

## **Seller 751**

Chapter 751: Earth 1712: The roommate

"Still a probie," Sungjun replied with a straight face. "I haven't been awarded a codename yet."

"Probie?" She tilted her head in confusion as it appeared to be a new term for her.

"Probationary agent... a new recruit still in the training phase," Sungjun clarified to her before he asked her position.

His reply surprised the girl. She pointed her finger at him and hurled an insult, "You aren't even an official. Only a mere intern? You really have some guts to talk to me this way, boy. And by the way, who is that bastard who allowed you to share a room with me?"

A normal guy in his position wouldn't take an insult to his face when he wasn't even acquainted with the other party, but Sungjun didn't take it to his head and instead, he let out a chuckle in response, "Well, that bastard is Lieutenant Commander Cheng. You can go ahead and punish that lowly being for the mistake, but before that, at least, introduce yourself, Your Highness."

Sun Xiao felt as if she were being mocked by him. She flared up in anger once again. But with no justification to hit him, she forced herself to calm down and answered, or more like bragging about herself with hands on her back, "Sun Xiao, Title: Scarlet Flames, 22 years old; Rank-A with three years of experience in the field. Just so you know, I was a part of team SKY for 1 year, and I had a near 100% success rate last year. So, you should really know your place and stay here as if you don't exist, alright?"

"..." Sungjun really felt the urge to laugh out loud, seeing how immature she is. In the end, he played along with her, giving an elaborate gentleman bow, "Yes, Your Highness. Now, if you don't mind, I would like to take a rest."

"Hmpf, go on." She went back to her bed and continued to sleep.

Sungjun shook his head with a smile and sat on the bed in a lotus position.

'Mana Condensation'

"Before we go into this dungeon, I need to master this technique."

Shutting his eyes, Sungjun concentrated on his surroundings. "Okay, let's see... Hmm... two hundred meters? That seems right for the starters..."

He heightened his senses to at least two hundred meters above, reaching the world outside the facility. Outside, there was nothing but a barren desert, stretching for dozens of miles in every direction.

From there, he started absorbing the natural energy. The absorbed energy entered his body, and then he simultaneously refined it into mana, slowly but steadily increasing his reserves.

As the distance is quite far and he is still a beginner, it took several minutes for a little bit of natural energy to even reach him, much less be absorbed into his body.

After several tries, he finally absorbed a minute amount of energy and proceeded with refining it.

Surprisingly, it was quickly refined in a smooth manner, just like how butter melts in hot oil.

As soon as the natural energy entered his body, he observed that his own mana energy rushed towards the invading objects and absorbed them instead of trying to repel them as a part of a defensive mechanism. "Perhaps it is due to the high compatibility," thought Sungjun.

Whatever the case, Sungjun was satisfied with the outcome and continued with Mana condensation, a high-ranking technique he accidentally found in a dungeon. It became smoother and smoother every time he received near-death injuries.

Just like that, several hours passed, and dawn arrived. Sungjun was immersed in his training.

As soon as the girl woke up in the morning after her 12 hours of sleep, she spotted her roommate. She rubbed her eyes and took a clear look at him again with her eyes wide open, "What was that?"

A faint glow of red aura formed a thin layer over his body.

A few hours later, the red aura around his skin turned blue, and he finally opened his eyes with a smile on his face. "The number of mana particles has reached more than 100,000. I didn't expect that it would take this quickly to achieve it. It looks like I can alter my fate, after all. I don't lack in strength, compared to those S-rankers, but the only thing that is separating us is the number of Mana particles. I have a long way to go, but it is fine. I'm still young."

After finishing his brushing and bathing, Sungjun left for the reception counter to call for Colonel Hamid to get into the training room. As for Sun Xiao, she had long gone by the time he opened his eyes. He doesn't know where she went, and neither does he care. After all, this lodging is only temporary.

But then again, he still didn't find out the reason for the dorm's existence. Because of Sun Xiao's personality, he couldn't ask for the details and kept quiet. Now that he was curious, he asked the receptionist directly. As she would know his details, he thought she would be patient in explaining them to him.

Fortunately, luck is on his side, and she informed him that, rather than a home, this dorm is more like a detention facility for the hunters, working for the government, who messed up during the mission more than once and indirectly caused casualties. All the people in the dorm were under observation. As for the staff members, they live in another dorm located somewhere else.

"So, that girl was kicked out of Team SKY?" Sungjun remembered his conversation with his roommate. He proceeded to enquire more about her.

The receptionist was quite cooperative. She went through the database and informed him of the basic details about her. Sungjun realized that his assumption was right.

He then asked, "Was she on a mission right now?"

"No, as I told you before, the people here are under observation. No one is allowed to take a mission until they receive a pass from a colonel or higher officer. She must be in a training room or must have been summoned by a superior. I don't know..."

Maybe Sarah was also interested in Sungjun. She tried to flirt with him a little bit and even was successful in getting his number, but unfortunately for her, the whereabouts of his smartphone are unknown, probably at the bottom of the sea when it slipped during the last mission, and Sungjun wouldn't bother to recover his phone number either way. He wasn't interested in contacting any of Han Sungjun's acquaintances or family, yet.

After a while, Colonel Hamid made a visit to the dorm and escorted him to a special training chamber.

"Thank you." Sungjun gave a salute before clicking on the button, which opened the metallic door.

A dark red barrier appeared before him. Seeing the surprised look on the young man's face, Colonel Hamid suddenly started explaining the history of the chamber, "You must have learned of the first hunters in the academy. These chambers were created with the help of our legendary Hunter Codenamed 'Graviton,' the only Hunter in the history of our Alscian Federation who is categorized as SSS rank to date. Back in the 50s and 60s, we didn't have the necessary technology to create this. So, three decades were spent only studying his body. It wasn't until a few years ago that we finally managed to get a breakthrough and built an enclosed room where gravity can be controlled manually. At the current stage, we have 12 of these gravity chambers in this facility, and only qualified cadets can enter this place. If you are given access, that itself states your potential."

Sungjun only smiled in silence, giving a nod of understanding.

As the colonel left the place, leaving Sungjun to his own devices, the latter continued to stare at the barrier. A look of surprise was spotted on his face as his gaze penetrated through the barrier to watch what was going on inside.

There was a fight going on between a middle-aged fellow and a teenage-looking girl. The latter was none other than Sun Xiao, who was in the midst of a spar against an opponent whose fists transformed into stone, an Earth element Body transformation skill. As for Sun Xiao, she was wearing some purple glows and had a whip made of flames in her hand.

"Let's see what this chamber does..."

Sungjun then stepped inside the barrier, and in an instant, he felt an enormous amount of pressure, almost forcing him to kneel.

Realization dawned upon him. "So, this is the modified gravitational pressure, huh. Judging by the pressure, I guess around 7 times?"

Chapter 752: Earth 1712: I'm an Illusionist

Taking a deep breath, he closed his eyes and focused on his meridians. He pushed a substantial amount of mana particles away from his body, forming a bubble around him.

"Mana Bubble Technique." All of a sudden, the pressure decreased a lot, and he could freely stand just like he was outside.

This was called a Mana bubble technique that every elite cadet in the special division has to learn before graduating from the Hunter Academy. Its effect is to reduce the pressure on the body faced by an outside source like gravity, aura, the weight of an object, wind, etc.

However, the problem is that the consumption of the Mana particles appeared to be huge for Sungjun. "It looks like I can resist for ten and a half minutes at most..." Intending to act as a rookie with little experience but filled with potential, he canceled the technique in the next second and just sat on the floor in the lotus position and became a spectator.

He doesn't know whether both of them are ignoring his presence on purpose or they are engrossed in the sparring and didn't realize that he was there. Whatever the case, the sparring session between the two of them went on without any pause.

Meanwhile, Sungjun, who was feeling the gravitational pressure, stuck to the floor and faced a struggle to straighten his back. He observed that both of them, with his aquamarine eyes, started to glow. "In times like these, mystic eyes are the best."

Suddenly, everything became slow. Sungjun could clearly see how each fist was going to hit or how each foot was moving.

The man with rock fists threw a punch towards her for the nth time. The girl dodged the attack and raised the flame whip. The whip captured his fist before a drop kick was planted in his stomach. He staggered back for a few steps.

"Now, take this..." Sun Xiao grabbed the flame whip's handle tightly, which was wrapped around the fist of her opponent, preventing him from getting away from her. She then increased the intensity of the flames.

Feeling the hotness, the stone-fisted guy used his other hand to forcefully get free from the whip. He grabbed it and used his brute strength.

Sun Xiao let out a smile and raised her left hand. An identical flame whip appeared in her hand, which she used to capture his other arm. As he was worried about the hot temperature that would melt his arms, Sun Xiao turned around and swung the whips with all her strength.

"Whoa, that's something," mumbled Sungjun. He was definitely impressed.

At first, Sungjun thought that Sun Xiao's ability lay in the flame whip, but then, as he found the second flame whip, he wondered whether she could conjure any number of flame whips or something.

As he was engrossed in analyzing each of their powers...

Screech

A powerful screech echoed in his ears, and the aura of a flaming bird appeared in his vision.

"What the..."

He cut off his power instinctively and returned to reality.

Beads of sweat appeared on Sungjun's forehead as he opened his mouth but was unable to speak. It was incredibly shocking indeed. "She was bonded with a fucing Phoenix? That's a Spirit King... Why was she still an A-rank Hunter? That doesn't make sense."

This revelation made Sungjun wonder whether she was hiding her true strength or her overall potential might not have been unlocked. After all, spirit kings don't bond with humans with low potential.

While he was still digesting the fact, the hunter with stone fists admitted defeat, and in the end, Sun Xiao spotted his presence. She flared up right away, "You... This place isn't for rookies. What are you doing here?"

Sungjun got back to his senses and looked back at her. He simply commented with a smile, "It looks like you aren't exaggerating about yourself, after all. You have the potential to make it to S-rank in reevaluations."

"Thank you, I too was hoping that one day... Hmm..." She nodded in response before something clicked in her mind, "Wait a second... why are you commenting like you are superior to me or something? First of all, what is a newbie doing at this gravity chamber?"

"For training. What else?" He replied.

"Is that so?" Sun Xiao's eyes fell on his body posture. A sarcastic comment escaped from her, "It seemed like you got very comfortable with this place. Let's spar. I'm curious about your strength."

Sungjun understood the meaning behind her words, but he didn't take it to heart. In his eyes, she was just an immature brat. Why would he go and play what she wants?

He replied while maintaining his smile, "I'm not physically strong, Your Highness. And my powers are more useful in a real battle, not sparring. For example..."

Deciding to showcase a little of his abilities, he shifted his attention to the guy who was lying on the floor without bothering to speak up. Sungjun closed his eyes and opened them. They turned yellow. "Float." A mumble escaped his mouth.

The middle-aged fellow suddenly started to float in the air, going against gravity. "What the hell?" He screamed out loud before looking at the young man sitting in the corner of the room. "You, get me down, now."

"Relax, I'm helping you, but if you insist..." Sungjun deactivated his ability, and his eyes turned normal.

Thud

In an instant, the guy fell on the floor from 2 feet above.

"Telekinesis?" Sun Xiao was taken aback by surprise.

"Not exactly, but similar," Sungjun smiled and then took a deep breath as the guy got up on his feet and took a rest in another corner instead of getting angry. His Mana particles were consumed by more than half, just from that simple technique. That means he can only use a strong ability of his eye, once more.

"I'm Javion Gilmore." The middle-aged guy introduced himself before asking Sungjun whether he was an esper.

Sungjun denied that he is an esper, as his abilities were a lot more complicated. Unlike others who usually awaken their powers at a certain age or due to a certain incident, he was born with ocular powers. They were so powerful that it would put him in the realm of mythical gods. However, neither his human could bear that power, nor did he have enough mana reserves to use them to their full potential. One of them is telekinesis.

After introducing himself briefly, he said, "I have a telekinetic ability, but I prefer to be called an illusionist, though."

"Illusionist?" Both of them looked at him, wondering whether he was pulling their leg. After all, telekinesis and illusions are completely different paths.

Seeing the looks of disbelief on both of their faces, Sungjun unleashed another ability of his eye. It is a weak one, but he was confident that it would prove his point.

This time, as his eyes turned scarlet in color, Sun Xiao and Javion saw their surroundings change to that of a grassland. There was a starry night sky above them, and a few animals were seen roaming around.

However, Sun Xiao, who has great senses, cannot feel the aura of life. She tightly closed her eyes and pushed a little bit of Mana from her, dispelling the illusion around her. Meanwhile, Javion was looking around and admiring the view. He looked like a fool at the moment.

Sungjun dispelled the magic to save his Mana particles and brought Javion to reality.

"Aah..."

"Your ability is very good, my friend," Javion commented after coming out of daze. Sun Xiao, on the other hand, scoffed in disapproval, terming it a weak ability, and walked away to practice with her flame whips.

Meanwhile, Sungjun chatted with Javion.

For the rest of the day, they hang out together, basically Sun Xiao and Javion training, Sungjun just watching them or practicing the Mana Condensation technique.

At around 10 o'clock in the evening, Sun Xiao and Sungjun parted their ways with Javion and returned to their room.

One week passed in the blink of an eye.

During this past week, Sungjun only focused on increasing Mana Particles through his Mana Condensation technique. His aura has slowly changed from blue to navy blue, indicating he was near his next breakthrough.

Based on the current progress, Sungjun was confident of reaching par with naturally gifted people like Sun Xiao within a year.

Just like the past few days, Sungjun woke up around 11 o'clock in the morning and found his roommate missing. He thought that she might be busy with her training as usual.

Chapter 753: Earth 1712: the mission

After finishing his morning activities, he left towards the exit of the dorm without bothering to pay attention to anyone on the way.

He knew that if ladies would take the initiative to converse with him first, then there was a 90% possibility that they were interested in him, and he didn't have any intentions to hook up with someone. And if it is a guy, there's a high chance that he will be belittled by them for being a newbie. Since he was planning on laying low, he never talked with anyone but Sun Xiao and Javion, keeping his inner circle as small as possible.

And now, on the 8th day, just like usual, he was stopped by Sarah, the receptionist.

Sungjun already knew what she would do, too. She was going to ask him on a dinner date, followed by a couple of drinks. She did that five times already. However, Sungjun rejected it by giving different but logical

excuses so as not to disappoint her. After all, she was a great source of information for him. He has learned so much about the world from her that his original host doesn't have the knowledge for.

He planned to think of various excuses again to stop her advances, but to his surprise, Sarah spoke of another matter this time. "You are being summoned by Lt. Commander."

"Eh?" Sungjun wondered whether this had anything to do with the war against the werewolf lord. "Why?" He asked.

Sarah shrugged her shoulders, "Not sure, but it doesn't look urgent considering they didn't wake you up."

"Thanks." Sungjun let out a smile before rushing away from there.

"Sungjun, wai..." Before she even called out to him, Sungjun already entered the elevator and pressed the button.

"Tch, no fun. Why is he always in a rush?" Sarah complained as she rested her head on the table.

Just a half-minute later, a buffed man came to the counter and greeted her, "Hey Beauty..."

"Get lost," Sarah replied right away, coldly, without even taking a look at him. He scratched his hair, wondering whether she was in a bad mood as she usually replies with a smile every time.

Meanwhile, Sungjun was on his way to meet his superior. After verifying his identity with biometrics, followed by a retina scan, and then receiving approval from Cheng Hu, he finally managed to step inside the room.

"Sir." He greeted him with a salute.

"At ease," Cheng Hu nodded and handed the file that was on the desk. "Agent White Wolf, get prepared to deploy. The file contains the basic info of your teammates."

"Understood, Sir," He nodded and then took the file.

On his way to the training room, Sungjun opened the file. His eyes fell on the image of a tough-looking fellow with a scar from his forehead down to his cheek. The first document contained the details of an S-rank Hunter named Jin Chen, Codename: Cyro.

"12 years of experience, and completed 4 five-star grade missions, 19 four-star grade missions, and 97 three-star grade missions so far. 83% successful rate, not bad. Let's see... what else... He can conjure ice, huh... His strongest ability is 'Puppet Snow Bear'. I wonder how strong it would be. Anyway, let's look at others."

"Nakamura Kai – Echo – A"

"Wang Xia – Aqua Seraph – A"

"Xing Lin – Aurora – A"

"Jaden Wong – Stryker – A"

"Olivia Williams – Serpentina – A"

"Lucas Davis – Steel Guardian – A"

"Sun Xiao – Scarlet Flames – A"

The last one was a familiar face to him, but he wasn't surprised at all.

He nodded in satisfaction as he read his roommate's data, "she had fewer missions compared to the rest, but has an incredible success rate of 98.6%. If there's anything that is a problem, it's her personality. That woman needs to stop being an immature brat and act her age."

Letting out a sigh as he remembered Sun Xiao's face, he further murmured. "Anyway, the team is a good one, although Sun Xiao's addition does seem to make the team imbalanced. This Wang Xia girl's powers are completely of the opposite nature from Sun Xiao's. It would become a problem if they ended up on the same team. Hmm..."

Keeping the file in his bag, Sungjun then continued to walk.

After a while, he reached the training room. He swiped the training pass and entered the room.

It is just like usual. Javion is fighting Sun Xiao under 7 times the gravity. However, this time, he was going all out, transforming his whole body into stone and not just his fists.

Meanwhile, Sungjun sat on the ground and practiced his telekinetic ability to levitate under this enormous gravitational force. During the past three days, he was practicing to improve his eye abilities while taking advantage of the gravitational force. The higher the pressure exerted on him, the faster he was improving.

Once they were finished, Javion sat nearby, "Hey, bro, I heard that you were leaving on a mission."

Sungjun glanced at Sun Xiao and nodded silently.

"I'm quite envious," commented Javion with a smile before adding, "It's been three weeks since I saw the sun. You get to leave in just a few days."

"Well, if not for the emergency, I reckon they would keep me here for longer than you." Sungjun shrugged his shoulders in response to his friend's comment, making them curious.

Neither of them knew much about his past, and they didn't bother trying to enquire about him as he was only a probationary agent. Now, they couldn't help but wonder what kind of mess he had made that he had to make such a statement.

Time passed. Like usual, Sun Xiao and Sungjun returned to their room after dinner.

Until now, Sungjun felt like everything was going well between them, based on their last few days of conversations. He planned to talk to her about the mission and ask her about the other members, but as soon as the door was closed, she turned serious as she took a seat on her bed, "Look, Han Sungjun. I'll be direct with you."

"Hmm? What is it?" Sungjun, who had just closed the door, raised his head and looked at her.

"Tomorrow, when we meet our teammates, I need you to stay away from me. It's like we don't know each other and behave as if we are meeting for the first time," She said to him directly, without bothering to hide anything in her heart.

"Eh? Why?" He asked.

Sun Xiao explained while looking quite serious, "A few of them are my former teammates, and I don't want them to look down on me."

Sungjun stared at her for a few seconds of silence. There's a lot going on in his head. He thought she was past the difference in their ranks, authority, or whatever. But, now... it felt like those conversations he had with her when she was smiling all seemed like a lie.

But in the end, being the bigger man, he took a deep breath and nodded. "Alright."

"Thank you." She bowed slightly before leaving with a towel for the shower before bed, as usual.

As she left his sight, Sungjun couldn't help but sigh, "Fine... if this is how the world is, let it be..."

Before she returned from the shower, he lay down and slept.

The next day;

It was just around the time for sunrise.

The sunlight hit both of their faces, bringing a rare smile to a broody Sun Xiao as they finally walked out of the underground secret facility.

Sungjun, on the other hand, was only in the dorm for a few days. So, he was calm and his eyes wandered around, thinking, "No one could probably imagine that there's an entrance here to an underground facility that spans several acres."

Soon, they got onto the helicopter and rode to another military base located in the neighboring country of Aclor, a city-state island nation in the Tecrean Ocean and a member of the Alsacian Federation.

The vehicle slowly descended onto the helipad. There, a person in a suit and a couple of guys in uniform were waiting for them.

Both of them stepped down, but only Sun Xiao received a warm welcome. After the exchange of salutes was over, one of the two soldiers extended his hand toward Sun Xiao, "Welcome to Aclor, Miss Sun. And you must be the intern. Anyway, please follow us..."

The soldier's voice turned cold when he addressed Sungjun, clearly expressing his disgust on his face for some reason.

Chapter 754 754: Earth 1712: Fight with Teammates

Sungjun's treatment wasn't good, but he doesn't have any expectations from the start anyway. So, he maintained his calmness and silently followed the others.

After a while, they reached a conference room with the rest of the team members sitting in their seats while a Goryeo woman, with a delicate V-shaped face, porcelain skin, and almond-shaped eyes, from the same homeland of Sungjun, was seen, wearing a suit, standing at the sheet screen with an image projected on it. Two members were still missing.

"Hello." Sun Xiao greeted everyone with a bit of nervousness as she spotted her former teammates. "Sorry for the delay. I hope I didn't miss anything important."

"Miss Kitty Ranger had only briefed us about the strategy of our allies." The buffed man replied with a smile. He is none other than the leader of the operation, Jin Chen, aka Cyro, also popularly known as the Snow Emperor. The only one with two Codenames, Cyro is his official codename, and Snow Emperor is something everyone in the circle used to call him. "Come, take your seat. You too, Mr. Han." He said, extending the invitation to Sungjun.

As soon as Cyro addressed Sungjun respectfully, everyone who wasn't paying much attention to their former teammate abruptly turned their heads. "A rookie joining our team, eh! What could be more insulting?" A collective thought appeared in almost everyone's head.

In an instant, everyone's gazes changed, and Sungjun found clear animosity from a few. As the room wasn't that large and no one bothered to hold back their tongue while talking to the others, Sungjun and Sun Xiao also heard the words.

Sun Xiao then remembered how the soldier had treated him and what Sungjun said to her. She felt pity for him, but put the thought away.

Meanwhile, Sungjun calmly took his seat without greeting them. Considering the situation in the room with a simple glance, he sat at the end of the table, a bit far away from the others.

As Cyro gestured for Hunter Kitty Ranger to proceed with her briefing, everyone shifted their attention to her.

The woman resumed. "So, as I was saying, your team will enter from a secret entrance."

The image was changed to a blueprint of the temple, which seemed to have four entrances, unlike a normal dungeon.

That was because it was originally an instant dungeon that erupted in the Temple of Horus, which was just a tourist site.

Hundreds of casualties occurred, with no one left alive. And as the government of the Vashia Republic sent military troops to clear the dungeon and claim the bodies, they only met with failure.

Over four decades, as hunters kept on entering the dungeon but only met with failure and their remnant mana turning into food for the monsters, the dungeon and its monsters have evolved. In the end, four such entrances formed, indicating its increased difficulty.

After she explained everything that is needed, Julia Snider (Codename: Kitty Ranger) then addressed Sungjun, "Mr. Han, you are the key to this operation. So, we would like to hear your thoughts."

"What is there to hear from a rookie?" Jaden Wong (Code name: Stryker) sneered in response without even minding the fact that Sungjun was listening. "In fact, I don't think he is anything but the baggage that will slow us down."

Upon hearing his words, a blue-eyed blonde furrowed her brows and scolded him, "If you cannot hold your tongue, at least, mind your tone, Stryker. When Lt. Commander Cheng believes in his ability to guide us, who are you to question his judgment?"

"Xing Lin, you..." Stryker clenched his fist in anger. But, before he spoke another word, all of a sudden, his lips were clamped together with stitches between them. "mmmpf..." He struggled with his eyes widened in shock.

"What the..."

While the others looked a bit confused, Cyro mumbled with a frown on his face. "Who is it?" He glanced at everyone and found Sungjun's eyes appeared to be a little different. His aquamarine eyes turned pitch-black. However, he couldn't sense anything emitting from him.

Just as he was about to speak out, Sun Xiao reacted, "Stop it, Sungjun."

Her words attracted the attention of everyone. She looked at the guy with a stitched mouth, "It's an illusion, Stryker. Just dispel it with your Mana."

When he did that, the stitches were removed. He let out a deep breath, "Thanks, Sister Xiao."

Then, something clicked in his mind. "Wait a second... did you just imply that this was done by this damn intern?" He flared up.

This time, Sungjun replied instead of Sun Xiao, "I felt like I should showcase some of my abilities so that you guys no longer think that I'm some kind of baggage."

"And do you think this proves your ability?" Jaden Wong slammed the table in fury. He felt insulted upon being a fool in front of everyone. "What will you do when the Werewolf lord appears before you? You will stitch his mouth?"

"I agree with Stryker. Such tiny illusions won't help us." Lucas Davis, codenamed Steel Guardian, voiced out his opinion, coming in support of his teammate and a friend, "We don't know what we are going to deal with, and no one in the team would have enough time to save the rookie."

"C'mon, you too, Lucas..." Xing Lin was just about to stop these hunters who were bullying the poor guy, but neither she nor the rest of the hunters expected that Stryker would suddenly raise his hands and strangle himself tightly while his mouth was stitched up again.

It only lasted for five seconds before he got free and started taking heavy breaths.

Everyone: "..."

The faces of a few Hunters turn dead serious when Sungjun opens his mouth again, "I can use this ability to acquire enough time to run away, Stryker. And if it is a human, I can atleast take away his/her life in case I had no way of escape. I will make sure to have a companion in the afterlife."

"You fucing basard, I will kill you." Jaden Wong was filled with rage, and the sparks of lightning started dancing all over his skin.

He was about to charge forward and catch Sungjun's throat, but suddenly, an enormous amount of invisible pressure descended onto everyone, followed by a deep, threatening voice from the head of the table, "Sit down, Stryker. We are not here to fight."

Jaden Wong's body instantly shivered from top to bottom, and he turned around to look at Cyro, who looked quite displeased.

The speedster suppressed his anger and sat down in his chair.

Sungjun, meanwhile, intently stared at the man who commanded great respect from these individuals. "So, this is the power of S-class Hunter, eh?" He appeared to be calm on the outside, and he wasn't intimidated mentally either, but his legs were uncontrollably shaking down the table due to the difference in physique.

Cyro then looked at Sungjun in displeasure, "What do you think you are doing, Mr. Han?" His earlier demeanor as a nice and easy-going person was gone.

"What do you think?" asked Sungjun in return as he leaned forward, placing his elbows on the table, trying to act tough. He added, "Words are useless to people like you because no matter what I say, you will dismiss it with your own logic. So, I think actions are better."

Meanwhile, Sun Xiao felt like she was looking at a different person. In her view, Han Sungjun was someone who might frustrate her with his sharp and witty replies, but he wasn't the type to act this violently.

Or maybe, she doesn't know him properly. After all, it hasn't been long since they know each other. However, there's still a part of her that believes that Han Sungjun was only trying to act hard so that he won't be bullied by others. But, at the moment, her position makes it hard for her to speak. So, she decided to stay as a spectator.

Lucas, codenamed Steel Guardian, became speechless by Sungjun's temperament and said, "Do you even know where you are at the moment?"

In response, Sungjun simply scoffed and said, "Of course, I know. I am in the presence of mighty individuals who not only know how to fight villains but also know how to bully a rookie."

For a moment, a brief amount of silence filled the room. Except for Xing Lin, the woman who supported him, and Sun Xiao, who looked confused, everyone just flared up in anger. They felt like this rookie is more audacious than they expected.

Chapter 755: Earth 1712: The Mystic Eye

In reality, Sungjun never planned to butt heads with these Hunters for higher positions and the social ladder.

If they had simply ignored him, he would have been fine but as Jaden Wong had crossed the line by hurling such statements, followed by the support of other Hunters in the form of silence, Sungjun decided to showcase the ability of his mystic eyes once again, this time, with more power, so that these people with a high ego would listen to his words when he leads them into the temple.

In reality, this technique isn't as simple as an illusion.

Sungjun first unleashes an illusion and then turns it into a reality. It's called Absolute Reality and was developed only a day ago.

As a result, it wasn't mastered, consuming almost all of the Mana particles in his body. That means he can no longer use his mystic eyes until his cells regenerate the Mana particles, but he was willing to gamble for the sake of the mission.

Fortunately, no one recognized this flaw, and Sungjun managed to fool everyone successfully.

Of course, this wasn't his strongest attack either.

Each of the active abilities corresponded to the color of his pupils.

Heightened vision – glow (passive)

Eyes of Truth – glow (passive)

Telekinesis – Yellow

Illusionary world – White

Illusion – Scarlet

Absolute Reality – Black

Dream control – Pink

Hypnosis – Navy Blue

Time Manipulation – Bright Green

\*

While all these abilities seemed so overpowered, the consumption and strain were so heavy that he couldn't even use half of those abilities properly without destroying his own body. However, he had to take the chance with Absolute Reality and applied to the enemy that showed animosity against him for no good reason.

And now, he waited for the result with his reserves hit almost to nil. Based on the reaction, Sungjun decided on the degree of cooperation he had in mind with this secret mission.

To his surprise, Cyro acted before the others. No one even got to speak a word after this rebellious act, and the captain spoke. "Ms. Kitty Ranger, continue. Everyone, sit down."

With the entire room filled with silence, Julia, aka Kitty Ranger, cleared her throat and continued to speak where she stopped earlier. "The main reason Mr. Han is joining this mission is that his mentor was the scout who sacrificed his life to find the secret entrance and get us the inside details. Lt. Commander Cheng gave him the task of leading this team to the heart of the temple."

Taking a brief pause, she then glanced at a silent Sungjun, "Mr. Han, can you give a brief explanation of how you were going to lead the team?"

"Certainly," Sungjun immediately rose to his feet and walked toward her.

The rough sketch of the temple's blueprint was already displayed on the projector screen. So, he wouldn't have to request a change of slide and directly started explaining after taking the laser pen from Kitty Ranger.

"As everyone can see, the Temple of Horus has four different official portals, one on each side, but we won't enter through any of them." Sungjun pointed to the north-western entrance of the temple and then slowly moved down and continued, "Right below this entrance, there was an underground tunnel, which leads to a crypt that was flooded. The only problem is that the entrance of this underground tunnel lies at a depth of 2060 meters, where there is a hole in the barrier, unnoticed by the werewolves. And it goes like this."

He drew the imaginary line at a 52-degree angle and connected it to the altar, which is at the center of the temple.

Some guys hooked onto the new piece of information revealed by Sungjun and listened to it seriously, while the others, like Jaden Wong and Lucas, who are still angry with him, half-heartedly nodded.

Cyro then said, "Mr. Han, the hydrostatic pressure at the bottom at such depth will be more than 20 million Pascal (Pa). And from there, we should swim upwards for 2 more kilometers in the tunnel. Not everyone could withstand the pressure and accomplish the task."

"Ah! That tunnel is actually big enough for a submarine to enter." Kitty Ranger suddenly commented, gaining the attention of everyone.

The Hunters gave a meaningful stare at her as if they were asking why she withheld the information, and embarrassed them in front of the rookie.

As if she understood what everyone was thinking, Kitty Ranger then said, "The submarine can only go up to 600 meters upwards. That's why I didn't think it was worth mentioning."

Upon hearing her words, Sungjun waved his hands, "That isn't a problem."

Sungjun then pointed at a young woman in a black shirt and black pants, "If my memory serves me correctly, Ms. Wang possessed the ability of a water dragon that can carry people within its body and can move as fast as the speed of sound on the water surface. After exiting from the rest stop at 600 meters, she can carry us to the top. Even if the tunnel isn't wide enough at a later stage, we can burst through the force. All we need is to make sure Ms. Wang has enough Mana energy reserves. We will be able to reach the crypt without much trouble."

Sungjun pointed at the imaginary place right below the altar displayed on the screen and dragged it to the right. "Here, there are stairs that will lead to the rusted armory and skeletons, which probably belonged to the humans from decades ago. If we follow the straight, narrow path, we'll get to the heart of the temple. However, there might be a few werewolves patrolling around. So, we have to take them out quickly. And the other major problem is a giant eye."

"Giant eye?" This time, even Kitty Ranger appeared to be surprised.

Sungjun continued, "According to Captain Qin Sheng, there's a pillar in the center of the altar that has a giant eye on top of it. We don't know its function, though. But, he was sure that it was blinking as if it were alive."

Taking a breath, he turned serious as he glanced at Jaden, "As you all know, I'm only a rookie and am only strong enough to run away on my own. My task is to guide you all there. The rest will depend on you."

Cyro narrowed his eyes, staring at him... specifically at his eyes...

Sometime later;

A medium transport helicopter was flying above the sea of Blythena. Inside the vehicle, eight Hunters and Sungjun were sitting in silence. As the mission has a huge life-threatening risk, some of the Hunters couldn't help but become nervous despite their years of experience.

Sungjun was sitting at the edge of the seat with Cyro beside him. Like others, he was also nervous. He might have put on a brave front earlier, but he doesn't want to go on this mission.

The reason: He wasn't strong enough.

In fact, he barely escaped alive just a while ago, and he has to go back to the place? Just the thought itself raised his heartbeat.

From the start, Sungjun knew that he would have to completely depend on himself in every situation. Hence, he decided not to use his ocular abilities unless it is necessary.

As Sungjun tried to meditate to calm his nerves, he felt a tap on his shoulder. Sungjun opened his eyes to find Cyro looking at him. "Captain?"

Cyro then asked, "Mr. Han, I know that we got off on the wrong foot in the first meeting, and it might not be polite for me to ask you at this point, but it would be helpful for me if you explain everything that you know regarding the dungeon. I feel like there is something you have been keeping from us. It wasn't just your mentor. You went to this dungeon and survived, didn't you?"

As Cyro's voice is loud enough for everyone to hear, some of the Hunters abruptly turned their heads in curiosity, paying attention to Sungjun. The latter ended his silence and narrated the story.

"Well, the story begins with an anonymous tip received by my mentor, Captain Qin Sheng."

Half a month ago;

Department of Finance, Alsacian Federation HQ, Nanhai city, Ospana;

In a place that looked like an office room, 19-year-old Sungjun was sitting before a computer with at least half a dozen files on his desk. Instead of a Hunter who was known by the Codename: White Wolf, he appeared more like an office worker.

## Chapter 756: Earth 1712: Qin Sheng and Sungjun (Part-1)

Every Black Commando of the Federation had a public government job so that they could hide their true identity. Only a fellow Black Commando will be aware of their colleague, and it becomes their responsibility to cover up for each other. And Sungjun was working as an accountant in the Department of Finance.

A 40-odd-year-old woman from the next cabin got up from her seat and put another file along with a USB on his desk as if the young man was leisurely napping. "Mr. Han, I have a blind date tonight, and I can't miss it. Please check the errors in the balance sheet for me, thank you."

Without bothering to hear his reply, as she left while skipping with a smile, an annoyed Han Sungjun mumbled, "As if that guy would marry a bitch like you. No, I shouldn't blame her. It's all that old man's fault for throwing me in this place. Ugh... I guess I won't be able to get back home until midnight, once again."

While Han Sungjun is working for the three months at the Headquarters as an accountant, he is at the beck and call of his mentor, Qin Sheng, a veteran S-rank Hunter who put him in this office.

Because of his excellent academic grades, he was instead given the work in the account section that handles the financial budget of Hunters (pensions, salaries, loans, equipment, etc...) and their missions.

With a 3-month experience in the finance department, he would be able to apply for a civilian job in the account section at a Hunter academy, somewhere in one of the 18 countries that belonged to the federation, too.

Since his current situation will only end up helping him with his livelihood, Sungjun put up with all the work he was given.

However, he was a special being, the owner of the most powerful ocular abilities in the universe, a Godkin born to Divine Beast, Zmey Gorynych, the three-headed dragon of the Siberian continent. How could his life be anything ordinary? And soon, the biggest challenge of his life knocked on the door of his life.

It was around 3 o'clock in the morning. A tired Han Sungjun didn't return to his apartment and just slept in the office with his head resting on the desk.

All of a sudden, his mobile phone started ringing, waking him from his sleep.

"Hmm... who is at this time?" Sungjun lazily yawned and picked up the call with only half of his eyes open.  
"Hello?"

"Kiddo, I'm at your house. Open the door." A familiar-aged voice was heard from the other side.

"Oh, Geezer... It's you. Good morning," Han Sungjun continued to talk in the same tone with his mentor, "512274 (pin number). You can sleep in the bedroom, instead of on a couch. I'm at the office anyway."

Every time Qin Sheng comes from the mission, he has a habit of eating ramen at Han Sungjun's apartment and sleeping in the living room, considering the flat only has 1 bedroom. Hence, Han Sungjun didn't think much, this time, either.

Just as he was about to disconnect the call, Qin Sheng said, "Wake up, kiddo. We are going on a mission. Once this is over, you can choose your own office and destination."

"Eh?" Han Sungjun felt like his body received a sudden jolt of electricity. His sleep was gone in an instant. "You are not kidding, right?"

Qin Sheng replied, "Wait at the entrance gate-8. I'll pick you up."

"Alright." Han Sungjun then disconnected the call and raised his fist with a smile on his face, "Finally, I can say goodbye to these damn files..."

Sometime later;

"So, this is just one of the entrances to the temple of Horus? Even from far away, it looks magnificent and better in person compared to the pictures on the internet." Han Sungjun stared at the vast entryway outside the portal, adorned with stunning high-relief carvings of falcon heads with bodies of humans.

But, soon, his eyes fell on a couple of military personnel at the gate who put restrictions on even entering this dungeon, and turned his head to look at the old man who looked in his late 60s and was standing beside him, "Captain Qin, are you sure we are on a government mission? I feel like we are robbers."

Qin Sheng replied in a serious tone, "You can stay away from this operation if you are too afraid to enter, kiddo. But it isn't a risky mission either. We won't have to fight the monsters. For some unknown reason, from 21st hour to 3rd hour, all the monsters inside the dungeon turn to statues. We just snatch the Cursed music box of Horus and then escape through the secret tunnel I discovered. It would be a walk in the park,"

In response, Han Sungjun complained in a mumble, "As if I would believe anything that comes of your mouth..."

"Hmm? Did you say something?" The old man narrowed his eyes and stared at his mentee. Li Wei shook his head, "Nothing."

Soon, both of them strode forward in the darkness. Upon reaching the two guards without making any sound, Han Sungjun unleashed a skill of his while jumping right in front of them.

The two guards were alerted by the sudden movement of Sungjun and raised their assault rifles. One of them warned, "Stop right there. State your iden..."

Before he was even finished, Sungjun's eyes changed from aquamarine to navy blue, and the two guards fell into a trance without being able to resist the effect of Hypnosis as soon as their eyes met the young man's eyes.

"Sleep," Han Sungjun gave an order to both of them. The guards closed their eyes and fell to the floor right away, falling asleep. On the other hand, Sungjun's reserves became empty.

"Here, kiddo." The old man handed him a vial of green-colored liquid. He then patted the young man's shoulder, "Good job."

"Thanks." Han Sungjun felt happy upon being praised and drank the liquid, finishing half of the vial in one go. His Mana energy was instantly restored.

Both of them then stepped inside the portal and entered the dungeon.

For a while, Sungjun, who was there for the first time, was just in awe as he looked at the pillars and walls filled with carvings of either images or characters of some unknown ancient language. "Wow, it's been more than 3000 years since this was built? The ancient people are indeed amazing."

Everything awed him, from the black granite statues of the mythical god Horus to the sandstone blocks of the ancient rulers of Vashia when it was a large Empire for thousands of years, spreading over five million sq. km when it was at its peak.

They passed through the great courtyard, located in the northeast, where 64 pillars line three sides of an open space that would once have been used for religious ceremonies.

More reliefs decorate the walls of the courtyard, with one of particular interest showing the annual meeting of Horus and his wife.

Passing through the great courtyard, which has three paths leading to three different destinations, Qin Sheng took the right entrance that leads into the outer and inner halls, which were supported by dozens more pillars each.

Upon reaching the inner hall, Sungjun saw the life-like statues of the wolves instead of live beasts everywhere, as Qin Sheng told him.

"I wonder how strong these were that no hunter ever managed to come out alive..." He murmured under his breath as he followed his mentor.

Eventually, they went deep into the temple, passing through a lengthy corridor, they reached the center of the temple, the altar, where a 200ft giant statue of Falcon-headed Horus was installed. Unlike the others, this one is just a statue.

Same as the inner hall, there were numerous statues of werewolves around here too. However, some of them appeared to be special.

These special statues of wolves are quite bigger compared to others, and they were standing on two feet just like humans instead of four legs with each of them reaching 14-15 feet in height.

As the young man was busy calming his nerves, hoping that these will never come out alive, Qin Sheng brought him to reality, "kiddo, hurry up. What are you being dazed for?"

Han Sungjun threw away his thoughts and paid attention to his mentor. He walked forward and reached the 25ft big werewolf statue that was right in front of the statue of Horus. The statue appeared to be holding some kind of box, which was also in the form of a stone.

"Don't tell me that this is the thing we are looking for," said Sungjun upon reaching the old man.

Chapter 757: Earth 1712: Qin Sheng and Sungjun (Part-2)

"Nope. What we want is sitting inside that thing..." Qin Sheng shook his head, and then pointed at the giant statue of Horus.

"Kiddo, this is where your eyes will be helpful." Qin Sheng asked the intern to look for something unusual in the statue, which will be a clue to opening the secret entrance to the treasury.

Sungjun then activated his passive ability, 'Heightened vision', and observed the statue from all sides. His vision easily penetrated through the statue and found rusty armor and treasure boxes placed at different levels from top to bottom.

"Wow, these emperors are clever. They hid the treasures in a place where no one would even think of stealing." As Sungjun admired those ingenious plans of the builders of the temple, Qin Sheng's voice rang out, bringing him to reality. "kiddo, did you find the entrance?"

"Ah, Yes. I believe we can enter from there." Sungjun pointed his finger at the beak of the falcon head. "The switch is in the left nare. Based on the chains attached to it from inside, I think we should just push it."

"From there?" Qin Sheng stared at the beak for a brief amount of time and then asked, "Any traps?"

"Not sure, I can't see any obvious booby traps," replied Sungjun with his gaze fixed on the beak.

"Okay, good." Qin Sheng nodded and then lightly stomped on the floor a few times to check its hardness before nodding to himself, "Okay, then, here we go..."

He crouched down and pushed his feet against the ground with all of his strength, landing on the beak in a single jump. The beak was at the height of like 170 or 180ft from the ground. So, it is an amazing feat for a 67-year-old man to make it in one go when that guy looked more like a sick person who lost a lot of weight.

Han Sungjun looked at him in admiration, "Wow, that's an S-rank Hunter for you."

Meanwhile, Qin Sheng carefully crawled on the beak because of how curvy and smooth it was.

Soon, the old man managed to push the switch as Sungjun suggested and viola, the entire falcon head split itself vertically into two, revealing the treasure inside. Meanwhile, Qin Sheng landed beside his mentee.

"Yes, you did it. Congratulations, Captain." As Sungjun was all smiles, Qin Sheng tried to maintain his coolness and patted the young man's shoulder, "No, you are the one that made it possible, kiddo. Or else, who knows how long we would have taken just to find that switch. Anyway, let's get inside."

Roughly 30 minutes passed away;

Both of them were searching the treasure boxes to find their objective. Sungjun couldn't help but stash diamonds, gold coins, rubies, and jewelry in his backpack while searching for the music box. After all, he was a government servant. Even though he was an A-rank Hunter and a Black Commando, he still only earned 7,000 credits per month. In comparison, in the current year, 1996, the average price of an apartment in a Tier-1 City is as high as 500,000 credits.

Sungjun came here with an emergency set of clothes and a dagger (for his protection), but now, the bag was more than 12 kilograms already, worth millions of credits. Qin Sheng didn't even know what his mentee was doing, as he was too busy on his mission.

Finally, in the sixth-floor treasure room, the young man found a noticeable brown rusty box in the corner which looked like it hasn't even been opened for ages. Its color clearly indicated that it is an iron-made one.

Could this be the all-important music box?

Usually, people would discard the thought away but Han Sungjun found it suspicious. After all, this place is supposed to be a secret treasury. Which idiotic emperor would keep an unimportant object in a place full of diamonds and gold ornaments?

He activated his heightened vision and observed the rusty old box, which was like 15 kilograms heavy, quite compact, indicating it was made from a heavy, dense metal and not simple iron. "Hmm?"

A trace of surprise appeared on his face as his vision couldn't penetrate the box. With all the rust around it, he couldn't find any opening with his naked eyes either.

"Whatever, if this is the object we will be looking for, then we will be done here. Not to mention, I have enough to last my lifetime. Before reporting to the HQ, I should put this away in a locker."

Filled with enthusiasm, he brought it to Qin Sheng, who was in the seventh-floor treasure room, desperately searching for the item.

"Captain, I found something. It matches the description of the music box that you mentioned but I'm not sure." Han Sungjun presented it to his mentor.

Qin Sheng immediately recognized the insignia that was barely visible on the top of the box. His eyes lit up and his hands shivered, "The three-eyed wolf with a horn on its head. This is it, the cursed music box of Horus."

Han Sungjun didn't understand why such an image is linked to the people of Vashia. After all, their presiding deity is Horus, right? Maybe, there is also a god with a wolf's head?

The ancient people of Vashia used to worship the gods with animal heads. As an atheist who doesn't believe in the old gods, Sungjun never bothered to research the mythologies of different nations, feeling that it was a waste of time. Hence, the knowledge of these myths was zero to him.

Whatever the case, Sungjun wants to quickly wrap up this mission and return, but destiny has something else planned for him.

After Qin Sheng took the music box in his hand, he tried to open it using strength but failed miserably.

He then looked at the young man, "Kiddo, I'll have to make sure that it is in working condition before we leave. I'll be removing this rust, and in the meantime, pass the news to HQ. Send an audio message. Tell them to send the backup. They will pick us up by a submarine."

Han Sungjun took out his smartphone. Luckily, there's a reception at the place. So, he managed to send an SOS to the Black Commando's Command Center, following the instructions given by his mentor.

After his job was done, as Sungjun started walking away from the place, Qin Sheng pushed out his Mana energy and cleansed away all the rust from the box.

Click

As Qin Sheng opened the music box, a powerful loud piece of music was spread out from it. The frequency was so high that it generated sonic booms and blasted away Sungjun and Qin Sheng.

Han Sungjun, with his weak physique, got injured heavily. Blood started trickling down his lips. And before he understood what went wrong, the giant werewolves' statues started to come back to life.

"No, no, no... the music box has dispelled the curse on them... kiddo, escape from here..." Qin Sheng shouted at the top of his lungs, throwing a smoke grenade on the floor. "Now..."

Back to the Present;

Sungjun, upon finishing his narration of the story to Cyro, then said, "After I managed to escape with grave injuries, I lost my consciousness and got picked up by Special Forces. The rest is known to everyone."

"Hmm, wait a second. You haven't told us about how you managed to escape the werewolf lord." The beautiful blue-eyed blonde, Xing Lin (codename: Aurora), who was also listening to his story curiously, voiced her opinion.

Sungjun took a glance at her and shrugged his shoulders, "I don't remember much. The memory is still hazy."

Sun Xiao narrowed her eyes and commented, "So, you originally belonged to Headquarters' finance department, but you followed your mentor, Qin Sheng, who was in the Special Forces, and ended up surviving while he died. Both of you basically intruded into the temple for this music box, but the purpose remains unknown. Moreover, not only does your mentor know the secret tunnel, but he also knows that there is a curse on werewolves too. And now, the curse is lifted? Feels like something is off about this story..."

As Sungjun stayed silent, not intending to explain as the complications would only force the truth out of him, Cyro stared at him for a while but simply nodded in understanding, "Alright. I believe you."

After three hours of flying, the transport helicopter landed on a large aircraft carrier sailing in the middle of the Sea.

Chapter 758 758: Earth 1712: Temple of Horus (Part-1)

Named after a Hunter who sacrificed to save thousands of people during a 9.4 magnitude earthquake, which eventually created a massive tsunami, the Captain Atomic Aircraft carrier is the third largest aircraft carrier in the world, with over 432 meters in length, a displacement of 170k tons, but still could move at a top speed of 58 knots (107km/hr).

It took 14 long years to build this nuclear-powered aircraft carrier for the country of Ospana, but it was leased to the Alsacian Federation so that all the remaining 17 fellow countries in the federation could use it for their missions.

Sungjun was completely impressed by the sheer size of the aircraft carrier, thousands of crew, dozens of aircraft on the outside, and the things inside, like a gym, a bank, an indoor sports area, grocery stores, a cafeteria, dining facilities, an excellent air-conditioning system, and sleeping cabins...

And the thing that shocked him the most was the bar. Isn't it quite dangerous to have liquor in this place? What if everyone just gets drunk and a war erupts outside? He couldn't help but wonder when he saw it.

With the number of villains rising, the world was never peaceful for a day. So, Sungjun was quite worried about this facility.

As for his teammates, it wasn't the first time for them to board this warship. Without bothering to admire their surroundings, the team of eleven proceeded to their respective sleeping cabins to rest until the lunch hours.

As soon as he entered the room, he locked the door and switched off the air conditioning, not wanting to fall asleep. Instead, he sat on the bed in a lotus position and closed his eyes, going into a state of meditation.

Soon, his deep bluish aura formed a layer over his body while the tremendous amount of natural energy from the sea started to rush toward him.

Compared to the desert and air, the waters of oceans and seas were very rich in natural energy, giving life to billions of aquatic living things. Adding on top of that, Sungjun was already near to the breakthrough to the next tier of this Mana Condensation he invented.

Hence, the absorption and spontaneous refining were quite faster and smoother.

Roughly after three hours, the door was knocked on, a few times, disturbing his concentration. He opened the door to find Sun Xiao standing outside.

"What is it?" Sungjun asked with a frown on his face. He wasn't displeased because it was Sun Xiao who wanted to talk to him, but it was because he was almost at the doorstep of his next breakthrough.

Mana condensation is a technique that constantly improves the body's capacity to hold the Mana particles. For example, if the capacity of the body is a bucket, then the water is the Mana particles.

Upon every breakthrough, the bucket becomes bigger, and then, human cells will interact with the existing Mana particles attached to them in creating more Mana particles, thereby increasing the reserves of a superhuman.

For almost every superhuman, whatever profession they are in, their capacity will reach its peak when their growth also stops.

Based on their potential, they develop techniques.

While having higher Mana particles doesn't mean the user is stronger than peers with lower reserves, it is believed that the former type of people usually have higher potential compared to the latter type.

And Sungjun managed to break those shackles with a modified otherworldly technique.

Through hard work, he actually managed to improve his reserves to 972554 MP.

Sungjun aims to cross 100k before they confront the werewolf lord. Usually, it would have been impossible at that underground facility, but as Sungjun felt the richness of natural energy in the sea, he was confident about making the breakthrough with ease.

But now, this girl is disturbing his progress. So, how could he not be displeased?

On the other hand, Sun Xiao has no idea what's going on with Sungjun. So, she misunderstood that this young man didn't want to see her. Unfortunately, it is important. She had to meet him in person or else, she felt like she would regret it.

Taking a deep breath, she handed him a letter. "This is serious." She gave a warning and ran away.

"Eh? A letter?" Sungjun looked back at the letter.

For a moment, it felt like a scene from Sungjun's memories from middle school, where a girl handed him a love letter before running away in shyness.

Locking the door once again, he opened the letter in curiosity. "Whoa." He exclaimed as he read the contents of the letter. It was a simple but powerful warning.

"You might be abandoned or worse, sacrificed at the temple before we reach the heart of the dungeon. Trust no one but Cyro."

The meaning was quite clear. Sungjun could also guess the identity of the one who will be digging his grave.

However, Sungjun has no plans of depending on someone's mercy from the start, anyway. So, it didn't bother him at all.

He continued with his training for a couple of hours more before stepping out for lunch.

Instead of going to the cafeteria for a full meal, he just went to the grocery store and bought instant cup noodles. The kettles are obviously available there. So, he managed to fill his stomach as quickly as possible and returned to his room before proceeding with the training.

The evening arrived, and Sungjun continued eating the same thing during dinner, skipping the meals with the teammates.

Jaden Wong was happy that the rookie wasn't there.

Xing Lin felt pity for the rookie and wondered whether she should have a talk with him to show that she is friendly.

Sun Xiao misunderstood that her ex-roommate was ignoring everyone due to her letter. She felt proud of her act.

While Cyro was of the opinion that it wasn't good for Sungjun to eat instant noodles all through the day, the others assumed that Sungjun was probably nervous because of the mission.

None of them knew that Sungjun's agenda was something else. Without taking any rest for the whole night, he continuously absorbed the natural energy and spontaneously refined it into Mana particles inside his meridians.

The time was around 3:40 in the morning. More than half of the crew was sleeping while the other half was on night duty. The aircraft carrier continued to sail in the sea.

Inside Sungjun's sleeping cabin, the bluish aura around him was deep blue. It has been getting deeper and deeper for the past few hours, and finally, the aura shed its bluish color and turned green.

Feeling a surge of energy in his body, Sungjun let out a smile and opened his eyes, "22k Mana particles improvement in a mere one day here. Now, that's a record. However, it isn't that much change from yesterday. At most, I can use big moves like Absolute Reality a couple of times. If I put it aside and just focus on minor illusions combined with minor hypnosis, I might hold my ground. Anyway, there's still time. Why waste it..."

He closed his eyes once again and continued to practice the Mana Condensation technique to increase his Mana particles limit as much as possible.

**\*\*City of Napzu, Vashia;\*\***

Four days ago, as the news of the dungeon break became public and reached the World Hunter Council (WHC), they posted an announcement on all of their social media accounts and also gave an official press conference about hiring Hunters from all over the world.

Of course, the Hunters associated with government agencies were kept away because they are considered the assets of their respective nation.

Only the ones that belonged to private Hunter agencies and freelancers were hired at a price that was suitable for their rank.

And there's another requirement posted by WHC. It is that only B and above Rank Hunters could apply for this task, not just because of the risk factor but also due to the number factor.

There are over 60 million official active Hunters in this world, spread over 84 countries, of which 55 million of them are actually below C-rank, and 4.9 million of them are under B-rank.

Why such a huge number?

It's because a Hunter license doesn't have any expiry date. It can only be canceled when one Hunter gets convicted, dies, or voluntarily retires.

Hence, the majority of those Hunters, who either don't have much talent or are not interested to risk their lives, use the license for their resume in applying for jobs, or in a grocery store for a special 10% Hunter discount, or getting a special tax cut from the government, or getting a loan from the bank in case of a bad credit score.

## Chapter 759: Earth 1712: Temple of Horus (Part-2)

Hunter license can be used for a number of things, and people take advantage of it. Governments all over the world clearly know about it but they wouldn't take any necessary steps to stop it. Why?

The Hunters are considered the reserve forces of the country, and they will have to answer when they are called to duty in case war breaks out and they are needed to protect the citizens. Then, these people would be left with only two choices. Either retire voluntarily and cancel the benefits of the license or answer the call of the nation.

Anyway, as it would be tough for WHC to pay for them if they show up in large numbers, they kept out the lowest class Hunters from this war and hired the higher class Hunters.

But at the same time, they also need to worry about the attacks of dark guilds and terrorist organizations, which will try to cause chaos within their respective cities if the guilds there sent away their entire force. So, WHC was clear in its hiring process and gave warnings beforehand to the private agencies not to send every Hunter that is available.

In the end, the city of Napzu saw an influx of thousands of Hunters over the past week, and about three thousand of them managed to register themselves one after another at VHA (Vashia Hunter Association).

At around 9 o'clock in the morning, whoever registered so far was gathered at Napzu International stadium, the biggest sports field in the city, which is used to host international games for soccer.

There, an old man in his mid-eighties was waiting for them alongside the other staff members.

He looked frail, and wrinkles were all over his face. His eyes aren't even widely opened properly and he just gives off the vibes of a harmless-looking old man. In a simple way, he just looked like a person who might die at any time.

However, no one in the world, not even an S-rank Hunter, had the guts to look down on him.

Whether it was the young or the old, B-rank or A-rank, every Hunter just stared at him in admiration from a distance and started murmuring about how they were lucky to see the living legend, the one who was considered to be the guardian of the world.

Using a mic, the old man addressed all of them, "Hello, young fellas. Some of you might have heard of me, and some of you might not. Well, it has been more than two decades since I retired. So, I won't blame you. Anyway, let me introduce myself. My name is Lewis Knight and my codename is Zero.

First of all, I thank you for joining the war that was not yours in the first place. But before leaving for the war, all of you must understand that the dungeon boss, Werewolf Lord, isn't a simple monster you can fight. He is considered a Class-0 monster.

He didn't have just millions but tens of billions of Mana particles. What's worse is that he has the ability to share it with fellow allies. Regardless of their strength, you will be fighting the enemies who will have way above your reserves than yourselves.

So, be smart while engaging the enemy, and those who were trained in firearms, make sure to depend more on ammunition. That's all I have to say. Thank you."

Clap Clap Clap

All the Hunters started clapping for the retired Hunter as he finished the speech.

Soon, the General of Vashia's Special Forces took over the command, transporting all of them in large transport helicopters and vehicles to go to the temporary military bases set near the temple of Horus.

Meanwhile, inside the Temple of Horus;

A 25-foot giant werewolf, which was sleeping on a sacrificial altar for the past six hours, opened its eyes.

"I hope you had a good sleep, Milord," an aged voice was heard from the side.

It transformed into a 7-foot buffed man looking like he was in his early forties. Sitting on the altar, he took a glance at the statue and then at the old man in his late sixties, who was standing there for a while, "Did it start, Qin Sheng?"

The S-rank Hunter bowed deeply like a true subordinate and replied, "Not yet, Milord. It looked like they were a couple of hours behind in launching the attack."

"Very well," The Werewolf lord nodded with a grin on his face, "Call my generals, right now. We'll begin the preparations for the ritual."

"Eh?" Qin Sheng was taken aback. "But, if there are no captured Hunters, who will we sacrifice?"

The Werewolf lord replied, "Instead of sharing my Mana particles with others, I shall use my powers to destroy the barrier before the enemy anticipates. And then, we shall proceed to seal the entire Napzu city and use the cursed box of Horus to release plague. Every child, woman, man, and elderly person will be sacrificed for our cause."

A look of panic and shock appeared on Qin Sheng's face.

"But, without your help, Milord, our brothers might not be able to hold against the incoming army of Hunters. I heard that there are more than 6000 of them coming at us and we are only 184. Yes, we might be invincible so far but not this time. Because the humans are desperate. When they become desperate, their

strength will increase. We will be defeated before you complete the ritual," Qin Sheng appeared to be genuinely worried about the situation.

The Werewolf lord patted his shoulder with a grin, showing off his sharp fangs, "Don't worry. Once the trap you set succeeds, I will be reborn as the Fenrir, and once I had the power of a progenitor, I will be able to resurrect the lives of our lost brothers. As for those humans, they will pay very dearly. The Age of Fenrir will begin soon, hahahaha..."

As the werewolf lord started laughing wildly, Qin Sheng clenched his fists, murmuring under his breath. "I just hope Milord will show grace on Sungjun."

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In the depths of the Blythena Sea, a stealth submarine was quietly moving in the pitch darkness where the sunlight cannot reach.

The eight veteran Hunters were going through their strategy based on the new piece of Intel they received from their spy. Sungjun, meanwhile, was silent. His role is already determined. Hence, he didn't need the feel to participate in their discussion.

Watching him silently stay in the corner and closing his eyes, Xing Lin broke up from the group once their discussion was over and walked toward him.

He sensed her presence nearby and opened his eyes.

She sat beside him and asked in a friendly manner, "What are you thinking, Mr. Han?"

Sungjun shrugged his shoulders, "Nothing. I just wanted to get out of this mess."

"Hmm?" Xing Lin misunderstood his words and couldn't help but look at him in pity. She thought that he was worried about dying, as this isn't something he signed up for. As for his earlier display of strength against Jaden Wong, in her eyes, he was just protecting his ego. In reality, she termed him weak and someone who needed protection.

Trying to give him an assurance, Xing Lin let out a smile and said, "Don't worry about it. Just stick to my side until the mission is over. You will do fine. In fact, your ocular powers will be quite helpful if I might add."

Sungjun glanced at her from the corner of his eye. He could tell that she was sincere when she said those words.

At first, he had the urge to clear her misunderstanding. But, Sungjun knew that doing it would not be helpful to him in any way.

Hence, he just went with the flow and commented calmly, "You sure are different from the rest, Ms. Xing."

"Thanks, I guess." Xing Lin smiled once again. After a brief pause, as if she remembered something, she further added, "By the way, you can call me Xing Lin. Or Xing Xing if you want to be casual. I don't mind it."

Before Sungjun reacted to it, Sun Xiao intervened by calling Xing Lin and walking toward them.

She was actually curious about what they were talking about. Since she cannot act like a friend around Sungjun, she sat beside Xing Lin, her former teammate, and whispered to her, "Do you know each other or something?"

Sungjun's ears perked up as he barely heard her, but he stayed silent as if he wasn't interested. Xing Lin then shook her head, "No. I'm just accompanying him." After a brief pause, she addressed both of them at the same time, "By the way, both of you came from the same detention facility, right?"

As both of them nodded, she asked, "Did either of you come across anyone named Xing Yu there? He is around the same age as me."

"Xing Yu? Someone from your family? Your brother?" Sun Xiao asked after hearing the name. Sungjun wondered the same.

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Xing Lin clarified that it is her stepbrother, who often ends up in detention facilities due to insubordination. She added that her brother cannot ignore the one who needs help.

It was there that she got Sungjun's attention, but he stayed silent as usual.

He thought it was interesting and asked her a few things, like Xing Yu's features and powers.

Xing Lin answered without thinking much, "My brother could be said as a talent, you could only find one in several decades. Xing Yu was born with the Mana reserves far higher than any other normal baby in the world. However, because of that, his intelligence levels improved quite slowly. He doesn't think as fast as others, but whatever he does, he does what his heart tells him to do, and because he seldom thinks about consequences, my brother always ends up in trouble while standing up for the unfortunate. His powers are just amazing. When his fist glows..."

At first, Sungjun listened attentively, but as she went on and on about her brother for more than twenty minutes, Sungjun could only blankly nod every now and then. As for Sun Xiao, she left their side at some time.

Fortunately, the ship arrived at its location not long after, and they shifted to a submarine, which took them to the depths of the sea and proceeded toward the tunnel as planned.

Everything just went exactly as they discussed. In no time, with the help of Aqua Knight, all of them got into the temple through the secret entrance successfully.

From there, Sungjun took the front, leading them upstairs. All the Hunters wore mana-suppressing crystals around their necks to mask their aura so as not to get caught by the werewolves on the way. Their task is to silently go to the Main Altar and just kill the main boss.

As this was an instant dungeon, as long as the dungeon boss was killed, the dungeon would collapse on its own, and the remaining werewolves would be forced to return to where they had come from.

However, strangely, on the way, across the several corridors and stairs, not even one werewolf was encountered. Everyone only assumed that the werewolves didn't need to know about the underground secret tunnel, and might have focused more on the obvious entrances.

Their journey to the Altar was completely smooth without a single skirmish. But it was there that they were met with a surprise. There were no guards, no minions, or anything. It was just one human, rather a monster in human form, who was seen meditating at the altar in silence. Not far away from him, there was a rusty broadsword embedded in the ground.

"It's him," said Cyro as soon as he saw the tall individual, with light brown hair parted to one side and yellow eyes, "Based on the mana he was exuding, he is indeed the Werewolf Lord."

The man in black and golden attire abruptly opened his eyes and looked at the bunch of heroes standing before him. "It's been a while since any human dared to intrude into my temple..." His smile widened a bit as he glanced at others. "But I guess you could no longer hold it anymore now that it has become imminent for us to take over your world."

"Hmpf, wishful thinking." Jaden Wong let out a snort of contempt as he took out a broadsword from the pouch hanging at his waist. The runes inscribed on the blade lit up as soon as he took away his mana suppressant crystal. Lightning sparks started dancing over the edges of the blade.

The others followed along, summoning their powers and spreading apart from each other in a formation.

Sun Xiao summoned her flame whips, each in her hand.

Xing Lin/Aurora stretched her arms wide. Mana surged within her palms as she shouted. "Friend of the Gods." A wave of energy erupted from her hands and struck everyone, including Sungjun, too. At once, everyone felt their bone strength increase.

Wang Xia/Aqua Seraph summoned a Trident. The mana gushed out from her body and took the shape of water as it enveloped the trident.

Nakamura Kai/Echo activated his custom-made gauntlets, ready to hit the boss with sound waves.

Olivia Williams/Serepentia, as her codename suggests, unleashed her morphing ability and turned into a giant Cobra. As she hissed, a breath of flames escaped her mouth.

Lucas Davis/Steel Guardian, on the other hand, just stood there without doing anything.

And the leader of the team, Jin Chen/Cyro, crouched to the floor and slammed his palms to the floor, "Ice Knight." As almost one-third of his mana was consumed, a giant Knight seemed to be made of Ice materialized before the others, carrying a giant Ax and a shield in its hand. He jumped high and landed on its shoulder, and looked down at Werewolf Lord, who calmly gazed at them. "Everyone, we proceed as we discussed."

Ssss

Serpentia was the first to make the move. In her serpent form, she stretched forward and opened her mouth, showing her sharp fangs.

"Humans, you really overestimate your own strength," commented the lord of the werewolves, letting out a snigger. In the next second, the floor of the entire chamber glowed in dark energy before their legs started sinking in, while energy chains erupted and captured the hunters.

"What the hell is going on?" "My mana? I can't use my mana..." "Fk. It's a trap..."

"Hahahaha..." The Werewolf Lord started laughing like a maniac as he finally stood on his feet. "You humans might have put so much effort into planning and all to reach me here, but unfortunately for you, your so-called mission was created by me with the help of our kin named Qin Sheng. Surely, one of you must know..."

He stared at the eight of them for a while until his eyes fell on Sungjun, whose eyes widened in shock. "Pale face, blue eyes, and black hair. You must be a protege of Qin Sheng. I promised him that I would take you under my shelter. Just stop resisting like others and accept your death. After this ritual is finished, I will resurrect you as a werewolf so that you can serve me just like your master..."

Sungjun's face frozen in shock. Jaden Wong/Stryker, who was sinking down with his powers sealed, glanced behind him and growled. "Traitorous bastrd... I should have killed you when I had the chance... Dammit..."

At that moment, every single of them, whether it was ever disciplined captain, Cyro, his roommate who secretly cares about him, Sun Xiao, or the recent friend he made, Xing Lin, every one of them hated Sungjun. They wished to turn back time so that they could kill him. Now, they were falling to their deaths, while this rookie will resurrect as a werewolf?

"You..." Sungjun gritted his teeth in rage, but he felt very helpless because his connection to mana was also cut off.

Soon, everyone had their bodies trapped in another dimension with only their heads sticking out. It was done so that the werewolf lord wanted them to witness the breakage of the seal.

Amidst all the cusses and threats from the heroes, the Werewolf Lord proceeded to cut his chest with a dagger and let the blood pour onto the sword.

"Per vires antiquae, destinatus sumus, Unus animus, una fata, aeternus hic, Coniuncti ad omne aevum, in vinculo nati, Fatum nostrum obsignamus."

"Come." A powerful roar echoed in the chamber.

All the life force started seeping away from the bodies of the heroes at a terrifying pace, transferring to the rustic sword embedded in the ground. Cracks started appearing on the rustic sword.

"Hahaha... Yes... just a bit more... C'mon, don't resist... Give your lives, humans..."

"C'mon... please work... please work..." Sungjun desperately roared in his head, trying to activate his ocular abilities.

Ting!

With a loud sound, the rustic sword shattered at last as everyone but Sun Xiao and Cyro died, and a tiny glowing orb erupted from the destroyed blade.

"Yes... finally..." The Werewolf Lord laughed aloud. Not even bothering to think about the remaining survivors who were almost completely buried, he charged forward to grab the glowing orb. "Come and let's unite..."

However, just as he was about to grab it, the glowing orb moved to the side and dodged his hand and instead flew toward the hunters.

"Wha..."