

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 461: Max on rampage [3]

Thud!

The woman shuddered violently, and she fell to her knees, saying, "Y-Yes. He... he asked us. Please don't kill—"

"Thanks for telling me." Max nodded. "In return, I'll give you a painless death."

Saying this, he reached out his hand and grabbed her neck. Just as he was about to twist it, a loud shout sounded out from deep within in the hall.

"DON'T YOU DARE!"

"Mm?" Max paused and turned to look at who was coming out this time. He saw a man — who seemed to be in his thirties, had a good-looking face, a confident and upright gait and was garbed in the disciplinary hall Elders' uniform, the same as the one pot-bellied Elder had — walking toward him with slow steps.

But strangely enough, even though it looked like he was walking slowly, his every step would bring him tens of meters forward. It was as if space was warping around him, helping him travel faster.

Noticing this, a solemn look appeared in Max's eyes. He was about to throw the woman away and prepare to cast [Calidus Brachium] once again, but then he heard the girl cry out:

"Elder Raina, please save me."

"Oh? So, he is the guy." He muttered, and then.

Crack!

He twisted her neck, killing her. The woman's eyes were wide open in disbelief in her last moments.

Whoosh!

Elder Raina stopped a few meters away from Max and glanced at the woman and shook his head, "How foolish! If you hadn't called out to me, he wouldn't have killed you."

"Hm? You seem pretty sure of that?" Max asked.

"Of course. After surviving decades in the mage world, you learn to pay attention to the smallest of things. Just now, after you saw me, you were clearly about to throw her away to get ready to engage in battle with me. Unfortunately, she had to call out my name and stroke the flames of anger further." Elder Raina calmly answered.

"I understand. Now tell me something." Max nodded and asked, "I'm pretty sure I don't know you and you don't know me. Then why are you targeting me?"

"Why don't you take a guess?" Elder Raina smiled.

"Mm, let's see." Max put on a pondering look before saying, "Perhaps you are a lackey of either the Dalton or the Arasia family and doing it on their orders."

Elder Raina's eyes narrowed at the word 'lackey' but he didn't get angry and calmly nodded. "You are wrong about the lackey part. I'm not their lackey, but a member of the Dalton family instead. Raina Dalton."

"So, it's the Dalton family, huh?" Max nodded, not surprised at all and then asked, "Did your young master Dalton ask you to or is it because you are trying to take revenge for that guy, Jack Dalton's death?"

"Does it matter?" Raina asked, his expression finally changing to become slightly dark.

"You are right. It doesn't matter" Max shrugged.

Then a curious expression appeared on his face as he asked, "Tell me something. As an Elder of the academy, you are trying to take your personal revenge against a disciple. Wouldn't the academy punish you when they find out?"

The crowd had finally understood what was happening after they heard their conversation, but none dare to comment on Elder Raina's action.

But inwardly, they felt angry because it was clearly not something an Elder was supposed to do.

Just when Max and everyone expected him to give some excuse to make his action justifiable, Elder Raina laughed. "Punish me? Haha! How laughable! Do you think the academy doesn't know of my actions?"

"It does, but it's not doing anything to stop me. Do you know why?" He asked and before Max could speak, he answered it himself,

"It's because being an enemy of both the Dalton and the Arasia family isn't worth it."

He then added, "Sure, some Elder were still dissatisfied and stopped me from acting against you personally as it would sully the academy's reputation. But now that you've killed a three-star Elder, you are already a rebel in their eyes and no one would say anything if I were to kill you now."

Meanwhile, hidden in a corner of the disciplinary hall, two figures watched it all happen. One was a robust middle-aged man while the other was someone Max was familiar with, Elder Adrienne.

Elder Adrienne looked the middle-aged man asked, "Hall master, shouldn't we stop this now?"

"Why should we?" The middle-aged man asked.

Adrienne raised her delicate brows and said, "When this disciple joined the academy a few months ago, he was just an early-stage two-star mage, but he has already reached the three-star realm now."

"Moreover, as you can see, his actual strength is at a lot higher than a mid-stage three-star mage like the Elder he killed a few moments before. He is a monstrous genius. We should protect and nurture someone like him."

The middle-aged didn't speak for a moment and then asked, "Do you know why the headmaster allowed Raina to do as he wished?"

Adrienne frowned and shook her head. "No."

"It's because the Dalton family gave us a shocking piece of information that only the royal family and the Dalton family currently know." The middle-aged man's voice was grave as he said this.

"What is it?" Adrienne asked, finally realising that this matter was far from simple.

"The war against the demons which was supposed to happen after the competition between the academies will start in just a few days. Furthermore, this time, demons won't retreat after fighting for a month or two, like in the past."

The man sighed and said in a grim tone, "It will be an all-out war. Although it might not be as intense as the war that broke the continent into two, its scale would be very huge. And most important of all, the battlefield will be our region."

"If we form an enmity with the Dalton and the Arasia family, our chances of surviving this calamity would plummet even more. That's why the headmaster decided to sacrifice this kid."

Adrienne was much too shocked to respond.

After a while, she asked, "Why aren't we preparing ourselves then?"

She didn't ask why the academy kept it secret even after knowing about it, because the answer was obvious.

If this shocking piece of news was revealed to the public, there would be chaos.

"We are." The man answered curtly.

"Aren't you a little too overconfident?" Max narrowed his eyes.

"Overconfident?" Raina chuckled and then,

Whoosh!

He appeared in front of Max and, before Max could react, his neck was in Raina's hand.

"It's not overconfidence, but a fact." He sneered and tightened his grasp, causing Max's face to turn red due to lack of oxygen.

However,

"I would say it's overconfidence." Max smirked and just then, Raina's expression changed drastically. He hurried to release Max's neck and wanted to retreat, but it was already too late.

BANG!

A blazing fist had landed in his gut, burned his clothes, skin and destroyed his internal organ before coming out from his back.

"You... tricked me." Raina spat through clenched teeth as the light from his eyes gradually faded.

While talking, Max had been channeling and condensing his mana around his fist so he would be able to cast [Calidus Brachium] at a moment's notice and because the system had the special, passive ability of concealing his mana until he activated the spell, Raina didn't notice it, making it easier for Max to take him off guard.

However, he hadn't thought that it would be so easy to take him off guard and because he knew Raina was a lot stronger than the pot-bellied Elder, he hadn't held back and poured all the mana he could into this cast. To his surprise, he was able to use 5000 mana units.

Just an over 2000 mana units [Calidus Brachium] had killed the pot-bellied Elder with ease and while Raina was stronger, Max believed a [Calidus Brachium] infused with 5000 wasn't something he could resist.

But who would have thought that he would be so overconfident that he wouldn't keep his guard up when he was so close to his enemy, giving Max a perfect chance to deliver the killing blow.

However, truth be told, Raina wasn't overconfident. He was just confident in his speed and believed that he could kill Max before he could cast any spell.

Unfortunately, he didn't know about the system's concealment ability.

Thud!

Raina's dead body fell to the ground, breaking the pin drop silence that ensued after his death. Everyone looked at the dead body and then at Max in shock.

Chapter 462: Kill Points

"This guy... who the hell is he?" Someone from the crowd couldn't help but ask when he saw him killing three-star Elders one after another.

"I don't know who is he but he is both crazy and strong."

"Wasn't the Elder Raina a high-stage three-star mage and famed for his mastery over the wind element? But he died so... easily? It was as if he walked into his punch."

"You fool! Didn't you notice this guy instantly cast that burning fist spell of his? The Elder was taken off guard. If not, the one who would have died would have been this kid."

"Now that you mention it, it's really strange. Wasn't the instant cast something only mages beyond the mortal boundary could do?"

"Who knows how he did that, but fuck! This guy is insane. He has killed four people right inside the disciplinary hall and the fifth's condition is unknown."

"..."

The crowd broke out in an uproar.

Meanwhile, standing in the corner, Elder Adrienne and the middle-aged man gaped at Max in shock.

"Hall master, did he instantly cast a spell?" Adrienne asked in confusion.

The middle-aged man shook his head. "No, he didn't."

"Then what exactly happened?"

"I don't know how, but this kid managed to hide the circulation and condensing of his mana as he prepared the spell. He only needed to activate it. That's why it seemed as though he had instantly cast. But I have to admit, this kid is a monster even among monstrous geniuses."

The middle-aged sighed and then added, "Unfortunately, he is too reckless and is bound to die."

Hearing this, Adrienne frowned and asked, "Are you going to take action, hall master?"

The middle-aged man glanced at her and grinned. "You seem to take up for him quite a lot. What is the reason? Do you like him or something?"

"You sure like to talk nonsense, hall master." Adrienne coldly said before adding, "It's just that... I was the one who recruited him to the academy and I don't like the fact that his life is being... traded."

The middle-aged man sighed. "You don't need to feel bad about it. It's the higher ups' decision."

"Besides, even if the academy was wrong at the beginning, it doesn't matter anymore because killing two three-star Elders, two disciples and crippling the other is already a sin punishable by death."

"I'm sure even you wouldn't forgive someone who has killed the people from the academy, right?"

Adrienne didn't respond, a complicated look flashing in her eyes as she thought, 'Wasn't he forced to do so? If the academy hadn't mistreated him and his sister, things wouldn't have come to this point.'

The man glanced at her and didn't speak again.

Max looked at Raina's corpse with an icy expression on his face and scoffed, "Tricked you? That's true, but why did you fall for it?"

If Raina was still alive and heard this, he would've spit blood in anger.

Max then glanced at his hand. Although he had put it through Raina's body, there wasn't even a single drop of blood on it as all of it was burnt away by the flames.

'Why did I feel that strange, addictive feeling when I killed him?' He frowned as he recalled the strange excitement coursing through his body the moment he put his hand through Raina's body and watched him slowly die.

It was addictive, and he wanted to keep killing.

'Now that I think about it, I felt the same when I killed Luo, the pot-bellied Elder and that woman, though the feeling was subdued and not as potent as it was now.' His frown deepened.

Just then, he noticed the system messages flashing in the corner of his retina.

[Ding! You've killed a two-star mage. +100 Kill points.]

[Ding! You've killed a three-star mage. +1000 Kill points.]

[Ding! You've killed a two-star mage. +70 Kill points.]

[Ding! You've killed a three-star mage. +3000 Kill points.]

'Right? The system has started to reward me kill points, too.' He remembered, and the corner of his lips curled up into a grin.

Now, he didn't have to rely only on sex to become stronger. Of course, it wasn't that he didn't enjoy having sex — he did, a lot in fact — which should be clear by his actions until now.

However, this method of getting stronger was slow, in his opinion. This was especially true when he thought of his enemies. Be it the Daltons, or the Arasia family, or count Wiley, everyone was a lot stronger than him.

But with the imminent war and this new kill point system, he could grow at terrifying speeds.

He wanted to open his status and convert the KPs (Kill points) into LPs and increase his physical attributes, but this wasn't the place to do so.

'Let's first leave the academy.' He thought and turned around to walk out of the hall, but just then, a voice sounded from deeper into the hall.

"You are going to leave after killing so many people? Do you think we'll let you?"

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Following the voice, three men in disciplinary hall Elder's uniforms rushed out toward him and surrounded him immediately.

Max stared at them with narrowed eyes and said in a rather calm voice, "I've already killed those I needed to and don't want to continue. But if you block my way again, I will kill you."

The three men shivered when they heard this.

Although they hadn't seen him kill the pot-bellied Elder and others, they had witnessed Elder Raina's death.

They could argue that he used trickery to kill him, but there was no denying that he was almost as strong as a high-stage three-star mage while they were only early-stage three-star mages. If they fought, the outcome was obvious.

Max glanced at them before walking away. The crowd of disciples parted to give him a way out. Some looked at him in awe, some in dread, and some with pity.

Max ignored them all and gradually disappeared from their sight.

In the corner, Elder Adrienne glanced at the middle-aged man and asked, "Why didn't you stop him?"

"Why should I?" The man shrugged and said,

"If I'm not wrong, he will leave the academy now but the moment he steps outside the academy's gate, he will die. So why would I stop him?"

"How will he die?" Adrienne frowned.

"Let's go and find out."

Chapter 463: Amara exposed?

After leaving the disciplinary hall, Max returned to his dorm room, where Anna and Amara were waiting for him.

"All ready?" He asked.

"Yes. Let's go." Anna nodded. Max looked at her in surprise because she didn't ask why he wanted to leave the academy, etc. A moment later, however, he realised Amara must have explained the reason to her.

He gave Amara a nod, which made the girl smile. He then led them toward the transportation area.

When they arrived at the transportation area, the three men that had tried to stop Max in the disciplinary hall blocked them.

"You really don't value your life, do you?" A cold light flashed in Max's eyes as he glared at them.

The three shuddered under his gaze, then one of them hurried to say, "W-We don't want to f-fight you. However, you aren't allowed to use transportation eagles."

Whoosh!

"What if I insist?" Max took a step forward, releasing his aura that he couldn't properly yet.

"If you don't want a few peak three-star mages to hunt you down, you shouldn't insist." One of the three gathered his courage and spoke up.

"Oh?" Max raised his brow. Although he had killed two three-star mages, one of which was a high-stage three-star mage even, he knew if he wasn't actually a match for one let alone a peak three-star mage.

Anna pulled his sleeve and said, "Little Max, let's go. With your current strength, we won't face much danger even if we go down through the mountain."

Although she didn't know what he had done that the academy wasn't allowing them transportation, she knew it wasn't worth offending it.

If she knew he had thoroughly offended the academy already, she wouldn't have such thoughts.

"Alright." Max nodded and walked toward the academy's exit.

Seeing him walking away without causing much trouble, the three disciplinary hall Elders sighed in relief.

As they walked toward the academy gate, Amara had a displeased expression on her beautiful face as she said,

"Master, we should've taught them a lesson and took that eagle. How dare they stop us? As for those peak three-star mages, you know they won't be able to catch up to us if I trans..."

Before she could say 'transform', Max interrupted her. "I know that, but did you forget where we are? Here, you can't do whatever you want. There will be a time when you won't have to hide, but it's not now."

He then glanced at the academy gate that was only half a mile away and muttered, "I'm sure they have something planned for me. Let's see what exactly it is."

'System, what's the price for a grade four offensive talisman?' He asked the system in his mind.

[The price differs according to their element and sub tier. The cheapest grade four talisman is priced at 500 SPs.]

'500 SPs?' Max raised his brows and then asked, "What's the price of the most expensive grade four offensive talisman?"

[It's 2000, host.]

'How come it's more expensive than a teleportation crystal?' Max asked, surprised.

Although the teleportation talisman wasn't assigned any grade, based on its usefulness, he guessed it should be graded as grade six or higher. But now, a grade four talisman was more expensive than it. This didn't make sense.

[It isn't, host. The actual price of the teleportation crystal is 5000 SPs. Host got them at a discounted price previously.]

'Discounted price? Then why don't you give me a discount now?'

[The system can't interfere with the shop function host.]

His brows furrowed at this and he asked, 'Why? Isn't it your part?'

In response came the infuriating answer.

[Host isn't qualified to know yet.]

'Fuck!' Max couldn't help but curse upon hearing this.

"What happened, little Max?" Anna asked when she saw his expression changing.

"No. It's nothing." Max smiled and then asked to the system, 'How powerful the talisman worth 500 SPs is?'

[Based on the current standards of this world, it should be enough to kill any early-stage four-star mage. Even the mid-stage mage would be injured if taken off guard.]

'Alright then. Be ready to buy at a moment's notice.' Max said. If there wasn't any need, he didn't want to spend his valuable SPs.

[Understood, host.]

...

A short while later, the trio reached the academy gates.

"Stay alert." Max warned them and then stepped out. Anna and Amara followed him.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a wave of mana enveloped them and started dragging them away from the academy gates.

'System, hurry and buy two offensive and two defensive talismans quick.' Max hurriedly shouted in his mind.

[Ding! Purchase successful! The items have been added to the inventory.]

Wasting no time, he took out one of the defensive talismans and activated it.

Whoosh!

A wave of mana, several times stronger than the one that was forcibly bringing them away, enveloped him and destroyed the pulling mana.

Boom!

As soon as he regained the control over his body, he released his mana at full force and hurriedly conjured up two barriers around Anna and Amara.

Unfortunately, these barriers weren't strong enough to resist the hostile mana that was at the absolute peak of the three-star realm and had Earth elemental mana mixed in. So, they shattered within a second.

However, this split second was enough for Amara to come to her senses. Despite her master's warning just a moment ago, she fell into this trap and this made her anger erupt out like a volcano.

Boom!

Her blood-coloured energy burst forth from her body, and shattered the hostile mana into pieces. But because she was enraged, she couldn't control her bloodline energy completely and wisps of her black demonic energy started to seep into it.

'Fuck!' Max cursed when he saw this and hurriedly shouted, "Amara, stop!"

Hearing his call, she came to her senses and quickly retracted her energy.

Unfortunately, the enemy seemed to have noticed something unusual as a male voice sounded out:

"Hm? What was that ominous energy?"

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Following the voice, a middle-aged man in golden robes and a woman, who had violet hair and wore a violet dress, appeared in front of them.

The duo was none other than Jack Dalton's parents.

Chapter 464: An enraged mother

Max panicked when he heard him, and his mind raced to salvage the situation somehow.

It wouldn't be that bad if a few peak three-star mages wanted to kill them because of their enmity, but if Amara's identity was exposed, that would be much more horrifying because they would be hunted down by everyone.

Even his family would suffer because of his association with a demon, which Max didn't want at all.

Suddenly, he found the man in front of him rather familiar looking and it didn't take him much time to realise his identity.

'He is most likely Jack's father.'

Realising this, he calmed down, put on a sarcastic expression on his face and scoffed mockingly,

"What? After the useless son died, the parents have come to take revenge? Tch! What else can we expect from the parents of such a filthy scum?"

Speaking until here, he put on a thoughtful expression, and said, "Perhaps he was such a filthy scum because he had parents like you? Yeah, this makes more sense."

It seemed his little trick worked as the faces of the duo turned dark when they heard him.

Boom!

Their aura burst forth and enveloped him simultaneously. But it didn't affect him one bit because the defensive talisman was still working.

Even so, when he felt the intensity of their auras, Max was surprised to find that both of them were at the peak of the three-star realm.

"Argh!"

Although he was fine, Amara was strong enough to disregard their aura, but the same wasn't the case for Anna. As soon as their aura's enveloped them, her face twisted in a grimace and she started perspiring heavily.

He quickly gave Anna the last grade four talisman and infused it with his own mana since she couldn't use it as a two-star mage.

Swoosh!

The talisman burst and a wave of powerful four-star mana enveloped her protectively. Following this, Anna's expression gradually turned to normal.

"I'M GOING TO RIP YOU TO SHREDS! YOU BASTARD!" Jack's mother roared in madness.

She loved her son the most in this world and always indulged him, no matter what he wanted. She was even willing to kill Dalton when her son told her he wanted to be the young master of the Dalton family.

In short, her love for her son knew no bounds. So, when she found out someone had killed her lovely kid, she had almost gone mad because of her overwhelming sadness and anger. From that day, she had been itching to kill the murderous of her son with her own hands.

When she arrived here and saw Max walking out of the academy, she could barely contain her anger. The moment they stepped outside the academy's gate, she forcefully brought them away in case they tried to re-enter the academy so save their hides.

So, when she heard Max be so disdainful and mock her son, she couldn't contain her boiling anger any longer.

Boom!

Her mana burst forth along with her aura and,

Whoosh!

She rushed at him. Her speed, although not as fast as Raina's, because he had mastered his wind element to a certain level, was still blindingly fast. Max couldn't even blink when she had arrived in front of him and had thrown a punch at his face.

Boom!

A loud boom resounded as her fist collided heavily against the Mana shroud around him.

'How strong!' Max exclaimed in shock in his mind.

Although he didn't receive any damage thanks to the Mana shroud's protection, he could feel how strong her seeming normal punch was.

Well... it wasn't normal because right before her fist collided with the Mana shroud, a faint violet light had enveloped it.

Whizz!

The Mana shroud trembled lightly, and it seemed to have lost some mana, becoming slightly transparent.

'Fuck! Just how powerful this woman is. She can even harm it.' Max cursed.

Although he didn't know how powerful the defensive talisman he used was since he bought it in a hurry, but since it was in the same category as the grade four offensive talisman which could kill an early-stage four-star mage and harm mid-stage four-star mage if taken off guard, the protection provided by it shouldn't be something that a peak three-star mage could damage with just a punch, right?

But here it was, losing some of its effectiveness after a single hit.

"You think you are safe just because you have this turtle shell?" The woman asked chillingly. She then raised her fist again and started punching.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Outside the academy gate, Adrienne and the middle-aged man she called hall master were standing, watching the happenings.

"That violet light. It's the bloodline power of the Hobson family?" Adrienne asked, a wisp of seriousness appearing in her eyes as she watched her punches raining down on the Mana shroud around Max.

"That's right." The middle-aged man nodded. "It's as strong as the rumours make it out to be."

"However, this kid is full of surprises. He even has something like grade-four defensive talismans which we, as the Elders of one of the top academies of the kingdom, don't have."

Adrienne nodded in acknowledgement before sighing, "But what is the use of having it? It will only delay his death."

"We never know. Maybe he still has some trump cards. That's why he isn't panicking." The middle-aged man said, surprising her. He then asked, "By the way, I heard three of our inner disciples are his women? Is that girl who used blood red energy one of them?"

Adrienne's eyes narrowed when she heard this and asked in somewhat cold voice, "Why do you ask?"

"Nothing. I'm just curious. I've never seen such strange energy." The man shrugged, but his eyes flickered with a cold light.

Adrienne looked at him in silence for a moment before shaking her head. "No, she isn't one of them. As far as I know, she isn't even from our academy."

"As for those three... no, two disciples because one has gone missing over months ago, they aren't in the academy right now and even though they have a relationship with him, they didn't do anything wrong, so I hope you won't try to harm them or tell the Daltons about them."

"Alright." The man nodded and then took out a communication crystal and said something in it before putting it away.

This made Adrienne frown because she didn't know what he was doing. She then glanced at Amara and thought, 'Is there something special about her?'

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Jack's mother continued to punch Max's Mana shroud. After over a dozen punches, it had turned almost transparent.

Seeing this, Max's eyes flashed with a cold light, and he clenched his right fist into a punch.

Right then, Jack's father frowned and hurriedly shouted,

"Watch out!"

"Hm?" The woman was confused by the sudden warning but then she noticed a seemingly normal punch coming toward her.

Seeing this, she ignored her husband's warning and laughed coldly, "You want to retaliate? How ridiculous!"

She then raised her hand to block his punch and readied to throw a punch of her own at the Mana shroud.

However,

Swoosh!

Suddenly, a crimson flame blazed around his fist, covering it completely.

BANG!

The blazing fist collided against her hand, which she had raised to block his attack, and continued forward, pushing her hand back with it before landing on her chest.

Crack! Crack!

Two crisp sounds of bone breaking sounded. One came from her hand and the other from her chest.

Boom!

As soon as his punch connected with her chest, she flew backwards, a burst of blood coming out from her mouth and the area around her chest was burnt by the flames, revealing her milky white globes.

Whoosh!

Jack's father appeared behind her and stopped her.

"Are you alright?" He asked worriedly.

Cough!

She coughed out another mouthful of blood before looking at her mangled palm and burnt chest.

"Apart from a few broken bones, I'm alright." She said, taking out a few healing pills and throwing them in her mouth.

Max looked at the woman in surprise and laughed bitterly, "So, I'm not a match for a peak three-star mage even after taking them off guard."

Thud!

As he said this, his body swayed. He had exhausted more than half of his mana in the disciplinary hall and this [Calidus Brachium] had exhausted the remaining. With all his mana gone, he felt a sense of emptiness and couldn't stop himself from falling to his knees.

"Heh! What else did you expect?" Jack's mother laughed coldly when she heard him. She didn't bother to cover her exposed chest and slowly walked over to him.

Whoosh!

Anna and Amara appeared in front of him, looking at the woman warily.

"Hm?" Jack's mother frowned and asked coldly, "You are his women, aren't you?"

"So what if we are?" Amara asked, her blue eyes slowly turning blood red.

"Since you are, you also deserve to die?" The woman said, raising her hand to attack them.

Seeing this, Max's eyes narrowed as he took out one of the grade four offensive talismans.

Right at that moment, an icy voice sounded from the sky.

"No, they don't."

A/N: Please read the author's thoughts for information regarding mass release and daily chapter increase. Thank you and have a good day/night~!

Chapter 465: A King Mage's Dignity

Swish!

As soon as the voice sounded, Jack's mother froze in place. The mana she was gathering around her hand also dispersed.

"Mm?" She, her husband, Adrienne, the middle-aged man and others who were watching the fight, looked up at the sky.

Their expression changed when they saw two women slowly floating down like graceful fairies.

Max, who was about to throw the talisman at Jack's mother, also stopped, and a surprised expression appeared on his face when he saw one of the two women. She was Mina, his stepmother.

Anna was also surprised but unlike Max, she was more surprised by the fact they were flying.

"A mage above the mortal boundary." She mumbled as her eyes glued to the woman in white clothes. She wondered who she was and why she was with Mina.

Jack's parents grimaced when they saw the white clothed woman.

Even though they couldn't tell a person's cultivation since they were still below the mortal boundary, they could easily discern from their presence that it was the woman in white who was flying, and the other woman was just tagging along.

Tap! Tap!

The duo landed lightly beside Anna. Mina's brows were knitted as she looked at Max, kneeling on the ground with a pale face.

She then glanced at Jack's parents and asked, "Who sent you two? Count Wiley, or the Royal family?"

Hearing the question, the duo frowned. They knew who the count Wiley was because his sister was the wife of the current leader of the Dalton and as for the royal family; it was obvious.

"You are Count Wiley and the Royal family's enemies?" Jack's father asked.

A displeased expression marred Mina's face as she coldly said, "I asked the question. Tell me, who sent you?"

Before the man could say anything, his wife spoke up, "I don't know what enmity you have with that shitty Count or the royal family, but none of them sent us. We are here to avenge our son's death, who this bastard killed."

She then turned to the woman in white and continued in a cold voice, "I'm the daughter of the current family leader of the Hobson family. No matter who you are, you'll regret it if you stop me from getting my revenge."

She thought this woman was just a five-star mage, and if it was so, then there was no need to fear because her Hobson family also had five-star mages. Even the royal family didn't dare to offend them rashly.

She didn't mention she was a part of the Dalton family too because the Dalton family only had one five-star mage, and everyone knew that mage wasn't very strong because of her old age, giving them not so much right to boast.

The woman in white furrowed her brows as if in thought, then tilted her head slightly toward her and said in an indifferent voice, "Hobson family? Never heard of it."

"You...?!" Jack's mother was enraged at this. She thought the woman was feigning ignorance so she could interfere.

"How dare you dirty b—"

Just as these words came out of her mouth, the air around the woman in white seemed to undergo a change and became chilly. Noticing this, Jack's father hurriedly shouted at her wife,

"Be quiet!"

"Eh?" Jack's mother was stunned when she heard his shout full of reproach.

He had never shouted or gotten angry at her and had always been a loving and gentle husband, but now... suddenly she felt her eyes moisten and felt sad and angry.

However, just when she wanted to retort back and ask why he was stopping her, she noticed a faint layer of ice encasing her body, which made breathing hard for her. She hadn't noticed it until now because she wasn't in her right mind.

'This...? When did it happen?' She thought, her pretty face full of shocked surprise.

It was then she noticed the woman in white's cold gaze fixated on her. As their eyes met, she felt as if she had fallen into a ten-thousand-year-old freezing ice cave, making her involuntarily shudder.

Gulp!

She swallowed her saliva in nervous fear and finally understood what was happening.

'If I had cursed her, she would've killed me.' As this scary realisation dawned on her, her face went pale and dread crept up into her heart.

At the same time, she couldn't help but feel guilty because she felt angry at her husband when he was trying to save her life.

The woman in white glanced at the man and retracted her icy aura.

Jack's father sighed in relief, his gait became a little humbler as he tentatively asked, "Senior, you aren't from the Green leaf kingdom, are you?"

"I'm not." The woman in white nodded.

Hearing this, the man sighed in relief. Since she wasn't from the kingdom and didn't seem to know about the Hobson family, she would've really killed his wife just now.

'Fortunately, she isn't a bloodthirsty kind.' He thought and then asked,

"Senior, why are you stopping us from taking our revenge? This person here killed our only son in cold blood." As he spoke about his son's death, his voice became slightly colder.

The woman in white raised her brow and turned to look at Max, who had recovered slightly and had stood up.

She looked at him up and down and asked, "Are you Max Garfield? Lilly's husband to be?"

Although the voice sounded even, Max suddenly felt a chill run down his spine and cried out in his mind. 'Woman, why do you sound like I did something wrong?'

After hearing her question, he also understood who she was because not only did she know Lilly, she was also dressed in the same type of clothes as that white-haired woman who took his lovely wife away.

Calming himself down, he nodded. "Yes, I am. Lilly is already my wife. We just haven't held an official ceremony."

An icy chill flashed through the woman's eyes when she heard this, and a disdainful expression appeared on her face.

"A newly ascended three-star mage who is completely helpless against a peak three-star mage. How are you worthy of my junior sister?"

Hearing this, Max narrowed his eyes, anger flashing in them. Mina, Anna, and Amara also frowned at her words.

The woman then shrugged, "Well, it's none of my business and forgive me if my words sounded harsh, but that's my judgement of you. You really aren't worth of her when you realise what status my junior sister had on the Sovereign Mountain."

"How about you keep your judgement to yourself? Just because you are king ranked mage, it didn't mean you can spout whatever nonsense that came to your mind. Isn't that right?" Max said in an even tone, but his words were biting cold.

The woman narrowed her eyes, her aura becoming palpable. She seemed ready to attack.

Mina, Anna and Amara tensed and just as they wanted to step up to dissolve the tension, the woman retracted her aura and nodded, "You are right. Let me apologize once again. However, I wonder if I can give you a piece of advice?"

"Shoot it." Max nodded, calming down when he heard her apologize, even though she didn't sound much sincere with that expressionless look on her face.

Boom!

Just as he nodded, the woman released some of her aura, which hit Max and sent him flying.

"Despite knowing I'm a king ranked mage, you still dared to talk rudely with me. If it was someone else in my place, you would've been dead by now. A king mage's dignity isn't something a tiny three-star kid like you can vilify, understand?"

Chapter 466: Sudden mission

Cough!

Max coughed out a mouthful of blood, wincing in pain.

'Damn woman! Weren't you apologising just a moment ago? Why do you have to be so violent in the next moment? Was this the only way to prove your point?' He thought hatefully.

Whoosh!

Mina, Anna and Amara arrived by his side, looking at him with worried looks.

"I'm alright. She didn't hit too hard." Max spoke lightly.

Jack's parents' eyes lit up when they saw the woman in white attack Max and a fleeting thought — she might not save Max—flashed through their mind, but they knew it was just their wishful thinking because she was clearly someone related to him.

Max then slowly stood up with Anna's help, his entire body aching in pain. However, he didn't show it on his face, walked over to the woman in white, looked into her eyes and nodded, "You are right. A strong person's dignity shouldn't be undermined."

He then added, "But there is another saying something like: Don't bully the young or you may regret it when they grow up?"

Mina and Anna became worried when they heard this. What if this woman took this wrong way attacked again? After all, most of the strong people were infamous for being moody.

When the woman in white heard this, a mocking expression flashed in her eyes as she nodded. "You want revenge?"

"Can't I?"

"Of course, you can." She nodded, and then a downcast expression briefly flashed through her eyes. If it was for Max staring at her from up close, he might have not noticed it.

The woman then said, "But if you want revenge, you have to do it within half a year."

If Max hadn't noticed that flash of emotion just now, he wouldn't have bothered to ask her what she meant, but since he had seen it, he became curious and questioned,

"Why?"

The woman looked at him and smiled. "Maybe I would no longer be alive after that."

Max frowned. 'Is she referring to the war?'

Suddenly... a window popped up in the corner of his retina.

[Status]

Name: Garima Wakes.

Age: 26

Stage: Early-stage 6-star mage.

Physique: Ice Yin body (Low level)

[Description: She has a special constitution, Ice Yin body. This helped her grow rapidly, and she became a six-star mage at the tender age of 26, despite the lack of resources and guidance in her early years. However, Ice Yin body has a flaw.

If it's not cultivated with special Ice cultivation techniques, the host will periodically suffer from bone chilling coldness and pain after the age of 14, draining host's vitality each time and leading to their eventual death in just over 10 years.

She has used some external sources to suppress her physique forcibly, thereby prolonging her life for 2 years. Unfortunately, her methods can only suppress her physique for less than half a year more.]

'Oh?!' Max raised his brows when he saw this and almost exclaimed out loud. 'So, this is the improved [Status] function that can show me others' status too.'

'A unique physique, huh?' He thought, understanding her reason for saying that she might not live past half a year after reading the description.

All the anger he felt at her for 'slapping' him away vanished as the emotions of pity for her surged in his heart. How could he not pity her when he knew she had been suffering for 12 years, only to die half a year later? Just how sad her life was?

The white clothed woman frowned when she saw his look of pity and laughed coldly, "What's with that look? I only said that to encourage you."

Max, however, didn't respond to her because right now, he was looking at another window on his retina.

[Ding! Mission: Make Garima Wakes your woman! Time limit: Half year.]

[Reward: Supreme grade Ice Yin cultivation technique.]

[Punishment: Garima's death.]

[Do you accept the mission? (Yes)/(No)]

He stared at the mission window with a dazed expression. This sudden mission surprised him. The system was clearly trying to save this woman's life.

'Although I won't get any reward for myself, having a six-star partner would be a tremendous help until I become one myself.' He thought, 'But first...'

He removed his gaze from the window and looked at Garima properly for the first time.

She was a beautiful woman with an attractive, albeit cold, face. Her brown eyes were deep and mesmerising, her nose was sharp but cute, her lips — a light shade of pink — were thin like soft flower petals.

Her skin was ice white and smooth that every man would love to caress, if not for the freezing temperature around her. She had waist-length long, grey, almost silver hair. Her breasts were not too big but not too small either, from what he could tell.

'Hm? A unique beauty, I must say.' He muttered in his heart. She was almost as beautiful as Anna or Flavia.

'What should I do? If I accept the mission, how am I supposed to make her mine? Do I tell her I can save her?' He fell into deep thought.

"...Hey, what are you staring at?" Garima's cold voice brought him to his senses.

"Oh? It's nothing. I was just thinking if what you said really wasn't true, because I can see that you have a unique but deadly physique." Max said, while mentally accepting the mission.

He had decided to make her his, as they would both benefit from this. She wouldn't have to die while he would gain a powerful companion.

Garima, who was ready to punish him for desecrating her body with his not so pure gaze, got stunned when she heard this.

"H-How do you know I have a special physique?" She asked, surprised. Furthermore, this wasn't the first time he surprised her. The first time was when he accurately identified her cultivation realm. However, she didn't ask him because she was angry at that moment.

As for now, her surprise was bigger because very few people knew about special physiques.

Why? Because they were even more rare than bloodlines. Moreover, it wasn't easy to tell if someone had a special physique just by looking at them. Even her master, an emperor mage, couldn't do it.

However, this guy, who was only 18, could tell?

Chapter 467: A pitiful Garima

'First step done!' Max celebrated inwardly.

Until now, he didn't have to do anything special to make a girl fall for him, so he didn't know how to actually do it.

For a moment, he even thought of releasing the restriction on his charm, but he wasn't sure if it would work on a king ranked mage. Furthermore, she might get suspicious if she suddenly found him charming.

So, he decided to use what little knowledge he had gained from surfing the internet to get close to his then crush, Alison.

According to this knowledge, the first step was to get a girl interested in you. Fortunately, the system had made things easy by providing the thing to get her interest: The information about her physique.

Max put on a complication expression and said,

"When I first saw you, I felt there was something wrong, then the feeling intensified when you attacked me with your aura. It was too chilling even by the standards of the Ice Sovereign Mountain because the white-haired woman who took Lilly away didn't have this much bone chilling coldness in her aura."

"Then I heard what you said. At first I thought you must be saying it because of the war that's going to start in a few days, but when I looked at you more... deeply. I found..."

Saying this, his complicated expression in her eyes intensified, and he even seemed pained as he took a step toward her, raised his hand to touch her face gently.

Garima frowned and wanted to swat his hand away because this was the first time a man — who wasn't her family — had touched her. But she didn't because of her curiosity.

Max inwardly rejoiced when he touched her ice-cold skin of her cheeks and said,

"...I found that you have a special physique, one that gives you unnatural coldness. Your skin that should have been as tender and as attractive as my sister or Lilly, is so rigid and freezing."

He then shifted his gaze to her lips and wanted to graze them but decided against it as that would be too much given they were just strangers, and continued,

"Your lips seem frozen as if they are blocks of ice. And your hair, which I believe should have been black from birth, has turned gray and is slowly turning silver because this physique is affecting you negatively."

Garima's expression slowly turned wistful as he recounted the changes in her appearance because before her physique which she thought was soon started acting

up, she was indeed a young, gorgeous beauty who people said she would akin to a fairy when she grew up and the one managed to capture her heart would be the most lucky and blissful man in the world.

But as her body started to change and her beauty waned, the same people started to look at her differently. She was no longer desirable or the center of their affection.

"...You are right. I have a special physique. Now let's go." She said in a low voice, wanting to end the conversation. However, what she heard next made her eyes widen and her heart to beat faster.

"Based on these things, after thinking for a while, I recalled that your special physique is called Ice Yin body. If it's cultivated with a suitable technique, can be a boon but if not, it would be a curse. For you, it's the latter."

She looked at him with a disbelieving look. "Y-You... know my what my physique called? You...? How...?"

When she was suffering, she had met her master, the white-haired woman, by chance who told her she had a special Ice body and she should go with her, train and learn to control it.

After she joined the Ice Sovereign Mountain, and learned their famed Ice technique, [Ice god technique], she had suppressed her physique's side effects.

That had made her jubilant because she could be a normal person again and her cultivation had increased a lot, reaching the five-star realm from the two-star in less than a year.

Unfortunately...

Her happiness was short-lived because as soon as she broke through to the five-star realm, her physique's side effects resurfaced. It was then she found out that her physique wasn't some normal Ice body but something more peculiar that even the [Ice God technique] couldn't control.

After that, she and her master went through all the Sovereign Mountain's records on Ice physiques, but couldn't identify hers. Since they couldn't identify it, there was naturally no solution.

She then brought her to her faction's monarchs, hoping that they might have some clues, only to be disappointed.

Feeling defeated, her master had given a sad look and told her, 'Your master is useless, Garima. Please forgive me. But don't lose hope. There must be a solution. We just need

to find the person who can tell what your physique really is. I'm sure he will know how to cure you.'

So, she was shocked beyond limits when she heard Max her call her physique [Ice Yin Body].

Whoosh!

She grabbed him by his shoulders and hurriedly questioned in an agitated, almost begging voice,

"Y-You... how do you know my physique is called this? Where he did you hear it? Someone must have told you, right? C-Can you please take me to him?"

"Ah? No. I didn't hear it from someone." Max answered, feeling sad for her. Just from her reaction, anyone could tell how desperate she was. How could she not when life was about to end?

Dying suddenly wouldn't be as bad or horrifying as knowing the date of your death ahead of time. The fear, dread, sadness and helplessness you would feel would be too much to endure.

Sure, you could be positive about it and try to live your life to the fullest, but the void that had already appeared in your heart and soul would be impossible to fill.

Garima's face drooped when she heard this. She removed her trembling hands from his shoulders and asked, "Then... how do you know this?"

Max glanced at Anna, and others who were looking at them with their mouth hung open because they had never expected that a king ranked mage would act in such a way with a three-star mage, and said,

"We'll talk about it after we are finished here."

"Hm?" Garima regained her senses when she heard this and then turned to Jack's parents and coldly barked,

"Get lost. You can't kill him."

Jack's parents' expressions turned ugly when they heard this, and anger arose in their hearts.

But... what could they do apart from obediently obeying her? Fight her? They would certainly end up dead if they dared.

But what about their revenge? Well, if they lived, they could always take it when he didn't have a king ranked mage's protection.

"Alright. We will I—" Just as they nodded and prepared to leave,

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Many figures rushed out of the academy and surrounded Max's group.

Garima and Max frowned when they saw this. Max could recognize a few of them, as they were the elders of the academy he had seen here and there, and then there was the headmaster, who was leading them all.

Chapter 468: So what if she is a demon?

Boom!

Garima released her aura, and enveloping all of them, and asked in a chilling tone as she glared at the aged headmaster leading the group,

"What's the meaning of this? Are you trying to go against me?"

The headmaster stepped forward and bowed toward her respectfully.

"Greetings, senior!" He greeted her and explained, "Please don't misunderstand. We aren't trying to go against you."

Seeing him bow, the Elders followed and bowed toward her, showing their respect.

Garima retracted her aura and asked, "Then what are you trying to achieve by surrounding us?"

This time, a middle-aged by the headmaster's side stepped forward and said, "Let me explain the reason, senior."

Adrienne, who was right behind the middle-aged man—the hall master—frowned when she saw this.

'Just what exactly is he planning? I don't believe he would insist on handing this disciple over to the Daltons.' She thought.

When he had sent the message after asking her question about Max's women and the girl who was with him, she had found that strange and had wondered who he sent the message to.

But when the headmaster and other Elders arrived one after another, she got her answer. It was the headmaster who he sent the message to because the headmaster was the only one who could move so many Elders at the same time.

However, a question still remained. What was his purpose of summoning everyone out?

The hall master paused a little and continued, "Senior, you might have not noticed this since you arrived a little later, but that girl over there..."

He pointed at Amara and said, "...I believe she isn't a human, but a demon."

Everyone gaped at him in astonishment. They even thought they had misheard him for a moment. But seeing that he was a peak three-star mage, and a hall master, he wouldn't say something without reason. Especially when he had summoned so many Elders and even the headmaster.

For this reason, their gazes became wary and hostile as they looked at Amara.

Be it human, Elves or some other race, everyone hated demons. So, this was their normal reaction.

Garima's frown deepened when she heard this because the one being accused was with Max, who was supposed to help her. However, she also couldn't ignore it.

Max knew the situation was dire when he saw the struggle on her face and hurriedly said,

"She is a demon, you say? From what angle does she look like one?"

He then turned to others and asked, "Does she look like a demon to you?"

Hearing this, doubt appeared on their faces, because Amara looked as human as one can be.

The hall master scoffed, "There are many ways to change appearance, but you can't change the nature of your energy. Ask her to show her energy and we will know if what I'm saying is true or not."

Max wanted to blow this guy's head with a punch, but he couldn't do it right now.

So, he turned to Amara, who was looking at the hall master with a murderous gaze and said, "Amara, show them your energy. I'm curious to see what he will say after finding his claim false."

Amara looked at him, took a deep and,

Boom!

Released her bloodline energy. This time, she controlled it perfectly and didn't let any wisp of her demon energy mix in.

Everyone was surprised when they saw this blood-like energy because it was too different from anything they knew.

The headmaster asked, his aged brows raised into a frown, "Why did you release your bloodline energy?"

"Because she cultivates this instead of mana. Do you have any problem with that?" Max scoffed coldly.

A displeased look appeared on the headmaster's face when he heard this, but he didn't say anything out of respect for Garima.

He then turned to the hall master. "There is no sign of any demonic energy in it."

The hall master was frowning too. He was pretty sure he noticed some faint demon energy when she neutralized Jack's mother's mana.

Thinking this, he turned to look at Jack's father and asked, "Mr. Dalton, you also noticed something strange about her energy previously, right?"

Jack's father didn't hesitate at all and nodded.

"Yes, I did, and I wanted to question her about it because I felt it was somewhat demonic, but this little bas-, this guy angered us by humiliating our dead son. Now that I think about it, he must have been trying to divert my attention."

He then looked at Max and laughed coldly, "However, he didn't know the hall master had also noticed it."

Max gave him an indifferent look in response and asked, "I understand you want to avenge your useless son, but isn't it beneath you to resort to such schemes?"

"You...!" Jack's father's temper flared up when he heard this. Not only was he calling his son useless, he was also insinuating that he was accusing Amara because of their personal enmity.

'This is so devious.' He thought angrily. How he wished Garima wasn't here so he could kill him now!

The hall master stopped paying attention to Jack's father because he knew his statement wouldn't matter now. So, he turned to face the headmaster and said,

"Headmaster, you know I won't lie about such a thing, right?"

The Headmaster was silent for a moment and then looked at Amara. "Since you aren't a demon, would you mind letting me check your body with my mana sense?"

Anger flashed in Amara's eyes when she heard this, but before she could say anything, Max laughed. His laughter contained his shimmering anger.

"How laughable! You seriously want her to live her life in your hands by allowing your mana inside her body? How about you let me check your body with my mana sense because I also suspect you are a demon?"

He then turned to Garima and said, "I hope you won't entertain these morons any longer or I would be too disappointed in you."

His words hid a threat that immediately caused all the internal struggle Garima was having vanish.

So, what if this girl was a demon? She would just kill people, right? Wasn't the demon race going to do that in a few days, anyway?

So, it didn't make a difference anyway. However, if she didn't stop this farce, her newfound hope of finding a cure would be squashed.

Thinking this, she waved her hand in the headmaster and the hall master's direction. A wave of invisible mana rippled toward them and,

Bang! Bang!

Two bangs resounded as both of them were sent flying backwards, spitting out blood.

Chapter 469: Returning to Claymore town [1]

Bang! Bang!

The duo crashed onto the ground, creating small craters.

The Elders looked at this scene and felt cold chills run down their spines and a thought appeared in their minds simultaneously.

'A king rank mage isn't something we can face, even if all of us were as strong as the headmaster.'

Cough! Cough!

The headmaster coughed and slowly lifted his body up. The hall master also stood up.

Both of their faces were pale, drained of color. However, it wasn't because they were severely injured but because they witnessed first-hand how powerful a king rank mage was.

Well... it wasn't exactly true since the attack just now was a casual one. However, this exactly was what horrified them the most.

"S-Senior..." the headmaster spoke, his voice trembling slightly, but he could only say a single word before Garima interrupted him.

"She is not a demon. So, drop this matter."

"B-But senior, what if she is?" The headmaster gritted his teeth and asked.

Garima glanced at Amara and then at Max before saying indifferently, "So what if she is?"

After saying this, she glanced at Max and others and waved her hand.

Whoosh!

Immediately, Max and others felt themselves being enveloped by an invisible energy which made them feel as if they didn't weigh at all.

"Let's go," Garima said and flew up. Max and others floated up under her control.

Soon, they had disappeared from everyone's vision.

The headmaster looked in the direction where they disappeared and muttered, "So what if she is, huh?"

The hall master looked at him and asked, "Headmaster, should we inform the royal family about it?"

The headmaster shook his head. "There is no need to. Let's just hasten our preparation."

After a pause, he added, "We'll inform disciples in three days."

Hearing this, the hall master frowned, "But that will cause chaos."

"So what if it will?" The headmaster chuckled and then sighed. "At least they would know what to expect."

Finished saying this, he flickered inside the academy.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Within a few minutes, Max's group arrived a few tens of miles away from the Cloud mountain.

Garima glanced at Max and said, "You guys can head to the Claymore town on your own. With your strengths, you won't encounter any difficulty. I'm going to bring your other sibling back the different academies back."

"Thank you!" Max said, feeling grateful.

Although she hadn't told him why she was here, he could guess Lilly must have sent here her or she was sent on Lilly's request to make sure they didn't die when the demons invaded.

Realizing how she was worried about them while being in such a faraway place, Max felt warm and his longing to meet her increased.

"Don't be. It's what I'm supposed to do." Garima shook her head and then added hesitantly, "Remember not to tell me everything you know about my physique when I return. I... will be grateful."

Hearing this, Max smiled lightly. "Don't worry, I will."

"Mm." Garima nodded and said to Mina, "Let's go."

Mina nodded and as they started floating up, she looked at Max and Anna and said, "Be careful on the way, okay?"

"Don't worry, we will." Max assured her.

Whoosh!

After they reached some height, both of them whistled through the sky like a rocket.

"How fast!" Anna exclaimed.

Amara glanced at her and smiled good-naturedly. "It's not. She can fly at least ten times faster, but she isn't because that lady by her side wouldn't be able to endure it."

"Oh!" Anna exclaimed in surprise.

She then glanced at Amara, her eyes narrowing slightly, which made Amara frown.

'Is she doubting my identity?' She thought.

Anna then turned to Max and asked. "Little Max. Who is she? Why does she call you master?"

"It's because she is my servant." Max answered.

When Amara heard this, her eyes drooped a little, but then she heard Max speak again, "However, she can't be considered one because I have taken her as my woman."

Hearing this, Amara's lips curled into a beautiful smile while Anna looked at Max in shock.

"S-She... your woman..." she stuttered, and then said, almost shouting, "Just how many women do you want? You have Lilly, Leticia, Belen, Rima and there is Flavia too, and now you have one another."

Cough!

Max coughed, feeling awkward, but then he stepped toward her, put his hand around her waist and pulled her against his chest and said,

"You didn't name yourself? Don't tell me you've changed your mind?"

Anna, who wanted to scold him for fooling around so much, shuddered and her face reddened at his gesture and words. She then said in a low voice, "Would you even have time for me with so many women around you?"

A brilliant smile appeared on Max's face when he heard this and said, "Of course. I will have."

Saying this, he gently lifted her chin up, looked into her autumn eyes and leaned down to kiss her lips, but couldn't because she had put her hand over his mouth.

"C-Can't you see we aren't alone?" She angrily said, casting a glance at Amara.

"This means I can kiss you when we are alone, huh?" Max grinned.

"I never said that." Anna blushed.

After teasing her for a while, he took out an escape talisman and gave it to her and said, "Let's go."

Anna crushed the talisman, feeling her body being reinforced by a strange energy.

The trio then rushed in the Claymore town's direction.

While running, Anna suddenly asked, "Max, have you told Leticia and Belen about the demons?"

The last month while he was away, both Leticia and Belen had started going out on missions to gain experience and hone their fighting skills. She had only met them two times before Flavia was taken away.

"Don't worry. I had informed them about this. They should be heading toward their homes right now. After they convince their loved ones, they will come to us."

When he returned from the demon continent, he had received messages from them asking if he had returned and that they weren't in the academy, etc.

Since they were out, he had told them about the demon invasion and asked them to go get their loved ones before meeting him, to which they agreed, even though they found it hard to believe.

Suddenly, he remembered something and his expression changed, "Damn it!"

Chapter 470: Returning to Claymore town [2]

"What is it?" Anna asked. Amara also paid attention.

"I forgot to inform a friend of mine and that... Elder who I am close with." Max said. Because of how things had turned out, he completely forgot about informing Haory and Jasmine.

Although Haory and he hadn't met after their initial outing, he still thought of her as his friend. As for Jasmine, well, she could be considered his woman, or could she?

'There's Eliana too.' He thought. 'Should I go back to tell them?'

As this thought appeared in his mind, he immediately shook his head, 'I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be allowed into the academy. Besides, Jack's parents' should be there right now. If they see me alone, they will definitely want to kill me.'

Anna frowned and asked, "You can't tell them through communication crystal?"

"No. I don't have their mana signature." Max shook his head and then said, "Forget it. As long as they are in the academy, they should be safe."

"Hm." Anna nodded while letting out a sigh of relief in her heart. She was prepared to stop him if he said he wanted to go back to warn them because going there was too dangerous for him after all that happened. Fortunately, she didn't have to.

As they ran, Max shifted his attention to the system and opened his status for the first time after he broke through to the three-star and the system changed.

[Status]

Name: Maxwell Garfield

Cultivation realm: Early stage, three-star.

Age: 18

Strength: 150

Agility: 150

Stamina: 150

Vitality: 150

Intelligence: 150

Mana: 100/10,000

Element: Fire (Concentration: 70%)

Lust Points: 0

Kill Points: 4,170

Shop Points: 10,619.

A surprised expression appeared on his face when he saw his attributes.

'All of them have increased by 50. No wonder I'm feeling stronger than before even without using mana. However...'

He raised his brows and thought, '...I've never heard someone becoming physically stronger when they breakthrough.'

He didn't have to think of the reason this happened because it was clearly the system's 'gift'.

He then moved his gaze down to the Lust, Kill and Shop points.

'System, why don't I have any LPs? Didn't I do it with Amara to complete the first mission?' He asked when he saw 0 written in front of LPs.

[Host, those points were used to help the system transform.] System answered.

'Alright.' He nodded and moved his gaze lower.

'These kill points, what should I do with them? Should I add them into my mana or convert them into SPs?' He thought and then decided not to touch them for now.

With their speed, it took them only a day to reach the Claymore town.

Huff! Huff! Huff!

All three of them panting heavily. This was especially true for Anna. Even though she had used all the escaping talismans Max had and then was helped by him and Amara in turns, she was thoroughly drained.

"Ha! I want to sleep now." She said, wiping the sweat from her face and forehead.

"Same here." Amara chimed in.

Although she was a high-star three-star demon and had a lot of stamina, maybe even more than Max, she wasn't used to running. She had her wings to travel, after all. That was why she was also very exhausted and wanted to sleep badly.

Max, also drained, smiled at them. "Let's go. We can sleep at home."

"No, we won't be able to. At least not for a few hours after reaching home." Anna pouted her lips.

"Hm? Why?" Max asked, curious.

Anna grinned at him. "Did you forget how my mom is? She wouldn't let us rest until we tell her everything we've experienced in the academy."

"Oh? Now I remember." Max smiled wryly.

From original Max's memories, he recalled how excited Amelia would get whenever Anna, Emily, or others returned from their academies. Even though she knew she should let them rest first, she wouldn't and would keep asking questions.

After they entered the town and headed toward the Garfield mansion.

A few people recognized Anna and started greeting her while casting furtive glances at Amara, who stood silently by their side, looking at everything in the town.

After a while, she muttered, "I don't know why humans and demons hate each other when they don't have much difference in their lifestyles."

Max nodded, agreeing with her.

When he had seen the market in Amara's city, he also felt the same. Apart from a few things, such as race and culture, both races didn't have much difference. Even the Elven race was the same.

Anna, however, froze when she heard Amara. Her eyes narrowed at Amara as she asked in a low voice so others wouldn't hear her,

"So, you are really a demon?"

Amara stiffened when she heard this and knew she had messed up. She glanced at Max, asking for his help.

Max sighed and nodded. "Yes, she is."

Anna didn't have any violent reaction as a normal person would have if they found out her identity, which surprised both Max and Amara.

She looked at him strangely and asked, "You are really bold, aren't you?"

Max simply shrugged.

Anna then ignored him and turned to Amara and asked excitedly, "This isn't your real form, right? If it is, then it's too much coincidence that you have the same eyes as little Max."

Amara didn't answer but asked instead, "You... aren't you afraid or feel disgust for me?"

"Why would I?" Anna asked as if in confusion and then said, "I'm not like everyone else. As long as someone isn't my enemy or has harmed me or my loved ones, it doesn't matter which race they belong to. They will be the same to me as a random human is."

She then added with a smile, "Furthermore, even if I felt some hatred or disgust toward the demon race, I wouldn't have treated you differently. You are little Max's woman and a family member now, after all."

Amara's heart warmed when she heard this, and a radiant smile appeared on her face. She then nodded. "Yes, it isn't my true form."

"Can you show me your true form?" Anna asked, excited.

"No problem." Amara nodded.

Max smiled as he watched them converse.

In a good mood, they quickly arrived before the Garfield mansion. However, their faces fell when they saw the scene in front of them.

Chapter 471: Silent Rage

When the group arrived in front of the Garfield mansion, the main gate was close which was very unusual because in their memory, the gates had never been closed even in the night.

A few people were curiously looking at the gate, discussing why the gates were closed. Many rumors were flying around. Max picked up one particularly disturbing: The Garfield mansion was attacked by a group of three people.

Whoosh!

Max appeared in front of a middle-aged woman. She was the one who had spoken about the attack.

"Ah! Who are you?" His sudden appearance startled the woman.

Max stared at her with a grim look, his immature aura unconsciously seeping out and enveloping her, which made breathing hard for her, and her face turned pale.

"What did you just say about the attack?" He asked, trying to keep his voice calm. For some reason, he felt that what this woman said wasn't just a baseless rumor, but he hoped badly for it to be one.

"I-I'm sorry, sir. P-Please don't... kill...me."

The man begged, forcing the words out. She was just an ordinary person, so she couldn't endure his aura's oppression at all and almost lost her consciousness.

"Hm?" Max frowned upon seeing this and realized what he was doing. So, he retracted his aura, causing the woman to heave deep breaths.

"Now, tell me. Why are you saying that the Garfield mansion was attacked?" Max asked.

The woman hesitated, but under his gaze, she couldn't keep silent and said,

"Earlier today, when I passed by here, I saw three middle-aged men. They walked to the mansion, wanting to enter, but the guards stopped them. However..."

She gulped as she remembered and said with some apprehension,

"...however, one of the three waved his hand and the guards fell to the ground. F-From what I could tell, they had died. A-After that, those three men entered and suddenly the scenery changed and everything went silent. I was scared, so I didn't approach the mansion and ran away."

Max's expression turned dark as he heard her. He gritted his teeth and clenched his teeth to calm down, but couldn't.

Whoosh!

He turned around and rushed to the mansion. Anna and Amara also followed. They had also heard what the woman said.

Apart from a frown on her face, Amara was calm, but the same wasn't true for Anna. She seemed on the verge of breaking down out of anxiety. She also felt that the woman didn't lie because it was too unusual for the mansion's gates to be closed.

As Max pushed open the gate, a voice sounded. "No one is allowed to enter the mansion."

Following the voice, a middle-aged man appeared. He was the Butler George.

When Butler George saw Max and Anna, he smiled lightly, but his smile was desolate and not cheerful as before. "Ah, it's young master Max and young lady Anna. Please forgive me. I thought it was someone else."

Thump!

Max and Anna's heart skipped a beat when they saw the butler George acting strange.

"Uncle George... what happened?" Anna asked, her voice breaking. She was desperately hoping that he would say that nothing was wrong. At best, there was some minor problem. However,

Sigh!

Butler George sighed and said, "You should go inside. Everyone is in the master's room."

Saying this, he closed the gate and walked away.

Feeling their nerves growing tense, Max and Anna rushed toward the residence area and to Ashton's room.

Whoosh!

They entered the room and saw their sisters-in-law standing around Ashton's bed while Amelia and Esther were sitting on each side of the bed with tears in their eyes.

When the duo entered the room, everyone noticed them, but no one greeted them.

Max and Anna also didn't say. To be exact, they couldn't say anything because they felt their throats constrict when they saw a skinny and pale man lying unconscious on the bed.

Even though he was completely unrecognizable, they knew who he was. He was their father, Ashton.

"...Father!" Anna cried out and rushed to the bed, tears uncontrollably falling down her eyes.

"M-Mother, w-what happened? Why is he like this?" she asked Amelia, who had a vacant look in her eyes.

Amelia didn't answer and just continued to stare blankly at Ashton.

Esther sighed. She glanced at Anna and Max, who had also arrived by the bed and was looking at Ashton with red eyes and explained what had happened.

"Count Wiley came, and he wasn't alone..."

...

"...According to what that senior said, he only has a month left to live."

After hearing everything, Anna started bawling. As for Max, he looked calm but within him rage was bubbling.

He closed his eyes and muttered quietly, "Count Wiley, the Dalton and the Royal family."

He then took a deep breath and focused on what was more important.

'System, show me something that can save his life.'

Just as he said, a window popped up on his retina, showing a small container that had a drop of clear water.

[Diluted Drop of life]

Description: Drop of life is a treasure that the people of a mysterious race produce once in their lifetime. It can save a person's life and restore them to their peak health as long

as they have a hint of life left. It's diluted a thousand times and is no longer as potent as a real drop of life, but can still save anyone below the six-star mage realm.

Limitation: Can't be used to the same person twice.

Price: 200,000 SPs.

'A thousand times diluted, and it's still worth 200,000 SPs?' Max frowned and asked, 'Is it the best and cheapest item to save him?'

[Yes, host. This is the best item available in the system's shop which can save him. As for the cheapest, no, host. It isn't the cheapest as there are some other cheaper items but their effects aren't as mild as this [Diluted Drop of life] and would cause his death before their life saving properties start working.]

The system answered.

'Understood.' Max nodded and after a moment, he asked, 'Can you tell me exactly how much time he has left?'

Chapter 472: Maternal Grandma

The system was silent for a moment before a message panel popped up in front of him.

[Host's father can still live for 23 days. However, if he is kept in his current comatose state, he can live for 10 more days.]

Max's body trembled a little when he heard this and asked, 'Can you put him in that state?'

Another panel popped up in response.

[The system can, but it doesn't have the required energy to do so.]

'How much energy do you need?' Max asked.

[Host's current kill points should be barely enough. However, the system won't be able to answer any question the host has until the host gains more LPs or KPs.]

'Good. Use these KPs and do it.' Max said. Fortunately, he hadn't used or converted them.

Just as he said this, his KPs vanished and Ashton's previously knitted brows relaxed a little.

Noticing this, he relaxed a little and thought. '33 days...'

If he couldn't gather 200,000 SPs within these 33 days, Aston will die. Although he wasn't the original Max, his feelings for Ashton were the same as him, so he didn't want him to die.

Taking a deep breath, he glanced at Esther and Amelia and said, "Don't worry. Nothing will happen to him. Within a month, he will be the same as before. No, not the same. He will be in an even better condition."

It was as if his words had some sort of power, Amelia regained some light in her eyes and looked at him.

"Are you telling the truth? H-He will be alright?"

"Yes. He will be." Max nodded and said, "Now, you guys don't wear these sad faces. He would be disappointed if he knew you guys were behaving like this."

Saying this, he turned around and walked out of the room. Eva and Esther stared at his back, surprised.

After leaving Ashton's room, Max arrived in front of the guest room where Gene and her grandma were staying.

Just as he was about to knock, the door opened and a beautiful young girl who had the same hair and eyes as him appeared in front of him.

She looked at him up and down and commented, "So, you are my cousin, huh? You are not too bad looking."

Max smiled and nodded. "You are quite beautiful, too."

Hearing this, Gene's eyes lit up, and she hurriedly asked, "Really? I'm beautiful?"

"Ah...?" Max looked at her strangely and nodded. "Yes. Hasn't anyone told you that before?"

"My grandma and others had told me but no one of the opposite gender." She said with a pout and then asked, "Am I as beautiful as aunt Hannah? I heard she was a peerless beauty."

Max thought for a moment and shook his head. "No, you aren't as beautiful as her."

"Is that so?" Gene's face drooped.

Seeing this, Max coughed and said, "You are still young. As you grow up, maybe you will be as beautiful as her."

Gene's eyes lit up again, and she eagerly asked, "You think so?"

Just then, an aged voice sounded from within the room.

"Little Gene, why don't you let him come in?"

Gene pouted and turned around. "Come in. Grandma is waiting for you."

Max nodded, thanking the old lady for putting a stop to her questions.

He followed Gene into the room and saw an old lady, well, not too old. She seemed to be in her fifties and had some wrinkles on her pale face. Apart from that, she seemed quite healthy and if he looked carefully, her figure was not bad...

'Cough! System, stop making me more perverted.' He blamed the system.

If the system wasn't weakened after helping Ashton, it surely would've refuted his claims.

"Greetings, senior." He greeted her and then bowed toward her. "Thank you for helping my family. Without you, I don't even want to imagine what would have happened."

The old lady looked at him up and down before saying, "I had to. This is my niece's family, after all. And you don't have to call me senior. Call me grandma just like Gene does."

"Okay, Grandma."

She then said with a confused look on her face, "I seem to have seen you somewhere before."

"Oh? But I don't think I have seen you before, grandma." Max said.

The old lady thought for a moment before her eyes lit up. "I remember. I saw you in that Elvin city's auction house over a month ago. You were there right?"

"I see. Yes, I was there."

"Too bad I didn't recognize you or we wouldn't have to waste so much time finding your family." The old lady said somewhat regretfully.

Hearing this, Max chuckled, "Fortunately, grandma didn't recognize me or my family wouldn't have avoided the disaster today."

When the old lady heard this, she let out an embarrassed laugh. It was true. If she had recognized him, she might have left the Green Leaf Kingdom by now.

"Ahem... it's not true. That white robed girl would've saved them even if I wasn't here." She said,

Max nodded and then asked, "What's your plan, grandma? Are you going to leave as soon as you get my mother's sword?"

The old lady nodded. "Yes. I need to return to the central plains as soon as possible and recover so I can save my family."

"Recover? Save your family?" Max asked in confusion.

The old lady sighed and explained her family's situation and how she was injured and needed emperor grade healing medicine to heal.

Max went silent when he heard this.

After a while, he said, "Based on what you've told me, while avoiding the Thunder family's detection, returning to the central plains, and buying grade seven healing medicine isn't going to be easy and there a high risk of being discovered, right?"

The old lady frowned, thinking why he was asking this, but nodded. "That's right. If I was at my peak, there wouldn't be much risk, but now... the chances of getting discovered are quite high."

Max looked into her eyes and asked, "Would you be willing to stay and protect my family for a few months if I bring you grade seven healing medicine?"

His family would be safe with an emperor mage protecting it. Although he could ask Garima to stay, he had planned to go to the Ice Sovereign Mountain to get Lilly back because apparently, she was in danger there.

Chapter 473: Blaming Hannah

The old lady raised her brows when she heard him.

As for Gene, she looked at him as if he was an idiot and scoffed, "You can bring grade seven healing medicine? You must be dreaming."

She then put her hands on her either side of her thin waist and continued,

"Not to mention you can't travel to the central plains with your current strength, even if we assume you can, it'll take you a month or maybe more just to reach the place and I don't want to mention the difficulties you'll have buying the medicine."

Max ignored her and continued to look at her grandma.

The old lady was silent for a moment before she opened her mouth and gently said,

"What little Gene is right. It won't be easy for you to buy the medicine. Furthermore, by the time you return, the demons would have already invaded and the war would have started, making the journey back even more deadly. So..."

Max smiled when he heard her and before she could complete her sentence, he interrupted her, saying:

"Who said I'll need to travel to the central plains to get you the healing medicine?"

"If not that, how are you going to bring the medicine?" Gene asked, curious.

The old lady also looked at him with curiosity, awaiting his answer.

"You guys don't have to worry about it. I just want to know if grandma can stay and protect my family for a few months if I can get you medicine." Max asked, not telling what they wanted to hear.

"Hmph!"

Gene harrumphed, clearly displeased, but didn't say anything.

The old lady narrowed her eyes at Max, deep in thought. A moment later, she said, "I can, but you have to bring me the medicine within a week after I get the sword. If not, I would leave."

She then sighed and said, "Don't think I don't care about you or your family, I do, but not as much as my family members' lives that are hanging by a thread being in the thunder family's captivity."

"Don't worry. I understand." Max nodded.

After that, they did small talk before Max excused himself.

After he left, Gene looked at her grandma and asked, "Why did you agree, grandma? We can't afford to waste a week more here, especially since the War has been brought forward."

The old lady smiled, "Little Gene, did you forget how difficult it will be for us to avoid being found if we try to enter the cities that have grade seven medicine? If he can really bring me the healing medicine, it'll be worth waiting for a week and we won't have to take the risk. Even if he can't, it'll still be alright."

"But grandma, if he really got you the medicine, we'll have to stay here for a few months..." Gene complained.

"It'll be alright. Even if I have the Thunder sword, I can't just march into the Thunder family. I will need time to plan and wait for the right opportunity to infiltrate their family and who knows how long it will take until that opportunity arrives. It might take a week, a month, or even a year. And all this while, we'll be still at the risk of being found out." The old lady said.

Gene went silent upon hearing this. She knew even if their heirloom could make her grandma as strong as an early-stage monarch mage, the Thunder family wasn't easy to deal with.

After a few hours later, Garima and Mina returned with Emily and others. After glancing at Max, Garima went to one of the guest rooms.

When Emily and others saw their father's condition, Emily cried silent tears while Mark and William were visibly sad.

Noah, however, was enraged, mostly because of his wife's death. He pointed at Max and shouted,

"It's all because of his mother. If not for her, count Wiley wouldn't have become father's enemy and all this wouldn't have happened. My wife, Chloe, wouldn't have died."

Esther and others frowned when they heard this. Esther was about to scold him when,

Whoosh!

Max suddenly appeared in front of him and,

Slap!

Slapped him across the face, leaving a deep, red palm print.

Apart from Anna, Amara and Mina, everyone else was surprised by this.

"H-How did he become so strong?" William gaped while Mark's eyes narrowed and Emily, Esther, and Amelia looked at Max in surprise.

Anna glanced at William and smirked. "Did you think he was still as weak as before? Not to mention Noah is just a one-star mage. Even if he was a three-star, he would still be nothing in front of little Max."

Emily glanced at Anna strangely and thought, 'Isn't Noah your brother? Why are you being happy about it?'

She then asked, "When did he become a three-star mage?"

"Not long ago." Anna answered proudly before she looked at her in surprise and asked, "You can tell he is a three-star mage?"

"Yes." Emily nodded.

"Don't tell me you've become a three-star mage, too?" Anna asked.

"Yes. But I could tell even if I wasn't because the speed he just showed it a lot faster than a peak two-star mage. See, our mothers can also tell he is a three-star mage." Emily answered calmly.

Anna, however, didn't pay any attention to her words after she heard she had also become a three-star mage. She just gazed at her in a gaze. A moment later, she recovered from her surprise and her face drooped.

When Emily saw this, she could guess what she was feeling. Hesitating a little, she said, "Um, don't worry. You will also become a three-star mage soon." Same as before, she wasn't good at communicating because her words didn't sound convincing at all.

Meanwhile, Noah looked at Max, stunned. He never expected Max would dare to hit him, given how meek he was before.

"Y-You bastard. How d—"

After he came to his senses, his eyes burned with rage and he shouted.

However, he stopped mid-sentence because Max had grabbed him by his neck and clenched it slightly, causing his face to turn red.

"Little Max..." Amelia wanted to say something, but Esther stopped her.

"Don't worry, he won't hurt him."

Max glared at Noah and calmly said, "I understand you are sad and angry because of your wife's death. Everyone is. However, if you say another word about my mother or complain again, I'll bash you until you faint, understand?"

Chapter 474: It's wrong to pity when you are weak

When Noah heard this, all his anger dissipated, being replaced by fear. He could clearly see Max wasn't the same timid guy as he was before and won't endure their bullying anymore.

"I-I... under... stand." Noah struggled to speak.

"Good. Now keep quiet and don't make any noise. It'll just make everyone feel worse than they already are feeling." Max said, removing his hand from his neck.

Ha! Ha!

Noah gasped for air and then looked at everyone, hoping that they would scold Max or at least say something for treating him like this, but no one, including his mother and sister, said anything, causing his expression to turn dark. He gave Max a hateful glance and walked out of the room.

After he went out, Max glanced at Amelia and apologized. "I'm sorry for just now."

Although she didn't say anything, Noah was her son, after all, and she wouldn't feel good when someone hit him.

"It's alright. He shouldn't have burst out like too." Amelia sighed.

Max nodded and said, "I'll go and meet that king mage."

He was about to walk out when Anna ran up to him. "Let me go with you."

"No. You should take Amara to her room and get some rest." Max shook his head. He wanted to be alone with Garima so he could discuss certain things with her.

"Okay." Anna pouted in dissatisfaction. It wasn't daily she met a king ranked mage, so she wanted to be near her as much as he could so she could learn something from her.

Max smiled wryly and instinctively rubbed her head, saying, "I have some private things to discuss with her."

Hearing this, Anna narrowed her eyes at him, making him sweat, but she didn't say anything and led Amara out of the room.

Max shook his head and also walked out, heading for Garima's room.

Back in Ashton's room, Esther and Mina glanced at Amelia when they saw how close Anna seemed to be with Max. They knew she was always close with him, but today something seemed different.

Amelia had obviously noticed this because there was a frown on her face. But she then shook her head and returned to sit by Ashton's side.

Since she didn't seem bothered about it, Esther and Mina ignored it, too. Standing by William's side, Eva had an amused look in her eyes and thought,

'This guy... he is really something.'

Max arrived before Garima's room and, just as he raised his hand to knock, the door opened.

'I keep forgetting they have divine sense.' He thought, smiling wryly.

Garima glanced at him, hesitated for a moment, and then said, "Please come in."

This was the first time she invited someone into her room so she wasn't feeling comfortable, but to get find the cure for her physique, she had to be as polite as possible.

The corner of Max's lips twitched when he noticed her reluctance. But he chose to ignore it and followed her inside and closed the door behind him.

"Mm?" Garima raised her brows upon noticing this but didn't say anything.

Max walked over to the bed and sat down before saying, "Can you make it so no one can hear us?"

Garima looked at him in silence. She didn't like that he didn't even ask before sitting on her bed. But then again, she didn't say anything about it and waved her hand.

Whoosh!

A wave of mana surged out of her and created a thin, Ice barrier around them.

Max looked around and asked, "You sure she won't be able to hear us now?"

Garima snorted softly and said, "She can't unless she breaks this barrier."

"That's good then." Max smiled and looked at her silently, waiting for her to speak.

Garima flinched slightly under his intense gaze and asked, "Can you tell me how do you know about my physique? Did someone tell you?"

"No. No one told me. I just know." Since he couldn't tell her about the system, he could only lie.

Garima frowned at his answer, and her voice grew a little cold. "Are you lying to me?"

"Nope. I'm telling the truth." Max shook his head.

Garima was disappointed a little when she heard this and then asked, "You said if I had a suitable cultivation technique, my physique wouldn't affect me negatively, right? I-is there any other way to cure it?"

She didn't ask what cultivation technique he was talking about because it should be better than the [Ice god technique] and she didn't know if there was a better Ice cultivation technique than it. So, she could only hope that there was another way to solve her problem.

However, her hopes shattered when Max shook his head. "From what I know, there isn't anything else."

Step! Step!

She staggered backwards; her face turning even paler.

"Ha, what did I expect?" She laughed mournfully and crystal tears appeared in her eyes, threatening to fall down.

Max knew he should wait for a while so she could despair a little, which would make her vulnerable to agree to his condition when he told her he could save her. However, he couldn't bear it when he saw her like this and spoke up,

"If you want, I can give you the suitable technique for your [Ice Yin body]."

"Hm?" Her eyes lit up when she heard this and as she looked at him, Max suddenly felt the air around him freeze.

'Fuck! I shouldn't have pitied her.' Max cursed when he sensed the change. He knew she must be thinking of forcing him to hand over the technique.

So, he hurriedly shouted, "I don't have it with me, so there is no use trying to force me. If you want it, you have to agree to my conditions."

Garima narrowed her eyes and waved her hand. As soon as she did, his spatial ring flew out of his finger and landed in her hand.

She scanned it with her sense and frowned because there were only a few useless things such as mana stones and such. There was no sign of any technique.

She retracted her Ice elemental mana, causing the surrounding air to return to normal and threw his ring back.

"Tell me your conditions."

Chapter 475: She knows

Phew!

Max exhaled a deep breath and then released wisps of his fire elemental mana, getting rid of the chill that had seeped into his skin.

"Oh?!" Garima exclaimed, her brows raised slightly in surprise.

"What is it?" Max asked, a little unhappy.

Garima didn't answer, but released her soul sense and enveloped him.

(A/N: I'll use soul sense instead of divine sense from now on. Only mages above the mortal boundary can use soul sense, as for those below, they can only use Mana sense.)

Max frowned. From her expression, he knew he was being scanned, but he couldn't even feel it.

A moment later, a surprised expression appeared on her face.

"No wonder you can so easily get rid of my remnant mana. Your foundation is several times better than an ordinary three-star mage, and your mana is also so pure and strong." She muttered in realization.

Hearing this, Max understood why she scanned him, and he felt a little proud. Although the system's LPs played a big role, he had also endured quite a lot of pain to strengthen his foundation, so he naturally felt happy to hear her praise.

Garima, noticing his fleeting proud expression, snorted softly and said, "Tell me your conditions."

Max nodded and opened his mouth to speak, but hesitated.

"What?" Garima asked coldly when she saw this.

Max appeared to be in a dilemma but gritted his teeth and said, "The thing is... you might not like the condition I have and seeing how you tried to kill me just now, I'm afraid..."

Garima interrupted him and said in her usual emotionless voice, "I apologize for that, but... I wasn't going to kill you."

"My master had ordered me to keep you guys safe and I won't disobey her orders even if my life is on the line, so don't worry. I won't kill you even if I don't like your conditions. At most, I would just beat you."

Max sighed in relief and felt chills run down his spine at the same time when he heard her.

'Well, at least I won't get killed if she is telling the truth.' He thought, took a deep breath and said,

"I can give you the technique, but you need to become my woman first. That's my condition."

After saying this, he put his guard up, ready to take the beating that might follow, but surprisingly, Garima remained calm and just stared at him silently.

After a long, uncomfortable silence, Garima said, "Do you know I want to kill you right now?"

Max flinched at her words and asked gingerly, "Why?"

"Because you are the same as all other filthy men. You have a fairy-like wife, Lilly, and that demon girl also seemed to be in a relationship with you, but you are still eyeing me. You men's lust is insatiable," she said coldly, a chilly light flashing through her icy eyes.

Max's eyes widened in shock when he heard her call Amara 'demon girl' and asked, "Y-You knew? How can that be possible? And if you knew, why didn't you kill her?"

When Garima saw the surprise on his face and heard his questions, and said indifferently,

"If she wasn't, you wouldn't have threatened me with the solution to my physique and would've just let them or me check her body. But you didn't want to let us. However, even then, I wasn't completely sure, but now I am."

Hearing this, Max nodded and then asked in a grim voice, "Are you going to kill her now since you are sure of her identity?"

"I should, but I won't." Garima said.

"Why?"

Garima gave him a sideways glance and said, "Because she is your woman and you may not give me the technique if I kill her. Besides, there would be tens of thousands of demons here in a few days. Killing just one wouldn't do any good."

"Thanks." Max nodded and then returned to the previous topic. "So, do you agree to be my woman or not?"

Garima narrowed her eyes and asked, "How do I know if you can really get the technique and it can save my life?"

Max shrugged in response and said, "You can't know. You just have to take the chance and believe me. But if it makes you feel any better, you can kill me or do whatever you want if I can't keep my promise."

Garima went silent when she heard this. After a long while, she looked at him and said, "I need some time to think about it."

The corner of Max's lips curled up slightly when he heard this and nodded. "Of course, but I'll appreciate if you don't take too much time."

"Mhm." She nodded as the ice barrier melted and disappeared.

Seeing this, Max headed out of the room.

Soon, three days passed. In these days, Max accompanied his sad step-mothers, Anna and Emily, sometimes met Gene and had some intimate time with Amara, earning 5000 LPs.

Another thing to note was that Eva seemed eager to meet him but couldn't because William was practically with her all the time.

Today they had prepared to leave the claymore town and head to the south-western border of the Green Leaf kingdom, where Max had accompanied Eliana on her mission to hunt the black beetles a few months ago.

They chose that place to hide because it was barren with no civilization, so the chances of demons heading there were quite low.

Max had informed Belen and Leticia about their destination and told them to meet on the way there. He wanted to inform Rima, but before he could, she had contacted him and told him about the invasion. Apparently, the Elves had also gotten the news.

When Max told her he already knew about it and that they were evacuating to the southwestern border, she asked him to come to the Elvin city instead, where they would be safer under her master's protection.

Max thought about it. Although the demons were sure to attack the city, with Garima and the old granny in addition to the Elvin city's forces, they would be safer there. Moreover, his family wouldn't have to suffer in the uninhabitable barren border.

So, he told this to Garima and the old granny. They were surprised but agreed to the proposal.

Right as they were leaving Claymore town, Max's communication crystal rang and after he heard the message, his expressions changed drastically.

Chapter 476: Demons are here.

Anna, who was walking right by his side, was the first to notice his expression, apart from Amara, and asked worriedly.

"What's wrong, little Max?"

Garima and others also looked at him when they heard her. Only Noah snorted softly and looked away.

Max took a deep breath and said in a grave voice, "The demons are here."

"What?!" Everyone exclaimed in shock while Garima and the old Granny frowned.

"Wasn't there still some time before they arrived?" William asked, panicking.

"There was, but they are already here." Max said and glanced at Anna, "Leticia and Belen's group was attacked by a group of five three-star demons and many of their family members were killed and the rest are hiding for now but from what Belen told me, it won't be long before they are found."

Anna became worried about them when she heard this.

Max looked at the old granny. "Grandma, you take them to the Elvin city. I'll meet you guys there after I save them."

"Can you handle five three-star mages?" Old granny asked.

"Don't worry about it." Max nodded and then glanced at Amara and said. "Let's go."

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Amara nodded, and the duo rushed away, quickly disappearing from everyone's sights.

Emily looked at her mother, Esther, and said, "Mother, I will go with them."

"Alright, but be careful." Esther didn't try to stop her because she knew how stubborn her daughter could be once she decided something.

Emily nodded and also rushed away. Her speed was even faster than Max and Amara.

Old granny watched as she disappeared and then nodded. "She is quite a talented girl to gain some mastery over her wind element."

"Mhm." Garima agreed with her.

Gene pulled on her grandma's sleeves and asked in a slightly excited voice, "Grandma, can I go with them? I also want to fight the demons."

"No." Her grandma didn't even think for a moment before refusing her.

"But grandma..." Gene pouted her lips and looked at her pitifully, but the old granny stayed firm on her decision and didn't allow her.

Meanwhile, Anna looked in the direction where Max and others had disappeared, her fists clenched tight. She once again felt how weak she was when compared to Max or Emily.

'I need to become stronger so I can help him, just like Emily.' She thought.

"Alright, guys. Let's go," Old granny ordered, and they started moving in the Elvin city's direction.

In a forest more than a hundred miles away from the Claymore town, in a forest on the way to the south-western border, Leticia and Belen were hiding along with a dozen other people in a relatively concealed valley.

Leticia had a deep wound on her abdomen, her face was pale white and her breathing was slightly labored. Belen was also injured. Her left hand was mangled and all bloody. Some of the people by their side also had varying degrees of injuries.

A petite woman who resembled Leticia was sitting by her side, looking at her worriedly. She was Leticia's mother, a one-star mage.

"I'm alright, mother. This will heal in a while." Leticia smiled at her mother, assuring her.

"My baby girl, why did you have to stay behind and fight them? You should've escaped with us." Her mother said, tears in her eyes.

"I had to, mother. If I didn't hold them back, they would've caught you guys within minutes." Leticia said.

Hearing this, her mother started sobbing. "I'm so useless. If I trained when I was young, you wouldn't have to risk your life to save us."

"Hey, mother, don't blame yourself." Leticia said.

One of the people, a middle-aged woman beside them, looked at Leticia and asked, "Young miss, what should we do? Those demons would find us sooner or later."

A displeased expression appeared on Leticia's face, and she coldly said, "Don't make noise and just silently. I'm helping you despite how you guys treated me and mother all these years, is already more than enough. If you keep pestering me, I wouldn't mind killing you."

The middle-aged woman's expression turned ugly, but she didn't say anything. A few other people looked at each other, their expression darkening.

They were also from Leticia's family and were the ones who mistreated Leticia and her mother in the past because of Leticia's late father's properties.

Leticia didn't want to bring them along at all but her mother couldn't leave them behind after knowing all of them might be killed by the demons.

The people from Belen's family also kept quiet after hearing this because they also hadn't treated Belen well in the past because she was a woman whose husband had left her.

After scolding the woman, Leticia looked at Belen, who had a downcast expression on her face because when the demons attacked, her mother and her young brother, the only blood family she had left, were among the people who got killed.

"Belen..." Leticia opened her mouth to say some comforting words but didn't know what she should say. Don't be sad? How could she not when her family was killed in front of her eyes?

Belen took a deep breath and said. "Don't worry about me. I'm alright. Focus on healing your wounds. Until Max arrives, you are the only one who can keep us alive."

After her bloodline awakened, Leticia's cultivation speed skyrocketed and although she hadn't broken through to the three-star realm, she was already at the peak of the two-star realm and she could fight mid-stage three-star mages when she used her bloodline.

"Hm. You... keep yourself together, alright?" Leticia said.

"I will." Belen nodded, but just then,

Rustle! Rustle!

The sound of leaves rustling sounded from outside the valley, causing them to jump to their feet.

'Please, don't let them be those demons.' Leticia prayed in her heart.

Unfortunately,

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The group of five demons appeared in the valley and directly rushed to the place where they were hiding.

"Kekeke! So, you were hiding here." One of the demons let out an eerie laughter in the demon language.

Leticia's, Belen's and others' heart sank when they saw them.

Chapter 477: Devil horned Demons

Just like Amara, these five demons also didn't look much different from humans. If they didn't have the demonic vibe and a black horn on top of their heads, it would've been nearly impossible to tell them apart from the humans.

In this demon group, three were males and two were females.

One of the female demon had a black scar across her face, which she got when she fought with Leticia. That was why, when she saw Leticia, she couldn't stop herself and lunged at Leticia, wanting to rip her apart.

However,

"Stop!" One of the male demons shouted at her. He was dressed more luxuriously than the rest, and had the aura of someone superior.

The scarred demoness stopped reluctantly when she heard his voice. Slowly turning around to look at the man, she asked through gritted teeth, "Why are you stopping me, young master Mehak?"

The demon called Mehak didn't answer her. He walked over to her, and suddenly,
Whoosh!

He grabbed her neck, squeezed it tightly, which made the demoness' eyes widened in horror. She thought he was going to kill her, but Mehak didn't use more force, just enough to make her suffer a little.

He then looked into her eyes and coldly said, "You don't question my order. You just obey it. Understand?"

The other three demons frowned when they heard this, but didn't say anything because Mehak was the youngest son of the patriarch of their Devil horned branch tribe.

"Y-Yes, young master." The scarred demoness squeezed out the words.

"Good." Mehak smiled and released her neck.

The other demoness looked at Leticia and others and asked, "But young master, what do you want to do with them?"

Hearing this, Mehak looked at the group in front of him, his eyes glinting.

He slowly scanned every woman in the group before his gaze stopped on Leticia, her mother and Belen — the three most beautiful women in the group — and said while licking his lips, "I want to enjoy these fine women first."

The demoness who questioned him raised her brows and said, "Young master, I don't think we should waste time here. Why don't you cripple their mana cores so they can't resist and we take them with us? You can enjoy them after we have completed our mission."

Mehak heard her and frowned. After the demon army landed on the human continent, demons below four-star were divided into teams of three, five and ten and their mission was to kill 100 natives of the human continent per person and bring their heads back, the stronger the people they killed the better.

Within three days, they had to complete this mission and head back. If they failed, they wouldn't get any cultivation resources and as a result, they couldn't increase their strength, which would make it hard for them to survive the war.

Seeing him fall into deep thought, the two other male demons exchanged their glances and said,

"Young master. With our strength, it won't take us much time to complete our target as long as we find any inhabited city. So, we can afford to waste some time here. Don't you think so?"

Hearing this, Mehak's eyes lit up. When the demoness who suggested they shouldn't waste time here noticed this, she cast an angry glance at the demon who spoke just now and said to Mehak,

"Young master, if you just want to complete the mission, we can, of course, spend a few hours or even a day."

"Hm?" Mehak frowned.

The demon who suggested to stay here snorted, "What else? Don't tell me you really believe the rumor that we would get some special reward if we performed better?"

The demoness gave him a look of derision, "It isn't a rumor, you idiot. I'm sure the young master knows this."

"If we performed better and met whatever requirement the higher ups have set, we would get a few drops of emperor ranked essence blood. I'm sure you also know what emperor ranked essence blood entails, right?"

The two male demons and the scarred demoness looked at Mehak to confirm if what she said was true.

Mehak's lips twitched, and he nodded. "She is right."

Ha!

Hearing this, their breathing became faster in excitement.

"If I can get a few drops or even a single drop, my cultivation would increase. Perhaps I can even break through to the four-star realm. Then I would have a better chance of being ranked higher in the [Slayers Rankings]." One of the male demons mumbled with a dreamy look in his eyes.

He and the other male demon wanted to stay here so they could also enjoy these beautiful human women after Mehak was done with them. However, now these thoughts had vanished completely, and they said,

"Ahem, young master. Since the rumor is true, we shouldn't waste time here."

Heng!

Mehak grunted coldly when he heard this.

He really wanted to have his way with these women right now because even though he didn't know what the requirements the higher ups had set, he knew they weren't strong enough to fulfill them and receive the reward of the emperor's essence blood.

Since this was the case, why not enjoy himself? But now that all of them were raring to go, he couldn't force them to stay. He could if it was only one or two, but not all four of them.

"Alright. We'll leave. You can kill them all." He said in a displeased tone.

"Yes, young master." The two male demons nodded and moved toward Leticia's group.

When Leticia and Belen saw that instead of attacking them, the demons had started talking to each other; they saw a ray of hope and their minds raced to think of some way to escape.

Unfortunately, they couldn't think of any. If Leticia and Belen weren't injured and these demons weren't so close to them, maybe they could escape, but not now.

Others continued to look at Leticia and Belen hopefully as they were the only ones who could save them but when even after a while, they didn't see them do anything; they started to panic.

And when they saw two of them demon lunge toward them with murderous looks on their faces, they became horrified.

"Run!"

Chapter 478: Won't die before killing you

"Run!"

Someone shouted. As soon as they heard this, everyone started running in different directions, hoping that the demons would miss them and they could escape alive.

When Leticia saw this, she scoffed. If they could escape so easily, these five demons would be more than useless.

Sure enough. When the two demons saw this, they laughed in disdain and rushed after them.

Within a split second, they had caught up to two people and slapped their heads, making them burst like balloons.

"Nooo!"

"Ahhh!"

"Don't kill me! Nooo!"

"..."

Leticia, her mother, and Belen, — who were still sitting in their place because Mehak and the two demonesses weren't in a rush to kill them — watched the massacre. Belen and Leticia were expressionless, but Leticia's mother's face had turned pale.

She looked at her daughter wanting to say something but Leticia didn't let her and spoke first.

"See that mother? They only care about their little lives. Everyone is trying to escape, not caring about others or even us who had saved them."

"I now regret saving them. If I and Belen had left them behind and escaped with you, we wouldn't have gotten injured and fall in this situation."

She then looked at her mother and said, "I know you are kindhearted, but you shouldn't feel bad about their deaths because I'm sure they wouldn't have batted an eye if we died."

The scarred woman glanced at Leticia and sneered, "You are right about that."

Hearing this, Leticia's, and Belen's eyes widened. "You know our language?"

"Of course, we know. We aren't ignorant like you ants." She scoffed in disdain.

After they were selected to join the leading army, they were given basic knowledge about the most common language—the human language—so they could at least understand what their enemies were talking.

"Why aren't you killing us?" Belen asked, her voice devoid of any emotion. It seemed that the death of her mother and brother had affected her more than she was showing.

"What? You want to die so badly?" The scarred demoness mocked.

"No. I don't, at least not before killing you guys," Belen said, as her eyes flashed with a murderous light.

"Hm?" The demoness frowned and then burst out in a laughter filled with disdain. "You want to kill us? Hahaha! What a joke!"

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The two male demons had killed everyone and returned by this point. They wanted to kill Leticia and others too, but the scarred demoness stopped them.

The two demons frowned but stopped as a few minutes won't make much difference and it wasn't like Leticia and other could escape.

Whoosh!

The scarred demoness appeared in front of Belen and punched her in the gut.

Bang!

Kuh!

Belen's body flew back from the force of the punch and hit the valley's wall. As she slid down, she coughed out a mouthful of blood, but there was a glint of mockery in the depths of her eyes.

The scarred demoness walked over to her, looked down on her and asked, "Can't you see just how weak you guys are? You are as weak as an ant. If I want to, I can kill you this instant."

She then glanced at Leticia and said, "If it was not for this bitch's strange bloodline powers, you would've been killed the moment you met us."

Hearing this, the corners of Belen's lips curled up. "You are right. We are weak but..."

She stopped after 'but', a playful smile playing on her lips.

The scarred demoness, Mehak and other frowned when they saw this. The second demoness felt that something was wrong and was about to move in to kill her when,

"But what?" The scarred demoness asked.

"...But you'll die before you can kill them."

The reply came from the entrance of the valley.

"Shit!" The second demoness cursed and shouted to the scarred demoness, "Quick, capture her!"

While shouting, she moved toward Leticia and her mother. She didn't know how strong their reinforcements were, but based on how confident the voice sounded, it should be strong enough to deal with them.

Since this was the case, they had to capture Leticia and others and then use them to escape.

Unfortunately for her. Before she could reach Leticia and her mother or the scarred woman could capture Belen.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two beautiful women appeared in front of them.

"Fuck!"

Both demonesses cursed and retreated to their group, looking at the two women warily. They didn't want to engage in a fight without knowing how strong their enemy was.

Suddenly, Mehak and the second demoness frowned when they didn't see the man who had spoken because the voice belonged to a man.

Noticing this, both of them simultaneously shouted, "Watch out! There is at least one—"

BANG!

Before they could finish, the sound of someone being hit heavily resounded in the air and in the next moment, they saw the scarred woman was sent flying while spitting out blood non-stop.

Thud!

She flew and crashed into the same place where Belen had crashed. She slid down and fell beside Belen, who looked at her with a mocking gaze and said, "Didn't I say I won't die before killing you guys?"

Kuh!

The scarred woman spat out another mouthful of blood in anger when she heard her mockery.

"I...I'll kill... you dirty bitch...cough!" She squeezed out the words, but then once vomited out blood.

"No, you won't." Belen smiled sadistically and waved her hand.

Crack! Crack!

Green, arm thick vines broke out of the ground and wrapped around the demoness' limbs, waist and neck and started squeezing.

Crack! Crack!

"Ahhhh! Stop it, you bitch! I'll kill you! Ahh!"

As the vines tightened around her, the sounds of bones crackling sounded from her body and the demoness cried out in pain. She tried to break the vines forcefully, but it was useless. She wasn't strong enough to do that.

When she wanted to use her demon energy, the vines had constricted her throat tightly, which made her head spin and she couldn't properly use her energy.

Meanwhile, the rest of the demons looked at the place where the scarred demoness was standing a moment ago.

A light blue-haired man was there, looking at them with fury burning in his sapphire eyes.

Chapter 479: In a hurry to die

"You came?" Leticia mumbled a little dazedly when she saw Max. Now what Belen did makes sense. If she hadn't bought these few seconds until Max and these two women arrived, they might've been killed.

'But how did she know Max was nearby? Even if he messaged her, I never saw her take out her communication crystal.'

These questions flashed in her mind, but as soon as they appeared, she pushed them to the back of her mind, not bothering to think about them. As far as she was concerned, all that mattered was that Max was here and they would be saved.

'Wait? Why are there only three of them?' She frowned when she noticed Max had only brought these two women. Didn't they tell him that there were five three-star demons? Could the three of them handle these five?

'Perhaps one of them is that king mage he told us about.'

'Wait!'

Suddenly, the scene of Max suddenly appearing behind the scarred demoness and sending her flying in a punch appeared in her mind and her eyes widened shock.

"H-He has already broken through to the three-star realm?"

Although they had communicated via communication crystals, he had never told them about it, hence the surprise.

Amara, who was standing in front of her, heard her mutterings and let out a small chuckle.

Although she wasn't chosen to join the leading demon army, as the daughter of one of the branch leaders of the BloodWing tribe, she had the basic knowledge of other languages too. So, she understood what Leticia was mumbling about.

"Yes, he has. But is that really surprising?" She asked.

She was really surprised to see the people here be surprised by the fact that he broke through to the three-star realm. Wasn't it just natural, given how outstanding her master was and he even had that mysterious emperor or perhaps monarch ranked senior to guide him?

"Of course. It is. You might not know, but just a few months ago, he was just an early-stage two-star mage, but now he has already broken through to the three-star." Leticia said and then added, "By the way, are you not human?"

"Huh?"

Amara was caught off guard by her question, and an expression of shock appeared on her face.

"You... how did you know?"

"Eh, so you are not." Leticia nodded upon seeing her reaction and wasn't surprised too much. The only bit of surprise she had was because she, a demon, was with Max and helping him.

She then grinned at her and answered her question, "First and the main reason, I get the same feeling from you which I had from those five. Second, you clearly are a novice at speaking our language, just like them."

Amara became worried when she heard this. Not because of her lack of the language mastery since she could just avoid speaking but because Leticia could tell she was the same as other demons.

'But how can she tell when even those king and emperor mages couldn't tell? Even my father had told me he couldn't tell me apart from a human if I didn't have the same appearance. Perhaps she has some special ability?'

She thought.

Seeing her frown, Leticia smiled. "Don't worry. You are safe unless you encounter someone special like me."

When Amara heard this, she knew Leticia had some special ability, which helped her see the true nature of the people.

Leticia then suddenly narrowed her eyes and asked, "Are you perhaps his woman?"

"Eh?" her question again surprised Amara. She thought for a moment and then sighed. "I don't know if he thinks of me like that."

"Mm?" Leticia wasn't satisfied by her answer and wanted to ask more question when she noticed her mother trembling as she looked at Amara.

Previously, when Amara appeared and repelled the demoness who was lunging at them, she was relieved, but when she heard she was also a demon; she tensed up, even though she knew Amara was on their side.

Amara glanced at her and then turned around and looked at Max, facing the four demons.

Leticia grabbed her mother's hand and assured her. "It's alright, mother. As long as we have that handsome guy, no one can harm us."

Leticia's mother looked at her and then at Max, and her eyes glinted strangely. She could feel that her daughter's relationship with that man wasn't ordinary. If it was ordinary, he wouldn't have come to save them.

A few meters away from them, Emily looked at Belen, who had a savage expression as she controlled her vines to torture the scarred demoness.

Every time the demoness was about to die, she would loosen her vines, let her regain her senses and then strangle her again.

Seeing this, Emily raised her brows but couldn't care less about it because the fight between Max and the demons was about to begin.

Mehak and others looked at Max warily. Mehak then glanced around to see if there were more people and let out a breath of relief when he didn't see anyone apart from Max and the other two.

He then took a step toward him while releasing his demon energy and aura simultaneously.

Boom!

"You said you are going to kill us?" He asked.

Max's brows shot up when he noticed that this man in front of him was a peak three-star demon.

But... so what if he was? He was going to kill him, regardless. But first...

He ignored the four in front of him and walked toward the demoness who was being tortured by Belen.

"You bastard!" Mehak grew furious when he saw Max ignore him so blatantly and he rushed toward him.

Whoosh!

"Mm?" Max stopped in his tracks, frowning and then slowly said, "I wanted to kill that bitch who dared to hit my woman first, but it seemed you are in a hurry to die."

When Mehak heard this, he grew even more furious, but suddenly, he stopped in his tracks and jumped back.

"Oh? You can sense danger beforehand. Not bad." Max said, unclenching his right fist.

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Mass release (1/5)

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Chapter 480: Amara's prowess

Just now, he was about to activate [Calidus Brachium], but the demon had sensed the danger and retreated.

When the other demons saw Mehak retreat despite how angry he was, they became fearful of Max.

Why?

Because Mehak was the strongest of them all. Except for the second demoness who was a high-stage three-star, the rest of them were just middle-stage three-star demons.

Since even he felt danger from Max and had to retreat, they knew they weren't a match for Max, at least not in a one-on-one fight.

"Fuck!"

Mehak growled in anger and humiliation when he realised what he had done. However, he didn't try to attack Max again and just watched as he walked over to Belen.

Belen didn't even notice him because she was too focused on torturing the scarred demoness.

Max sighed when he saw this. Although he didn't know what had happened, he knew it was something that had caused her a lot of pain which made her act so insanely.

He nodded at Emily and then crouched down in front of Belen. Extending his hands, he gently grabbed her face and made her look at him.

"Huh? Why aren't you fighting them?" She asked, confused when she saw him.

"I will fight them, but you need to come to your senses." He said, his anger in his chest grew even more when he saw her mangled hand, her disheveled appearance and her savage expression.

"I..." Belen was confused when she heard him and but quickly realised what he meant and then tears started flowing down her eyes.

"It's okay. I'm here." Max said as he brought her into his embrace. This was the first time he saw her cry, and he felt in his heart.

"I'll make them pay in blood for what they did to you." He said, his voice growing colder.

Mehak's eyes flickered when he saw him completely drop his guard. He signalled his companions with his eyes and rushed toward him.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Other followed him. The demoness then went toward Amara and Leticia while Mehak and the other two demons rushed at Max and Emily.

"Hmph! You are overestimating yourself." Amara harrumphed coldly in demon language and released her bloodline energy at full force.

Boom!

The second demoness' eyes widened when he heard her and saw a blood coloured energy crashing down toward her.

"Y-You are from the Bloodwing—"

"Cut the crap!" Amara appeared in front of her and then punched toward her head.

Although both were high-stage three-star demons, Amara didn't put the horned demoness in her eyes. She had, after all, awakened her bloodline and had the supreme technique of the blood demons given to her by the almighty 'senior', who she didn't know has already been killed.

Seeing how disdainful Amara was of her, the horned demoness' eyes narrowed as she became angry.

No longer caring why a demon was helping humans, she circulated her demon energy, ready to counterattack, when suddenly...

Kuh!

She coughed out blood.

Her eyes widened in horror because her blood had started boiling and had gone out of her control.

"You... that's the blood demons'..." she uttered in shock and immediately diverted her demon energy to control her blood while raising hands in front of her face to defend against her punch.

Amara revealed a cruel sneer and shifted the trajectory of her punch and punched at her stomach.

If the horned demoness wasn't struggling to suppress her roiling blood, she would have blocked it, but right now, she couldn't.

Bang!

The punch landed in her gut, causing her to spit out a mouthful of blood, and her body curled forward.

Because of the pain in her gut, she momentarily lost control of her raging blood and spat out another few mouthfuls of blood. Her nose and ears also started bleeding while her eyes turned bulged and turned blood red. It seemed as if the blood was going to burst out from them, too.

Seeing her struggling to control her blood while ignoring her, a wide smile appeared on Amara's blood-red lips and her eyes started turning red. She neared her and was about to land a killing blow, when she heard Max's shout,

"Don't kill her."

"Mm?" Amara frowned, the blood glow receding from her eyes. She acknowledged his command and started beating the horned demoness.

Mehak and the other two, who were about to attack Max and Emily, were stunned when they saw Amara beat their companion like some rag doll and she couldn't defend at all.

"No wonder the blood demons are one of the most feared races among the demons." Mehak commented and then ordered the two demons by his side, "One of you, go help her."

"Yes." One of them immediately moved toward Amara.

Emily frowned when she saw this and wanted to intercept him, but Max stopped her. "Let him go. It won't make a difference."

Emily nodded and stopped.

Max broke the hug with Belen, stood up and asked her while pointing at the demon beside Mehak, "Can you handle this guy? He is just a mid-stage three-star demon."

Thanks to the system's improved [Status] function, he could see everyone's cultivation level. That was also why he allowed that demon to go, because he was just a mid-stage three-star demon, nothing Amara couldn't handle easily.

However, Emily was just an early-stage three-stage mage, so he was worried she might not be a match for him.

"I can," Emily expressionlessly said while eyeing the demon.

The demon narrowed his eyes at her when he heard this.

From what Max said, he understood she had a weaker cultivation level than him, but she still said she could handle him. Wasn't she underestimating him too much?

Then they both moved to the side to fight their own battle.

"She will die." Mehak smirked at Max.

"She won't." Max said, "But you will."

A murderous glint flashed in Mehak's eyes, and the black horn atop his head started humming faintly.

As soon as it started humming, Max felt chills run down his spine and a feeling of dread crept up into his heart.

--X--X--

Mass release (2/5)

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