

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 601: Bad Intentions

601 Bad Intentions

'Mm?' Max glanced over and saw two people—a man in Royal Family's Imperial robes and a woman in a golden heavy armor—flying over.

'Royal Family's Knight?' He determined the woman's identity when he saw her armor, and then looked at the man, 'This guy must be a Prince, then.'

The Royal Guard proved his guess true by respectfully bowing toward the man, and greeted him, "Greetings, your Royal Highness the Crown Prince!"

Max's eyes flashed when he heard this, 'Crown Prince? So, this is the guy Lily told me about... Eric?'

Tap! Thud!

Eric landed softly on the ground unlike the female knight who landed heavily, her armored feet sinking more than an inch into the ground, causing the dust and rubble to scatter.

The five, two men and three women, exchanged glances before one of the men, who looked quite easygoing, smiled and nodded slightly at Eric, "Hello, Prince Eric! Long time no see!"

The female knight frowned in dissatisfaction, not liking his casual greeting but remained silent when she saw Eric smile and return the greeting to the olden man, "Long time, indeed, Mr. Fuller. I hope you have been well."

After Mr. Fuller, the other four also casually greeted Eric. Each time Eric returned the greetings, he would announce their title, which made Max find out their identities.

It turned out, four of the five were either the family heads, or Elders of four great families of the Green Leaf Kingdom—Arasia, Fuller, Martell and Seidal. As for the last person, she was the family head of the family Max was quite familiar with—the Dalton Family.

The other man, who was an Elder of the Arasia family, looked at Eric suspiciously and asked, "Prince, you know this man?"

They weren't fools. Seeing how Eric was deliberately announcing their names and designations, he clearly wanted Max to find out about them.

Eric shook his head, "I don't know him, but he is a friend of my friend." Saying this, he changed the subject, his expression turning serious, "If you guys don't mind, can you tell me why you stopped him? You should be able to see that his companions need urgent medical attention, no?"

Mr. Fuller glanced at unconscious Lily in Max's arms, Max and then Eric before smiling, "It seems there has been misunderstanding. I just wanted to ask him who the person he fought was. But since he has already escaped, there is no need to find out."

Saying this, he glanced at Max and took out a metallic token, "I apologize for wasting your time, young friend. Here, take this. If you ever need help with something, come to my Fuller Family, I'll try my best to help you. Now, please excuse me." Swoosh!

After Max accepted his token, he smiled at Eric and others and flew away, looking at ease.

The other four frowned at this, but they didn't try to stop him. It was true they first wanted to know who Oliver was so they could take the Super Realmbreaker Spell he bought in the auction, but after watching the fight, and seeing Oliver escape, their priorities shifted. Now, they no longer desired the spell as much, they now wanted Max, who was in possession of such a strong Bloodline.

Max glanced at the remaining four, and said, "If you also want to know about his identity, you can ask the Crown Prince, he knows who that guy is. Now, if you don't have anything more to say, I'm going to leave."

Hearing this, the head of Martell and the Elder of Seidel family hesitated before inviting Max to visit their families when he had time before leaving, leaving Arasia family's Elder and the Dalton family's head behind.

Max narrowed his eyes when he saw they weren't willing to leave. Just then, the Arasia Family's Elder looked at him, and asked, "Young man, you are Maxwell Garfield, right?"

When he asked this, the Dalton Family's head, the woman who seemed to be in her fifties, looked at him with a hidden glint in her eyes.

"Yes, I am. How do you know me?" Max asked.

If it was the Dalton family's head who had recognised him, he wouldn't have been surprised because he was enemies with their young master, Rael Dalton, and had killed another member of her family, but because it was the Arasia family's Elder who recognised him, he couldn't help but be a little surprised. After all, even if the Arasia family found out he was friends with Flavia, it wasn't likely they knew what he looked

like, even if a few people did know, it was extremely unlikely a Five-star mage like him knew.

Just when he was feeling confused about this, he noticed the change in Dalton matriarch's body language. She didn't seem angry, but... excited?

'What's going on?' Though he didn't know what was going on, he knew it couldn't be anything good, so he became alert.

Elder Arasia didn't answer, and turned to Eric, "Just as Mr. Fuller had said, it was all a misunderstanding. So, we'll no longer bother His Highness' friends."

Saying this, he left with the Dalton Matriarch.

Eric couldn't help but furrow his brows as he watched the duo leave. After they disappeared, he asked the Royal Guard to leave before turning to Max and saying, "I don't know what's going on, friend, but Arasia and Dalton families seem to have some intentions toward you, so you have to be careful."

...

Ray and Shasha's expression turned serious when they heard her. After a moment, Ray said, "Just as the Crown Prince said, those two families definitely have ill intentions toward Max."

"You are wrong." Shasha said, causing him and Emily to look at her in confusion. Shasha took a breath and continued in a grave voice, "You are wrong if you think only those two families have some ill intentions toward him. The rest of the four great families, and even the Royal family must be the same. Don't forget, they have witnessed Max use his bloodline to fight and almost kill Oliver."

Chapter 602: I Feel...

602 I Feel...

Upon hearing this, Ray realized she was indeed right. Max would become the target of everyone who saw him use his bloodline energy. A power that can boost a person's strength enough that he could fight someone a whole realm above him was irresistible, after all.

"You are right, but there is no need to worry about it too much. The fact that all of them may target us makes not too much difference to us than if only Arasia and the Dalton family targeted us. We just need to be alert and leave the city as soon as possible."

"But what will we do if we can't escape them?" Ray asked even though he already knew the answer to this question.

And sure enough, Emily answered after a moment, her eyes flashing coldly, "We'll kill them until they drop the idea about Max."

Ray very much wanted to say 'How are we going to do it?', but remembering how strong Max seemed to have become, he kept quiet.

Soon after, he left Emily's room with Shasha, leaving Emily to recuperate. Shasha noticed he seemed a little anxious, and couldn't help but ask, "Regretting your decision?"

"Huh?" Ray looked at him in confusion.

"I said, are you already regretting not leaving when you had the chance?" Shasha repeated with a small smile of her thin lips.

Contrary to what she expected, Ray shook his head, "No. I'm not regretting anything. I'm just a little worried because the number of our enemies is increasing too quickly. If Max had a few more months, we wouldn't have to leave the city to avoid them."

Shasha couldn't help but be surprised upon hearing this, "Oh? You believe he would be able to resist all these human noble families in a few months' time?"

"Yes, I do."

"Why?"

Ray thought for a moment before shrugging, "It's just a feeling. I feel he can overcome almost anything."

Saying this, he looked at her and smiled, "I know it's not enough to be this sure, but don't tell me you also don't feel the same?"

Shasha shook her head, and opened the door of her room, "I don't know. But... I'm here, don't I?"

Ray grinned, and then entered his room.

Meanwhile, in Max's room, Lily was laying on the bed while he sat cross-legged on the floor with several ten thousand low grade Mana stones around him, rapidly absorbing them and using the absorbed Mana to recover his Bloodline Energy.

Ten minutes later, over half of the Mana stones had turned gray, a sign that there was no Mana left in them. At that moment, Max opened his eyes, stood up and walked over

to Lily before kneeling beside the bed. After looking at her pale face for a few moments, he gently placed one of his hands on her abdomen and started injecting his Bloodline Energy into her body.

...

Ha!

Less than five minutes later, he stopped, having exhausted all his bloodline energy. As he removed his hand, and wiped the sweat drops from his forehead that appeared because the task of injecting his bloodline energy into another person's body even if the said person wasn't consciously resisting it was quite difficult not to mention exhausting, he couldn't help but take a deep breath and smile because Lily was almost healed.

Now, she no longer looked sickly pale, nor were her brows scrunched up in pain. Although she had yet to regain consciousness, she didn't look unconscious but looked as though she was sleeping peacefully, having her beauty sleep.

Despite this, the reason she was only 'almost healed' was because her Mana core was yet to completely recover.

'Fortunately my bloodline energy can heal her, if not...' He couldn't help but feel intense rage well up in his heart upon thinking what would've happened to her if not for him fortunately unlocking the 'lock' on his bloodline, which gave his bloodline energy so many extraordinary characteristics.

After calming down, he was about to sit down and recover his bloodline energy once again when he suddenly felt... intense urge to have sex.

"Hm?" Feeling this, he couldn't help but frown. 'It hasn't even been a day since I did it, why am I feeling this again?'

Soon after, he realized the most likely reason.

Although his bodily needs were 'sated' after he had sex with Claire in the auction house, and normally, he wouldn't have needed to do it again in a short time, but this was under the condition he didn't use up his bloodline energy, which he had, not one but multiple times.

Though after unlocking the bloodline lock, he could recover the bloodline energy with Mana stones too, it didn't 'satisfy' his body or rather his bloodline.

'Now this is a problem...' He frowned.

Due to the threat of the Royal, Dalton and four great families, they had to leave the city as soon as possible. Although Lily wasn't in any imminent danger, and maybe would

wake up soon, she couldn't accompany them to the battlefield with her Mana core damaged. Therefore, he had to heal her completely, but if he recovered his bloodline energy with mana stones once more, his Lust would most likely grow out of his control.

"Well, I'll have to risk it."

He muttered before he sat down and started absorbing the mana from the rest of the mana stones while hoping he wouldn't completely lose his rationality due to lust before leaving the city. Once they were out of the city, they could just stop somewhere for a while where he could take Lily's help to relieve his lust.

Less than half an hour later, he finished recovering his bloodline energy. His expression, however, was ugly because things didn't go as he wished. His increasing lust seemed to have a negative effect on the speed of mana absorption and recovery of the bloodline energy, but after recovering it, his lust seemed to have increased a little more.

However, this wasn't why he was unhappy...

'At this rate, wouldn't my lust go out of control after I completely use up the bloodline energy this time?' He thought, 'This wouldn't do, I need to find some way to prevent this as soon as possible.'

Although he thought this, he had a feeling that preventing this phenomenon was almost impossible, at least at his current stage...

- Chapter 603: For Survival

Chapter 603: For Survival

603 For Survival

Max's room... Half an hour later...

Huff! Huff!

Huff!

Standing beside the bed, looking at peacefully sleeping Lily, Max was heaving deep and hot breaths, his fists clenched tight and his face flushed.

Just as he had expected, after he used up his bloodline energy by healing Lily's Mana core, his lust had intensified manifold and it was still increasing. Little Max was already as hard as iron while his sapphire eyes had already turned a dark shade of pink, indicating his bloodline affecting his state of mind. Breathing heavily and exhaling hot,

almost fiery breaths as though there was lava boiling in his body, and his body full of sweat and shaking as he was about to lose control of his body, he looked more like a beast in heat and less like a human.

"How annoying!" He muttered, before taking out his communication crystal, "Emily, I've healed Lily. Take care of her. I need to take care of something, but I will return soon. So, don't worry about me."

After putting the Communication Crystal away, he rushed out of the room and inn before rushing into the eastern side of the middle-city where most of the local population of the capital lived.

Swoosh!

...

Across the Avan Inn, the Inn where Max's group was staying, in the local restaurant sat a few people who were unlike other customers as they weren't eating anything. Instead, they were staring at the Inn through the windows.

The restaurant owner and employees weren't happy since they were occupying the tables for free but didn't dare say anything because when they arrived, those people had revealed their identities... They were the servants of Four Great Noble families, who apparently were here to keep an eye on someone who was staying in the Avan Inn.

'These cheap bastards! Spy on whoever you want but if you are going to occupy the tables, at least pay me....' The restaurant owner thought, cursing them in his mind.

Just then, the expressions of the 'spies' changed while one of them started saying, "He is out. Let's inform..."

Swoosh!

Before he could even complete his sentence, however, Max rushed away at a speed that was comparable to an ordinary early-stage Five-star mage, and quickly disappeared from their sights.

17:19

Before he could even complete his sentence, however, Max rushed away at a speed that was comparable to an ordinary early-stage Five-star mage, and quickly disappeared from their sights.

"What happened?"

"Did he know he was being watched and escaped?"

"What do we do?"

"Let's just inform the family."

Although the noble families weren't exactly on friendly terms with each other, the low level subordinates like them didn't have any disagreements and on common missions, they were used to cooperating with each other.

...

In the Fuller family's estate, Mike Fuller, the person who met Max a while ago, who was also the patriarch of the Fuller family received the news of Max's hurried departure from the Inn and frowned.

From what his subordinate told him, only Max left the Inn, his companions were still inside the Inn.

'Even if he is worried about the noble families taking action against him, he won't leave his companions and escape alone. He didn't seem that kind of a person.' He thought, 'Then what happened? And... where had he gone?'

After thinking for a while, he pressed a formation button on his desk and ordered, "Send Pyke to my study."

A few minutes later, an ordinary looking man wearing brown robes arrived. He looked a little nervous, and afraid because every time he was called to the patriarch's study like this, he was assigned some mission where he almost lost his life a few times. Even though he was a member of the Fuller family, he didn't inherit the Fuller Family's bloodline, which was related to Metal Refinement, which was the reason why the Fuller family was the leading weaponsmith family of the kingdom, instead, he inherited his mother side's bloodline, something that made him an expert in tracking people. With his bloodline ability, he could track Five-star and if he was lucky and King rank mages were careless, he could even track them despite him being just a three-star mage.

Since he was an expert in this area and the family often needed to track some people down for various reasons, he became the person the family went to every time they needed him to track someone down. That was why he knew he was called here for another tracking mission.

'I just hope this mission won't be as dangerous as the last one.' He prayed in his heart. Last time, the person he was tracking, a mid-stage Four-star mage, had realized he was being tracked and almost lured him into a death trap, the memory of which still haunted him.

Seeing him, Mike's assistant notified Mike of his arrival. After Mike gave permission, the assistant let Pyke enter the study. When he saw the family patriarch, he respectfully bowed, and greeted, "Greetings my lord!"

Mr. Fuller nodded, and without wasting time, he went straight to the point, "I have a task for you, Pyke..."

...

50 minutes ago... Arasia Family Estate...

In a large chamber, three people were gathered. Two of which were the Arasia family Elder and the Dalton Matriarch who Max met a while ago while the third one was a graceful middle-aged woman with the same pigmentation of hair as Flavia, the Arasia family's overlord, Silvia Arasia, a peak Five-star mage.

"How sure are you that that brat has the Valiant Family's heirloom weapon that Thunder Family is after?" Silvia asked the Dalton Matriarch.

"100%." The Dalton Matriarch replied.

"Oh? How come you have this information but the Royal Family doesn't?" Silvia wondered.

Since the Royal family was the strongest, and was after Valiant Family's Thunder Sword, they should have gotten this information way before the Dalton family, but from the Royal family's behavior, she knew they didn't know Max had the sword, heck, they didn't even know Max was Ashton and Hannah's son.

The Dalton Matriarch smirked, "It's because the Royal family is too strong."

"Ah, I see." Given the worldly experience of the Arasia Matriarch, she immediately understood what Dalton Matriarch, Helen, meant by those words. It turned out the party who first got this information, which she could easily guess was Count Wiley, didn't dare to share it with the Royal Family in the fear of losing out the benefits he could receive if he shared this information with some family other than the Royal Family because if the Royal family went back on their word and refused to give him what he deserved, he wouldn't be able to do anything about it.

As for why he thought the Royal family wouldn't give him appropriate benefits for such an important piece of information was because of two things... First, the going war wasn't cheap and just like every other family and organization, the Royal family was also trying to preserve their wealth, and second and the probably the real reason why Wiley chose not to tell them was because of the Extraordinary Worth of the Thunder sword.

Given how precious a Monarch rank artifact was, if the Royal family after acquiring it decided to keep it, they would surely want to erase every trace that could lead anyone, especially the Valiant and more powerful and ruthless Thunder Family, they would surely be destroyed since lusting after something they didn't have the strength to keep was a sin.

As for why he didn't have the same concern about the Dalton family was because he knew the Daltons would never dare to keep the sword and would hand it over to the Thunder Family in exchange for their protection during the war.

"It's for the best that the Royal family doesn't know about it. Let's quickly take it from him. Then, we'll go to the central plains to deliver it to the Thunder family." Silvia said before turning toward the Elder, "Elder Wilfred, you take Elder Christine, and Elder Ava and go keep an eye on the place where that kid is. Once you get the chance, kill and bring back the sword."

"Yes, Matriarch!" Wilfred nodded.

"Remember to be careful to not leave any evidence of your presence." Silvia gravely added. Wilfred nodded and left the place, feeling excited.

'We no longer have to worry about our family's survival once we get that sword.' He thought before sighing, 'Don't blame us kid, we'll have to do everything we can to ensure our survival.'

...

Though Claire had given him her address when she invited him to visit her when he had time, it would've taken quite a bit of time to find her house if not for his bloodline ability. With it, he arrived in front of her house just a few minutes after leaving the Inn, and knocked on the door.

Pa! Pa!

Creation is hard, cheer me up! Vote for me!

Blizzard54k

Chapter 604: At Claire's Home

604 At Claire's Home

Swoosh!

A few moments later, the door swung open and a lively brown haired boy, who looked no older than 12 years old, appeared in front of Max.

Gulp!

He gulped nervously upon seeing his 'frightening' appearance, and hurriedly grabbed the sides of the door, wanting to slam it shut.

Max smiled wryly when he noticed this, but since he couldn't afford to waste more time, he placed a hand on the door, and stopped him from closing it. He then said, in the softest voice he could muster, "Hello, Kid. I'm a friend of Claire. She must be your mother, right?"

Upon hearing Max say he was Claire's friend, Kevin visibly relaxed a little, but remained cautious and didn't let go of the door. With a forced smile on his chubby face, he politely asked "Yes, I'm her son, Kevin. H-Hello. May I know why you are here?"

"I need to..." Just when Max began answering, a pair of footsteps sounded behind Kevin and a fresh looking, mature woman appeared. Her long hair was still wet from the shower she just took.

"Who is it, Kev... Ah! It's you... sir!" Upon seeing Max, her eyes widened and her mouth opened in 'O' shape in surprise. It was true she had invited him to visit her if he wanted her and had time. Though she did wish he would, she had not, not even for a moment thought that he would really come over.

She wasn't, after all, some extraordinary beauty, who he would want again, nor was she a young, fresh woman. Given how powerful, wealthy and handsome he was, he could easily get many women, far more attractive, younger and stronger than her, to sleep with him. Because she was aware of this, she didn't have her hopes up of him visiting her again. That was why she was really surprised to see him, that too not just a few hours after they separated.

Max looked at her and took a deep breath, inhaling her fresh feminine scent, which seemed to calm and ignite his lust at the same time.

"Can we talk in private?" He asked as he gave her a look full of meaning.

Ba-dump!

Claire felt her heartbeat increase, her face flushed an enchanting hue of crimson while her 'little sister' moistened. She felt embarrassed by her sudden arousal. She didn't want to feel this way when her son was in front of her. She felt she was indecent. However, it was out of her control and she couldn't help but discreetly rub her thighs together and feel strangely excited.

Then, she nodded, and said in a 'calm' voice, "Y-Yes, of course, we can. Please come inside."

Noticing her excited state, Max nodded in satisfaction. For the first time, he felt the usefulness of his charm which usually caused him a headache. He then walked in, followed by Kevin, who watched him and his mother with a weird look in his eyes, that only made Claire more embarrassed.

"Cough! Kevin, why don't you go to your room and study while we talk? You can also have some of the pudding I made in the morning." She coughed and said.

Kevin's eyes lit up when he heard this and quickly forgot about Max's presence. After giving his mother a peck on her cheek, he rushed into the kitchen, took the container of pudding before going to his room.

Claire watched him with a smile on her face, her eyes becoming a little wet.

Max could see she had become a little emotional for some reason, and if he wasn't in a hurry, he would've loved to ask to give her some emotional comfort, but since he didn't have time, he picked her in princess carry, making her blush, and rushed into the other room before slamming the door shut.

Kevin, with a big piece of pudding in his hand, peaked out from his room, "I wonder why mom became friends with him, he is a little scary." He murmured before shrugging his shoulders and entering his room to focus on the more important matter—the Pudding.

...

Inside Claire's room...

As soon as the door was closed, Max arrived beside the bed, and put Claire down on it, before taking his clothes off, only leaving his underwear.

Ba-dump!

Claire's heart beat like drums and her arousal increased as she watched him strip and saw his chiseled body, and compact muscles. Seeing him climb onto the bed, she sat up and took off her robe, revealing her magnificent, naked form to him.

"Fuck!" Max growled, feeling all his resistance breaking off. He roughly grabbed her by her hand, and pulled her toward him. Circling a hand around her supple waist, he made her sit onto his lap before putting his other behind her head and lowered his lips onto her and started kissing.

Claire also put her hands around Max's neck and started kissing him back, enjoying the taste of his lips. A moment later, she felt his tongue pry open her lips and enter her mouth.

She tried to fight back but lost in front of his aggression. Therefore, she closed his eyes in defeat and allowed him to dominate her.

After kissing her for a while, Max moved downwards towards her breasts, leaving kisses and hickeys on her neck.

Ahn~

Claire moaned and her little sister throbbed in pleasure when she felt him take one of her nipples in his mouth, suckling it while he pinched the other one and his other hand went down to her needy pussy.

"Mm~ Yes, my lord~" Claire bit her lips, trying to suppress her moans. However, when she felt two of his finger enter her honey cave, she couldn't help but cry out loud in delight and horror, "Nngh~ Oh yeah~ Please mm~ wait, my lord, ahn~"

Max didn't stop, but asked while moving his finger in and out of her cave, wanting to make sure she was wet enough to take what was coming her way, "What is it?"

"Can you do something~ Mmh~ about sound, my lord? I... ahn~ don't want my son to hear my shameful moans."

Max didn't answer but his mana flowed out of him and created a thin barrier that covered the whole bed.

He knew he wasn't proficient enough to create a sound isolation barrier without his bloodline energy but they would have to make do with this temporary one until he recovered some, and recreated it.

After creating the barrier, he tore his underwear off before aligning his raging cock at her dripping wet entrance.

"Nnggghhh~!"

Feeling his rob slid inside her squirming tunnel, Claire let out a pleasurable moan while her pussy tightened around his shaft to feel even more pleasure.

"Ha~ Hold me tight, I won't be going easy on you." Max warned her before gripping her by her supple buttocks. Immediately after, he started moving her up and down, causing his shaft to move in and out, giving both of the pleasure they desperately needed.

...

"Nngh~!"

"Hm?" Kevin suddenly frowned, "This was my mom's voice..."

Feeling anxious, he immediately placed the pudding down before running out of his room towards Claire's room.

However, after that first 'cry', he didn't hear anything, causing him to question if he had really heard anything in the first place. But worried about his mother's wellbeing, he placed his ear on the door for a while... but didn't hear anything.

"Mom, are you alright?" He decided to call out to her. When a few seconds passed and no answer came, Kevin started becoming even more anxious. Just when he was about to knock on the door, he heard Claire's voice, "I'm fine, Kev. I'm talking about something important to big brother here. Don't worry about me, and don't disturb us for a while, okay?"

Kevin sighed in relief, but asked, "Mom, I think I heard you cry just now. Are you really fine?"

"Oh~ You must've imagined it honey~ I'm fine. You go and study, alright?"

"Okay, mom." Kevin said before leaving, still a little doubtful.

...

Inside the room, Claire, on her hands and knees, sighed in relief before giving Max a blaming look, "Didn't you create that sound isolation barrier, my lord? How come ahn~"

Max didn't let her continue and started moving his hips, causing her to moan and stop speaking. He then said, "I must've made a mistake in a hurry. It's fine now, don't worry."

Though he sounded nonchalant about it, he couldn't help but sigh in relief. Fortunately, he recovered a bit of bloodline energy and perfected the barrier on time.

Chapter 605: Fuller's Guest...?

605 Fuller's Guest...?

Over half an hour after Max entered Claire's house, a stealthy, brown robed figure arrived in the neighborhood. It was Pyke, who was ordered to track Max.

He glanced around, closed his eyes as if to sense something and when opened his eyes again, he looked at Claire's house with a confused expression, "He is in there...?"

Though it hadn't been much time since Max's group arrived at the Capital city, and even less time since the noble families saw him fight and came to know about his bloodline, the Fuller family had already gathered quite a bit of information about Max, showcasing the intelligence gathering power they wielded.

Pyke, not wanting to get himself involved in a dangerous situation, had asked about his target, and only after he thought tracking him down wouldn't be too dangerous, he accepted... argh! Who he was kidding, since the family patriarch had asked him to do it, he wouldn't have been able to refuse no matter what.

Sighing in defeat, he muttered, "Since all his father's friends had turned their backs on him when he needed them, effectively breaking what relations they had, he shouldn't have a connection with anyone in the city."

A moment later, he shrugged, and relayed the information to Mike, the Fuller family patriarch.

Mike swiftly got the message and after reading it, he wore a pondering expression for a while before ordering Pyke to stay there and watch. After that, he ordered his subordinates to find out who lived in the house Max was in.

While his subordinates started moving, four more figures arrived in Claire's neighborhood. However, unlike Pyke who used his unique bloodline ability to immediately find out where Max was, they spread out and started interrogating people.

'People from the four families, huh?' Pyke recognised them. He then sent a message to someone. A few seconds later, a few houses away from Claire's house, the subordinate of the Fuller family took out his communication crystal and frowned before murmuring, "It seems the Family has already found the target... What a waste of my efforts!" Sighing, he sent the older man in front of him who he was interrogating away before leaving the place.

The other three noticed this and frowned. When they asked why he was leaving, he smiled and said, "The family has called me back. You guys continue your work."

"..."

"..."

"..."

The remaining three were left stunned, unable to understand why he was suddenly called back. Though they didn't know why their families wanted Max, they knew it was of utmost importance to them. So, the Fuller family's sudden 'withdrawal' befuddled them.

"How strange... I didn't think we could be called back from this mission until—" One of them expressed his doubt, but suddenly stopped mid-sentence as though he had realized something.

The other twos' eyes shone, coming to the same realization, "The Fuller family must have found him already." "Let's inform our families!" One of them suggested it before all of them took out their crystals and informed their superiors. Of course, none of them dare say that the Fuller family had found their target since it was only a guess of theirs.

Five minutes soon passed...

Swoosh!

A figure suddenly flew over and landed in front of Claire's house. This was none other than Wilfred, a grand elder of the Arasia family, who came here to capture Max after finding out he was here.

He didn't waste even a second and directly walked up to the door and raised his leg to kick it open, but—

Boosh! Boosh!

...two identical looking women in similar violet robes that hugged their curvaceous figures tightly appeared in front of him, and without any hesitation, threw their palms at him.

Wilfred was taken aback by their sudden appearance, and his eyes flashed with a look of recognition which stirred something deep within him.

"You bitc—" His surprised, and slightly shocked expression immediately turned dark with anger when he saw them attack him... without even trying to talk first as though he was beneath their notice. Some old memories resurfaced in his mind which only made him angrier.

Rumble!

His mana core rumbled and his mana churned in his mana veins as he instinctively started to cast an offensive magic spell when,

Bang!

...two slender palms landed on either side of his chest at the same time. His pupils constricted as his rapidly circulating mana halted, the backlash of it causing some minor injuries to his mana veins. He felt blood gush to his throat, which he forcefully kept in.

As he skid backwards, redirecting the physical force rampaging within his body to the ground, his eyes which were filled with shock were affixed on the pretty duo.

"You... how come you bitches are still stronger than me?" He asked in a disbelieving tone. Although their attacks didn't have their full strengths, he was nothing if not an experienced man enough to gauge their strengths from that much. He could immediately tell both of them were stronger than him albeit only a little.

If he were to fight either one of them, although he wouldn't be able to defeat them, he was sure he wouldn't lose either, but if he were to fight both of them together, the chances of his survival were... Zero! Why? Because when these two fight together, their strengths weren't simply one plus one, but multiple times that because of their impeccable synergy.

'These damned twins...' He gritted his teeth in frustration.

""You are not allowed to disturb our honored guest!"" The twins echoed indifferently.

Wilfred wasn't able to reign in his anger upon hearing this and hollered, "Your honored guest? When did he become your honored guest, you disgusting sluts?!"

The twin beauties acted as though they didn't hear his derogatory terms and simply said, "You don't need to know that. Just know he is our Fuller Family's guest and, therefore, under our protection."

Just when Wilfred was about to say something, an indifferent voice sounded, "How domineering! Befitting of the Twin Calamity!" "...But are you sure you want to go on this path? You might get destroyed!"

Chapter 606: Twin Calamity vs The Bloodthirsty Queen

606 Twin Calamity vs The Bloodthirsty Queen

Upon hearing this voice, twins' raised their shapely brows, and looked up. Though they still appeared as indifferent as before, if one looked closely, one could see hints of wariness in their eyes that weren't there before.

Wilfred's expression also changed and he couldn't help but curse, "Tch! These damned hyenas!"

Swoosh!

Immediately after speaking, he felt a piercing glare from up above, along with a chilly warning that sent shivers down his spine, "Don't push your luck, old man. I'm not like

these two lovers of yours over here. If you dare to disrespect me like this, I'll directly kill you. Let this be my first and last warning to you."

Wilfred's expression turned dark but he didn't dare to say anything. So, he just scowled and kept silent.

Just then,

Swoosh!

The twins' figures flashed and they appeared in the sky, right above Wilfred and punched.

Bang!!

A muffled bang resounded. Then, the space in front of them twisted and revealed a middle-aged, freckled-faced lady in black robes, holding the twins' fists in her palms.

The twins glared at her and impassively said, "He may fear you, we don't! So, don't you dare humiliate us or we also wouldn't mind killing you."

The woman glared at them back, her eyes flashing with deep rancor. A split second later, however, she smiled and let go of their fists.

On the ground, Wilfred's expression underwent multiple changes. When he saw twins attack, his heart skipped a beat and he couldn't help but think that the twins were... seeking death. After all, unlike the twins and him, who had broken through into the Early-stage of the Five-star realm in recent years, this demoness of a woman from the Seidal Family, the infamous Bloodthirsty Queen, Imentet, had been in the Middle-stage for over a decade now.

Moreover, since the legacy of all of the four noble families were almost equally powerful, the twins wouldn't have any advantage in that department. Also, even their perfect synergy would be enough to bridge the gap between their strengths. After all, the gap between stages in the Five-star realm or higher was a lot bigger than in the mortal realms.

When Imentet showed herself, palpable rage in her eyes, he was sure the twins were going to suffer. Given their pasts, one would think he would look forward to their suffering, but he, for some reason, didn't want them to suffer which made him come to a disgusting realization... he still had feelings for them? 'Damn Wilfred, have you forgotten how they played with you? How they ruined your reputation and almost killed you? How can you still have feelings for them?' He reminded himself which made him angry, which suppressed his unwanted feelings. He then looked up, awaiting the scene to unfold.

However, instead of bursting out in anger, Imentet smiled. Really? Was her reputation false? If he knew that, he wouldn't have—

Before he could complete this thought, a scarlet whip appeared in Imentet's hand which she swung at the twins. The Twins' seemed to have expected this, and had already taken out two symmetrical shields, which they joined and placed in front of them, the 'shields' then lit up with a white light. Once they saw this, the Twins' seemed to sigh in relief and watched the scarlet whip streak across the air with a glint of anticipation.

The corner of Imentet's lips twitched when she noticed this.

Thwak!

The whip landed.

!!!

...Nothing happened apart from the slight dimming of the white glow which made the Twins' eyes light up. Although this whip attack wasn't Imentet's strongest attack, it carried at least 50-60% of her strength if not more, but their shield blocked it without any damage. From this, they could tell even if Imentet used all of her strength, their shields would hold strong or take a minimal amount of damage.

They looked at each other and nodded in satisfaction before looking at Imentet with an expectant look. Clearly, they wanted her to attack a few times more to test it more.

Swish!

Imentet suppressed the urge to swear and pulled her whip back, looking calm. Storing it away, she clasped her hands behind her back and looked at their shield, "A lifebound artifact, huh? No wonder you aren't afraid of me unlike your little boyfriend."

In the entirety of Green Leaf Kingdom, including the Elves and a few other races that lived in the Kingdom's territory, the best magic weaponsmiths were the Fullers thanks to their bloodline abilities that helped them interact with metals on almost molecular levels, help extract their essences and refine them without much difficulty compared to normal. In fact, if Dwarves were excluded, none even came closer to being their match in the entirety of the outer regions, and even in the Central plains, the forces that could compete/exceed them could be counted on a single hand.

However, being best in weaponsmithing wasn't what put them on the same level as the top forces of the kingdom. After all, other forces weren't poor and could easily procure magic weapons. What made them powerful enough to be the kingdom's top forces' equal was the fact that the Fullers could craft Lifebound Artifacts, something even the best grandmaster weaponsmiths could spend decades or even centuries trying to craft without any success.

Someone who didn't know what exactly were Lifebound Artifacts would wonder how were they special or any different from regular magic weapons?

Firstly, unlike regular magic artifacts, the Lifebound Artifacts could grow and evolve with the person they were bound to. For example, if a One-star mage were to acquire a Low-grade Tier-1 weapon and broke through and became a Two-star, Three-star or higher ranked mage, provided that the Lifebound Weapon had the potential to grow and the mage in question had nourished it enough with his mana, it could evolve and become a Tier-two, Tier-three or higher ranked weapon.

Secondly, the formation of Lifebound Artifacts required a series of complex magic runes in specific formations unlike regular magic weapons which only needed a basic type of runes such as Amplification Rune, Strengthening Rune, Rigidity Rune etc. to work.

The presence of a series of complex runes gave the Lifebound Artifacts a specialization. For example, if the weaponsmith wanted, he could inscribe a group of runes in such a way that when triggered, it could activate a magic spell, just like the Twins had done with their shield—the white glow was the manifestation of the defensive magic spell inlaid when the shield was crafted.

For mages, this trait of Lifebound Artifacts was even more lucrative than the first one since a Lifebound Artifact's inlaid spell didn't need time to cast, the mage just needed to trigger the time with his mana.

This trait is usually further enhanced by another special ability of a Lifebound Artifact—Mana Storage.

A Lifebound Artifact could store mana which the mage could use to activate the inlaid magic spell, saving his mana. In a fight, other factors excluded, if a mage had more mana than his opponent, he is sure to come out on top.

Furthermore, mages could use the stored mana to replenish their mana reserves if need be.

This showed how valuable a Lifebound Artifact was and how much different it can make in a fight. The Twins' short fight with Imentet was a great example. If the Twins didn't have their Lifebound Shield, the chances were high Imentet wouldn't have stopped until she seriously injured, crippled or even killed them given her famed ruthlessness.

Seeing the Twins didn't respond, Imentet narrowed her eyes and chuckled darkly, "If I'm not wrong, you've recently forged this shield, right? Are you sure you want..."

Chapter 607: Storm Settled?

607 Storm Settled?

Imentet's expression turned dark when the Twins didn't respond. Then, her eyes shone with a vicious glint as she smirked and slowly said, "If I'm not wrong, you've recently forged this shield, right? Are you sure you want to fight me?"

The Twins could no longer remain indifferent upon hearing this. Their grasp on the shield tightened, their mana started circulating rapidly and their breathing became a bit heavier.

Seeing their expression change, Imminent smirked in satisfaction and took out her whip while her mana core thrummed to life. This was her clear warning to the twins that if they fought again, she wouldn't stop prematurely.

Wilfred's eyes flickered between the twins and Imentet. Despite his unwillingness, and this repulsed him, he couldn't help becoming a little worried about the twins.

He knew whenever a weaponsmith forged a Lifebound Artifact, he would be severely weakened for a period of time depending upon the quality, the abilities and tier of the artifact. This happened because to successfully forge a Lifebound Artifact, the forger had to sacrifice some of their lifespan, and injure their magic foundation which needed time to recover.

This point was the prominent reason why there were very few Lifebound Artifacts in the world. After all, no one would want to waste years or decades of their life creating an artifact and then fall into the state of weakness which made them vulnerable.

Because of this, Lifebound forgers often had personal guards to ensure their safety. Unfortunately for the twins, the Fuller family didn't have many Five-star mages to protect them even if their hidden forces were added into the equation.

If Imentet was right and the twins had forged their shield recently or even in the past few months, he was sure they were still in the 'weakened' state and wouldn't last long against Imentet.

Then, his eyes flickered, 'Seeing how they didn't hesitate to go against me and Imentet, the Arasia and Seidel Family, the Fuller Family seems determined to have him. This means..'

Just when this thought crossed his mind, a voice sounded:

"If fight is what the Seidel Family wants, fight is what you will get because the Fuller Family wouldn't hesitate to go all out against anyone who wants to harm our guest."

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Following the voice, two figures flew toward them from not too far away from Claire's house.

Seeing them appear, Wilfred sighed, his emotion complex, 'Just as I thought, the Fullers are prepared to resist the three families for the boy.'

Imentet didn't seem surprised by the appearance of the two more Fullers. Evidently, she had also expected this.

She looked at the newcomers, an average looking brown haired man and a beautiful woman, both of whom had the appearance of someone in their early thirties, though their real age might be several times that.

"It seems your family is determined to have him, huh?" She said, looking at the woman.

The woman didn't reply, and just looked into her eyes with an indifferent expression on her face.

Imentet's lips twitched seeing this, and she let out an exasperated sigh, "This is why I don't like you Fullers. You are too arrogant."

No one said anything in response which made her feel like a fool and this only served to stoke the flame of her anger, but she wasn't stupid enough to fight when all odds were against her. So, she took a deep breath, exhaled and then looked to the side.

"What are your thoughts on this, Kart? Don't tell me you are going to just let it happen?"

The four from the Fuller family and Wilfred turned in the direction she was looking at, waiting for the last player—the Five-star mage from the Martell family—to show himself and express his stance.

Sigh!

An aged sigh rang out and a hunched back old man in gray robes revealed himself.

He swept his weary glance at everyone present, and sighed again, "I'm too old for this. You all can decide among yourselves, my Martell Family will not participate in this matter. I'm too old for this."

Saying this, he glanced toward Claire's house before flying away.

"Tch! That old coward!" Imentet spat through gritted teeth.

"Don't be angry at him, Lady Imentet. You know the Martells never bother themselves with such things." Wilfred said, flying to her side.

Imentet gave him a disgusted look before looking at the Fullers, "I'll see if you can really keep him."

Saying this, she flew away, leaving an awkward Wilfred.

"What are you doing?" One of the twins asked, her delicate brows furrowed.

"What do you mean?" Wilfred asked, frowning.

The brown haired man beside the Twins smirked, "She meant why aren't you leaving yet."

Hearing this, Wilfred took a deep breath. After a last glance at the Twins, he also left.

The brown haired man glanced in a different direction before looking at the woman beside him, "Grand Elder..."

The woman nodded before glancing in the direction the man looked and calmly said, "Allow us to have him for... a month and we can consider the favor of forging princess Alvira's Lifebound Artifact settled."

There was no response for a while. Then a voice sounded:

"Seven days."

The Fuller Grand Elder pondered for a bit before nodding, "Alright, seven days it is."

After saying this, she didn't wait for the response because she knew it would not come and turned around, her hazel eyes becoming cold.

"Bring him to the estate when he comes out." Leaving these words behind, she flew away. The brown haired man nodded toward the Twins before following her.

...

Max, unaware of the happenings outside thanks to the isolation barrier, was thrusting his hips back and forth in a frenzy, causing his cock to slide in and out of Claire's velvety cave.

Pa! Pa!

"Ahn~ Haa~ Um~"

She was on her elbows and knees, moaning wildly, her eyes glazed over due to the intense stimulation she was feeling.

She had told him to slow down a little and be a little more gentle several times by now, but Max didn't seem to hear her. In the end, she had no choice but to try to enjoy it as much as she could while trying to absorb the strange energy that he poured inside her. As she absorbed this energy, she could feel herself getting stronger which thrilled her. The bliss of becoming stronger helped her quite a lot to ignore the stimulation. If not for this, she feared she might've lost her mind by now.

...

"How long is he going to take?" Renu asked her twin sister, Vani, bored after waiting for over two hours.

Vani looked at Renu and calmly said, "Don't be too impatient. He should be done in a while."

"Tsk! Is he not aware of the danger he is in? How can he come here and do... that." Renu grumbled, her face heating up as she imagined Max having sex.

Vani looked at her with interest, and said, "Oh, so you managed to breach the barrier?"

"I didn't. If I had, I would've told him to come out by now." Renu said in frustration, "I can't believe a Four-star mage can cast such a strong barrier."

Vani's eyes flickered but she didn't comment.

Creak!

A while later, the doors opened and out walked Max, looking refreshed.

Chapter 608: Responsible

"You are finally out!" Renu snorted angrily as soon as she saw him.

"Hm?" Max frowned. Why was she acting as though he owed her something?

Vani sighed, and took a step forward before introducing them, "Hello, sir Max. I'm Vani and this is my sister, Renu. We are from the Fuller Family."

"Oh?" From the moment he realized his bloodline's secret was out, he started seeing every force of the capital, especially the four noble families and the Royal family and

had mentally prepared himself to fight with everything he had. Because of this, he was caught a little off guard by her polite attitude.

Shouldn't she be trying to kidnap him to extract his bloodline instead? Or was he wrong and the noble families weren't planning to kidnap him?

Max couldn't help but scoff at this thought.

'Their approach may differ, but their end goal is definitely the same.' Vani could see the wariness in his eyes and nodded inwardly before saying, "I'm sure you realize the situation you are in..."

"Ha!" Renu scoffed when she heard him and couldn't help but say, "If he knew it, he would have been trying to escape instead of fooling around with women."

When he was inside the barrier, though she guessed he might be having sex with Claire, she couldn't be completely sure. But after seeing him, she knew she was right and this disgusted her.

How could someone be so... clueless?

Max didn't even bother to look at her, and said to Vani, "Continue."

He could tell why Renu was being so rude, and couldn't help groan inwardly, 'I should've taken a bath before coming out. At least I wouldn't have to face this.' He wasn't an indifferent or emotionless person, and therefore, it affected him, albeit barely, if someone looked down on him, which Renu clearly was.

Because he had made the mistake of going to his women after sleeping with someone else a few times, he had already decided to take a bath, rub off the foreign scent of his body, each time he slept with someone.

He was going to have a nice bath after he was done with Claire but after a few moments before when he recovered had enough bloodline energy, or replenished his exhausted Bloodline Source to be exact, he had recovered his sanity and instinctively swept his senses around the area and noticed these two suspicious outside the house.

If they were ordinary people or average mages that reside in this neighborhood, he wouldn't have cared enough to stop and would've continued enj... cough, recovering his bloodline energy reserves instead.

However, his Bloodline Sense—another ability he unlocked after breaking the first bloodline lock—told him they weren't ordinary people at all, but were strong mages, most likely Five-star ones because he didn't feel a threat from them despite them being in a higher realm than him.

What could such people be in front of Claire's house? They surely weren't her acquaintances since they neither knocked the door nor messaged her, instead, they were... waiting.

From this, it wasn't difficult for him to realize that they were here for him. Though they didn't seem to have any intentions to break into the house, he didn't take the risk and came out. Who knew if their patience ran out and they really broke into the house? He didn't want to scare Claire and her son.

On the side note, the reason why the Twins, despite being in a higher realm, didn't detect his probing was because his Bloodline Sense had a special trait—Stealth. Although he couldn't be sure since he hadn't tested its limits, he had a guess that for someone to be able to detect his Bloodline Sense's probing, they had to be at least two realms above him, or have some unique sensory ability or treasure.

"You!" Renu was enraged seeing how he was treating her like air. But before she could say something, Vani shot her a glare. Though this stopped her from speaking, she became even more resentful of Max, which he noticed because the intensity at which she was staring at him had increased several folds.

'She is too willful. If I get the chance, I should pound some sense into her.' He idly thought. Immediately he realized something, and frowned.

Seeing him frown, Vani sighed, and said, "You might be unaware, but just a while ago, people from other families had come to... take you, and they would have succeeded if not for us. Of course, that's just my assumption. Maybe you could've handled them."

"Anyway, what I mean is, unlike others, the Fuller family respects you and wouldn't try to force you to do anything. However, if you consider visiting the Fuller family as our guest, we'll ensure your and your companion's safety while you are there."

Max's eyes narrowed when he heard this. A few moments later, he took a deep breath, glanced in a few directions before asking, "Tell me, if I don't agree to be your 'guest', you all will immediately come for me, is that right?"

Vani's eyes shone while Renu showed visible surprise on her face because in each of the directions he looked, someone from the three noble families was hiding. If they weren't Five-star mages and therefore had unlocked their Divine Sense, even they would have been unable to sense their presence, but he located them despite being just a Four-star mage which told them he was indeed extraordinary just as their patriarch had said.

Vani shook her head, "The others will, the Fuller family will not since we want to form a peaceful relationship with you. Now, can you please make your decision?"

"Given the current situation, it would be stupid of me to refuse. So, yes, I'll be your guest." Max calmly stated. Inwardly, however, he was seething. He didn't know if going to the Fuller family was a good idea but he had no choice to accept. If he was alone, he wouldn't have hesitated even for a moment to kill his way out of the capital, but he was not alone and had to think about the wellbeing of his companions.

'You all will pay for this.'

Chapter 609: Unacceptable!

Seidel Family Estate...

Bang!

Swoosh!

Suddenly, the Main hall's door swung open and a woman in violet robes charged in.

If not for her messy hair, puffy eyes, ruined mascara, unstable gait and the ominous air surrounding her, she would undoubtedly be a stunning woman. Right now, however... She looked nothing of the sort.

"Father! Is what I heard true?! That bastard is in the capital?" Ignoring the elders' glares, looks of disgust, mockery and pity directed at her, she shouted at the person sitting on the main seat— Grem Seidel, her father.

Being a powerful figure nearing the King Realm and the patriarch of the illustrious Seidel Family, he was a calm and composed man.

When faced with his dear daughter, however, he was nothing more than a normal father.

So, when he heard her cry and saw the almost crazed gleam in her eyes, he lost all his seriousness and calm he had while talking to the various elders just now and furrowed his brows in worry and a bit of frustration.

This woman, Helen, was his firstborn and only offspring from his first wife, the woman he loved most in his life and unfortunately lost a year after Helen was born. Maybe this was why he doted on her the most out of his several children. Then, when she grew up, to his joy, he realized she had the potential to reach the Emperor Realm. He immediately executed the people who knew about her potential to prevent her from becoming the target of malicious intentions. Since he didn't tell the family about her real talents, as per the family's rules, she couldn't enjoy the family's best nurturing. But... he

went against the rules, and gave her the best resources and training, greatly displeasing the elders.

He, however, didn't care and using his authority and might, he suppressed all voices of dissent.

He had planned to let her reach mortal boundary at least before announcing her real talents. When the family found out, he knew no one would be able to say anything and his daughter, given her potential, would replace him as the family head.

However, when she was just a Two-star mage, she fell in love with some brat and secretly married him.

When he found out about this, he was so angry he didn't know what to do. All his efforts, all his hopes... she destroyed everything.

If she had just gotten married without his consent, he wouldn't have minded much and at most would have been a little dissatisfied. But she hadn't just gotten married, she had become pregnant too.

For a talented woman like her to get pregnant and give birth before reaching the stages beyond the mortal boundary was no different than ruining her potential and destroying her future.

Because of this, no talented women, or women who wanted to achieve their potential or reach greater heights, wanted to conceive a child prematurely.

In fact, most of them would even refrain from marrying, and some of them would go to the extent of remaining virgin, hoping to remain in their best condition to pursue higher realms. Only those who weren't talented or ambitious would decide to marry early and have children. What made him more angry was the fact that when he found out about her marriage and pregnancy, she had been pregnant for over a month. This meant he couldn't even abort her fetus because it had already been too late. Clearly, she had planned everything out beforehand.

He killed everyone who he had assigned to protect her and inform him if anything major happened before announcing she was no longer a member of the Seidel family and no one was to interact with her. This, he did not only out of anger, but also to protect her from the family. The family had the rule that main line's descendants, be it males or females, would get married to the one the family wanted. Those who broke this rule would either receive capital punishment or have their mana core crippled and imprisoned for life. Therefore, this announcement was the last protection he gave her.

The family elders were greatly displeased by this but he suppressed them with his authority and power.

Normally, this would have serious repercussions such as his removal from the family head's position. But because the Grand Elders had turned a blind eye to the incident and there was no person better than him to lead the family, no such thing happened.

But this changed a year later, when he found out that Helen had returned with her newborn son and wanted him to name him. His anger that he thought would never go away melted like snow, and despite the elders' protest, he allowed her in. This time, however, the elders weren't going to let him do whatever he wanted and alerted the Grand Elders, who usually cultivated in seclusion to breakthrough to the King Realm.

The Grand Elders were also dissatisfied by him and even though he wasn't dethroned due to the lack of better person to lead the family, he lost most of his authority and now had to discuss everything with the elders and only after more than half of the elders consented could he implement some new rule, policy or make any reform in the family.

This was why, when he heard Helen's son, his grandson—Jack Family—had been killed, he couldn't do anything to avenge him because Jack wasn't a Seidel and hence not a member of the family.

Though angry, he didn't say anything. It was mostly because he believed Helen and her husband—both peak Three-star mages—were enough to avenge his grandson. But when Helen returned, fuming in rage, he knew things didn't go as expected.

He was quite shocked and angered when he heard a King Mage had intervened and completely disregarded her even when she used the Seidel family's name.

Though it was commonly known that the four noble families only had just a few Five-star mages, those in the know knew how far from the truth it was. If they had just a few Five-star mages, they would have long become the vessels of the Royal family. Even the Royal family with all their power wasn't willing to offend them and let them be, but a rogue King mage had disregarded them? It was unacceptable!

Chapter 610: Weird Proposal

610 Weird Proposal

Unfortunately, he could only bristle in anger, unable to do anything. Even if he hadn't lost his authority, he wouldn't have been able to order the family to hunt a King mage down.

Then, the demon invasion happened and he got so busy he forgot about his grieving daughter and the murderer of his grandson.

However, when he heard the name and description of the boy with an extraordinary bloodline, he recalled what Helen had told him about Jack's murderer and realized both were the same person. At that moment, he had sighed in helplessness because the family's plans regarding Max didn't exactly match Helen's desire for revenge. Thus, he decided not to inform her. But as luck would have it, she still found out.

"Father! Tell me, is this true?" Seeing his father not respond, she asked again.

Sighing in his heart, Grem nodded, "Yes, it's true."

Hearing this, Helen's eyes shone with such killing intent that the air around seemed to freeze. "Where is he father? Is that slut with him? If she is not, I would kill him... no, I'll first torture him... hahaha... he will be sorry my killing my sunshine." She started laughing hysterically, but tears were glistening in her eyes.

While others frowned in disgust, Grem felt his heartache. He stood up, walked over to her and gently hugged her, "Yeah baby. We'll make him regret laying his hands on my grandson."

"Good. I knew you wouldn't let him go. But why... have... you... not cap..." While speaking, Helen became drowsy and fell asleep in his arms.

Grem took a deep breath, his eyes flashing. Then, he glanced at one of his sons in the hall and ordered, "Take her to her mansion."

His son, who looked a younger version of him, furrowed his brows, unwillingness clear on his face. But seeing his father looking at him with emotionless gaze, he shivered and hurriedly came over.

Grem returned to his seat, and glanced at an older woman sitting near him, "So, the Fullers took him? What about the Royal family? Didn't they show up?"

The woman—an elder—frowned. She could tell his tone wasn't the same as it was a while ago, but didn't comment on it and answered, "The Fullers used the favor to keep him for a week."

Grem remained silent for a few moments, deep in thought before saying, "There is only one thing we can do now if we want that boy."

"And what is that?" An elder asked.

Grem swept his glance at everyone present and then announced, "War!"

Everyone's expression changed when they heard this and an old man frowned, "Don't be impulsive, Grem! The Royal family will not allow us to fight."

Grem looked at him with contempt in his eyes, "Why don't you tell us your brilliant idea then?"

"..." The elder went silent.

Grem knew many of the elders wouldn't agree just because he was the one who suggested this. So, he said, "You all seem to be forgetting something important... It's the Grand Elders who want that boy. If we fail... the consequences will be drastic."

Hearing this, everyone's expression turned serious.

Immentet, sitting among the Five-star elders, sneered upon seeing that even after the reminder, the elders were still hesitating.

So, she looked up at Grem and asked, "So, what's the plan, patriarch? How are we going to snatch the boy?"

Hearing this, Grem smiled and then said, "We can't let him fall into the Royal family's hands. So, we will have to act within these seven days. We'll first..."

...

Avan Inn...

Rey was anxiously pacing around in Shasha's room. It had been over two hours since Emily informed them that Max had left the Inn to do something important and would soon return. Then, they could leave.

"Why hasn't the team leader returned? If we don't leave soon, things will become more troublesome." He muttered.

Shasha, sitting cross-legged on the bed, opened her eyes and said in an annoyed tone, "Can you calm down?"

Rey looked at her, and asked, "You aren't worried at all, sister?"

"Why would I be? Since we have already decided to follow him, we'll deal with everything together. Whether we die or thrive, it's up to our destiny." Shasha calmly said.

"..."

Rey looked at her, speechless. He then exhaled deeply and sat down on the ground, "You are right. There is no need for us to worry. We only need to follow him"

Despite saying this, he couldn't calm down.

Just then...

Ta! Ta!

Someone knocked on the door.

They opened the door and saw Emily standing there with the Grandfather-Granddaughter pair and two unfamiliar people.

'They are strong!' Both had this thought when they saw them. Then, they looked at Emily in confusion.

"Where is the team leader? And who are they?" Rey asked.

"They are from the Fuller Family. Something happened, and we can no longer leave the city. So, Max had decided to stay with the Fuller family for the time being." Emily briefly explained, her expression unreadable.

A few moments later, the group walked out of the Inn. Immediately, Shasha's senses picked up several powerful auras in the surroundings, and frowned.

"You don't need to worry about them. They won't dare to do anything while you are with us." One of the Fullers said upon noticing the change in expression.

Shasha nodded. Then, under their lead, they headed toward the Fuller estate. ...

Meanwhile, Max had already arrived at the Fuller estate and was sitting in front of Mike, Patriarch Fuller.

He took a sip of the tea, looked Mike in the eyes and asked, "So, you are saying you will safely send me and my companions out of the city while offending all the other families, including the Royal family without asking for anything in return?"

Mike sipped his tea and smiled, "That's right."

Max frowned, "What are you playing at, old man?"

"Nothing." Mike continued to smile, "You can rest assured, there is no scheme at play."

"I refuse to believe that." Max shook his head, "Just tell me what you want."

Mike took another sip and smiled, "What do you think of becoming my son-in-law?"

"Huh?"

Chapter 611: The Deal [1]

611 The Deal [1]

A while later, Max left the study and met with the twins.

"Have my companions arrived?"

"They have. We'll take you to them." Vani said.

Following them, he arrived in the guest houses and met with Emily and others.

A while later, he, Emily, Rey and Shasha were sitting around a circular table. Max had just finished telling them why he chose to be a guest of the Fuller Family instead of trying to leave the city.

None of them was surprised to hear that the noble families had already deployed people around the city to stop him from leaving.

Also, although Max didn't say it, they understood the main reason he agreed to be the Fullers' guest was because of them. After all, he was strong enough to almost kill a peak Five-star mage, whose combat power wasn't any weaker than an Early-stage King mage. If he was alone, he probably wouldn't have much difficulty escaping. But if he had to take them along, the chances of a successful escape were almost zero. Realizing this, they felt complicated emotions swell in their hearts.

After a moment, Emily asked, "You said they will keep you safe for a week, right? What after that? We can't have you fall into the Royal Family's hands. Who knows what they will do to you." She felt a strong animosity for the Royal family and the other noble families, who were treating Max as an object, and vowed to teach them a painful lesson if they managed to survive the demon invasion.

"You don't have to worry about that. I have talked to Mike, the Fuller Patriarch. He has a way to let us leave the city in five days. But the problem is... we may not be able to last for these five days." Max said, sighing.

"What do you mean, team leader? Didn't you say the Fuller family will keep us safe for a week? Then, what's the problem with us staying alive for mere five days?" Rey asked in confusion.

"Well, the thing is, the other families, especially the Seidel and Arasia family wouldn't give up just because we are in the Fuller family. According to what Mike said, they will probably launch an attack on the Fullers soon to take me away."

"While the Fuller family has the capability to resist both families, they won't be able to help us if during that period, someone from their own family acts against us."

After saying this, he noticed Rey and Shasha looked even more confused, causing him to smile wryly.

"Um, team leader, why would the members of the Fuller family betray their own family? This... doesn't make sense." Rey said.

Before Max could explain, Emily spoke up, "In a large family like the Fuller family, there should be thousands of members. Among them, only a few hundred if not tens should be from the ruling branch of the family. If these tens of people have most of the authority and right over the family's resources while the majority of the family only gets crumbs, don't you think they will be dissatisfied even if they don't say it?"

Rey nodded after a thought, "Yes, they will be dissatisfied."

Emily nodded and added, "Due to the demon invasion let alone the Fuller family's, even the Kingdom's survival is uncertain. Now, If the Fuller family faces an eradication threat, only the core members have any chance of survival. As for the rest, they will most likely be sacrificed to buy time for the core members to escape, if not that, they will be left to their own devices."

"Everyone knows this. That's why these neglected members should be trying to do their best to increase their chances of survival. If another noble family were to approach them now, and promise something that did this, they will not hesitate to betray the Fuller family."

Hearing this, the understanding finally dawned on the elves and they frowned in disgust, "The humans are really too selfish."

Emily didn't seem to like what she heard and coldly said, "It's not only humans, every race, every sentient being is selfish."

"You are wrong, Miss Emily. If something like this were to happen to us, we'll happily sacrifice ourselves to ensure the safety of the commander's family." Shasha said with conviction while Rey nodded in agreement.

Emily didn't bother arguing and glanced at Max, "So, what are we going to do now?"

Rey and Shasha also looked at Max, wanting to hear what he had in mind.

Max shrugged, "We do nothing..."

"...Until someone attacks us. Then, we go all out and kill them." The last sentence he spoke was full of cold killing intent.

Emily nodded. A moment later, she asked, "Why is the Fuller family willing to send us out and risk offending the Royal family?"

Max hesitated before saying, "We made a deal. I'll help them with something and in return, they'll help us."

Emily frowned but before she could ask anything, Max felt his communication crystal buzz in his spatial ring. After checking the message, he stood up, "You guys go rest, and cultivate. Also, please look after those four (Little Rou, her grandfather, Claire and her son). If Claire asks anything, tell her I will meet her later and explain the situation."

Saying this, he walked out of the room, not giving Emily any chance to ask anything else.

After he left, Rey worriedly asked, "Miss Emily, we can deal with Three-star mages, and with your and Sister Shasha's help, we can fight even Four-star ones. But how are we going to fight the Five-star ones? I mean, sure the team leader can fight Five-star mages, but if several of them came..."

"Let him worry about it." Saying this, Emily also left the room.

"Sister Shasha..." Rey couldn't help but turn toward Shasha.

Shasha frowned, and coldly asked, "What's going on with you? Weren't you the first one who believed in him and decided to follow him? What happened, you no longer believe in him now?"

"I..." Rey wanted to say he still believed in him, but words stuck in his throat when he remembered how he had been acting for the last two days. If he really believed in him like he thought he did, he wouldn't have been constantly worried. ...

Under Vani's lead, Max arrived in a large mansion where a middle-aged woman greeted him.

"You must be the young hero I have been hearing about. Max, right?"

"I'm no hero, milady." Max smiled.

Vani greeted the woman with a bow and said to Max, "This is elder Riva, one of our most respected elders. Not only is she a high-stage Five-star mage, she is also a grade 5 magic weaponsmith and someone who can create grade 4 Lifebound Artifacts."

After that, she looked at Riva and said, "I've brought him here as ordered, elder. Now, I'll take my leave. Please excuse me."

Riva nodded and led Max inside.

While walking behind her, Max couldn't help but notice her figure, especially her swaying hips. They were captivating.

'Don't tell me I'm more attracted to older women?' He thought and then asked with anticipation,

"Elder, If you don't mind me asking, can you tell me who am I supposed to help? Is it you?"

Chapter 612: The Deal [2]

"Oh?" Riva stopped walking and turned around, a playful smile playing on her lips. She put her hands on her waist, stuck out her impressive chest and asked with a mischievous glint in her eyes, "You don't mind helping me? I thought you young kids don't like older women."

Max didn't shy away and boldly scanned her body as he said, "I'm not like others. I don't discriminate. In fact, I prefer older women, especially when they are as captivating as you."

Immediately after he finished speaking, the flirtatious atmosphere was gone, replaced by a dreadful silence. This...

The sudden change caught him off guard and when he looked up at her, he saw a cold look in her eyes with a well hidden killing intent flickering about.

Though after his fight against Oliver he was not afraid of Five-Star Mages, he didn't dare underestimate them either, especially when they were this close to him and he was completely unprepared. Fortunately, it didn't seem like she was going to attack him, but still, he raised his guard just in case.

"Elder Riva..." Just when he began speaking, Riva cut him off and said with a chill in her voice, "If you can prove you are really able to help us, not only will I forgive you for the words you just said, I'll even let you have a taste of me. But if you aren't able to help us, I'll kill you."

Max's eyes narrowed when he heard. Then he asked in a plain voice, "Are you sure you want to threaten me like this?"

He watched as Riva's luscious lips parted and from her expression, he could tell she was going to yes, but she unexpectedly suddenly sealed her mouth shut, turned around and started walking away.

"Come, let me take you to the person you are going to help." Max raised his brows seeing this. He could clearly see she was about to say yes, but stopped at the last moment.

'Did she get a mental communication or she had a premonition?' He wondered.

Though the latter would seem like a far fetched possibility, he felt it was the true one. Firstly because she didn't show any sign of receiving a mental communication.

If he hadn't awakened his Bloodline Sense, he would have thought that she might be just skilled enough to conceal the minute, involuntary reactions a person would show when they hear or see something all of a sudden, but with his Bloodline Sense he was able to sense mental fluctuations and therefore knew she had not received any communication.

As for when and how he found out he could sense mental fluctuations caused by mental communications, it was while they were talking and Mike had received a mental message.

Secondly, because he had decided to punish her later if she said yes. So, being a Five-star mage, she must have had a premonition.

The peak of the Four-star realm wasn't casually dubbed as Mortal Boundary. When someone breakthroughs it and steps foot into the Five-star realm, they literally have stepped out of ordinary into extraordinary. They overcome their mortal limits.

They no longer need to consume food and water for sustenance. They don't need to sleep and their lifespan becomes several times that of a mortal. Though it differs from person to person, a Five-star mage is usually able to live for over 300 to 500 years. Apart from all these, they also gain Five-star and higher mages' exclusive ability, their super perception, commonly known as the Soul Sense.

Their Soul Sense is not only a very high leveled version of mana sense, it also gives them much sharper intuition—they are able to feel if something is going to be beneficial, detrimental, risky or dangerous for them.

'Well, it doesn't matter either way since she didn't say anything. But she still needs to be taught a lesson for threatening me. Now, how should I punish her?' He lazily thought. Walking ahead of him, Riva suddenly felt a little uneasy which made her frown.

'Is what Mike said about his strength really true?' She wondered. 'It should be, otherwise I would not have such a premonition.'

The earlier feeling she had was her intuition telling her she would be in danger if she said yes. Many didn't believe in their intuition but she did and it had saved her life many times. That was why despite her better mind telling her he was nothing but a harmless

kid, she stopped. But now she was feeling humiliated. For one moment, she seemed to have his life in the palm of her hands and then the next one, she was scared away. She, a high-stage Five-star mage, felt scared away? If Max was a King Mage or even a peak Five-star one, she wouldn't have felt this way, but he was just a Four-star mage, and one who had broken through recently at that.

A while later, they arrived in front of a room at the core area of the mansion. Suppressing her conflicting feelings, she pushed open the door and entered the room, followed by Max.

Max ignored the luxuriousness of the room as by now he had gotten used to it and focused his attention on the lady laying on the bed. Then, he frowned.

It wasn't that she wasn't beautiful, she was but the reason he frowned was because she was completely pale and her eyes were murky.

"She seems to have lost all her vitality." He muttered.

Riva heard him and somberly said, "This is the consequence of forging Lifebound Artifacts."

Max didn't say anything and just sighed. Before they made the deal, Mike had already told him that whenever they forged a Lifebound Artifact, they would lose some of their lifespan and damage their magic foundation.

He needed to use his bloodline energy to repair or heal the magic foundation of Fullers. When Max heard this, he was astonished.

He knew Mike had seen him fight using his bloodline energy just for a short while but he seemed to have already realized the one of main aspects of his bloodline—nurturing. Then, he thought of something, 'Don't tell me others also know this?'

When he had this thought, his expression turned ugly. Just the fact that his bloodline could enable him to fight across the realm was enough to entice the greed in others' hearts, if they knew that his bloodline had other extraordinary effects too...

Fortunately for him, Mike had noticed his expression, and told him his worries were unfounded because the only reason he could tell his bloodline had a nurture aspect to it was because his Fuller bloodline, severely weakened due to him forging a few Lifebound Artifacts, cried with joy and longing when he came in contact with the remnants of his bloodline energy.

Only when he heard this did he sigh in relief. But he reminded himself that he should be cautious and should do his best to not reveal his bloodline energy ever again.

After all, if Mike could sense it, there were certainly others who could do the same and he was sure they wouldn't be as amiable as him.

Just then, Riva's voice pulled him out of his thoughts, "Her name is Sophie. If you can help her recover, we'll be able to verify your claims."

Chapter 613: Sophie [1]

Max became serious upon hearing her words. Though he had made a deal with Mike, it wouldn't take effect if he was not able to help them.

He walked over to the bed and put a hand on Sophie's abdomen.

Riva furrowed her brows when she saw this, but didn't say anything.

Suddenly, Sophie, feeling someone touch her, tried to focus her eyes to see who it was but only saw a blurry figure.

"M...Mother?" She asked in an almost inaudible voice.

Swoosh!

Riva rushed over and took her hand in hers, "I'm here. Mother is here, baby. Don't worry. I brought someone to take a look at your condition. Your uncle Mike said he will be able to help you.."

Sophie didn't respond but from the look on her face, it was easy to tell she didn't believe she could be healed.

If it was possible to heal her, she and several others who had been suffering for years would have healed by now and all those people wouldn't have died.

'It's alright. Let mother do what she wants. That way, she wouldn't feel too guilty after I die.'

As though Riva could read her thoughts, her eyes reddened and tears welled up in her eyes.

Max looked at her, and then Sophie. Previously he hadn't noticed, but now that he took a better look at them, their appearance indeed had some similarities.

Then a realization suddenly hit him, 'No wonder she threatened me. Watching her daughter suffer at death's door, helpless to do anything, must have messed up her emotions.'

'Then I suddenly appeared and claimed I may be able to help her, reigniting her hope. But when she saw me trying to flirt, seemingly not being serious about what I was here for, she naturally became angry.'

Upon realizing this, the displeasure he felt earlier lessened a little. Still, for some weird reason, he found it a little hard to believe that she was her mother.

'How strange!'

Looking at Sophie, he suddenly frowned. Mike had told him that because the price they had to pay to forge a Lifebound Artifact was too steep, especially for those in the mortal realms, the family had a rule which stated that everyone could only try forging a Lifebound Artifact one time and one time only. Furthermore, it had to be done under the supervision of a Five-star elder. So the elder could help mitigate the backlash if they failed.

To ensure no one violated this rule, the family would keep those who had tried one time until either they break through to the Five-star realm, where they would be able to try again, or they reach the end of their lifespan.

Sophie clearly didn't satisfy either of the conditions as she was still young and was just a Four-star mage, but she was allowed to try multiple times?

'Her supervisors definitely wouldn't have allowed her to try again, especially because she is Riva's daughter. So, either she deceived them, or... Riva was her supervisor and she allowed her?'

The reason he guessed Riva must have been her supervisor was simply because she was her mother and it was easy for her to supervise her and also because he could see guilt in Riva's eyes when she looked at Sophie.

He frowned again, 'Vani said Riva is an accomplished magic and Lifebound weaponsmith, meaning she clearly knows the risks of forging Lifebound Artifacts multiple times. Adding the fact that she is her mother, she should be the last person who should allow her, but she did? This is too strange.'

After a while, he shook his head, 'Why am I thinking all this?' With that, he threw these useless thoughts to the back of his mind and focused on his task.

A short while later, he was done diagnosing her condition.

'No wonder despite the Fuller family's wealth and influence, she is still in this condition.' He sighed. It would be understatement to say her condition was bad... It was extremely bad, almost unsalvageable.

Her mana core wasn't just injured, it had lost all substance and was falling apart. Her mana pathways had atrophied, and were cracked in several places.

Even worse and the reason why she looked like she was going to die, her blood had barely any vitality in it and her vital organs were no longer properly working.

Now Max was no longer sure his bloodline energy could heal her. 'If I want to heal her, I'll have to use Nascent Energy, but I don't have any left...'

Riva, noticing that he was done diagnosing, looked at him and asked in a low and trembling voice, "H-How is it? Can you... heal her?"

Max looked at her and walked out of the room, "Come with me."

"Mother will be back in a minute, alright baby?" Riva kissed Sophie's forehead before following him out.

"Mm." Sophie assented with a soft grunt.

Outside the room, Max was silent for a few seconds before he looked into her eyes and said something she already knew, "She is almost beyond saving. If not for the vitality boosting pills forcefully keeping her alive, she would've already died."

Riva's eyes shone, her breathing stopped as she frantically said, "You said 'almost'. This means you can save her, right?"

Max kept silent, letting her become more agitated. Only when she was agitated and anxious enough would she agree to what he was going to say.

"Tell Me You Can Save Her!" She shouted, her aura pressing down on him.

Completely unphased, Max looked at her with an expressionless face.

Riva looked at him, sighed and withdrew her aura, "Sorry I just lost my emotions." She apologized then turned around, her shoulders shaking, "You can leave."

Ha!

'This woman...' Max smiled wryly and said, "I can save her."

Swoosh!

Riva turned around, allowing Max to see her face full of tears, and excitedly asked, "Really?!"

Max nodded, "Yeah. Stop crying first, then we can talk."

Riva quickly wiped her tears, took a few breaths to calm her emotions and then asked again, "Are you sure you can save her?"

"I already said that, didn't I?" Max calmly said.

"You did. I'm sorry. I'm just..." Riva apologized and then said, "So, tell me, what are your conditions?"

"Conditions?" Max shook his head, "You misunderstand. I don't have any conditions. I just want to tell you this beforehand that her condition is way worse than I imagined. So, if I want to heal her, I have to take some extreme measures."

Chapter 614: Sophie [2]

"Extreme measures?" Riva asked, frowning.

Max hesitated for a moment before shaking his head, "I'll tell you later. You go procure some Vitality boosting pills and prepare something nourishing for her to eat. You have an hour."

After saying this, he entered Sophie's room and closed the door.

Riva stood there, feeling uneasy, "What is he going to do?"

Taking a deep breath, she suppressed her uneasiness, 'As long as he can heal her, it doesn't matter what methods he uses.'

...

"Mother...?" Sophie muttered when she heard the sound of doors closing.

Unexpectedly, instead of hearing her mother's voice, she heard an unfamiliar male voice, "Your mother has gone to prepare some things."

"You... the doctor?" Sophie asked.

Max walked over, climbed onto the bed and sat beside her, "Yes. I am. Now, I'm going to start healing you. If you feel some discomfort, don't panic and stay calm, alright?" Though he knew the chances of her feeling any discomfort very low, he advised her just in case.

Sophie seemed to sigh before she assented, "...Okay."

Max shook his head. She seemed to have completely given up and didn't believe she could be healed. He didn't blame her for it, however. After all, she must have watched many of her family members, who were in similar conditions to her, die without anyone able to heal them. For her, her condition was incurable.

Taking a breath, he placed a hand on her chest and started channeling his bloodline energy into her heart and blood. After diagnosing her, he already knew his bloodline energy wasn't potent enough to heal her magic foundation and he needed Nascent Energy to do that. However, the problem was... Nascent Energy could only be produced when he copulated with a woman. So, he first wanted to improve her bodily condition by giving her heart and blood some vitality via his bloodline energy infusion. Once she was able to move around, he would give her some Vitality boosting pills and let her eat something. After that, she would be able to help him create some Nascent Energy that he could then use to heal her foundation.

Though it felt weird that he planned to have sex with her given her current condition, he didn't have any choice. Moreover, it was going to help her, so it was only right.

Sophie's brows creased when she felt his hand on her chest but a moment later, they smoothed out when she felt a warm and gentle energy enter her body.

"What... is this?" She asked.

"It's my bloodline energy. It has a strong vitality but unlike those pills your mother gives you, it's very tame." Max explained.

Sophie shook her head a little, "It's no use... my body can't retain vitality for long."

"It's alright. As long as you can feel better for a few hours, it'll be enough." Max said.

"Once you are in a better condition, I'll be able to heal your Magic Foundation. You know what will happen if your foundation gets healed, right?" He asked.

"Yes... my body will be able to retain vitality and... I will get better." Her murky eyes became wet when she said this. She then asked, "But can you... do that... Heal my foundation?"

"I definitely can. But you'll need to cooperate with me. As long as you cooperate, you'll be better in no time." Max said.

Sophie was silent for a while before she said, "...I believe you."

"Oh?"

Seeing how she seemed to have given up all hope already, he thought she wouldn't believe his words, so he was a little surprised when she say this.

He didn't know Sophie was also surprised by the inexplicable feeling of trust she was feeling.

When a year ago she decided to forge a unique Lifebound Artifact to save her dying little brother despite having forged one for herself months prior, she had already accepted the outcome—death. And even though she failed and a month later lost her brother, she didn't regret it because she had tried her best, fulfilled her duty as his big sister.

After that, she just quickly wanted death to take her so she could be reunited with her brother. Unfortunately, her mother returned from a months long mission before she could pass away. Like every loving mother would be when they find their son had died and their daughter was also going to die, Riva was broken-hearted.

Despite knowing the chances were very slim, Riva did her best to prolong her daughter's life—she gave her top quality grade four and five Vitality pills, found rare spirit fruits, used her vital energy without caring about her lifespan—hoping that she would be able to find a way to save her.

This was why, when she heard Mike had found someone who could possibly heal those who had suffered the backlash, she immediately consented to bring him to the family. When she realized the other families were going to try to capture him, she immediately went to her mother (The woman Grand Elder who made the deal with the Royal family and chased Imentet and Kart Martell away) and roused her from her secluded cultivation and pleaded with her mother to take action. If she hadn't done that, it wouldn't have been as easy to bring Max to the Fuller Family.

Because Sophie didn't want to hurt her mother's feelings any more than she had already had by risking her life, she let her do what she wanted and as a result suffered for a year in her current state.

However, she knew she wasn't the only one who was suffering, her mother was equally suffering. Therefore, after a year, she had thought it had been enough and wanted to tell her mother to give up.

But who knew before she could do that, she would suddenly find herself believing that she could truly be treated?

For her mother, and also because deep down she longed to live, she hoped to get better and live if she could. But she feared her feelings and everything she heard just now might just be a delusion.

Suddenly, the now familiar voice pulled her out of her thoughts, "Hello, miss? Are you there?"

"So, it was not my delusion." She murmured, feeling relieved.

Then she tried to focus on the blurry figure when her eyes widened...

...because instead of seeing a blurry figure like she always did, she saw a handsome young man sitting beside her, grinning at her.

Chapter 615: Accomplishment

"I...I can see now? I'm not dreaming, right?" She muttered in daze, her gaze focused on Max's face.

Seeing her reaction, a small smile crept up on his face and he gently nodded, indicating she wasn't dreaming.

Despite seeing him nod, Sophie was still in disbelief. After etching every detail of his face in her mind, she peeled her eyes away from him and started looking around. A few moments later, she broke out in silent sobs while tears streamed down her cheeks. "I can really see now." She whispered in a choking voice, her hands unconsciously reaching up to her face.

Watching her joyful face, Max felt a strange sensation envelop his being. He closed his eyes and thought,

'No wonder those rich people back on Earth liked to do charity and help the poor whenever possible. They didn't do it because they were kind and benevolent, or solely because of publicity and popularity. They did that for this sense of satisfaction, fulfillment and accomplishment.'

"Ah! I can feel and move my hands?!"

Sophie's sudden, surprised and gleeful cry brought him out of his thoughts.

Watching her wave her hands in front of her and look at them in amazement, he smiled and offered her his hand, "Not only that, you should be able to do everything a normal, healthy person can do. Here, try sitting up."

Sophie grew excited hearing this and hurriedly grabbed his hand, her heart galloping like a wild horse.

Right now, she no longer cared whether he could heal her magic foundation as he claimed or not. No, she just wanted to feel like a normal person, something she dreamt of feeling for over half a year now. As for what happened after that, she didn't care.

...

(The hallway outside Sophie's room)

Riva had finished making a nutritious meal for Sophie as Max asked her to, though she was constantly wondering how he was going to feed her?

For the first half of the year Sophie had been bedridden, the vitality booster pills, spirit fruits and other healing medicine could still work on her though with diminishing effect. After consuming them, her body would become a little healthy and she would be able to sit up and with her help slowly eat. But after half a year, these medicines could barely affect her.

Because Riva didn't want her daughter to lose hope, she would use her own Life Energy to make her condition better but after a few days, even that stopped having a substantial effect on Sophie.

Since then, Sophie had been lying on the bed, unable to even move her fingers let alone eat. She could barely croak out a few words and as days passed, despite being injected with Life Energy, her condition grew worse and she even lost her vision.

Because of this, when Max told her to make some nutritious food for Sophie, she couldn't help but wonder how he was going to make her eat. The thought that he was capable enough to heal her daughter would cross her mind but she would suppress it so she wouldn't get hurt from the disappointment if he failed.

Putting everything in a tray, she left the kitchen and had just arrived in the hallway leading to Sophie's room when she heard her daughter's sudden cry.

After Sophie fell ill, she had adjusted the isolation formation of her room. Instead of isolating the insides of the room to people outside, it was isolating the outside of the room to Sophie. She did this so Sophie wouldn't be disturbed and irritated by any outside noise while she would be able to hear any sound coming from her daughter's room, making it easier for her to take care of her.

Ba-Dump! Ba-Dump!

Her heart started beating like drums and tears of joy welled up in her eyes, "Sophie..."

Swoosh!

She turned into a gust of wind and crossed the hallway in an instant but paused when her hand touched the doorknob.

Taking a deep breath, she slowly opened the door while inwardly praying that her senses weren't playing with her. However...

She froze in place when she saw the scene of her daughter trying to sit up with Max's help, a joyful expression on her face.

Riva's emotions burst forth and the tears she had stopped just a while ago fell like a waterfall. 'My daughter... we finally have hope... we finally have hope.'

After sitting up, Sophie looked down at her hands and legs, a wide smile on her tearful face.

"You really weren't lying." She said, looking at Max with gratitude. Max only smiled in response before glancing at Riva standing by the door.

Sophie followed his gaze and saw her steadfast mother trembling and shedding tears. Her eyes became gentle and with a huge smile on her face, she said, "M...Mother... He has really healed me. I can talk, see you and move my body. See."

Swoosh!

Riva flashed beside the bed, put down the food tray on the table before hugging her, "Yes, you are fine, baby. You are fine."

Max, not wanting to disturb them, silently left the room. Sitting down in a corner, he took out some Mana stones and started absorbing them.

An hour later, he managed to recover the bloodline energy he exhausted to heal Sophie and used some of it to increase his Mana.

'If I have enough Mana stones, and have someone to help me recover my bloodline whenever I need, it shouldn't take me more than a week to reach the peak of the Early stage of the Four-Star realm.' He mused.

He then checked his spatial ring.

Low Grade Mana stones: 50,000

Mid Grade Mana stones: 900,000

High Grade Mana stones: 3800

Nodding in satisfaction, he thought, 'Now I only need someone willing and strong enough, preferably a Four or Five star...'

Currently, the only willing female was Claire but because her cultivation was very low, she didn't have enough Yin Energy and her recovery was also very slow.

Glancing at Sophie's room, he sighed and stood up, "Let's help each other, shall we?"

Chapter 616: Threat? So be it

In the room, Sophie was staring at Max with an incredulous expression on her face. Riva was doing the same but her expression was one of rage and she seemed to be on the verge of attacking him.

Max took in their expressions, and while he felt a little bad in his heart, he didn't show anything on his face. Also unlike before, he was alert in case Riva really did lose her self control and attacked.

"Do you dare repeat that?!" She hissed through gritted teeth. Max looked into her eyes with a calm look and repeated what he had said just a few moments ago, "If I want to heal her magic foundation, I need to have sex with either you or Sophie."

Bam!!

Riva slapped the table beside the bed, tearing it into pieces. As the wooden splinters flew around, she thundered, "You want to die!!"

Boom!

As soon as she shouted, her aura burst forth and pressed down on him with force.

The moment Max felt her aura erupt, he started circulating his Mana and his Will was ready to tap into his bloodline energy to cast his bloodline aura field.

But fortunately, apart from pressing him with her aura, Riva didn't do anything.

While feeling relieved that she did not attack because if she had, it would have most likely ruined his budding relationship with the Fuller family and along with his deal with Mike, but in his heart he couldn't help but complain.

'Damn woman! Can't you control your temper?'

Fortunately, Riva couldn't read his thoughts or she would have lashed out even more badly if she heard this.

How was she to control her temper when someone was trying to exploit not only her, but her precious daughter too?

Not wanting to make the matter worse and also because he was starting to feel annoyed by her, he said, his tone a bit colder,

"It seems you did not understand what I said, Elder Riva. So let me put it in a way easy for you to understand.

What I wanted to say is After I diagnosed her, I realized my bloodline energy wasn't potent enough to heal her magic foundation. The only thing it could do was to nurse her back to a healthy state.

Now you must be wondering why I said that if I can't heal her foundation? It's because I can heal it but to do that, I have to enhance my bloodline energy."

After saying this in a single breath, he added, "And to enhance it, I need to have sex with... at least a Four or Five-star mage."

Riva took a deep breath and forcibly calmed herself down when she heard him. Beside her, Sophie also fell into thoughts.

Seeing the contemplative looks on their faces, Max closed his eyes and waited for their decision.

Thirty seconds passed...

One minute passed...

Then another minute...

And then another...

But none of them said anything.

Frowning, he opened his eyes. Sophie had her head lowered while Riva seemed to be considering something, her brows knitted together.

"In case you don't know, if her magic foundation isn't healed within a few hours, the effects of my bloodline energy in her body will wear off and she'll revert back to her previous condition.

And since boosting my bloodline energy will take quite some time, you should avoid wasting time and make your decision as soon as possible."

Riva visibly shook when she heard him while Sophie's head snapped up.

"Is there no other way to boost your bloodline energy?" Riva asked in an unhappy tone.

Max's patience finally ran out and he snapped, "If I had, I would have told you already. Now, don't waste your or my time. Hurry up and make your decision or I'll just leave."

Riva's expression morphed.

"How dare you threaten me?!" She thundered, her pupils constricted in anger and her aura field quickly took form around Max. Max's expression darkened at the hostile display.. The normal aura pressure, he could easily endure. But if she—a high-stage five-star mage—used her aura field, he knew he wouldn't be able to remain unaffected. That was why, almost at the same time she acted, he released his bloodline powered aura field. Though it wasn't perfect like hers, it resisted most of the pressure.

Riva's eyes flickered with surprise when she saw this while anger rose even more.

Just as she was about to reinforce her aura field with mana, Sophie put a hand on her shoulder and worriedly said, "Mother, please calm down. You misunderstood. He wasn't trying to threaten us."

"You!" Riva's anger ebbed a little and she gave her daughter an incredulous look.

"You didn't hear what he said? He clearly said he will leave if we don't agree. What is that if not a threat and his blatant attempt to take advantage of our vulnerability?"

As she spoke, her anger surged once more as she glared at Max and said,

"He already has a pact with your uncle according to which he needs to heal you and others. Whether we agree to his unscrupulous demand or not, he has to heal you if he wants the deal to take effect."

Sophie looked at Max with a confused look on her face.

Max with his keen observation could also see a hint of disappointment in the deaths of her eyes but that didn't phase him. He had more important things to do to care about a stranger's opinion of him.

With a calm look on his face, he looked into Riva's eyes and slowly nodded, "It's true I have made a deal with Mike. But perhaps what you don't know is;

Whether or not I'm able to heal anyone, he is going to protect me and my companions for the duration of the week we are here. So, we are not in any immediate danger. As for what happens after that..."

Max's lips curled up into a devious smile, "...If you don't agree, I'll leave here and use these seven days to figure out something."

Chapter 617: Stirred

Earlier, he wasn't threatening and had just laid out facts, but now he was threatening. If they didn't agree or Riva continued her behavior, he was simply going to walk out of the room.

Sure it would be better for him and his companions if he could heal Sophie and others like her, but since he didn't have any Nascent Energy, nor any source to get some from, so if they didn't agree... there was nothing he could do about it.

Riva's expression changed and her pupils constricted into pinholes. She was still angry but finally seemed to have realized the gravity of the situation. Whether he was trying to take advantage of them or not, if she wanted him to heal her daughter, she had no choice but to agree to his 'unscrupulous' demand.

Sophie looked at Max, who had closed his eyes, and then at her mother, whose face was one of anger and helplessness. Her jaws clenched, her eyes became firm before she tapped her mother's shoulder and said, "Mother, it's alright. Since I'm going to be the one to benefit in the end, I will..."

Right when she was about to say 'I will do it', she hesitated. Not because she was repulsed by the idea, she was not because she was going to be healed from it and on top of that, Max was a very handsome and desirable man. She hesitated because she felt shy saying those words to her mother and face heated up.

If it was a year before, she wouldn't have reacted in such a way but after a year of suffering, she no longer had the stable and aloof mentality of a Four-star mage cum genius weaponsmith.

So, just like any young virgin mortal girl, she felt embarrassed.

Fortunately or Unfortunately for her, Riva who was lost in the messy train her thoughts came to her senses when she felt the tap on her shoulder and her hesitation gave Riva the chance to interrupt her.

"Don't even think about it! Just rest up. I'll settle this matter." She then called out to Max, "Come with me." And walked out the room, not giving the stunned Sophie any chance to speak.

Max was a little surprised before he became ecstatic. Of course, he didn't show it on his face.

Just as he was about to follow her out, he paused, his eyes twinkling. He approached Sophie and whispered,

"Don't be disappointed, milady. We can do it after I heal your magic foundation."

"Huh?!"

Sophie was jolted out of her stunned state by his words. Then, her face turned an enchanting shade of crimson, clearly embarrassed by his shameless words. Seeing this, Max couldn't help but think just how beautiful she would look after she completely recovered.

'I'll see it soon.'

"I..." Sophie started speaking in a fluster, wanting to defend herself but Max shook his head and gave her a smile rife with meaning.

"You can tell me your decision later. Alright, I'll go now or your mother will get more angry."

Saying this, he left the room, leaving a dazed Sophie who covered her face with her hands and let out a muffled cry,

"Argh! But I'm not disappointed..."

Following Riva, Max arrived in the hall. When he saw Riva sit down on a sofa and close her eyes, appearing as though she was waiting for someone, Max realized he got happy too soon.

Riva wasn't going to do it with him but was going to order someone else.

Trying to suppress his disappointment, he said while sitting down in front of her.

"Just to remind you again, I need to do it with someone in the Four Star Realm at the very least if I want to heal your daughter, multiple times at that. This will naturally take more time, the time Sophie doesn't have.

But if I were to do it with a Five Star Mage, just doing it one or at most two times should be enough and we will save quite a bit of time."

Riva opened her eyes when she heard this and her expression grew dignified as she asked.

"You mean you won't be able to heal her magic foundation in time if you were to do it with a Four Star Mage?"

Max very much wanted to say yes but his conscience didn't allow him. Hiding some information to profit himself was fine but blatantly lying was not. So, he sighed and slinked deeper into the sofa as he shook his head.

"No. According to my calculations, Sophie should have approximately four more hours before her condition reverts back. Four hours... should be barely enough to heal her."

He could see the tension from Riva's face disappear when she heard this.

Trying his luck one last time, he said, "But I could be wrong and she maybe only has three or three and half hours. So, there is a certain risk but if I do it with a Five Star Mage, there won't be any risk even if she has less than three hours."

Riva's eyes flashed when she heard this and her expression became unreadable as she stared into his eyes.

As Max returned the gaze with a calm look on his face while entertaining the last kindle of hope, suddenly the corner of her lips curled upward into a smile and she teasingly said,

"You really are relentless."

Her smile, albeit teasing, was so beautiful that Max became momentarily dazed. When his mind registered her words, he snapped back to his senses and heaved a sigh in defeat.

'It's really not easy to manipulate an experienced Five Star Mage like her, huh? Maybe if I used my Charm...'

He shook his head, 'No, It still wouldn't work since she would immediately notice it and that will only serve to lower my impression in her mind. Though I doubt she had a good impression of mine in her mind in the first place.'

After a moment, he asked, "So, who have you called?"

"Wait a few moments. You'll see her soon enough." Riva said before saying, "Seeing how much you like me, I'm sure she will be to your liking."

Max gave her an annoyed glance and muttered, "I hope so."

Suddenly, to his surprise and irritation, Riva suddenly started laughing.

He wanted to make some sarcastic remark when he noticed tears in her eyes. After laughing for a few moments, she said, "You are not as bad as I thought. I was just too insecure, it seems."

"Thanks, I guess?" Max said,

Riva shook her head, "No. It is I who should thank you."

Saying this, she stood up and gave him a respectful bow, "Thank you for helping my daughter. Even though you are doing this because of your pact with Mike, It's a very big

and important thing for me and my daughter. And despite what my behavior may have suggested until now, I'm nothing but grateful to you."

Max was caught off guard by her sudden change of behavior once again. Fortunately, unlike last time, this change was for the better. After recollecting himself, he nodded, "It's good that you've returned to your senses."

The corner of Riva's lips twitched at his remark. She glared at him but just then, the sound of light footsteps resounded and a lady in a plain yellow dress walked into the hall.

At first glance, she looked like a kind neighborhood girl in the countryside.

But...

When Max took another glance and looked at her closely, his breath hitched and his bloodline suddenly turned violent.

Chapter 618: Seraphina [1/2]

'What's happening?!' Max cried inwardly in panic. He first thought he was having his bloodline backlash but soon dismissed the thought because unlike before, he hadn't used up all of his bloodline energy, much less his bloodline source.

Then he noticed something—although what was happening was similar to the bloodline backlash... It was something completely different.

When he had the backlash, his lust was magnified several fold and it was overwhelming his mind. Whereas now, although his lust had spiked, it wasn't trying to overwhelm him. Also, there was something else that was different... He was feeling an intense desire to take possession of this simple looking lady and make her his. It was as if he had become a beast and she was a delectable, and irresistible prey.

Not wanting them to notice his abnormality, he did his best to suppress this overwhelming urge but Riva, being a Five Star Mage, still noticed something was up with him and asked.

"You alright?"

"Yeah." Max nodded before peeling his eyes off the lady in front of him and snapped them shut, not caring what they would think about it.

The moment he closed his eyes, he felt his bloodline calm down albeit a little. Riva raised her brows at his rude behavior but recalling how she had been treating him, she chose to ignore it and looked at the lady who respectfully bowed to her in greeting.

"Greetings, Elder Riva."

Then despite the fact Max had closed his eyes, and was seemingly trying to ignore her existence, she politely greeted him, "Hello sir."

Max planned to ignore her until Riva was done explaining to her, but when he heard her greet him, his heart fluttered and unwittingly, he opened his eyes. 'How troublesome!' Sighing in frustration, he met her gaze—the moment he did, his bloodline again became violent—and returned the greeting with the best gentlemanly smile he could muster in his current situation.

"Hello milady! It's very nice to meet you."

The lady gave him a kind smile before returning her gaze to Riva, "May I ask what order you have for me, Elder Riva?"

Riva looked at Max, who had closed his eyes once again, strangely. Then a knowing smile appeared on her lips. 'So you can become flustered too? How cute!'

She glanced at the lady and introduced him, "You see Sera, Mr. Max here is our family's honored guest. He has some very special abilities that he can use to heal the destroyed magic foundations. He had just helped Sophie recover and will soon heal her completely."

Seraphina Fuller, or Sera as Riva called her, was an orphan of a branch of the Fuller family. Her parents had been poor, so they didn't leave her anything. Due to that, from a young age, she started working as a servant to earn a living. Though she earned enough to get by, she never had enough resources nor time to focus on cultivation. Due to her weakness and because she was very timid and kindhearted, she became a target of bullying from kids of her age but it was still manageable.

However, when she turned twelve, and her body started maturing, things took a turn for the worse. Despite the limited nutrition, she started developing into a beautiful girl. The young neighborhood boys became infatuated with her and the girls became jealous.

The boys would approach her, treat her well but when she rejected their advances, they would become angry, and even though they didn't do anything drastic to her thanks to the family's rules, they bullied her to tears every time.

Girls. on the other hand, treated her even worse. Not only would they bully her every time they saw her, they would also beat her. She couldn't even avoid them because she had to go work in their homes to earn a living.

Then one day, when she was working in the house of one of her girl bullies, she accidentally broke an old vase. The girl got angry and beat her so badly that she was bleeding all over. Then, as if that was not enough, she wanted to burn her face with her fire magic.

Fortunately, Riva, coincidentally flying over the area, noticed this and immediately stopped her.

After she enquired about the situation, she found out that the boy that girl loved liked Sera. Angry, she orchestrated the plan to put the brittle old vase in a place that it would fall off when Sera cleaned the area. Then she would use it as an excuse and beat her into a half dead state and burn her face, effectively removing her from their love triangle.

Hearing this and seeing Sera's condition, Riva became so angry that she wanted to obliterate the girl because the thing she hated the most were people who did such things in love rivalry due to her own experience when she was young.

Despite her anger though, she knew Sera should be the one to decide how the girl was to be punished but to her surprise, when she asked her, Sera decided to let the matter go.

She clearly remembered the conversation she had with her then.

'Are you afraid her family will act against you later?' She had asked.

With a calm look, Sera had shaken her head and said, "No. I'm not afraid of that. I just don't want to punish her. She is already suffering enough."

"Suffering from what?" She had asked out of curiosity.

'From jealousy, anger and hate. She can never be happy because of these and will eventually suffer. She will suffer so much that my suffering will pale in comparison.' Sera had said, 'That's why I don't want to punish her. She is too pitiful for me to do that.'

That day, that 12 year old girl had given Riva a new perspective of life and gave closure from some things that had been holding her from focusing on more important things.

A day later, she had Sera investigated. Realizing how she had no family and how much she was suffering, she decided to give her a better life. However, when she went to bring her to her mansion, Sera had said she wouldn't take anything for free and would instead work as her servant.

Riva relented and little Sera started working as a gardener.

After that, Riva got busy and it was only after a month that she met her again. When she saw him, she was shocked because Sera had gone from an ordinary person to a

peak Two Star Mage with dual elements awakened in just one month. Furthermore, her mana core was incomparably pure and solid.

After realizing how talented she was, Riva started guiding her along with Sophie and her son, Uriel. Under her guidance, she showed even better talent and in just half an year, she broke through and became a Three Star Mage.

Riva was ecstatic and wanted to take her as her disciple before the Grand Elders found out about her talent and snatched her away. But before she could do that, she was sent on another month-long mission. During that month, she was constantly worried that when she returned, a Grand Elder would have made Sera their disciple. When she returned, she was relieved to realize her worries were unfounded.

But when she met Sera again, all her relief and excitement vanished because she noticed Sera seemed to have aged a lot more than she should have in a mere month and her body had become frail.

When she checked her body, wanting to find what could have caused this, she was devastated.

Chapter 619: Seraphina [2/2]

Unlike most Fullers, Sera didn't have the Fuller's metal related bloodline but a strange one, which she had probably inherited from her mother, who was the non Fuller parent.

Though Riva was surprised to find this because unless her mother had a higher tier bloodline than Fuller bloodline—at least one on the same tier as the Royal Family's bloodline—the offspring would always inherit the Fuller Bloodline, she wasn't in mood to think about Sera's dead mother's origin because she realized Sera, who she had come to think of as her daughter, was slowly dying.

The reason: Her strange bloodline was slowly eroding her lifeforce.

She used many methods but she couldn't stop her bloodline from eroding her lifeforce.

Not wanting her to worry about it, she decided against telling her. And even though she felt guilty, she dropped the idea of taking her as her disciple and stopped guiding her cultivation. Instead, she started assigning her more tasks to keep her busy and prevent her from cultivating because she had realized the higher her cultivation became, the faster she would lose her lifeforce.

Unfortunately, Sera was just too talented. Despite her efforts to slow down her cultivation, within the next few years, she broke through to the Four Star realm. As a result, her bloodline started eroding her lifeforce at a much faster speed. At the age of

18, and despite the fact she was a Four Star mage, she had the lifeforce of an ordinary middle aged person.

Finally, she realized that it would have been better if she had told her the truth. Thinking better late than never, she told her about her bloodline and how it was slowly killing her, and that she needed to stop cultivating.

When Sera heard that, she showed no surprise or fear. She just smiled and for the first time, she hugged her and said, "Thank you for telling me."

Riva had thought she would heed her words and would stop cultivating but two years later, right before she left for the year-long mission in the central plains, Sera met her and told him she had reached the peak of the Four Star.

Riva was so angry out of concern that she didn't know what to do. When she asked why hadn't stopped cultivating despite knowing the consequences, Sera told her that she had not put any effort into cultivation.

It was her accursed bloodline that was passively increasing her cultivation and in return consuming more and more of her lifeforce.

She had tried to control it to no success. And the reason she hid her progress from them was simply because she didn't want them to feel sad and worry for her.

Riva had broken out in tears that day while embracing her.

She remembered Sera wiping her tears and saying, 'I have no regret. You have given me a life so beautiful that I had not even dreamt about growing up. I'm very grateful to you and can't bear to see you cry.'

'Also I have good news.'

'What good news you have?' Riva had asked,

Sera, with a cheerful smile on her face, had said, 'After reaching the peak of Four Star, my bloodline has stopped increasing my cultivation on its own. So, my lifeforce drainage rate wouldn't increase any longer. And given how much lifeforce I have right now, I still have over five more years to spend with you, Sophie and little Uriel.'

"Is that true?!"

Sera's excited voice jolted her out of her reminiscing. After composing herself, she nodded, "...Yes."

'Hm?' Max, unaware of their relationship, couldn't help but become a little surprised when he heard the reluctance in her voice. Then he frowned, 'What's going in this

woman's head? Doesn't she want to save her daughter? I swear if she refuses because of you, I'll make you regret this.' He viciously thought.

Sera became visibly relaxed when she heard Riva's confirmation and tears appeared in the corner of her eyes.

"Good. It's very good news that Sophie can finally recover." She said, smiling through tears. She then turned to Max, bowed at a completely ninety degree and said, "Please accept my gratitude in advance, Sir Max."

Hearing this, Max heaved a sigh of relief in his heart when he felt her genuine happiness, and relief when she heard the news. 'Since she seems to care about Sophie as much as Riva, she probably wouldn't mind making a small sacrifice for her, right?'

Fighting back the unreasonable urge to open his eyes to accept her gratitude, he simply nodded, "It's nothing. I'm doing just what I ought to."

'Now even if I die next year, Elder Riva wouldn't be lonely with sister Sophie.' Sera thought, feeling relieved.

She hadn't lied when she told Riva that she could live five more years. She indeed could but then the incident with Uriel happened, resulting in his death and Sophie's foundation crippling.

When she saw Sophie after she injured her foundation, and inspected her condition, she had a vague feeling that her life force could help her. Since she treated Sophie like her blood sister, she didn't hesitate to gamble and use her life force.

Unfortunately, her intuition proved wrong and by the time she realized it, she had already lost more than three year's worth of her remaining life force.

...

Riva felt her heart clench when she saw how happy and relieved she was.

'She has suffered enough for a lifetime. I can't betray her trust in me and disappoint her.' She knew if she asked, Sera would definitely agree. Taking a deep breath, she glanced at Max, 'Even if Sophie develops some resistance to his bloodline energy after her condition reverts, I'm sure he could still heal her.'

Max felt the change in emotions and when he felt her gaze, he knew she was going to ruin things for him.

It was true even if Sophie's foundation wasn't healed in the few hours Sophie's condition was good, it wouldn't matter much. The only reason he had healed her enough to freely move around like a normal person was because he knew compared to convincing Riva

to have sex with him or find someone who fit his requirement to do it would be way more difficult than convincing Sophie to do it. He just needed to be smart about it and not let Riva become suspicious.

Once they did it and he healed her foundation with the produced Nascent Energy while saving some for himself, even if Riva found out, she wouldn't be able to do anything about it and Mike would know that he needed women to boost his bloodline energy to heal others. Then, he would prepare some for him without him asking, making it easier for him to heal others and gather more Nascent Energy.

Unfortunately, he didn't get the chance to find Sophie alone after he helped her recover, complicating things.

After Sera recovered from her rush of emotions, she noticed Riva had something to tell her, but was hesitating. With her intelligence, it wasn't difficult for her to realize that she wasn't called here simply to give her the good news.

So, she said. "Elder Riva, please don't hesitate to say it if you have something to tell me."

Riva firmed her will and shook her head, "No. There is noth—"

But before she could complete her sentence, Max shouted, "Shut up!"

Sera furrowed her delicate brows in displeasure. Riva was someone she respected the most in the world. She couldn't tolerate someone shouting at her in front of her.

Even though she didn't say anything because she didn't want to ruin what was probably Sophie's last chance, her impression of him dipped by a few notches.

Meanwhile, Riva's expression darkened, not because she was angry but because she realized he was going to tell Sophie the truth.

Before he could open his mouth, she hurriedly sent him mental messages.

[Don't you dare tell her!]

[I know even if Sophie's condition reverts, you can still heal her. So, wait for a while. I will find someone more appropriate for you to boost your bloodline energy.]

Max clicked his tongue in annoyance when he heard this, 'Indeed, just as I thought. She is indeed going to ruin it for me.'

If his bloodline didn't have such an abnormal reaction toward Sera, he wouldn't have minded too much and could wait for her to find someone else. After all, it would only

take him a little Nascent Energy to reinvigorate Sophie again even if her body forms some immunity to his bloodline energy.

But since his bloodline had such an exaggerated reaction, he could tell he wouldn't be gaining some Nascent Energy from... Therefore, he couldn't afford to let the chance to have her go.

So, he ignored her pleas and told Sera why Riva had called her here.

Chapter 620: It's not so bad...

Once Max finished telling her, Sera looked at Riva, who was raging at him. Though she didn't need to verify if what he said was true seeing her intense reaction, she still asked.

"Is what he said true, Elder Riva? He needs to do... that before he can heal Sophie? Is that why you called me here?"

Riva exhaled a deep breath, and closed her eyes before lowering her head in shame, "Yes. I'm sorry Sera. I know I have dis—"

Step! Step! Step!

Not letting her finish, Sera took a few quick steps forward and crouched in front of her, before looking up into her eyes, "If it was so, you should've told me. Why were you hesitating? Did you think I would be hurt or wouldn't understand?"

Riva didn't answer and Sera wasn't expecting her to either. With a gentle smile on her face, she continued.

"Elder Riva, you, Sophie and Little Uriel have treated me like a family member. I also think of you all as my family. If I can save my sister, not to mention doing such a small thing, I will be willing to sacrifice even my life."

"I also understand if you had more time, you would've found someone else to do it and wouldn't have asked me. So, please, even for a moment, don't think that I will think you don't love me or you are taking advantage of me."

Riva's eyes became misty. She wanted to say something, anything, but no words came to her mind. So, she just pulled her up and embraced her.

After a while, Sera gently patted her back and pulled away. She glanced at Max, and said, "Please follow me, Sir Max."

Max nodded, and followed her out of the hall.

Riva watched them disappear from her vision before she closed her eyes, slumped into the sofa and heaved a deep sigh.

...

Ten minutes later, Max and Sera were in a room, sitting next to each other on the bed.

Both were silent and... weren't doing anything.

Max had his eyes closed and was doing his best to suppress his bloodline. He had wanted to jump her bones right when they entered the room but Sera had politely asked him to give her a few minutes to prepare herself mentally.

Being a 'gentleman', and because he felt he could control himself for a while more, he agreed.

But a few minutes in... he was starting to regret it..

.

While he was busy suppressing his bloodline, Sera, despite appearing calm and collected, was having a hard time calming her racing heart and sorting out her jumbled mess of emotions.

'Ha! There is no need to be nervous. It's just sex, nothing scary. So, calm down, take a deep breath.' She repeated this several times. Thanks to her strong mental fortitude, she managed to calm down after a few minutes. However, just when she opened her mouth to say she was ready, no words came out.

'This won't do. I can't keep wasting time like this. The sooner we finish, the sooner Sophie will get healed.' Thinking about Sophie, she clenched her fists. Then gathering her courage, she softly said, "S-Sir Max... I'm ready..."

Ba-Dump!

Ba-Dump!!

Ba-Dump!!!

As soon as the words left her lips, her heart started thumping so loudly that she could hear it and suspected that Max could do too.

But then she noticed something—She could hear another heartbeat. She turned to Max in surprise. 'Is this also his first time? Is that why he is nervous?' She thought. Then her kind nature kicked in and she put on a brave front and forced a smile on her face before saying, "I-It's alright, Sir Max. D-Don't be nerv—"

However, before she could finish her sentence, her eyes widened in shock because the moment Max opened his eyes, he bridged the gap between them, grabbed her by her waist, put her on his lap and sealed her lips with his.

Her mind short circuited and she became dazed.

When she regained her senses, she found Max's hot tongue in her mouth, sucking on her timid tongue.

As if it wasn't enough to make her shiver in terror, she realized she was now naked and Max was too.

'No! Stop!' She shouted in her mind, trying to push him away but she seemed to have no strength left in her hands.

'What's happening? Please stop. Give me a little more time.' She wanted to cry out but with her tongue, lips and effectively her mouth under his control, she could only let out muffled grunts.

She then felt his hands caress her bare back, her untouched breasts, her waist, and...

Her eyes widened when she felt his hands on her ass, groping and squeezing it. Then to her horror, one of his hands snaked downwards, towards her privates.

"Mmnaahh! Fatap!" She shouted out, her eyes wide as saucers. But then again, her voice was muffled.

'Please stop!' When she felt the tips of his fingers brush past her anal ring and touch her soft fold, she became so embarrassed and felt so much shame that she started crying.

Just when she thought Max's fingers would invade her privates... he paused. He pulled his hand back, and stopped kissing her.

When she opened her eyes, she found him staring at her with a gentle, concerned look in his mesmerizing sapphire eyes. Looking into his eyes, she suddenly had a strange feeling. She felt if she told him to stop, he would. He wouldn't hurt her no matter what and would always respect and protect her.

Without her realizing, her anxiety and panic had vanished without a trace and she felt safe and at ease even though she was still still naked on his lap, his hot and hard thing pressed onto her mound.

"Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you." She felt her heart flutter at his words.

"It is nothing scary. Just surrender your body to me and try to enjoy it as much as you can. I guarantee you will love it."

"Can you do that for me?"

She found herself nodding unconsciously.

She then saw him smile, "Good."

Seeing his smile, she swooned and a smile also appeared on her face.

Max smiled in triumph before he gently placed a hand behind her neck, pulled her face near his and softly kissed her flower petal like lips.

'Huh?' Right then, she suddenly regained her senses and her eyes widened when she realized what had just happened.

'He cast a hypnotic spell on me?' A hint of resentment formed in her heart but it melted away the next moment.

'It's alright. If he hadn't done that, I wouldn't have been able to continue. Besides, he lifted the spell after calming me down.' She thought. At the same time, she couldn't help but become surprised at how effortlessly he hypnotized her when he was weaker than her.

'Hmm, it's not.. bad.' She thought as she felt the gentle touch of his lips, the deep affection and desire of his tongue and warmth of his hand behind her neck and...

'That's...' Her heart did a somersault when she realized what the source of warmth she was feeling on her lower abdomen was.