

## Chapter 1649

Scattered around him, were the carcasses of the white wolves from before that had died upon impact.

With how tough Gerald's body was, it was no wonder why he had not only survived, but he barely suffered any injuries! Due to that, it wasn't long after before he slowly awoke...

Checking to see if he had suffered any injuries, Gerald was delighted to find out that his body was a-okay.

After hopping off the thickets, Gerald then retrieved his small knife and began slicing the meat off the white wolves. Since he didn't know how much longer he was going to remain stuck here, Gerald knew that he had to stock up on food while he could.

Once he had gathered enough, Gerald began walking around to gather his bearings.

What he was able to witness soon after, however, was nothing short of a utopia. Staring in amazement, it was the first time Gerald had ever seen such a beautiful place. It was so beautiful, in fact, that Gerald simply knew that such a place couldn't exist anyplace else.

As he continued walking around the fairyland-like place, Gerald was surprised to suddenly hear a gentle and almost ethereal female voice saying, "Who's there?"

Turning to face the source of the voice, Gerald was immediately greeted by the sight of a woman—who had a white, muslin dress on and a long sword in hand—hovering out from the forest...

Stopping close to Gerald, he then watched as she pointed the sword toward him.

Rather than being afraid, Gerald was more stunned than anything. To think that such a flawless-looking woman with such pure temperament would actually be in this place!

After staring at her for a while longer, Gerald eventually snapped out of it before replying, "...I... fell from the holy mountain and somehow wound up here!"

Upon hearing that, the charming woman raised a slight brow. Looking at him rather doubtfully, she then asked, "And... you're telling me falling all the way down here didn't hurt you at all?"

She was right to feel doubtful. After all, Gerald looked perfectly fine despite his claims!

"There's a reason for that! You see, I'm a person who's training to attain spiritual enlightenment! Due to that, such heights aren't really a big deal to me!" explained Gerald.

"...Are you really someone who's training to attain spiritual enlightenment...?" asked the woman, almost as though she wanted to be absolutely sure of his claim...

After seeing how determinedly Gerald nodded in response, the woman felt that he was probably telling the truth. Deciding to believe him for now, she then lowered her sword before sheathing it...

Seeing that she was now being less vigilant toward him, Gerald took the chance to ask, "...If I may, could I know who you are? Also, why are you here? And what even is this place...?"

"...My name is June Lovelybite, and I'm the guardian of Magic Land, the place you're currently in!" replied June in a casual tone.

"...I beg your pardon, Magic Land...?" muttered Gerald, feeling utterly bewildered. To think that such a place existed within Jaellatra!

It appeared that Jaellatra still had many secrets that had yet to be discovered... Jaellatra truly was a mysterious place...

Regardless, June then prompted Gerald to follow her. After flying together for a bit, they eventually arrived at a secluded house...

“That’s where I live. I’ll allow you to rest here for a night. Once dawn comes, I’ll lead you out of this place!” said June.

“How... long have you even been living here, June...?” asked Gerald.

From what he had been able to gather, June simply didn’t feel like a human who belonged to the real world. If he was going to be honest, she seemed more like some ancient fairy...

“Two thousand years or so.”

## Chapter 1650

The second he heard that, Gerald’s eyes immediately widened. Though he thought that he had heard wrong, he quickly realized that that wasn’t the case.

Two thousand years... To think that this young-looking woman was at least two thousand years old...! How terrifying! And to think that she had stayed here—remaining completely undiscovered—throughout that period! What kind of person even was June...?

Had he not fallen into the valley, Gerald could’ve very well have missed her as well...

Seeing that Gerald had no further questions, June took the chance to ask, “Now then... enough about me. Why did you come to the holy mountain?”

Upon hearing that, Gerald recalled why Nori and the others had hiked up the mountain in the first place. With that in mind, Gerald then replied, “I came here to look for an ancient herb known as the thousand-year-old panax ginseng!”

“You... came here looking for that herb...? What do you need it for? Are you trying to create a rejuvenating pellet?” asked June as she frowned slightly while looking at Gerald.

“Oh? Do you know anything about it?” asked Gerald who was now sure that June knew more about the herb than he did.

“The thousand-year-old panax ginseng is an extremely valuable herb in Magic Land... After all, it only grows once every thousand years. With that in mind, it’s currently about time it grew again!” replied June.

Hearing that, Gerald found it almost inconceivable! To think that the herb Nori was looking so hard for was in Magic Land all along! No wonder they weren’t able to find it on holy mountain!

“...Truth be told, what I said was only partially true. You see, I came here on a rescue mission to save a friend who found herself in danger while looking for that herb... I don’t really know much about that herb, and I just happened to get to where I am by chance!” said Gerald, not wanting June to continue misunderstanding his reason for being here.

While Gerald could tell that June had only entered the First-soul-rank in the Sage Realm—which meant that there was no way she was ever going to be able to defeat him—Gerald wasn’t a vicious person. With that in mind, there was no way he was going to attack June over that herb.

Whatever the case was, after hearing what Gerald had to say, June gave him a long stare before turning around while stating, “...Come with me!”

Doing as she instructed, both of them soon arrived at a rather large garden... and within it, several flowers that had petals resembling ice crystals could be seen...

His eyes now widened, Gerald realized that the garden was filled with thousand-year-old panax ginsengs!

"Those are the herbs you seek!" declared June as Gerald continued staring at the beautiful flowers that looked exactly like the one that Nori had showed him in her photo.

After a while, Gerald turned to look at June before asking, "...Could you tell me what the herb is specifically used for...? Why is it so valuable in the first place?"

Laughing in response, June then revealed a faint smile before explaining, "As I said before, it's used to make rejuvenating pellets, and they can be used to bring the dead back to life! With that said, you tell me if they're valuable or not!"

Hearing that, Gerald now realized that the rumors Nori had heard weren't exaggerated in the least. By refining thousand-year-old panax ginsengs, rejuvenating pellets could truly be made!

"Then... has a rejuvenating pellet ever been made...?" asked Gerald.

Giving no verbal reply, June instead took out a scroll from one of her sleeves before handing it to Gerald.

Curious, Gerald opened the scroll and slowly began scanning through it... only to find himself getting increasingly stunned the more he read!

The scroll recorded every single time rejuvenating pellets had been created as well as where they were made... Despite there only being three pellets to have ever been made, every time one was brought into

existence, major disasters were always imminent! With that in mind, rejuvenating pellets were definitely categorizable as ominous items...

## Chapter 1651

So that's why the herbs had been kept so well hidden from the rest of the world... June was even here to constantly stand guard over the thousand-year-old panax ginsengs!

"Nobody should ever get their hands on the herbs... Otherwise, catastrophe will be sure to follow! I'm sure you can understand that, right?" said June as she stared at Gerald.

Now understanding the consequences that could happen, Gerald simply nodded as he replied, "I understand. Don't worry, I won't take any of them!"

"I'm glad to hear that. Regardless, I'll be giving you something to express my gratitude!" said June as she gracefully waved her hand, prompting a small, cubic treasure box of sorts to materialize within her palm...

After receiving the treasure box from June, the curious Gerald wondered what she had just given him. Carefully prying the box open, Gerald was greeted by the sight of a single tiny pellet inside...

Looking up at June, Gerald then said, "...This..."

"That's a rejuvenating pellet, and it's the only one I constantly keep with me. I can sense how strong you are, so I'll be leaving this pill with you. May it be useful to you!" replied June.

Gerald was honestly flabbergasted by this turn of events. After all, June was actually willing to give him such an invaluable thing. This was the only existing rejuvenating pellet for heaven's sake!

"I... I appreciate that you're giving me such a precious gift... I... How should I even thank you...?" asked Gerald, honestly feeling that he didn't deserve to be given such an invaluable item out of the blue.

"There's no need to thank me!" replied June rather casually.

Following that, she led Gerald away from her garden and back to her home...

It wasn't long after when night fell...

Despite how dark the sky had gotten, the inside of a temporary camp—that had been set up quite a distance from the holy mountain—was still brightly lit...

While Quest and the others had made it back to the camp in one piece—and were currently inside that tent—, everyone had solemn expressions on their faces.

After witnessing what had happened to Gerald, everyone was either absent-minded or filled with overwhelming grief at the moment...

Nori herself was sitting outside alone. Staring intently at the holy mountain, she could only hope that Gerald would suddenly appear in the distance and begin running toward her...

At that moment, Yoshua's voice could suddenly be heard shouting, "Nori!"

Rushing toward his daughter, Yoshua felt like a massive load had just been lifted off his chest when he realized that she was doing fine.

Staring at Yoshua with teary eyes, Nori got to her feet and embraced her father before saying, "...Dad... Gerald... he... He fell into the valley...!"

"...What? Gerald fell into the valley? Nori, please give me more details!" replied the now trembling Yoshua as he stared wide-eyed at his daughter.

If Gerald was truly gone... then how was he going to explain all this to Chace and the Talisman Union...?

Gerald had just become a First-rank Talisman Master in the Talisman Union too! The thought of him dying so soon after that... It was shocking, to say the least...

## Chapter 1652

Following that, Nori began telling her father what had happened on the holy mountain... By the end of her tale, even Yoshua found the turn of events slightly hard to believe.

To think that Gerald had sacrificed his safety just to protect the adventure team from those white wolves... What a truly heroic act...

Patting his daughter's back, Yoshua then consoled, "Don't worry, Nori. Gerald will definitely make it back safely!"

Nodding in response, Nori hoped with all her heart that Gerald would make a safe return as well...



Meanwhile in Magic Land, Gerald himself was having a meal while chatting with June, completely oblivious to what was happening in the outside world.

Not even knowing how anxiously Nori and the others were awaiting his return, Gerald took a sip of tea before looking toward June and asking, "Speaking of which... Have you been guarding this place this entire time? Could it be that you've never left this place before...?"

Shaking her head in response, June then said, "I'd love to go out myself, honestly... Unfortunately, I'm simply unable to do so!"

"What do you mean by that?"

"Call it a... barrier of sorts. A barrier made just for me... Since I've been given the responsibility of guarding Magic Land, I'm incapable of going past that barrier... Not to worry though, anyone aside from me can still go past it..." replied June as she sighed.

Living here alone for so long without even the slightest contact with the outside world... It must've been painful...

While Gerald couldn't quite pinpoint how much pain June was in when she said that, he could tell that she really wanted to leave this place...

Even so, Gerald personally hoped that June wouldn't enter the outside world. After all, things out there were much more dangerous and viler compared to the conditions within Magic Land. While thinking about that, Gerald also found himself hoping that other outsiders wouldn't be able to find this place.

After all, with so many thousand-year-old panax ginsengs here, their discovery by the public would definitely cause a massive uproar. To prevent all that chaos in the first place, it was best that some things remained unfound and subsequently unchanged...

Late into the night, Gerald—who had been leaning against his chair for a while—eventually dozed off... It was a nice, calming slumber, and Gerald hadn't felt this comfortable in quite a while...

It was around dawn when he was awoken by June's voice saying, "Are you awake...?"

Opening his eyes, Gerald saw that June was sitting before him.

"I am now... You're quite the early bird as well I see..." replied Gerald.

"Indeed. Regardless, since you're already awake, let's get you out of this place...," said June.

Having no objections to that, it suddenly came across Gerald's mind that he had technically been 'missing' for the entire night ever since he fell into the valley. With that in mind, he was now worried about how anxious Nori and the others must be feeling at the moment.

Whatever the case was, once they were outside June's house, she took his hand before leaping together with him, soaring high into the sky...

Eventually, both of them landed before a small boulevard of sorts...

Pointing at the boulevard, June then said, "You can leave by walking through here."

"I see... Thank you for everything!" replied Gerald in a gratuitous tone before walking into the boulevard...

As he walked on, the scene before him seemed to suddenly warp... and all of a sudden, he realized that he was no longer in Magic Land! Looking around, Gerald found that he was now in a forest at the foot of the holy mountain...

Though mystified, Gerald knew that he had to keep this location a secret for as long as he lived...

With that, he then began walking out of the forest. It wasn't too long after when he arrived before the temporary camp. Surprisingly, the exit was this close to the camp!

Standing before the camp, Gerald saw that Quest and the others were seriously discussing something inside...

It took them a while to realize, but eventually, Nori found herself compelled to look out of the tent... and once she did, her eyes instantly widened. Gerald... he was standing there...

He was safe...!

## Chapter 1653

The second she managed to snap out of her stupefied state, Nori immediately yelled, "G-Gerald...!"

Now teary-eyed, Nori then rushed over and hugged him tightly.

Realizing that Gerald was in one piece, Quest and the others were equally as delighted and surprised.

As they ran over to him as well, Nori was already scanning Gerald from head to toe while asking, "A-are you alright Gerald? Are you hurt anywhere?"

Seeing how worried she was, Gerald could only smile before replying, “Don’t worry, I’m fine!”

Hearing that, Nori was so relieved that she found herself gently hitting her small hands against his chest while whining, “You... You really scared me half to death this time...!”

The solace she was now getting after witnessing yesterday’s events was simply too much...

As both Patrick and Quest began patting Gerald’s shoulders, Quest eventually found himself asking, “Regardless... What happened after you fell? That was a pretty high fall you know?”

Laughing in response, Gerald simply replied, “I was fortunate enough to fall right atop a large tree! That definitely helped break my fall!”

Naturally, Gerald couldn’t tell them about Magic Land, and thankfully, the others seemed to believe his story. After all, the important thing to them was that Gerald had returned safely...

Either way, now that he was back, they no longer needed to launch another rescue effort. With that in mind, everyone began packing up to return to Earth Capital...

Upon arriving at the Zahn family manor, Yoshua—who had returned the night before after finding out that his daughter was safe—immediately heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Gerald with the rest of the group.

Once he was before Yoshua, Gerald took the chance to say, “Apologies, Master Yoshua, and Nori, but I have to return to earth for a while!”

Upon hearing that, Nori’s mood was instantly dampened as she muttered, “...Oh... You’re... going back...?”

After getting so used to having Gerald by her side this entire time, she really didn't like the idea of him leaving... Though she didn't like it, she knew she couldn't really stop Gerald.

Whatever the case was, Yoshua then asked, "I see... When will you be returning here?"

"Probably for quite a while. After all, I've stayed here for some time as well. I still need to keep my other family members company and tell them what I've been doing," replied Gerald with a slight smile.

"Ah, I see... Keeping tabs with your family is important too! Very well, then. Regardless, know that whenever you return to Jaellatra, this is your home. We'll always be waiting for you here!" declared Yoshua with a firm nod.

Upon hearing that, Gerald found himself feeling slightly moved. Aside from his master, Nori and Yoshua were the only other people who treated him so well in Jaellatra... Even so, reminded himself that he couldn't be with Nori.

With that in mind, Gerald then bid farewell before leaving for Earth...

When he got back to earth, he instantly felt a welcoming warmth and familiarity... Though Jaellatra was great in its own way, earth was still his true home...

Regardless, Gerald's first stop was naturally the Sacrasolis Palace. After all, it had been ages since he had last met Mila and his family members, and he missed them dearly.

Upon arriving home, however, Gerald was surprised that neither Mila nor his sister was present...

Thankfully, his parents were there, so Gerald then asked, "Mom, dad, where are Mila and Jessica?"

## Chapter 1654

Hearing their son's question, Dylan then replied, "Ah, well, they've both gone to the Laiross State! From what we've been told, Mila appears to have found her biological parents there! With that in mind, she's paying the Smith family there a visit to confirm it!"

"What? The Laiross State? Her biological parents?" muttered Gerald in slight disbelief.

Following that, Gerald left some instructions for his parents before leaving for the Laiross State alone...

Meanwhile, both Mila and Jessica were standing in the hall of the Smith family manor.

The Smiths in the Laiross State were considerably powerful—due to them owning a large business chain—and were one of the more prestigious families here.

Whatever the case was, Mila's sudden arrival was definitely unexpected, to say the least.

"So... You're saying that your name is Mila Smith?" asked a luxuriously dressed woman—with heavy makeup on—as she stared at Mila.

"That's right. I came here looking for Zyre Smith, my biological father!" replied Mila with a determined gaze.

"Humph! That's my father's name, you know? And I've never heard him mentioning having another daughter! Truth be told, I think you're just here to create trouble!" sneered the woman as she pointed angrily at Mila.

Hollie Smith was the daughter of Zyre—the master of the Smith family—, and she was also the second young lady of the Smith family.

Upon hearing that, Mila didn't take her retort personally and simply said, "We'll find out if that's true once your father meets up with me!"

After learning where her biological parents were from Master Ghost, Mila had come all the way here to see if his prediction was true. Worrying that she would get into trouble, Jessica had followed her over as well.

Still, to think that they would be rejected entry right at the manor's door! It was then when they bumped into Hollie.

Either way, it wasn't long after before a middle-aged man and a woman made their appearance.

"What's wrong, Hollie?" asked the man.

"Thank god you're here, dad! This woman's been persistently asking to meet you! She claims that she's your daughter!" explained Hollie.

Before Zyre could even reply, the woman beside him instantly retorted, "I beg your pardon? As if you could ever have two fathers!"

The angered woman went by Chaney Littlebury, and she was Hollie's mother.

Whatever the case was, Zyre found himself frowning slightly by this turn of events. Turning to look at the two strangers, his eyes instantly widened the second he saw Mila.

Realizing how much Zyre's appearance resembled hers, Mila stared at him for a while longer before asking, "...Are... you Zyre? The master of the Smith family...?"

“...I am indeed! Regardless, you... You really look like your mother...!” cried out Zyre.

Upon hearing that, both Chaney and Hollie’s expressions darkened.

“What? What do you mean by that, dad? Do you have another woman out there?” asked Hollie while looking her father in the eye.

Chaney herself was already tugging Zyre’s arm as she angrily added, “That’s what I want to know as well! Did you cheat on me? Is this person really your daughter?!”

Momentarily at a loss of where to even begin, Zyre understood that he couldn’t keep this a secret forever. It was finally time to face the music...

## Chapter 1655

Upon hearing that, Mila barely said a word. Instead, she simply held onto Jessica’s arm before tugging her away.

Not even sure what to do, Zyre could only watch as the two of them left...

Seeing that the duo was gone, Hollie and her mother instantly yanked Zyre into the house with them. After sitting him on a couch, they made sure to properly interrogate him.

As it turned out, Zyre had apparently made out with another woman—who went by the name of Yviene Morish and was Mila’s biological mother—before getting married to Chaney. Unfortunately, Zyre’s family was unwilling to let them be together. Due to that, after Mila’s birth, Yviene left just like that.



Though the memory of her remained for the many years to come, Zyre never mentioned it to a soul. While he had thought of the possibility of Yviene appearing one day with Mila, he never thought that he would meet his daughter alone under such circumstances.

Regardless, Chaney and Hollie were greatly angered after hearing all that. The truth was, both mother and daughter were assuming that Mila had showed herself—after all this time—with the intent to snatch the properties of the Smiths.

Despite their worry, however, the thought had never even crossed Mila's mind. Regardless, Mila and Jessica soon returned to their hotel...

Sitting alone by the window, Mila found herself shedding tears not long after. To think that her biological father was such a person...

Seeing that, Jessica slowly walked over to Mila's side to console the poor girl. Such incidents were surely difficult to just accept...

Gently patting her back, Jessica then said, "Don't be sad anymore, Mila... Remember, you still have Gerald and us! We're your family now!"

Hearing that, Mila instantly hugged Jessica tight before wailing in tears. Anyone would feel miserable upon hearing her excruciating cries...

Meanwhile, back at the Smith family manor, Hollie and Chaney could be seen discussing something...

"There's definitely a reason why she's showing herself now, Hollie! With that in mind, let's hire some people to get rid of her before she gets too close to your father! Once she's out of the picture, we won't have to fear her threatening us anymore!" declared Chaney as a wicked smile formed on her face.

“I know right? She’s definitely here to snatch our family’s properties! If we let her, I’m sure she’s also going to start demanding to have a place within our family! With that said, we definitely can’t allow her to have her way!” growled Hollie, immense hatred in her tone.

Seeing that her daughter saw eye to eye with her, Chaney then whispered something into her ear... By the time she was done, the sinister smiles on their faces grew wider than ever...

As the two continued perfecting their nasty plot, Gerald arrived in the Laiross State.

After contacting Mila and finding out where she was, he immediately rushed over to the hotel room they were currently in.

Upon seeing Gerald, Mila instantly threw herself into his arms, looking very much like a pitiful and frightened white rabbit...

Once all three of them were seated, Mila began telling Gerald about what had happened at the Smith family manor... By the time she was done, Gerald came to understand that Mila’s father had had two women with whom he had intercourse with...

With that in mind, Gerald then said, “Honestly, I don’t think you should continue looking for your biological father. After all, not only has he already formed a new family, but he’s also a terrible father for starting another family after you were born!”

Hearing that, Mila had to agree with Gerald.

At that moment, Mila’s phone momentarily rang... Looking at her phone, Mila saw that she had received a message from an unknown contact number...

## Chapter 1656

'Hello, Mila. This is Hollie. I'd like to meet up and have a little chat with you!' said the message.

Finding it odd and surprising that Hollie would take the initiative to ask her out, Mila then looked at Gerald before saying, "It's... a message from Hollie... She apparently wants to meet me!"

"Oh? Let's see what she wants then! I'll go with you!" replied Gerald, sensing that Hollie definitely had ulterior motives.

Upon realizing that Gerald was coming with her, Mila was given an extra boost in confidence. Even if he hadn't chosen to come along, however, Mila was still pretty sure that she would be able to take on anything that Hollie threw at her.

Whatever the case was, after deciding a meeting location with Hollie, Mila and Gerald then left the hotel...

The meeting location itself was what seemed to be a secluded park, and though Gerald came along, he chose to remain in the shadows for the time being.

By the time they got there, Hollie was already at the park.

Not wanting to beat around the bush, Mila then said, "What can I do for you?"

Chuckling in response, Hollie then replied, "Ah, well, I simply wanted to get to know you a little better! After all, I now know that you're my elder sister, and sisters should get along with each other, right?"

Despite the bright smile on Hollie's face, sinister thoughts were the only thing in her mind.

Still, with how differently Hollie was now treating her compared to earlier, Mila could instantly tell that something was wrong. Hollie definitely had something planned for her...

“Look, just tell me what you want already. I know how much you resent me, so let’s not waste each other’s time, alright?” retorted Mila in a rather cold tone.

Stunned that Mila had seen through her so easily, Hollie was momentarily unable to say a word.

Quickly snapping out of it, Hollie then clapped a few times. If Mila wanted to get straight to the point, so be it!

Following those claps, Mila watched as a few knife-wielding men—who were obviously under Hollie—dashed out from behind the surrounding bushes!

If Mila disappeared from the world, then she wouldn’t be able to compete for a place within the Smith family in the first place!

Sneering in response, Mila then added in a contemptuous tone, “From the looks of it, I’m assuming you thought I showed myself to get some status in your family, correct? Still, is this all you’ve got to stop me?”

“Is that not the truth? Regardless, this is your fault in the first place for coming over out of the blue to threaten my position! Getting rid of you once and for all is the only viable solution!” scoffed Hollie as she glared viciously at Mila.

The second her sentence ended, Hollie then gestured for her men to surround Mila!

Before Mila could even make a move, a silhouette of a person suddenly flashed past her!

A split second later, an explosive sound was heard as a shock wave hit all of Hollie's men!

Eyes now fully widened as she stared at all the fresh corpses that had just flopped to the ground, Hollie found herself quickly going pale. She had disregarded the fact that Mila would have her own men! What a fatal blunder!

## Chapter 1657

With those people out of the picture, Gerald then turned to look at the stupefied Hollie who was so terrified that she couldn't even find the strength to move...

Realizing that Gerald was now slowly walking toward her, the quivering Hollie then stuttered, "Y-you...! Don't come this way...! I-I'm from the Smith family...!"

The fact that she thought that she could use her family as an actual threat truly showed how idiotic this girl really was...

Regardless, before anything else could happen, Mila quickly jogged over to Gerald before tugging his sleeve as she said, "Let's just forget about her, Gerald..."

In the end, not only was Hollie still a woman, but she was also the daughter of Mila's biological father. With that in mind, Mila found herself rather reluctant to have anything too bad happen to Hollie.

Hearing that, Gerald then nodded slightly before replying, "...Fine."

However, he still wanted to give Hollie a severe warning, just so she understood that messing with him and Mila would bring about dire consequences.

“Hollie, right? Listen here, if you or the other Smiths ever dare to lay a finger on Mila again, I guarantee that your family will be completely wiped off the face of the earth! Just so you know, I’m a man of my words. Do I make myself clear?” scoffed Gerald.

Not even daring to say a word, Hollie simply nodded frantically.

Seeing that, Gerald then led Mila away...

He wasn’t really worried about the corpses since he believed that Hollie and her family could easily dispose of them. As for the worry about exposing him as a murderer, they probably wouldn’t dare to do that either. After all, these hooligans were recruited by the Smiths in the first place!

Whatever the case was, Hollie only dared to call her mother—to update her on the situation—once Mila and Gerald were completely out of sight...

By that point, Gerald and Mila had already reunited with Jessica, and following that, the trio quickly left the Laiross State. Once they were out of there, the Smiths would surely be unable to deal with them any longer. What more, they wouldn’t be able to hunt Mila down either since Gerald made sure not to leave behind any of their traces...

Either way, it was a full night and day later when the three finally returned to Sacrasolis Palace...

The second they got back, however, Master Ghost instantly met up with Gerald.

Seeing how anxious he was, Gerald couldn’t help but ask, “Is there something important you wish to discuss with me about?”

“Indeed! You see, a large portal to another world has just opened! I’d like to know whether you’ll be entering it!” replied Master Ghost.

Upon hearing that, Gerald was momentarily stunned silent. To think that such a bizarre event would occur!

After snapping out of it, Gerald quickly asked, “Where exactly is this portal, Master Ghost?”

Hearing that, Master Ghost then made a few hand gestures... until suddenly, a ray of blue light shot out of one of his fingertips!

With the ray of light flying toward the sky, Master Ghost then said, “The portal is at the Skyreach Stone Tablet within Jaellatra! However, do note that by choosing to enter that world, you’ll have to be prepared to lose something!”

## Chapter 1658

Hearing that, Gerald simply nodded in agreement...

Fast forward to the next day, Gerald made sure to bid farewell to Mila and his family before heading off for Jaellatra’s Skyreach Stone Tablet.

By that point, news that the Skyreach Stone Tablet had opened had already spread across the entire Jaellatra. Since this was a great opportunity for adventure that only presented itself once every few decades, several people were apparently planning to cross the portal as well!

Regardless, on his way over to Jaellatra, Gerald made use of a sound talisman to tell Nori about his plan. Upon hearing that he was heading to the Skyreach Stone Tablet, Nori found herself instantly overjoyed. After all, she was planning to head there herself. With that in mind, she immediately set off to wait for him there.

It was around noon when both of them reunited.

Though it had only been a few days since they had last met, Nori missed Gerald greatly. This was made evident by how she instantly leaped into his arms the second she saw him, not even bothering about the stares from everyone else around them.

Gerald himself was already used to Nori doing this by this point. There was simply no way of stopping the girl from doing this...

Whatever the case was, once she calmed down a bit, Nori looked at him rather curiously as she asked, "How did you even find out that the Skyreach Stone Tablet had opened, Gerald?"

Her curiosity was warranted since people on earth shouldn't have been able to learn of this event. The only feasible answer would be if another person from Jaellatra had told him about it...

Still, Gerald could pretty much be considered as a local to Jaellatra by this point. After all, he had even mastered the art of making secret technique talismans!

Either way, after chuckling in response, Gerald simply smiled faintly before replying, "Let's just say that someone notified me about it!"

At that moment, an almost ethereal hum could be heard as the Skyreach Stone Tablet began shaking, preparing to open...



Shortly after, a swirling halo appeared above it! Slowly, the halo grew larger and larger, and at one point, the light it emitted became so bright that it was almost blinding... By the time everyone opened their eyes again, the halo had stopped and a large portal had appeared before them...

Seemingly leading into some kind of passageway, everyone watched as a few strangely dressed people walked out from the portal...

These people weren't from earth or Jaellatra. Rather, they came from another world known as the Leicom Continent...

The portal—that only appeared once every few decades—served to connect the Leicom Continent to Jaellatra, and once it appeared, it would remain open for an entire year. Throughout that year, people were free to move between the two worlds, though strangely enough, only those from Jaellatra would enter the Leicom Continent and never the other way around. This had always been the case every time the portal was opened....

Whatever the case was, upon seeing so many people gathered there, one of the people from the Leicom Continent then declared, "Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Miland Knott, and I'm the guardian of the Leicom Continent! While today marks the day the Leicom Continent is connected with Jaellatra again, there are some notable changes this time! For one, not everyone is allowed to enter the Leicom Continent this year! As the new rule states, you'll first need to pass a test in order to qualify for entry!"

Upon hearing that, everyone instantly began discussing the new rule. Wasn't the Leicom Continent being a bit too strict this time around? After all, everyone could enter and leave as they pleased before this! Why was that rule suddenly established?

Either way, after saying that, Miland then waved his large, right hand, prompting another portal to appear beside the one he had exited from.

"This portal leads to a place called the Challenge of the Fairyland, and all of you are only allowed to enter in the form of your divine senses. Upon entry, you won't be able to leave that place till either your divine senses are defeated or you manage to gather five divine stones. Speaking of which, only those who have managed to gather five divine stones will be qualified to enter the Leicom Continent. The

stones themselves can only be obtained by defeating the other participants' divine senses! With that said, upon entry, you'll all be given half an hour to prepare yourselves. After that period of time, the portal will be closed and the challenge will officially commence!" explained Miland.

The second his explanation ended, the crowd instantly fell into an uproar! Since everyone was eager to enter the Leicom Continent, they barely gave a second thought as they began turning into their divine sense forms before rushing through the Challenge of the Fairyland portal...

## Chapter 1659

"Let's hurry in as well, Gerald! The good spots may get taken by others if we don't get a move on!" exclaimed Nori.

Nodding in agreement, both of them then transformed into their divine sense forms before going through the portal as well.

Upon entering, they were immediately greeted by the sight of a dense forest that felt so refreshing and comfortable that it gave the impression that they really had just entered some fairyland. Even so, Gerald and Nori were well aware that this was actually just an illusory space. Despite that being the case, they also knew that unknown dangers could be lurking in every corner.

While they didn't know how large this illusory space truly was, they had a hunch that the forest they were currently in wasn't the only terrain here...

And they were right.

Including the forest, there were several other terrains in the Challenge of the Fairyland such as the desert, the ancient city, and the snowfield.

Since the divine senses appeared at random locations—after going through the portals—, the fact that Nori and Gerald had appeared together was truly a sign that they were favored by God.

Regardless, since there was still about fifteen minutes before the challenge began, both Gerald and Nori decided to take a stroll while chatting with each other.

“Since we’ll need ten divine stones to both qualify to enter the Leicom Continent, I guess we’ll have to defeat ten people!” said Nori while looking at Gerald.

Nodding in response, Gerald then replied, “That’s the idea. Still, I find this rule to be slightly surprising... To think that entry into the Leicom Continent would be controlled so strictly!”

“This is honestly the first time this has happened! Before this, just about anyone was allowed to freely traverse between the Leicom Continent and Jaellatra!” explained Nori as she shook her head.

“Well, whatever the case is, I believe that aside from us, several others must have already begun forming groups of their own, even the stronger ones. Then again, Jaellatra already has a great number of strong people!” replied Gerald as he carefully began inspecting his surroundings.

Since Gerald was the only participant from earth, he realized that getting through all this was going to be a good experience for him in general. After all, just as he had said, there were many powerful people in Jaellatra, and they all seemed to have hidden themselves rather well.

Unfortunately for anyone they bumped into, however, Gerald and Nori weren’t weak either. In fact, as long as they didn’t bump into some crazy strong person who had entered the Seventh-soul rank of the Sage Realm or the Avatar realm, both of them were pretty much good to go.

At that moment, Miland's voice began booming all across the sky.

"Everyone participating! The challenge begins in ten! Nine! Eight..."

As Miland's count got near to zero, Gerald and Nori glanced at each other before simultaneously leaping atop a tall tree before them.

Standing on tree branches, both of them then used the leaves around them to conceal themselves. Unless they were being particularly looked for, it would be incredibly difficult for anyone to even spot them.

Both of them had figured that since they didn't know what dangers were lurking around yet, their best option was to wait patiently for the right moment to strike. It certainly beat the thought of just rashly running around to look for people to defeat.

All in all, there were about a thousand participants in the challenge. In other words, though the illusory space was rather large, the probability of bumping into someone else was still rather high.

"The countdown is over! Let the challenge begin!" announced Miland seconds later.

Following that, the entire area went dead silent. With no voices or even hints of shuffling around, the only sounds that could be heard were the rustling of leaves being blown by the wind...

However, it wasn't long after before several people got swiftly taken out! Most of those who were disqualified weren't that strong in the first place, and the others just weren't that good at hiding themselves. With that in mind, they had been targeted the second they entered this place, which explained why they had been taken out so quickly and easily.

After a while, Nori couldn't help but mutter, "...Simply hiding here isn't going to do us any good, you know? Allow me to remind you that we're pretty strong too! With that said, we should definitely take the initiative to hunt down the weaker people who are still in the challenge while we can!"

## Chapter 1660

Appearing rather distressed as she stared at Gerald, Nori felt the need to remind him that in the end, both of them had already entered the Sage Realm.

Hearing that, Gerald felt that she had a point. With that, he then replied, "...Well, alright then! Let's take the initiative to attack then! The sooner we gather the required divine stones, the sooner we'll be able to complete the challenge!"

With that said, both of them then hopped off the tree together...

However, the second the duo landed, several arrows suddenly shot out at them from within the bushes!

Thankfully, both of them reacted extremely quickly, and they were able to easily dodge the arrows. The arrows themselves ended up piercing a few trees that were behind them...

Following that, three people wielding crossbows rushed out from the bushes, encircling Gerald and Nori in no time!

"To think that we'd bump into prey so soon! What luck, boss!" said a bald man as he smiled sinisterly while looking at the scar-faced man standing beside him.

The trio had earlier been silently moving about when they suddenly saw Gerald and Nori hopping off from that tree. Knowing that this was their chance, all of them had swiftly made their moves without the slightest hesitation.

“Luck you say... In the end, there’s still only two of them! How are we going to distribute the divine stones among ourselves?” replied the scar-faced man with a snort as he revealed his own frigid smile.

“I know right? Both of us won’t have that problem, however! After all, by the time we’re done with you, we’ll have three divine stones to share between ourselves!” replied Gerald as he smiled slyly.

Before either of the men could reply, an aurablade suddenly manifested, and just like that, all three of them were taken out in a single swipe!

The second their corpses fell to the ground, their bodies instantly transformed into three separate divine stones...

Picking them up, Gerald kept one for himself before handing the other two to Nori while saying, “Here, take these! They’re for you!”

Momentarily shocked silent, Nori—who hadn’t expected to be given two divine stones just like that—eventually snapped out of it before quickly replying, “...You were the one who defeated them, Gerald! With that in mind, you should be the one to keep all three of them!”

True to her words, Nori hadn’t really done anything, and that led her to believe that she didn’t deserve the stones. These were Gerald’s spoils!

However, Gerald simply said, “It’s fine, I’ll just get more later. Just take them!”

Seeing that he wasn’t going to take no for an answer, Nori had no choice but to accept the two divine stones. While she didn’t explicitly show it, Nori was extremely moved by his generosity.

Gerald himself didn't really think much of it. After all, the trio from earlier was pretty much just sitting ducks waiting to be taken out by either him or Nori.

There was a saying stating 'not accepting offered things was disgraceful', and since those three men were making themselves such easy pickings, Gerald would've certainly been a fool not to take them out while he could.

Regardless, Nori and Gerald then continued moving forward to look for their next prey.

Oddly enough, even after walking around for an entire hour, neither of them bumped into a single person! It was strange, to say the least, and the possibility of everyone else already being defeated didn't sound so farfetched now...

Even so, the challenge had just started... What more, there were at least a thousand participants! The challenge couldn't be over so soon, right...?

A little while later, the duo came across a river. It was only then when they finally decided to take a break from their hunt...

## Chapter 1661

Now sitting by the riverside, Nori couldn't help but ask, "...It's strange that we haven't come across any others even after walking around for so long, right...?"

"It truly is... It makes me wonder if we're a little too far off from the others," muttered Gerald—who was also finding the entire experience to be rather perplexing—in response.

The second his sentence ended, a blast of water suddenly shot out from the river... and the duo found themselves staring wide-eyed at the green dragon that had just leaped out of the water!

Now hovering in the air, the dragon glared at Nori and Gerald before releasing a mighty roar that resonated across the area!

Neither of them could have anticipated that such a creature was living in that river!

However, now wasn't the time to ponder about that. After all, the green dragon suddenly began diving toward Gerald and Nori without warning!

"Watch yourself!" shouted Gerald as both he and Nori leaped to the side to avoid the attack!

While they were fortunate enough to dodge the attack, the fact that the area they had been sitting on had completely crumbled proved just how powerful the dragon was. Had they failed to avoid the attack, they would've surely died on the spot...

"Why the hell is there a dragon all of a sudden?! Aren't we supposed to only be fighting against other people?!" asked the shocked Nori.

Based on the current turn of events, Gerald felt that the dragon was just another kind of magical challenge within this illusory space...

With that in mind, Gerald then shouted, "Go hide first, Nori! I'll deal with the dragon!"

Following that, he summoned Jade Infused Blade and turned it into a sword. After tightening his stance, Gerald then began charging toward the dragon!

For a moment, the dragon almost appeared excited as it began diving toward Gerald as well!



“Slaying Surge of Turmoil!” roared Gerald as his aurablade flared red and flew toward the dragon, piercing right through it!

Roaring in pain, the dragon attempted to struggle for a while... until its eyes eventually turned grey and its massive body came crashing down into the river...

With the dragon now slaughtered, Gerald raised a brow when he saw that two shining items had appeared on the surface of the river.

Heading over to inspect them, the items stopped glowing once he got close enough. The first item was a jade charm whereas the second appeared to be a dragon egg...

After taking the two items for himself, Gerald then returned to Nori.

Now that things had calmed down, both of them began inspecting the two curious items. Neither of them had expected to be rewarded for slaying that dragon, and that only served to prove how magical this illusory space was...

A while later, Gerald slipped the jade charm into his pocket and carefully placed the dragon egg in his backpack.

Both of them had been unable to guess what those two items could be used for, so Gerald made a mental note to study them properly once the challenge was over. Whatever the case was, Gerald was sure that both of the items had to be extremely valuable, either in terms of usage or the fact that they could be hiding secrets within them...

Gerald's train of thought was cut short when he suddenly heard Nori asking, “Come to think of it, what was that move you used earlier? It was super powerful!”

Nori could still remember how amazed she had felt when she saw Gerald's red aurablade earlier...

"Well... Quite frankly, I have no idea either! It just sort of happened!" replied Gerald as he shrugged. He wasn't bluffing when he said that.

After all, the one who had earlier launched the attack was Jade Infused Blade. With that in mind, it explained why Gerald wasn't able to answer Nori's question.

## Chapter 1662

Regardless, both of them soon packed up and left the riverside...

It was about ten minutes later when both of them heard the clashes of a fierce battle...

Turning to look at Gerald, Nori then said, "It appears that there's an intense fight happening up front! Let's hurry over and have a look!"

Gerald agreed with Nori's statement. After all, if the fighters were already battered, then there was definitely a chance that both of them could obtain something without any effort. What more, if the fighters were taking on something particularly dangerous, Gerald and Nori could always step in once they were taken out.

With that in mind, both of them then swiftly proceeded forward before masterfully concealing themselves behind a large rock.

Staring ahead at the small forest before them, both of them were greeted by the sight of several black-robed men attacking a youth in white clothes. Since the shoulder areas of his clothes were dyed red, it was only fair to assume that he had been injured there.

Despite his injuries and being severely outnumbered, the youth still fought vigilantly.

Even so, Gerald knew for a fact that the youth was fighting a losing battle. Then again, why were those four people so insistent on taking him down? There had to be a reason for their actions...

“Those four men are clearly bullying that poor youth, Gerald! Let’s step in and give him a hand!” grumbled Nori as she glared at the situation with resentful eyes.

Of course, Gerald saw no issue with that. It was a virtue to play the white knight, after all.

Meanwhile, in the forest itself, one of the black-robed men found himself sneering, “Come on Zelig! Stop playing so hard to get and give us your divine stone already!”

“Over my dead body!” scoffed Zelig in response, clearly still having quite a bit of fight left in him.

“If you insist!” roared the man in anger as he gestured for the other three to attack Zelig at the same time!

Seconds before Zelig was hit, a ray of golden light suddenly engulfed Zelig, shocking the other four men enough to momentarily retreat!

Following that, slight rustling could be heard, and the next thing everyone knew, two people were already standing guard before Zelig!

“How villainous for four of you to take on a single person!” scoffed Gerald as he stared at the four people with contemptuous eyes.

Hearing that, all four of them took turns exchanging glances with each other. They hadn’t expected to be interfered with halfway through what they were doing.

Shortly after, what seemed to be the leader of the group then glared at Gerald before warning, “Look, buddy. Beat it and leave us to our affairs. Otherwise, don’t blame me for killing you too!”

“Hah! I’d like to see you try!” retorted Gerald as his eyes suddenly began glinting murderously.

Before any of the black-robed men were even able to reply, Gerald tossed two secret technique talismans—that he had earlier hidden inside his sleeves—toward the men!

Appearing to burn up just inches away from the talismans’ targets, the duo that Gerald had attacked found themselves being engulfed in flames before they were even able to react! And just like that, the two black-robed men had been burned to death...

“...W-what...?!” shouted the two remaining men, momentarily unable to process what had just happened.

Quickly snapping out of it, the shocked leader of that group then shouted, “You... You’re a Talisman Master!”

To think that they would actually bump into a Talisman Master here of all places! With that in mind, the two men instantly attempted to bolt off.

‘Bold of you to even attempt escape!’ Gerald thought to himself. It was evident that they weren’t going to be leaving alive!

With that, Gerald then tossed another two secret technique talismans! Upon collision with the escaping duo’s bodies, were instantly ensnared by vines that appeared out of nowhere!

Fully bound, the duo flopped to the ground, utterly terrified as they watched Gerald slowly walk toward them.

Staring back at them, Gerald then casually said in a frigid tone, “Well then, thanks for giving us your divine stones!”

With that, Gerald summoned his sword before swiftly ending the remaining two men...

There was no mercy in his attack since Gerald was well aware that not being cruel to his enemies would mean that he was being cruel to himself...

#### Chapter 1663

Regardless, Gerald then took all four of their divine stones before slipping them into his pocket. Gerald now had five of them.

Either way, he then turned to look at Zelig before asking, “Are you alright?”

Shaking his head, Zelig then replied in a gratuitous voice, “I’m fine, thanks to you saving me! Also, where are my manners! My name is Zelig Lear!”

Upon hearing that, Nori found herself momentarily stunned.

“Wait, you’re... Zelig Lear? The second young master of the Lears of Jaellatra?” asked Nori.

Looking at her, Zelig—who clearly hadn’t expected her to know who he was—found himself raising a slight brow as he curiously replied, “...I am. And you are...?”

“Ah, I’m Nori from the Zahn family! I didn’t think I’d bump into the second young master of the Lear family here! What an honor!” said Nori as she smiled subtly.

The Lears were an extremely strong family in Jaellatra, and many of its members were so strong that some had even managed to enter the Avatar Realm!

Zelig understood how strong his family was as well. With that in mind, to think that he had been caught in the process of failing to defend himself against only four assailants... It was rather embarrassing, to say the least.

Chuckling rather bitterly, Zelig then sighed before replying, “You’re exaggerating it, Young Lady Zahn! I’m just a good-for-nothing who’s been left behind by the other Lears!”

Though Zelig was the second young master of his family, his training was honestly rather low in comparison. After all, he had only managed to enter the Ninth-rank in the Rune Realm. The fact that he couldn’t even breach the Sage Realm had caused his family to collectively label him as being useless. With that in mind, Zelig wasn’t exaggerating either when he said that the rest of the Lears had abandoned him.

After staring at Zelig’s body for a while Gerald frowned slightly as he said, “...I can sense that due to some odd reasons, you haven’t been able to progress past the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm.”

Nodding in response, Zelig then replied, “You’re rather insightful, sir! What you said is true and from what I’ve managed to gather, there seems to be a strange aura within my body that’s keeping my elixir-of-life field sealed. That’s the reason why I haven’t been able to make any progress at all!”

“I see... Well, it’s not like your situation is incurable. You just haven’t been using the right methods to properly tackle it!” explained Gerald.

The second he heard that, Zelig was instantly surprised though joy quickly overtook that feeling. The fact that Gerald was able to say that definitely meant that Gerald had a way of helping him!

“...I see! But before that, where are my manners indeed! How should I address you?” asked Zelig.

“You can just call me Gerald. Gerald Crawford!”

“Very well, Mr. Crawford! Getting straight to the point, if you truly have a way to help me, then I’ll be willing to offer you my entire life in exchange! I’ll be there for you at your every beck and call!” replied Zelig. With how excited he looked, Zelig barely had the temperament of a young master of such a powerful family...

However, that did show how sincere Zelig’s words were. Adding that to the fact that Zelig wasn’t even close to feeling like a villainous character, Gerald decided that he wasn’t against helping him out.

“While I’m fine with helping you, you should focus on gathering five divine stones first. We can talk about this in more detail once we leave this illusory space!” replied Gerald.

After all, though Gerald already possessed five divine stones and Nori had two, Zelig hadn’t managed to gather a single stone. With that in mind, they needed eight more stones, which meant that eight more people needed to be defeated...

Chapter 1664

“You’re right, Mr. Crawford!” replied Zelig as he instantly began tending to his earlier wounds.

Once he was done, he then set off together with Gerald and Nori.

Thankfully, the subsequent people they bumped into were rather weak, so in no time at all, the trio managed to gather the remaining eight divine stones...

With that done, they quickly rushed back to the exit to get themselves authenticated. Once that was successfully done, they then left the illusory space.

Upon returning to the real world, they were each given a wooden token. The tokens were proof that they had passed the challenge and served as 'passes' of sorts that granted them entry into the Leicom Continent. Naturally, this meant that people who didn't own the wooden tokens wouldn't be allowed access into the other world.

Regardless, since they had been waiting to enter the Leicom Continent for quite a while now, the trio then—rather impatiently—went through the initial portal...

Shielding their eyes from bright rays of white light, they eventually made it into the Leicom Continent without a hitch.

Since this was Gerald's first time here, he was momentarily taken aback by how beautiful this place was. Not only did everything look marvelous, but the entire area seemed to be filled with floating continents as well!

Regardless, Gerald found himself snapping out of it when he suddenly heard someone jeering, "Well, well, well! If it isn't Young Master Lear!"

Turning to face the source of the voice, the trio was greeted by the sight of a youth—who had a dark green robe on—walking toward them.

"Lev Bayfield!" scowled Zelig as he frowned.



Lev was the young master of the Bayfield family in Jaellatra, and he had managed to enter the First-soul-rank within the Sage Realm.

“To think that the useless second young master of the Lear family would be able to make it past that challenge! Someone must’ve helped you, right?” scoffed Lev as he looked at Zelig mockingly before turning to size up Gerald, a glint of interest in his eyes.

It was clear as day that Lev was looking down on Zelig for having to rely on others to fight for him, but before Zelig could even reply, Lev had already turned to leave, laughing mockingly throughout the process.

“...I had previously only heard tales of how sharp Lev’s tongue could be. Now that I’ve witnessed it firsthand, I can safely agree with those rumors!” scowled Nori rather contemptuously as she glared at Lev’s back.

From what she had said, it was clear that though she hadn’t met Lev before, she had definitely heard of him.

Either way, upon finding a hotel to stay in, the trio quickly realized that the Leicom Continent’s currency was rather different from theirs! Since they weren’t going to be able to use earth or Jaellatra’s currency here, all three of them knew that they had to start thinking of ways to obtain money.

After asking around, they found out that gold coins were the main form of currency here. They also came to realize that there was a famous auction house here that went by the name of the Aurum Auction House. That was definitely going to be their best shot of quickly obtaining this foreign land’s currency.

With that, the three people then swiftly headed off for the auction house...

Upon arriving, the trio realized that almost everyone trying to auction things there came from Jaellatra. With that in mind, the crowd was massive, to say the least.

It was quite easy to tell apart who came from Jaellatra and who was a local too due to how different the two cultures looked. If that wasn't already enough, many of the Leicom Continent's residents appeared to resent those from Jaellatra...

## Chapter 1665

Regardless, after waiting a short while, Gerald and the other two finally got their chance to reveal their auction item to the appraiser.

Upon revealing the jade charm to him, the trio watched as the appraiser's eyes momentarily widened in shock.

After carefully observing it for a while, the appraiser then said, "...Come with me! All three of you!"

Hearing that, the trio then followed him deeper into the Aurum Auction House...

Once inside, they were soon greeted by the sight of an old man who had a golden crown on his head.

After the appraiser handed the jade charm to the old man, he then whispered something into his ear, prompting the elderly man to appear slightly surprised.

Staring at Gerald for a while, the old man then asked, "How did you obtain the jade charm of the green dragon?"

While slightly hesitant to reveal the information, Gerald eventually replied, "I obtained it after I slaughtered a green dragon that I came across during the Challenge of the Fairyland!"

Upon hearing that, the old man's initial surprise quickly turned into delight.

"To think that you were able to slaughter the green dragon! Just so you know, this jade charm is incredibly valuable since the only way to obtain it is by defeating that dragon! Nobody else has been able to do it but you! How exceedingly powerful you must be!" praised the old man.

Now realizing how valuable the jade charm was, Gerald couldn't help but ask, "How valuable are we talking about here...?"

Booming with laughter in response, the old man then replied, "How do I even say this... I can say for sure that even if you auction it for a few million gold coins, you'd still find a buyer! That's how valuable it is! Now that you know how much it's worth, please tell me whether you'd still like to auction it!"

Hearing that the jade charm was worth that much, Gerald and the other two instantly found themselves getting excited. After thinking about it for a little longer, Gerald finally declared, "Very well! I'm agreeing to have it auctioned!"

In the end, no matter how valuable the jade charm was, money was still the priority since without any, they wouldn't be able to survive long in the Leicom Continent.

"I'm glad to hear that! However, do note that the Aurum Auction House will get a share of thirty percent off the final auctioned price. Do you accept?" asked the crowned old man.

Turning to look at Nori and Zelig, they didn't appear to object to the idea. With that, Gerald then nodded in agreement.

“Very well, then! Please come with me to the waiting area! We’ll be auctioning the jade charm of the green dragon very soon!” said the auctioneer as he led the trio to an area where the other sellers were. With how the area was positioned, the sellers were given a clear view of their items getting auctioned.

Whatever the case was, upon arriving, Gerald and the two others sat side by side as they waited for the auction to begin.

It was only a few minutes later when they saw the crowned old man walk up the stage. The auction was finally beginning!

Clearing his throat, the elderly man then declared “Ladies and gentlemen! We have a wonderful array of valuable auction items today as well! Without further ado, here comes the first item, the Phoenix Fan!”

Following that, the old man then pulled the red cloth off the first auction item, revealing a golden fan! Since the feathers on the fan were supposedly phoenix feathers, the item was definitely an exquisite one.

## Chapter 1666

“We’ll begin the bid at a hundred thousand gold coins! As a reminder, each bid’s increment has to exceed fifty thousand gold coins!” explained the crowned old man.

Now that the bidding process had officially begun, the crowd instantly went into an uproar!

“Two hundred thousand gold coins!” shouted a wealthy-looking man. Since he had increased the bid by a hundred thousand gold coins right off the bat, it was only fair to assume that he was filthy rich.

However, right after that, a fat man—who was sitting opposite of the previous bidder—stood up before shouting, “Three hundred thousand gold coins!”

Truth be told, Gerald and the other two felt that the old hand fan wasn’t really worth that much. Even so, who were they to judge? These people were filthy rich, so they could do anything they wanted with their money.

Eventually, the hand fan was sold—to the businessman from before who had started the bid—for a whopping six hundred thousand gold coins!

Following that, it took about two more hours for the next two items to be auctioned off.

Since Gerald’s jade charm of the green dragon was the fourth and last item to be auctioned for the day, the trio had to patiently wait throughout the bidding process.

Now that the second-last item had been auctioned off, all three of them instantly began focusing on the auction again as the crowned old man removed the red cloth covering Gerald’s jade charm...

Clearing his throat, the old man then declared, “For our last item for today, we have the jade charm of the green dragon! I’m sure I don’t need to elaborate on how rare this treasure is! With that said, the bid starts with three million gold coins, and any further increment must exceed a million gold coins! Without further ado, let the bidding begin!”

The second his sentence ended, someone immediately shouted, “Five million gold coins!”

“Give it up! I’m paying six million gold coins!”

“Seven million gold coins! It’s mine!”

With how rapidly the bidders were increasing the final price of the jade charm, it wasn't long before the bid amount went over ten million gold coins... Even then, the price just kept on rising!

Eventually, the final bid amounted to a whopping twenty million gold coins! By that point, the crowd had quieted down, and nobody dared to further increase the already outrageous bid amount. After all, twenty million gold coins was already far beyond what anyone could have anticipated the final price to be.

With that in mind, the crowned old man then hammered on the podium before looking at the final bidder—a young man wearing a royal-looking outfit who was seated at the front-most row—and declaring, “Prince Severin has bid twenty million gold coins! Even if anyone else wishes to compete against that, I've decided that Prince Severin will be the rightful owner of the jade charm! With that said, congratulations, Prince Severin! The jade charm of the green dragon is now yours!”

Since Prince Severin was the prince of the Leicom Continent's royal family, that amount was nothing much to him.

To the trio, however, it was as though they had hit the jackpot.

Nori herself was so excited that she couldn't hold herself back from exclaiming, “By god! Twenty million gold coins! You're definitely made a fortune this time, Gerald!”

Gerald himself hadn't expected the jade charm to fetch such a high price. If the jade charm of the green dragon alone could be sold for this much, then the dragon egg would surely sell for billions, right...?

Despite the thought, Gerald didn't really want others to know that he had the egg yet. Besides, it wasn't as though he was poor in these foreign lands anymore.

Regardless, soon after the auction ended, the trio watched as the crowned old man ordered his men to carry three huge chests filled with gold coins over...

Though he was extremely wealthy on earth, Gerald himself had never seen so many gold coins at once! Due to that, all three of them found themselves momentarily shocked by what they saw...

## Chapter 1667

Eventually snapping out of it, Nori then turned to look at Gerald before asking, "...That's... quite a lot. How on earth are we going to carry all this around, Gerald...?"

Though it was true that there were three chests and the trio could technically carry one each, it was going to be far too much of a hassle in the long term. What more, once people saw all that gold, they would surely be tempted to rob them...

Realizing that Gerald was stressed over how to bring all that money around, the crowned old man then handed a small ring to him.

Slightly startled to suddenly be given a ring, Gerald couldn't help but ask, "...I'm sorry, but what's this ring about...?"

"It's a storage ring with a particularly huge storage space! You can keep your gold in that so you won't have to fret about carrying it about!" explained the old man with an amiable smile.

"That... I can't just accept something like this for free! How about this? I'll buy this ring off you for a million gold coins! Is that acceptable?" asked Gerald who simply wasn't the kind of person to willingly take a free meal for nothing.

Seeing how sensible Gerald was, the old man chose not to refuse. And just like that, the money was traded for the ring.

After slipping the ring on, Gerald gently tapped it, prompting a pocket space to suddenly appear before him!

Upon seeing how spacious it was inside, Gerald quickly placed the remaining money within that space, making sure to put his backpack inside as well.

With how convenient the storage ring was, Gerald couldn't help but consider it to be a treasure.

Regardless, now that that issue had been solved, Gerald was just about to leave with Nori and Zelig when the old man suddenly called out, "Please wait for a moment! There's someone who wishes to meet you!"

Hearing that, the trio was instantly puzzled. After all, they had just arrived at the Leicom Continent. Who on earth could be wanting to meet them?

Now that he had their attention, the old man then led them to a guest hall at the back.

Upon arriving, they were surprised to see that the one who had wanted to meet up with them was none other than Prince Severin!

Being the buyer of the jade charm of the green dragon, Prince Severin had been keen on meeting the person who had even considered selling the precious treasure in the first place.

Either way, now that they were here, the old man bowed respectfully before the prince before saying, "Lady and gents, this young man goes by the name of Prince Severin, and he comes from the royal family of the Leicom Continent! He's also the one who bought the jade charm of the green dragon!"

Hearing that, Gerald couldn't help but stare at the prince for a while. Though he didn't really know how to greet a prince, Gerald was at least sure that he had to be respectful.

With that in mind, Gerald then greeted, "It's an honor to meet you, Prince Severin!"



Staring back at Gerald with a curious gaze, the prince then replied, "...You're the one who sold the jade charm, correct?"

#### Chapter 1668

Nodding in response, Gerald then replied, "That's right. My companions and I came from Jaellatra, you see, and since we had no money, I decided to sell the jade charm!"

"...You... Do you not know how precious the jade charm of the green dragon is...?" muttered the confused Prince Severin.

Gerald, for one, honestly had no clue.

Truth be told, was he not in dire need of money, he wouldn't have sold off the jade charm. After all, he hadn't even studied it yet. Even so, Prince Severin's tone alone was enough to tell Gerald how extraordinary a treasure the jade charm actually was...

Now getting increasingly curious, Gerald shook his head before asking, "I'm afraid I'm clueless, Prince Severin. Do enlighten me!"

"...Very well! You see, the jade charm you sold me is the symbol of the green dragon, and the person who owns it will be granted the powers of the green dragon! In case you didn't know, among the four Divine Beasts, the green dragon is the strongest among them!" explained Severin.

Upon hearing that, the trio instantly found themselves surprised. To think that the jade pendant was this useful! Now that he knew what the jade pendant was capable of, Gerald began slightly regretting his choice of selling it...

Even so, what was done, was done. He couldn't just take it back now that it had officially been sold. What more, the buyer of the jade pendant was the prince of this continent! With that in mind, getting it back was only going to be even more difficult!

Understanding that it was best if he just gave up on reobtaining it, Gerald then said in a slightly resigned tone, "...I see. I appreciate you telling me more about it, Prince Severin... Regardless, the jade pendant is now yours, so you don't need to worry about me trying to reclaim it!"

Staring into Gerald's eyes, the prince could sense that Gerald wasn't lying to him. With that, he then replied, "...Well said. I trust in you!"

Following that, the two parties talked for a while longer before going their separate ways...

As they left the Aurum Auction House, Gerald kept reminding himself that it was no use crying over spilled milk. The fact that they now owned a fortune definitely helped Gerald convince himself that this outcome wasn't all that bad. After all, it was better than having nothing at all.

By rough estimation, all that money was more than enough for all three of them to live for an entire year in the Leicom Continent worry-free.

With that in mind, the trio made sure to not only find a better place to stay in, but to also celebrate by having a hearty dinner together...

Fast forward to night time, Gerald ended up having to share a room with Nori while Zelig slept in another room.

While Gerald was naturally reluctant to have to share a room with her, Nori kept insisting that she stayed with him with the excuse that she was afraid of being alone. With how things currently were, it was obvious that Nori won in the end.

Whatever the case was, now that they were in a private room, Gerald finally took the chance to take the green dragon's egg out from his backpack.

Carefully placing it on the table, Gerald then began observing the egg, wondering if another green dragon would actually hatch from it.

Walking over to Gerald's side, Nori then sat beside him. Looking at the egg with her own curious gaze, she then found herself asking, "...Do you think another green dragon will hatch from this...?"

"It's possible. Even if that's the case, we don't really know when it's going to hatch anyway," replied Gerald rather calmly.

The second his sentence ended, however, a crisp crack could be heard from the egg...

Staring wide-eyed as small cracks began racing down the dragon egg, Gerald and Nori were momentarily left speechless when a green dragon eventually peeked out from within the now cracked egg!

With eyes that were the size of Gerald's thumbs, the baby dragon simply stared back at Gerald and Nori until Nori eventually snapped out of it.

With how cute it was, Nori was immediately captivated and she found herself squealing, "It's... It's an adorable baby green dragon!"

Just as she was about to touch it, however, the baby dragon instantly responded with a tiny roar! Though the small dragon was even bearing its two tiny fangs, its actions only made Nori's heart melt even further.

"Oh...? Are you being mean to me even though I'm treating you so kindly, little fella?" scowled Nori in a playful tone.

Seemingly understanding that it was being scolded, the baby dragon quickly curled up into a ball...

Seeing that, Gerald couldn't help but smile.

Reaching out his arm, Gerald then lifted the baby dragon before placing it in his palm... Contrary to its initial reaction toward Nori, the dragon appeared to trust Gerald completely, and this was made evident by how much it kept rubbing its cheek against his palm.

Seeing how comfortable the dragon was around Gerald, Nori added in a cheerful tone, "It seems that the little fella trusts you a lot! It didn't even attempt to be mean to you when you first touched it!"

The truth was, the baby was only behaving this way since it was familiar with Gerald's scent. After all, he had been carrying the egg around this entire time. With that in mind, it was only natural that the dragon trusted Gerald the most.

Regardless, the two then proceeded to play around with the baby dragon late into the night...

By that point, the baby dragon had already familiarized itself with Nori, so it no longer saw her as an enemy. To Nori's delight, it was even willing to let her hold him!

Eventually, the three then headed to bed...

When morning came, Gerald and Nori were abruptly awoken by the baby dragon's hisses!

Seeing that it kept hissing while hopping atop their bodies, Nori quickly realized what was up, prompting her to say, "...I think it's hungry, Gerald!"

While they now had one mystery solved, another one was instantly posed. What should they feed it? For all they knew, dragons probably had different diets compared to humans...

Unsure where to even begin, Gerald then placed the dragon into the storage ring before leaving the hotel with Nori and Zelig in search of food...

Eventually, they managed to find a restaurant and they made sure to order all sorts of delicious-smelling foods.

Once the food arrived, Gerald slipped some meat into the storage ring, hoping that the dragon would like it.

To his dismay, all it did was lay on its stomach! It barely had any interest in the food Gerald had provided!

"It doesn't eat meat...? Then what does it eat?" mumbled the perplexed Gerald.

Whatever the case was, Gerald eventually decided that it was best if the trio fed themselves first before worrying about the baby dragon.

After their meal was over, the trio then continued walking around, hoping that they would somehow come across something that the baby green dragon was willing to eat.

As they were passing by a magnificent-looking manor, the baby dragon suddenly appeared to grow excited within the storage ring! Finding its reaction to be odd, Gerald then released it from the pocket space to see what was up.

The second it was freed, however, the dragon bolted right into the manor, appearing to be drawn by something inside!

Unable to react fast enough to recapture it, Gerald then called out, "Hey, come back!"

Leaping over the manor's fence, the trio then quickly began chasing after the dragon...

By the time they caught up to it, the baby dragon was already munching on something underneath a tree...

Seeing bits of food all around it, Nori raised a slight brow as she curiously asked, "What is it even eating...?"

All three of them were equally curious since the dragon appeared to be eating so contently even though it barely had any interest in the meat that Gerald fed it earlier.

Squatting beside the dragon, Gerald took a closer look at the bits of food before saying, "...It seems to be eating some kind of fruit... Since it likes it so much, it's only fair to assume that whatever it's eating is the king of fruits!"