls were also her craft. After finding this out, Max understood why she was so happy when he praised the paintings.

...

At midnight Max was sitting cross-legged in his room, cultivating. Since he couldn't cultivate like others, he only focused on strengthening his core, recovering his Mana, and meditating.

Hu...!

He exhaled and opened his eyes. He then stood up, walked toward the bed, and lay down. However, he didn't close his eyes and seemed to be waiting for something.

Knock! Knock!

After a while, someone knocked on his door. 'Finally, here.' He smiled and went to open the door.

Creak~

A mature woman in a silky pink nightgown stood in front of his room. Max smiled and asked, "Do you need anything, Elder?"

"Aren't you gonna invite me in first?" She chuckled.

"Of course. Please come in." Max nodded and gestured for him to enter. As she stepped inside, Max closed the door.

The Elder sat on the bed, one leg over the other. She looked at him for a moment as if thinking about what to say. Finally, she asked, "I thought you wanted to sell that broken spear, right?"

Max put on a helpless expression, sat beside her, and said, "Yes, Elder. I need a lot of Mana stones to buy something.' He added this last line to make things convenient for her.

Elder's eyes lit up as he expected, and she nodded, "I understand. But as I said before, since it is damaged, you would receive only half of its actual price."

Then her expression became serious as she continued, "However, seeing that you are so talented, I can buy it at its actual worth."

Swoosh!

Max suddenly grabbed her hand and asked in excitement, "Really?"

Elder looked at his excited expression and felt a bit more confident as she added in a severe tone, "Yeah. However, in return, you must do something for me and swear to keep it a secret."

Chapter 238: I'm already wet enough...

Max looked at her with a serious look and nodded, "Okay. As long as it isn't something harmful to me and is something that I can do, I'll do it to the best of my ability and will keep it a secret."

"Don't worry. It's not anything bad, and you'll even enjoy doing it." She said, her expression still not changing.

Max was surprised by this. All the women he had encountered until now would feel a bit embarrassed when talking about the 'thing,' but this Elder didn't.

"If that's the case, how about you tell me what is it that I need to do?" Max asked, a little impatient. When they were having dinner, he had already guessed this Elder's intentions.

But he didn't dare to act in the same way as he did with Jasmine. Therefore, after returning to his room, he calmly waited for her, and just as he expected, she really came.

"I want you to satisfy me sexually." She looked at him with a piercing gaze and said in a clear and crisp tone.

"Oh?" Max acted surprised.

"Yes. So, what do you think of my condition?" She asked her gaze was the same as before.

"It's a very enticing condition that I gladly accept." Max smiled and rejoiced inwardly. If he could do it with her, he was sure to get a lot of LPs.

"Okay then." The Elder nodded and took off her nightgown without hesitation, revealing her smooth white skin and two large rabbits.

"Beautiful!" Max involuntarily exclaimed. Although she was even older than Jasmine, her body was delicate and comparable to a woman's in her mid-twenties. Her breasts were larger than C-cup size, with two beautiful pink jewels adorning them.

Because of how attractive this sight was to his eyes, he couldn't move his gaze from them and wanted to jump on her right then. Then he moved his gaze down her belly but couldn't see anything because of how she was sitting.

"Are you only going to stare?" The Elder asked with a smile. She felt good when he praised her body, and in her heart, she started to like him a bit more than before.

"Of course not." Max immediately shook his head and held her head in his palm before planting his lips on hers. The Elder was a bit surprised. Then she closed her eyes and focused on enjoying the kiss.

While kissing her, Max took off his clothes and made her lie on the bed. After that, he slowly kissed her cheeks, neck and finally arrived on her breasts.

He gently kissed one of her nipples while squeezing the other breast with his hand. As he did so, he felt like he was squeezing the softest thing in the world. This caused him to squeeze it even harder.

"Ahn~" The Elder moaned in response to his touch, her chest heaved up, and her nipples started to harden. 'She was pretty sensitive.' Max thought.

Seeing this, he started to rub and pinch her pink buds while his mouth was also busy sucking them as hard as he could. Elder's body would moan and quiver slightly with each of his touches.

Because the sensation of her boobs was somewhat magical for him, even when he had experienced it many times before, he fell into a trance-like state for a while where he couldn't think of anything other than squeezing, kneading, and sucking her boobs.

After a while, his mind cleared a bit, and he sent one of his hands down her stomach toward the place between her legs.

Squelch!

When he touched it, he found that it was already dripping wet. Nevertheless, he still proceeded and put two of his fingers inside her wet pussy.

"Mmm~" The Elder pursed her lips and moaned in pleasure as her warm and squishy insides squeezed his fingers.

Just as he was about to start moving his fingers to give her even more pleasure, she grabbed his hand.

"What is it?" Max looked at her in confusion and immediately became slightly nervous.

Because he wanted to satisfy her thoroughly so that she would want to do it more and probably ask him to stay with her for a few, he was using so much time on foreplay before going to the main thing.

He was doing this because he needed a lot of LPs to convert his Mana into the three-star one, and she, as a three-star mage who seemed even more powerful than Jasmine, was the perfect candidate for this. However, it appeared that he had messed up somehow.

'No, from her reactions, it is clear she enjoyed it a lot.' Max was confused. He hadn't encountered a situation like this ever before. However, her following words dispelled his worries.

"I'm... Mm~ already enough wet. Hurry up and... put your thing inside now." She said in between moans. Her face was red, and her eyes were burning with lustful fire.

"Okay." Max nodded and couldn't help but smile wryly. It seemed he had overthought things.

Shaking his head to clear useless thoughts, he grabbed his erect cock and put it between her puffed-out 'underlips.'

Thump!

After rubbing for a while, he grabbed her by the waist and gave it a strong thrust. In one go, his bulging cock went past her folds and into the depths of her pussy.

"Nnghh~" The Elder moaned loudly, and her upper body arched up a bit as pleasure coursed through her body.

"Argh! Amazing!" Max also groaned. He didn't immediately start moving and focused on savoring the incredible sensation he was feeling. It felt as if his cock was engulfed by her soft, wet, and warm insides that wanted to devour it.

Squelch! Squelch!

After a moment of pause, he started moving his waist, and his cock began to slide in and out of her mature pussy, which caused her to start moaning in pleasure.

Gradually, he increased the pace, and his cock started reaching deeper. Meanwhile, her pussy wasn't passive either and did its best to wrap around his shaft tightly, which caused the pleasure they both felt to intensify.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

"Ahn~ Nnghh~ Ha~"

Soon, the room reverberated with sensual moans and erotic sounds of flesh slapping.

Chapter 239: Decent stamina

In another room in the residential area of the city lord's mansion, the petite woman in a sexy dark-red nighty was pacing back and forth.

'It's almost midnight. What should I do? Should I try my luck or not? But he didn't show any interest in me?' She bit her nails in frustration.

After a while, her eyes suddenly flashed with determination, "I should go. There won't be any chance in the future, given my limited talent, to experience a man like him who is both talented and handsome."

Thinking this, she opened the door and walked towards Max's room.

...

Meanwhile, in Max's room...

Squelch! Squelch! Thump! Thump!

Max kept thumping her hard and fast. His expression was ecstatic, while the Elder lay there moaning with a dazed expression.

"Argh!" Suddenly, Max let out a groan because the intensity at which her pussy was squeezing his cock suddenly shot up, and her body also started to stiffen.

Seeing this, he tightened his grip on her waist and increased the pace. He knew she was going to ejaculate.

Thump! Thump!

"Haanngghhh~~~"

The Elder suddenly let out a loud moan, and her body arched up while her tongue hung loosely out of her mouth as she cummed.

"Arghh...!"

Not long after, Max also climaxed inside her. After shooting his load, he took out his cock.

"Ha~ Ha~"

The Elder took deep breaths to calm her breathing. She then looked at him and smiled, "I didn't think you would be so good at this. Thanks to you, all of my stress is gone."

"Good. Now that Elder is stress-free, how about we focus on enjoying ourselves?" Max chuckled and showed his still hard cock to her. His intention was clear; he wanted to continue.

"You still want to continue? Don't you want to depart early tomorrow?" The Elder asked in surprise. However, her pussy had already started to twitch in anticipation.

"Nope. I want to completely satisfy you even if I delay my departure by a few days." Max stated with a serious face.

"Are you sure you want to do this? At this stage, a few days of delay in cultivation can negatively affect your future progress." The Elder felt weird.

From how he could complete the mission so easily, she knew he was quite talented and should have worked very hard to reach this stage at such a young age.

Moreover, with his looks and strength, he should be able to get many girls in the academy. So, it was indeed weird that he was willing to delay his return to the academy for her, a middle-aged woman, although she didn't look like one. At the same time, she was delighted by this in her heart.

"A few days of rest won't hurt anyone. Would it?" Max smiled.

"Okay. If that's what you want, you can stay here for two more days and have however much sex you want with me. But after two days, I won't be able to see you since I'm swamped with work." The Elder suddenly revealed a smile and said.

No matter his reason for doing this, she would be able to enjoy the company of a handsome young man and be rid of all the stress she had accumulated over the years.

"Good, come here now." Max laughed, made her turn around, grabbed her plump ass with both hands, and put his cock on her pussy entrance.

"This position isn't... Ahn~" Elder frowned. She didn't like this position where she had to stay like an animal. However, before she could say anything, Max had thrust inside her.

Behind her, Max revealed a smile and started pounding her in the doggy style, not giving her any chance to complain.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Ahn~ Ngh~ Ha~

After a dozen minutes of continuous pounding, the Elder climaxed, and not long after, Max also filled her womb with his thick liquid.

Plop!

Just as they were both done ejaculating, the Elder flopped on the bed, her legs shaking.

"Ah! It was amazing." She said with a numb expression. Her mind still reeling in the amazing sensation she had just experienced.

"Hehe, don't act as if you are done. We still have a long time to go." Max laughed, raised her ass to knee level, and adjusted his cock on her entrance once again, ready for another round.

"You seem to have a decent amount of stamina." The Elder faintly smiled and let him do however he wanted to do.

Although she felt a little weak in her legs, she still wanted to continue. After all, she didn't have any partner in the sun feather city who could help her release her lust. Therefore, it's been a long time since she last did it. Moreover, as a high-stage three-star mage, her stamina was also excellent.

Knock! Knock!

Just as they were about to continue, they heard someone knock on the door.

"Who could it be at this time?" Max frowned, displeased. He didn't want anything to interrupt him when he was enjoying and gathering LPs.

"Someone who also wants you to satisfy them?" The Elder had a knowing smile and lay on the bed before covering herself with the blanket.

Max looked at her in confusion and mumbled, "Someone who wants me to satisfy her?" Then suddenly realization struck, and he asked, his expression weird, "Is it your niece?"

"Most probably." She smiled and said, "You should have noticed that she was also interested in you, right?"

"Mm. I did." Max nodded. He would have gladly accepted her advances if she was a three-star mage instead of a two-star one. However, she was even weaker than him; therefore, she couldn't give him many LPs.

"If you don't want her, you don't have to respond. She would think you were sleeping and return. Hopefully." Elder said.

"Hopefully?" Max looked at her, not understanding the meaning behind her words.

"Well, she had keys to open almost all the formations in this mansion." Elder smiled and had a teasing expression.

Max was rendered speechless. From how she came out to meet at this time, it was evident that she wouldn't go back without meeting him, especially when she had ways to open the door herself.

"I can only meet her then," Max said, put on his clothes, and walked toward the door.

"Wait." Suddenly, Elder called out, her voice containing a hint of anger.

Chapter 240: Fruit of hard work

"What is it?" Max looked at her in confusion.

"What are you going to do if she sees me here?" Elder asked.

Max paused for a second and then smiled, "Don't worry. She won't be entering the room." Saying this, he pushed the door open.

...

Meanwhile, outside his room, the petite woman was panicking.

'Wah! I really did it. What am I going to do when he opens the door? Wait, what if he is already sleeping? I think I should go...'

While she was having these thoughts, the door suddenly opened, and Max appeared in front of her.

"Oh, you haven't slept yet." She blurted out.

"No. But why are you here at this time?" Max asked with a look of displeasure.

"Well, I-I thought you might be h-having a problem sleeping. So, I came to check up on y-you, and just as I thought, you are still awake. Haha..." Seeing his expression, she panicked and quickly told him the excuse she had planned beforehand.

"No, I don't have any problem sleeping. I still haven't slept yet because I was busy 'cultivating.' You should go back now." Max shook his head.

"But I want..." The petite woman tried to say something, but Max interrupted her, "If you want to talk about something, we can do it tomorrow since I'll be staying here for two more days."

"Oh. Then let's do it tomorrow." She nodded, and after saying good night, she hurriedly returned to her room.

Max stood there watching her petite body sway in her thin nightgown as she left and thought, 'Well, she isn't too bad. Maybe I should fulfill her wish too. There is nothing to lose. I'll be able to taste her and gain some precious LPs too.'

After that, he closed the door and returned to the bed where Elder was looking at him with a slightly sullen smile, "I thought you were staying only for me?"

Whoosh!

"I'm staying because of you. No doubt about that." Max chuckled and pulled the blanket revealing her naked body.

Elder raised her brows slightly and understood his meaning. He was staying because of her but won't reject anyone else if they also required his 'help.' At the same time, she couldn't help how he was able to cultivate to peak two-star with such a lustful personality.

Max didn't want her to continue this topic. Therefore, he hurriedly took off his clothes, grabbed her legs, and after placing them over his shoulders, he adjusted his cock on her entrance and gave it a thrust.

Squelch! Ahn~

Since her pussy was already wet with their liquids, his cock slid inside her with ease. As it entered her depths, the Elder moaned and tightened her pussy around his rod.

Thump! Thump!

After that, Max once again started pounding her treasured pussy without rest.

...

Next morning...

Yawn!

As usual, Max woke up late in the morning and yawned lazily. His body was a bit stiff because yesterday night, he had worked hard with the Elder for more than four hours straight.

After getting off the bed, he stretched his body and walked to the bathroom to freshen up.

Meanwhile, at the Elder's office...

Knock! Knock!

"Come in." Elder's voice sounded from inside the room.

Creak~

The door opened, and the petite woman walked into the room.

"Oh, how come you are here so early?" Elder smiled. Although the dark circles under her eyes were still there, and she also seemed a bit sleepy, her face was radiant.

"Elder, I'm here to submit these to you. I've already completed my daily duties." The petite woman said as she put some papers on the table.

Before Elder could say anything, she added, "Can you please allow me to today's leave? I have something important to do today."

"Important, huh?" Elder looked at her with a teasing smile and said, "Is this important work related to Max?"

The petite woman jolted in surprise before a blush crept up on her cheeks. "N-no. I need to do something else." She shook her head, but her stuttering voice gave her away.

"Is that so?" Elder gave her a deep glance making her even more nervous.

Seeing her expression, Elder gave an inaudible sigh and waved her hand, "Okay. You are free to do whatever you want today."

"Thank you, aunt." The petite woman became delighted. She knew her aunt was very strict and wouldn't usually allow anyone to leave like this. So, she was ecstatic to see her agree and, in her excitement, she even forgot to address her as Elder.

She then bolted out of the room and went toward her residence to dress up appropriately before meeting Max.

Elder watched her go in high spirits and unconsciously touched her lower torso as she murmured, "My naïve niece, I think you would need one more day off after experiencing that beast of a man."

After having her pussy pounded by him for four hours without any break, her lower body was so numb that she couldn't even walk properly. It should be noted that she was a powerful three-star mage whose physical attributes were something that a two-star mage could compare.

However, even then, she was in this condition and was forced to use her Mana to assist herself when walking. Even when sitting, she could feel her vagina twitch every now and then. So, how could her niece, who had average physical attributes from the two-star mages' standards, not be in a worse situation than her after having sex with him?

...

Max had taken a refreshing bath and was sitting on the bed with his status screen open in front of him.

"Amazing! I gained more than one and half times LPs compared to what I got from Jasmine on our first night." Max exclaimed in joy and thought, 'It true that the harder you work, the greater reward you'll receive.'

When he first had sex with Jasmine, he only received 47,000 LPs after a three-hour-long session. Now that his stamina and vitality were at the peak of the two-star realm, he could last four hours straight and received 80,000 LPs.

However, Max knew that it was not only because of him doing it more times but also because her yin energy was more potent than Jasmine's.

'Hehe, I'll be able to raise a large part of my Mana to the three-star level in these two days.' Max laughed excitedly and sat down cross-legged, ready to use these 80,000 LPs to convert another part of his Mana.