

### Chapter 880: Unstable Core (Ko-fi Bonus)

After the trio left, Max stored the three chairs away with a wave of his hand and then closed his eyes to examine himself.

The light blue Thunder Energy Traces in his bloodline were now the same size as the Fire Energy Traces, and exuded a very subtle charm of the Thunder Element.

After observing them for a moment, however, Max noticed that both energy traces didn't *feel* equally strong. The Thunder ones seemed more powerful.

'Advantage of my Thunder Bloodline, huh?' He thought, nodding to himself.

He then scanned his body and realized all the injuries he suffered from the lightning bolts had been healed.

As for when it happened, he knew it happened when he successfully stepped over the threshold of the Thunder Law comprehension.

All the mana around him had entered his body. While most was absorbed by the Thunder energy Traces, and his Mana Core, the remaining was used to heal the injuries.

Thinking of the Mana Core, he shifted his attention inside his dantian and to his Mana Core. Seeing his Mana Core was now divided into two sections, half occupied by the Fire Mana and the other half by the Thunder one, he knit his brows.

While it was good news that his core, mainly constructed from the pure Fire Mana had *allowed* the Thunder Mana into it, seeing the Thunder Mana reacting, causing sparks when it rubbed against the Core's walls or the Fire Mana, he knew he had to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

'I need to leave this place as soon as possible, find Rima and refill my reserves of Nascent Energy. When I have enough Nascent Energy, it wouldn't be difficult to resolve this situation.' He mused and then gingerly began to pull on the Thunder Mana.

Chi~!

Immediately, sparks flew up inside his Mana Core, causing it to tremble and piercing pain shot through him, prompting Max to quickly cease his actions.

When he had instinctively conjured the Thunder Arrow upon feeling the threat to attack Ryu, he had felt the same pain, but at that moment, he didn't have time to check what caused it.

'Now, this is bad.' He thought before pulling on his Fire Mana.

Sizzle~!

This time, fire sparks flared up and made his core tremble.

'Yeah, really bad.' His expression hardened. Then he let out a deep sigh, not knowing how to feel.

Same as before entering the minor realm, he had once again become unable to use his mana.

After a few moments, he shook his head and glanced at the now clear skies.

"I should find some other place to wait for them to return." He murmured and stood up, putting his chair away.

This mountain was in the middle of a dense forest where innumerable beasts roamed. The constant thunder strikes were the only reason they avoided this place. Now, however, the cloud had disappeared, so the beast would definitely come over to claim it as their territory.

However...

"Hmm?"

Just when he had stood up, he felt something and looked into the distance.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Followed by Isabelle, Mike and Ryu flew over and landed in front of him.

"What is it?" Max asked in confusion when he saw Isabelle stare at him.

"Give me a drop of your blood." Isabelle commanded.

"Why?" Max asked, her tone and the unreasonable demand making him frown.

Chi~!

A blade of crackling lightning appeared in Isabelle's hand and Mike and somewhat resigned Ryu circled around him before she said, staring dead into his eyes, "To verify whether you are a human or a shifter."

"Oh? You can't tell it by scanning me with your Divine Sense?" Max curiously asked.

"We could have if you didn't have Divine Sense." Isabelle answered and her expression became ugly. She didn't like that she wasn't herself when facing him.

Moreover, now that she was suspicious of him being a shifter, she also felt he was one of those shifters who charmed their targets.

"I see." Max nodded, glancing at Ryu, who smiled wryly.

The next moment, he extended his hand toward Isabelle, "Take it."

"What do you mean?" Isabelle narrowed her eyes, becoming more cautious.

Max's lips curled up into a charming smile, "You need my blood, right? Take it."

Isabelle stared at him for a few moments in silence before she said, "Mike, Ryu... Grab him. Also, attack to kill if he does anything strange."

Max's smile deepened seeing her expression and hearing her words.

Perhaps because it had been over a month since he last had sex, or because he needed Nascent Energy and she could give it to him, he found himself becoming interested in her. Her high realm and the fact that she was very beautiful only helped the case.

Mike and Ryu stepped forwards and pressed their hands on his shoulders. Max acted oblivious and continued looking at Isabelle.

Feeling uncomfortable from his gaze, she frowned before carefully stepping forward and poking his finger tip with her lightning sword.

Hiss!

Max hissed, feeling an electric jolt course through his body.

"So—" Isabelle was about to apologize instinctively, but she realized it on time and stopped herself, increasingly sure he was a shifter if not a demon.

Mike and Ryu had been noticing her strange behavior and felt confused.

Apart from them who she thought of as family and few others in their Thunder Faction, she never interacted with any male. Even when someone initiated a conversation, she would say a few perfunctory words and leave.

And when someone tried to flirt with her, she would outright attack them. This made them believe she hated men.

But facing Max, she had been acting as if she was a teenager in love and if they had to be honest... they didn't like it because even though they wouldn't admit it in front of anyone, they harbored feelings for her.

'I hope I'm wrong and he is a shifter.' Ryu maliciously thought, pressing his hand harder on Max's shoulder.

Max didn't need to use his bloodline sense to feel the jealousy radiating off the duo on his either side. It made him grin and made him more interested in pursuing Isabelle.

'How enjoyable will their expression be when I make her mine?' He thought, licking his lips. Then, a distant memory surfaced in his mind and his expression darkened.



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