

Descent 501

Chapter 501

Leonel sighed a breath of relief. Once again, the speed of Aina's recovery shot up again.

Sitting in the pool, Leonel allowed her to rest against his chest. Soon, her breathing stopped hitching and became calm and her head fell back against Leonel, the light sound of snoring coming from her parted lips.

Leonel smiled.

He quite liked this feeling. The way he could envelop her small frame in his arms and protect her, it made him feel at peace.

Leonel chuckled lightly. As expected of Aina, rather than wearing delicate female underwear, from what Leonel could tell, she actually wore male boxers. Her reasoning was probably that it was more comfortable, at least for battle.

Of course, Leonel was too much of a pansy to actually look with his eyes. He could just tell by how the fabric felt on his thighs.

Had Mordred been there, she would have most definitely rolled her eyes.

Leonel cast a silencing array over Aina's ears and brought out the dictionary once again, his expression becoming more serious.

"What is a One Star Mono-Layer Curse and how does it compare to a Four Star Tetra-Layer Curse?"

[*Ping*]

[A One Star Mono-Layer Curse is a curse with just a single layer of complexity. It is not necessarily more or less complex than a Four Star Tetra-Layer Curse, though it is much easier to cure]

Leonel frowned. What did it mean by not necessarily more or less complex? What was the point of the divisions, then?

[A One Star Mono-Layer Curse can only take root in a Third Dimensional existence. However, a Four Star Tetra-Layer Curse is effective even against a Sixth Dimensional existence]

Leonel's frown deepened. Aina was dealing with a curse that powerful?

"What did you mean by Aina's curse was almost as effective as a Four Star Tetra-Layer Curse?"

[*Ping*]

[A curse's effectiveness is based on two factors: its complexity and its level of integration. Aina has a curse with a simple complexity, but an elite growth rate. This allows it to display more strength over time]

The more the dictionary spoke, the more Leonel felt it wasn't giving him the answers he wanted. It took a while, but Leonel finally understood what he needed to know.

The growth rate of a curse referred to its Integration Potential. Over time, some curses weakened, but other could grow stronger. Aina's curse, the Nine Segmented Blood Leach Curse, was a simple curse, but its growth rate was frightening.

Though weak against adults, if implanted into an infant, the Curse would be able to root itself deeply. This would result in a Curse no weaker than a Four Star Tetra-Layer curse in effect as the infant grew into adulthood. It could even grow beyond this.

Technically, if this was a curse with a poor growth rate, just breaking into the Fourth Dimension would have been enough to dispel it. But now, if Aina wanted to break this curse without outside assistance, it would take her breaking into the Sixth Dimension. pANDA NOVEL

But, by then, the curse would have grown even more powerful. Who knows if even breaking into the Seventh Dimension would be helpful by that point?

And, from Leonel's understanding, the greatest known powers in the Dimensional Verse were only of the Seventh Dimension, including the Morales family. So, if the Curse became any more powerful, it would become next to impossible for Aina to ever think of dispelling it on her own.

"Can Cleansing Water dispel this Curse?"

[*Ping*]

[Yes]

"What level?"

[*Ping*]

[Extended treatment with Fifth Dimensional Cleansing Waters or one drop of Sixth Dimensional Cleansing Waters]

"Will the Segmented Cube produce Fifth and Sixth Dimensional Cleansing Waters?"

[*Ping*] ρ??∪???

[Yes. Upon reaching the Third and Fourth Phases respectively]

Leonel sighed a breath of relief hearing these words. This was perfect, that just meant he had to find a way to upgrade the Segmented Cube like he had helped it reach the Second Phase.

However, after Leonel had this thought, he froze. In order to upgrade the Segmented Cube into the Second Phase, it had required letting it absorb Force from an impossibly rare Force Eruption'! If he wanted to upgrade it again, wouldn't he have to find a Fifth Dimensional Force Eruption? And then a Sixth Dimensional one?

Leonel shuddered. Had he not awakened his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor, that Force Eruption would have killed him. He had no confidence in surviving a Fifth Dimensional Force Eruption, let alone a Sixth Dimensional one.

And this didn't even mention the problem of finding such Force Eruptions to begin with. Not only would he have to travel to such worlds, but he would have to find such a rare occurrence as well.

Just when Leonel thought this was enough to leave him speechless, he suddenly thought of another problem, leaving his heart in a panic.

For now, Aina's curse was only approaching a Four Star Tetra-Layer Curse in effect, but it wasn't quite one yet. As such, Fifth Dimensional Cleansing Waters could still work'! But, for how much longer?

“How much longer will Fifth Dimensional Cleansing Waters be effective as a cure?”

[*Ping*]

[Replying to Seed'!]

[639:19:39:08]

Leonel sucked in a cold breath. 639 days'! That was less than two years.

Leonel's jaw clenched, gripping his fists tightly. The dictionary said long term treatment was also necessary if he chose to use Fifth Dimensional Cleansing Waters, he would have even less time than that.

‘Fine. Let’s set a limit of 500 days. Within 500 days, I need to enter the Fifth Dimension and be in position to look for a source to upgrade the Segmented Cube.’

Leonel was so lost in his own thoughts that he didn’t even notice that Aina had already awoken. Though she noticed she was half naked and in Leonel’s arms, she didn’t have the reaction one would have thought.

Even Leonel would have expected her to jump up and rush away. But, noticing the [Light Curtain] across her front, Aina couldn’t help but smile sweetly.

By now, her scars had already faded back to their knife wound-like appearance. In fact, she seemed far stronger than she had been in the past, likely due to the blood she had ingested. And now’ ; she just felt’ ; warm.

She couldn’t help but adjust herself slightly, her back pressing more squarely onto Leonel.

“Hm?” Leonel blinked. “Oh’ ;”

Leonel moved to get up. Since Aina was awake, there was no longer a danger of her drowning, so he didn’t have to stay here.

“Sorry, since you’re alright I’ll’ ;”

When Leonel was about to leave, he suddenly felt Aina’s slender fingers grab his forearm, clamping down tight.

Aina hadn’t seen Leonel in months. She didn’t even need to look back to know who it was. In her time of need, he was there once again.

Leonel’s eyes widened slightly, but at least he wasn’t dense enough to insist. He obediently sat back down and let Aina rest on his lap.

‘Oh right’!’ Leonel snapped a finger, causing the silencing Arts around Aina’s ears to vanish.

The two sat in silence for a long while, Aina not relinquishing her grip on Leonel’s forearm in the slightest. In fact, she somehow got a hold of his second arm and wrapped them around herself as though a spoiled child.

Leonel couldn’t help but smile, his heart feeling exceptionally light.

“ ‘! You stink.”

Aina’s soft voice stunned Leonel for a while before he broke out into laughter. Why did it seem like this was this girl’s favorite thing to say to him?

She wasn’t exactly wrong, though. He hadn’t had a bath in months.

“ ‘! I stink too’!”

Leonel sputtered with laughter. Even without laying eyes on it, he could see Aina’s frowning pout.

“ ‘! Stop laughing and wash my back.”

This time, Leonel choked.

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Leonel was shocked to the point of speechlessness. Did he really just hear what he thought he did?

“‘! You don’t want to?”

Aina's soft voice shook Leonel to his core. She had never sounded so fragile to him before and a part of him thought that the only reason she managed to drum up the courage to say such a thing was because she was facing away from him.

"Yes, yes. I'll do it!" Leonel hurriedly replied.

Aina stood from Leonel's lap, still facing away from him. Most of her alluring back-view was obstructed by [Light Curtain] and her long hair. But, Leonel's imagination alone seemed to be capable of spinning him away into a land of fantasy.

Aina slowly waded into the deeper waters until her waist was submerged. Her body shifted slightly and Leonel's eyes almost popped out of their sockets when she bent over and stood again with a black fabric in her hand.

"! That's definitely ! That's definitely her underwear' !"

Leonel looked toward the ceiling and gulped.

"! Are you coming?"

Aina's voice sounded even weaker than before. If Leonel didn't know better, he would think that she was still wounded.

Shaking his head, Leonel also stood from his seated position. He had already taken off his upper garments, revealing a toned torso, even more toned than he seemed to remember, in fact. So, all he had to do now was take off his pants.

Leonel looked down toward a certain region.

'Behave.' He said sternly.

Leonel tossed his pants to the side, slowly walking forward.

When Aina sensed that he was close, she shuddered slightly, but she still grabbed at her long hair, pulling it into a ponytail and sweeping it to her front. The action should have completely exposed her back to Leonel, but [Light Curtain] obstructed everything.

Leonel activated [Magic Touch] and grabbed a small towel at the edge of the pool. With the ability of the Cleansing Waters, soap was completely unnecessary. But, Leonel still brought out a few herbs he had found in the underground garden of the hive.

He rarely had uses for these herbs, however that didn't mean that they didn't have special abilities of their own. PANDA NOVEL

Leonel smiled. "Which scent do you like more? This one? Or, this one?"

Aina froze when she realized how close Leonel was. She could feel his warm breath on her neck, it was the sort of feeling that sent goosebumps racing across her body.

After a while, she finally paid attention to Leonel's words.

Leonel's arm stretched around her and raised two different budding flowers to her nose.

One had a gentle purple color and dozens of tiny petals clumped together to form its figure. It had a slight spicy scent that tickled the nose almost like a carbonated drink. It reminded Aina of cinnamon.

The other was a gentle yellow color, so pale that it almost seemed white at first glance. It only had three petals, but each was as large as Aina's palm and flopped about like drooping dog ears. Though Aina's hands weren't particularly big to begin with, such a size on a flower was quite surprising.

This flower's scent was far more subtle. It reminded Aina somewhat of lavender, but also of freshly made apple juice. It was hard to pinpoint its exact scent, but it left her feeling intrigued.

"This one." Aina said softly, pointing to the yellow flower. PANDA NOVEL

Leonel nodded. "Watch this."

The number of Mage Arts Leonel had learned from Camelot numbered in the hundreds to even thousands. Among them, not all were tailored toward battle. In fact, the vast majority weren't. They rather existed almost as foundational understandings one could build upon.

Many of the 'useless' Light Elemental Apprentice Arts Leonel learned built the foundation for far more complex Arts.

But, that didn't mean that this was all the 'useless' Arts could do. There were many that existed not for the sake of battle, but rather for convenience.

There was one water spell that went by the name of [Fragrant Touch]. It was able to concentrate natural fragrances one found in the wild into a liquid, soapy form. It was a favorite of female water mages, especially when they were out on missions.

Of course, this was only because Camelot hadn't exactly invented soap. So, they found other methods.

Leonel cast [Fragrant Touch]. At that moment, tendrils of Cleansing Waters spiraled up from the pool around the two, circling around the yellow flower and grinding it into a paste. That paste soon dissolved into the water and formed a thick white liquid with a hint of yellow.

Just a single flower formed over a liter of this viscous liquid.

Leonel allowed the blob of thick liquid to hover in the air before dabbing it the towel. Steeling his will, he approached Aina's back.

"Wait'!" Aina suddenly spoke out.

"Hm?" Leonel paused, his heart filled with half relief and half unwillingness.

But, Aina's next words almost made his vision go black.

“ ‘! Shouldn't you remove this light spell first? How are you going to help me if you can't see what you're doing?”

Leonel coughed. Suddenly, he felt a little lightheaded.

“Yes'! Right'! I should.”

Leonel dug deep and caused [Light Curtain] to vanish. But, no matter how he prepared himself, he still wasn't ready.

The first thing he noticed was Aina's alluring silhouette. Her slender shoulders, the curve of her torso to the hips, the toned strength of her back'!

Leonel gulped. Though the water submerged her waist down, without the lights of [Light Curtain] and with how crystal clear the Cleansing Waters were, Leonel could faintly see a distorted image that made any sort of lower body self control he had fly out the window.

Thoughts of what Aina's frontview might look like took hold of his mind.

‘Calm down'! Breathe'!’

Leonel slowly raised his hand, dabbing the towel in the yellowish liquid and reaching for Aina's back once again.

When the towel met Aina's back, Leonel could almost feel the suppleness through the fabric. He gently scrubbed across her skin, watching as a soapy whiteness began to slowly form.

“ ‘! Can you wash my hair too?”

Leonel nodded silently. At least this was much less stimulating. He could do that much, right?

Soon, Leonel felt that he had regained his calm. Rather than feeling anxious, he began to enjoy the process.. The silky smoothness of Aina's skin and hair gliding across his fingers was therapeutic.

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"I like this smell, what is this flower called?" Aina asked.

Aina closed her eyes, a calm smile on her face as Leonel shampooed her hair. The gentle smell of apple and lavender made her feel at peace.

"It's called an Infant Sun Lily."

"Infant?"

"Mm." Leonel nodded. "If I hadn't harvested it so soon, it would have produced a fruit at maturity that had the effect of clearing the mind and amplifying fire affinity. Though, the rise in affinity is only large for the first few minutes, after that it begins to dwindle. If you wanted lasting effects, you have to consume the fruits over a long period of time."

Leonel scratched the back of his head a bit awkwardly. He didn't know much about herbs, so he hadn't known at the time that he interrupted the Sun Lily's growth process. In fact, much of the reason its yellow color was so pale was precisely because it was still an infant.

"Oh, I see. I like the smell'!" She said softly.

"In that case, I can start planting them in the garden so we can have more."

The Abode Setting was just like any other luxurious home. It had several rooms, a large bathhouse, and also had a garden.

That said, Leonel didn't visit the garden very often at all. He thought of using it as a training space as there was ample room. But, his training was much more efficient if it took place in his Dream World. So, there truly wasn't much of a point.

"Okay."

Leonel's heart warmed when he heard the slight tinge of happiness in Aina's voice. Even though he couldn't see her smile, he knew it was there and that was all that mattered.

Leonel covered the length of Aina's hair in the fragrant liquid. Then began to slowly wash it out, a tinge of seriousness on his face. If others saw him now, they would definitely feel that he was taking this task much too seriously.

"Your hair's gotten longer." Leonel commented off handedly.

Aina's hair was much longer than what he remembered. Considering the growth rate of hair, it shouldn't have been possible for such an exaggerated change to occur in just a few months. Somehow, Aina's hair had gone from barely reaching the small of her back to reach past her ankles. If she walked around like this, her hair would definitely drag across the ground. PANDA NOVEL

What Leonel didn't know, of course, was that this had been caused by Aina's transformation. Though the rest of her body had gone back to how it once had been, her hair didn't shorten, unfortunately.


Now that Leonel thought about it, long hair was quite uncharacteristic for a woman like Aina. With her level of practicality, even down to her military uniform and boxer briefs, Leonel wouldn't have been surprised if she appeared before him completely bald one day. But, interestingly enough, she never did.

In fact, back when Leonel first met Aina, her hair had been exceptionally short, no longer than Jessica's. But, after their freshman year, during their sophomore year if he recalled correctly, she began to let it grow out.

Not that he minded. He quite preferred long hair. He thought it made her look particularly fairy-like.

Aina blinked at Leonel's words. "You don't like it?"

Leonel was stunned before hurriedly shaking his head.

"No, no. I like your long hair. It just might be slightly inconvenient for you." 

Aina smiled. It was a shame that Leonel couldn't see it; the slight blushing of her cheeks, the hint of pride in her eye, the gentle slope of her pink lips;

" 'I know you do." Aina spoke in words that were barely audible over the moving water.

"Hm?"

"Nothing' ;"

Leonel raised his brow in confusion. He didn't understand what Aina meant by that.

At that moment, Leonel washed the last of the soapy bubbles from Aina's hair. The light fragrance of apple coming from her made him feel at ease. He even forgot about his previous confusion.

"All done." He said proudly.

"Okay' ; Turn around' ;" Aina said with her usual soft tone.

"Oh." Leonel nodded like an obedient child and did as he was told.

It wasn't long after he did so that Leonel felt a pair of small hands on his back. The feeling was so novel that he didn't know how to react.

Aina's actions were just as slow and meticulous as Leonel's, but her face was flushed red with embarrassment from start to finish.

It wasn't just because she felt that following the outlines of Leonel's muscular back left her feeling warmth in ways she never had before, but it was also because Leonel was much taller than she was. So, while the water covered her waist quite easily, it couldn't do the same for him.

Leonel seemed to realize this after a while too, but he was too embarrassed to say anything about it. He never thought that he would have such a day.

“ ‘Finished’ ”

When Leonel heard these words that were no louder than the flapping of a butterfly's wings, he wanted to run away at that moment as quickly as he could.

How embarrassing. He wasn't one who cared very much about such things. He had appeared naked in a locker room more than once in his life. However, doing it in front of Aina left him feeling flustered. He felt even more embarrassed than Aina herself.

All that comfort he had felt disappeared.

However, just when Leonel wanted to run away, he found two arms wrapped around his waist.

At that moment, it felt like a bolt of electricity had shot through his body. It wasn't because of the arms, but rather because a softness he had never experienced before was now firmly pressed against his back.

Two, perfectly molded, soft mounds of flesh pressed flush against him.

Leonel's mind went blank. All the computational power in the world was at his finger tips, yet he suddenly short circuited. Whatever control he had over his lower half vanished. It pierced through the water as though it was a spear itself, standing at attention.

Leonel was so lost that he didn't even notice when a slender hand reached toward it.

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Leonel froze, his entire body tensing. He felt a hand grab onto him below, but he didn't even have the courage to look down.

"Aina' i?"

Leonel's voice came out exceptionally hoarse. It bordered on the growl of a beast, just the sound alone made Aina shudder, her hold on Leonel's waist becoming tighter.

Leonel tried to pull away, but Aina's strength was far beyond his own. One of her arms wrapped around his waist like a vice grip while the other reached out a hand and found a place on his heated shaft.

The temperature of Leonel's body seemed to skyrocket, a fog beginning to emit from his reddening skin.

Compared to the grip around his waist, her hand was exceptionally gentle. Though she hardly moved, it made Leonel's knees weak. He didn't think that there could be such a marvelous feeling in the world. But, something was eating at the back of his mind.

Unfortunately, he didn't get the chance to think about it.

Leonel felt his body being pushed forward. Before he could realize what was happening, he found himself at the edge of the pool and being spun around.

At this point, he truly wanted to shed tears. Why did he feel more like a rag doll than a man? How was she so much stronger than him?

Leonel's Metal Body had entered the Perfection Realm now thanks to the Urbe Essence he found within Camelot's vaults. Soon afterward, his body naturally progressed to the Fourth Dimension. Yet, he was still so much weaker than Aina.

Of course, this was likely because Metal Body focused more on defense rather than strength and it could only exhibit a portion of its ability without Leonel activating his Runes. But, it was still a shocking feat nonetheless.

Leonel's back was pressed against the side of the pool before being pressed down into a seated position. He hardly caught a glimpse of Aina before she straddled him.

With Aina grasping a hold of such a sensitive part of him, Leonel couldn't resist even if he wanted to. But, he panicked when he realized what Aina was doing.

Leonel felt the tip of his rod suddenly press against soft flesh that separated out into folds.

He felt like such a fool. It hadn't even entered yet, but he realized that calling just a hand the best feeling was nothing more than pure ignorance. If there was anything that could possibly feel better than this, it must only exist in a world of Gods. PANDA NOVEL

However, it was this very intoxicating feeling that made Leonel's panic reach a fever pitch.

Judging by Aina's position straddling over him like this, he didn't need to guess what this feeling was. Even as a virgin, he would be too much of a fool to not understand.

From Leonel's vantage point, all he could see was a wall of wet hair blocking Aina's face as she looked down as though fiddling with something. Her movements were awkward and erratic, her every action carrying a clearly discernible trembling. She had gone from a highly coordinated athlete to what looked like a person who couldn't even tie her own shoes.

Leonel could hear a slight whimpering coming from Aina as though she was trying to hold back and ignore pain she was suffering through. But, a barrier seemed to stop her from going any further. So, she tried harder, trying to force her body down. As she did so, the sharp pain she was feeling seemingly only became worse.

At that moment, Leonel finally regained his strength, the haziness in his gaze vanishing. That uncomfortable feeling at the back of his head, that very thing he had ignored until now came bubbling forth.

All of this felt wrong. No, it was wrong.

“AINA!” ρ??ϕ???

The roar caused the Abode Setting to tremble, even the waters parted beneath Leonel’s shout. Violent ripples spread, sending a wave of Cleansing Water surging out.

The hair that covered Aina’s face parted beneath the forcefulness of Leonel’s shout. For the first time since they entered this pool together, Leonel gaze landed on Aina’s face. But, what he saw left him heartbroken.

Tears streamed down her cheeks, her eyes swollen with redness.

Leonel felt like such a fool.

Aina’s boldness, her asking him to wash her back, to remove the light curtain, even down to trying to wash his back as well’! Were those really things she wanted to do?

He was an idiot. Blinded by his own lust, he just nodded like a pecking chicken, following along as though he could no longer think with his head. Because he wanted it so much for it to be her words, her feelings, he ignored everything else and went with the flow, disregarding how ridiculous it all was.

“Aina’!”

Leonel gently grasped Aina’s face, his heart trembling with guilt.

Aina hiccupped, wiping her tears away as fast as she could.

“ ‘I’m sorry, I’m sorry’ ” Aina sobbed.

She felt so stupid. She was almost there, but she just had to start crying. Just one more push and she would have broken through.

“ ‘Don’t! Don’t leave me again! I’ll do it, I can do it!’ ”

Leonel’s gaze reddened. His arms wrapped around Aina, his hand caressing the back of her head. He held her firmly against his chest, his jaw clenched.

He didn’t expect that leaving Aina for a few months would have such an effect. He had only wanted to give her some space to sort out her emotions, but he hadn’t thought this would be the result. How could he not feel guilty?

As though a wall had broken down between them, Aina broke out into a fit of sobs. Her hands balled into fists that rested on Leonel’s chest. She tried to bury her head in the same place, her emotions spilling over.

She never said it, but she had felt afraid. She was afraid that Leonel wouldn’t come back, afraid that he really would abandon her. And, the worst part was that it would all be her fault, all because she couldn’t open her mouth to speak, all because she couldn’t communicate how she felt.

All she could think of during these past few months were Leonel’s words, how he could grow apart from her if she pushed him away! It was her fault, she had done exactly that!

She felt she had to do something to make him stay! She had to.

But, she never understood why Leonel liked her to begin with. She didn’t feel like she was special, she didn’t think she had anything else to give. This was the only thing she could think of!

“I won’t. I won’t leave you again.”

Leonel's voice rumbled, the vibrations flowing through his chest. Aina could feel every word, every syllable, every ounce of will backing them.

Aina collapsed onto Leonel completely, letting him support the entirety of her weight. Her tears spilled forth in a flood.. They fell down Leonel's chest in a torrent, only to be washed away by the Cleansing Waters.

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Leonel held onto Aina for a long while. He lost track of time, but if he was truly paying attention, it was easily over an hour before Aina's tears slowed to a crawl.

However, from start to finish, he didn't say a word. He only held her in his arms, a protective aura manifesting around him. At that moment, he didn't care who it was who stood before him, he wouldn't allow a single hair on her to be harmed.

When Aina's tears stopped, she fell into a deep sleep. Without a care in the world, her cheek rested against Leonel's beating heart, its steady rhythm lulling her into a world of dreams.

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City Lord Keafir sat at his desk, a blank look on his face as he gazed at the dim fire lamp before him.

There were countless methods of keeping tabs on one's life and death in the Dimensional Verse. Since City Lord White was such an important piece of Terrain's invasion, it was no surprise that the Cities would invest in monitoring her situation.

Though City Lord Keafir had expected to deal with casualties in this war, maybe the last person he had expected to lose was City Lord White. His heart couldn't help but swim with a torrent of emotions.

His hand reached out, grasping the dying flame and allowing it to dance in his palm. Despite the fact it was a fire, it held no warmth. In fact, it was quite cold.

Taking a deep breath, City Lord Keafir squeezed his palm into a fist, shattering what remained of the flame.

He closed his eyes, images of what happened during City Lord White's final moments playing in his mind. He had originally paid the ridiculous expense needed for this feature so that he could be aware of any powerful enemies their scouting reports might have missed out on. But, now, this had little to do with strategy and reconnaissance. He needed to see who had killed her.

After a long while, City Lord Keafir unclenched his fists, his eyes opening. His gaze held a slight hint of red within them that slowly dissipated.

At that moment, Aanred walked into his father's office. His gaze swept across the 12 fire lamps on his father's desk before he focused on the one that had been extinguished.

His eyes narrowed. PANDA NOVEL

He knew his father well. Despite the fact that he and City Lord White hadn't had any relations since that fateful night so many rumors had been spread about, his father hadn't forgotten about her.

Camelot should have been the easiest target. It was a place without foundations and with a people who had yet to awaken to their abilities. Even Aanred had made his displeasure known for his father's decision back then.

City Lord White was most definitely within the top four in terms of fighting prowess amongst the City Lords. Even if she wasn't tasked with attacking the Capital, she should have, at the very least, been assigned to either White Angel or Royal Blue Province considering these were the second and third ranked Provinces of Earth.

Yet, because his father wanted to protect her, she was sent to Camelot. And somehow, she died in a place that should have been the safest?

Aanred didn't feel any particular affection for City Lord White. No, it was more accurate to say that he wouldn't lay his life on the line for her. But, he also wouldn't stand idly by if her life was in danger.

For anyone who knew his personality, this would be quite shocking. Anared was overly protective of all those he saw as his own, but he wouldn't even raise a finger to aid those he had no relation to.

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The fact that he would help City Lord White at all spoke volumes' ;

But how could he not? He knew well that Rie was his half sister and that City Lord White was her mother.

Rie thought that she was an orphan, but that was only because the little girl was just too simple. Why would a family like the Keafir family treat a mere orphan so well? She lived the pampered life of a princess and in complete oblivion' ;

“Who killed her.” Anared asked coldly.

Anared's father remained silent for a long while, the beating of his heart becoming slower with each passing moment. Eventually, it regained its former calm.

“Aina Brazinger.”

Anared's pupils constricted when he heard these words. He thought that any expert that managed to kill her would have been an unknown. He had only asked as a formality, expecting a description rather than a name.

Even if he did prepare himself to hear a name, this was the very last name he had expected to. He knew the name Aina Brazinger well since that girl had managed to do something he trained for over a decade to do without lifting a single finger.

That said, Aina couldn't even defeat Jilniya, how could she possibly stand a chance against City Lord White? Was that some sort of joke.

“Could you have seen wrongly?”

“No.” City Lord Keafir responded blandly. “However, she seemed to have used some double-edged technique that left her incapacitated. We have no way of knowing how often she can use it or even if she would dare to use it again.”

Hearing this, Anared finally understood somewhat. So, it was a berserk type ability’

Berserk abilities weren’t too rare. Those who had strength based abilities like Aina’s would often awaken them as they continued to evolve, it was a natural progression. Often, added strength was related to tapping into more of the body’s potential, so berserk skills were the next natural step.

Of course, Anared only thought this because he had no idea that Aina’s ability wasn’t a strength based ability, but rather a healing based one.

“ ‘ Should I lead a troop to Camelot, then? Such a skill wouldn’t be able to be activated twice in quick succession. This is a good opportunity.”

City Lord Keafir stood, his visage expressionless.

“No. City Lord Hargrove is already in position and everything is prepared. We need to be swift and strike fast, giving them no opportunity to counter. Go support him.”

Anared nodded and left, a killing intent hidden deep within his eyes.

Rie might not know that City Lord White was her mother, but there was only so long the little girl could remain so naïve. Since they actually dared to harm his little sister like this, Anared would make them repay this debt in blood.

He wondered what Earth would do when tens of thousands of criminals from its own Dark Cloud Prison were suddenly released?

## Chapter 506

Aina shifted in Leonel's arms. When she realized where she was, she began to blush profusely. But, as much as she wanted to run away, she didn't dare to at this point. She really regretted throwing all her clothes away now. And why was this damn water so clear?

Leonel's chuckling awoke Aina from her own thoughts. By now, her entire body had turned into a deep shade of red. Unfortunately, the only place she had to hide was Leonel's chest.

"Oof'! Don't squirm so much'!"

Though Leonel was laughing at Aina, he too wanted to shed tears. Didn't this girl realize where she was sitting? He had displayed enough will power for a lifetime today.

Aina blinked, peaking up from Leonel's chest. A bright smile spread across her lips, her embarrassment suddenly vanishing.

"It's not like this is the first time I've seen it."

Leonel almost choked on air again.

"That wasn't me!" Leonel defended himself.

It wasn't his fault. It really wasn't. Back then, the primitive man had had control over his body.

Damn, by now, he had already forgotten about that embarrassing moment, only for Aina to bring it up again. He felt as though he had suffered a lethal combo.

Aina giggled. Only she knew that that wasn't what she was referring to. But, if Leonel knew that she was referring to a certain event that happened in the Joan Zone, it was unknown how he would react.

Leonel was unconscious back then, so he had no way of knowing what happened. And, even if he had been conscious, at this very moment, he was suddenly very much aware of two soft mounds pressed against his chest. So, he couldn't quite focus on anything else.

"I'm sorry."

Aina's sudden words caught Leonel off guard. The lewd thoughts he had had vanished like the wind soon afterward.

Leonel brought a hand to Aina's cheek, forcing her to look at him. PANDA NOVEL

"You have nothing to apologize for." He said seriously. "In fact, I'm sorry. I was so focused on other things that I didn't even realize so much time had passed'!"

Leonel didn't think that Aina would think he had abandoned her. Back then, he purposely left the Segmented Cube with Aina as a sign of exactly that. He had only taken the Segmented Cube with him before he left to the Demon Empire.

But, things hadn't worked out as he had expected.

Leonel was a person who could break things down into their simple details and analyze them logically. If he was in Aina's place, he would have seen through the fact he left behind the Segmented Cube as a good sign. But, that didn't mean that Aina herself would see it as such'!

In fact, when he thought about it, Aina could have easily seen the Segmented Cube as a sign of pity. After all, it had the only cure to her scars within it. So, who knew how she really saw such an action?

Aina furiously shook her head at Leonel's words.

"! I'm the one who pushed you away. I couldn't even answer a simple question'!" PANDA NOVEL



When Aina thought back to it, even she couldn't quite explain why she had dodged Leonel's questions like that. He had only been worried about her' ;

Though back then she had only tried to downplay things to reassure him, the more she thought about it, the more guilty she felt.

She had wanted to say she was fine and that she had made it out alive, so it wasn't a big deal. But, her words had come off like Leonel shouldn't care so much' ;

When a stranger or an acquaintance asked you how your day went, most would give a perfunctory answer even if your day really had been terrible. Only when in the presence of those you truly trusted would you give a real answer' ;

Aina's words back then had practically treated Leonel as though he was an acquaintance she was sharing a few words with rather than a man she could give her heart to. It was no wonder Leonel had chosen to pull away at that moment.

Leonel shook his head and smiled, gently stroking Aina's cheek.

“Forget it. It's not a big deal.”

“No.” Aina shook her head again. “It is a big deal. I' ;”

Aina took a deep breath and began to speak. She didn't allow Leonel to cut her off or say that it was fine again. She knew that Leonel cared too much about her, if she really allowed him to say that it was fine, he would simply never ask about such sensitive topics again.

From observing Leonel for so long, she had realized that he was simply too good at separating his emotions from his logic. And, he almost always let logic dictate his actions first and foremost.

She didn't want such an artificial barrier to exist between them because even if she hadn't said it in but so many words' ; She too cared about Leonel. In fact, she had cared about him for a long time already.

So, she spoke.

She began with what happened when she was randomly teleported to a wasteland of Terrain, to how she ran into the Variant Zone, to her run in with the Heirs and Heiress of the three Powers.

She told Leonel about how she had escaped them and then she began to describe how she ran into the Mountain Sands Range and about how she entered the maze of tunnels.

When she got to the appearance of the Puppet Master, her body began to involuntarily tremble once again. But, this time, within Leonel's arms, she gained the strength to speak.

She looked into Leonel's eyes from start to finish, finding a steady calm within their fathomless depths. She watched as a spark of rage lit within them and observed as it boiled over like a frightening eruption of magma.

Anyone else, beneath such pressure, would feel as though their souls were being crushed and that their hearts could no longer beat. But, Aina hadn't felt so comfortable in her life.

Watching Leonel become infuriated for her sake made her heart beat wildly and filled her stomach with butterflies. By now, Leonel's rage had superseded his lust, so his member was no longer at attention. But, it was now Aina's turn to feel a fire light her lower belly.

She felt that Leonel was exceptionally attractive when he was leading men like he had his teammates just a couple months ago. But now, she found it hard to decide which version of him she liked more... The leader version? Or this protective version?

Her thighs couldn't help but squeeze down slightly on either side of Leonel's hips.. She had a feeling that if she tried to break past that certain barrier now'! it would be much easier and not nearly as painful.

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Leonel had no idea that Aina had been lit afire. If it wasn't because he wanted to listen to the story to the end and didn't want to leave Aina at this moment, he might have charged off to earn another talisman to Terrain.

To dare have designs on his Aina' ¦ If he ever ran into this so-called Puppet Master, Leonel would be certain to rip him to shreds.

Aina paused, her amber eyes scanning Leonel's face as though she wanted to memorize every line and slope.

She always knew that Leonel was quite handsome. His tanned skin, his pale green eyes, his strong jaw' ¦ She had to admit that she missed his messy dirty blond hair. But, this long bronze hair made him look particularly masculine, almost like a Roman God, especially when it was paired with his broad shoulders and chest.

It was only at this moment that she realized that she had never observed Leonel so closely before. She had always been too shy to do so in the past. But now she felt many times more comfortable doing so, especially since Leonel's mind was hardly focused on her actions at the moment.

He hung on her every word instead as though trying to visualize the day he would kill this Puppet Master.

"How did you escape?"

Leonel's sudden question shook Aina out of her fantasy land. She blushed slightly, but noticing that Leonel hadn't found anything odd about her actions, she continued.

"¦ I never expected for my curse to help me in such a way." Aina started again. "I usually use its suppressive effects to help with my training, but I didn't expect for my blood to carry the same effect.

"After it consumed my blood, it became severely weakened and the restrictions on me lessened. I wanted to kill it right then and there, but it began to summon more of its guards. Back then I' ¦ I entered a weird state. I'm not sure how to describe it, but I've never felt so powerful before.

“The restrictions on my mind seemed to loosen and I could feel his other puppets coming, but these puppets were completely unlike the uncoordinated ones he used to mine in the mountains. In fact, some of them had consciousnesses of their own and were exceptionally powerful. Most had strength at Tier 7 and above.

“Also, though he was weakened, he was still half a step into the Fifth Dimension. It was fine if he spent all his strength suppressing the curse, in that case, he wouldn’t be able to move. But, if I forced him to attack, I was sure that he could still kill me’!

“So, taking advantage of my strengthened state, I stole the capsule he wanted to imprison me in and ran away. PANDA NOVEL

“It’s hard for me to remember much about what happened after that’! it’s all so hazy’!”

Aina frowned, her delicate brow wrinkling. Though she seemed to have knife wounds across her face, Leonel found her current appearance quite adorable. Or, rather, he would have had he not been so pissed.

“! Wait, your strengthened state? Is that part of your ability?” Leonel asked curiously.

Aina hesitated.

Though she said she didn’t know how she got to that strengthened state’! She hadn’t told the whole truth. She had a vague idea’! It was just that’!

Her face was already scarred. If Leonel knew that she drank blood, would he really not want her anymore? How could he want to be with such a gross woman’! ? ρ??∪???

How was she any different from the Variant Invalid who had eaten all those people? In fact, if it wasn’t for him, she wouldn’t have been able to enter such a strengthened state because the blood she got was precisely from those desecrated corpses...

Aina opened her mouth but hesitated again.

‘No’! I can’t not answer again’!’

Aina grit her teeth.

Leonel blinked curiously, waiting with patience.

“!’! The blood from the human carcasses the Puppet Master had spread across the table’! I ingested it.”

Aina’s words seemed to take all the strength out of her. She felt like she was going to collapse that very moment.

Her voice was as soft as could be, almost beneath what a human could possibly pick up with their ears.

“What?” Leonel responded.

Hearing this, Aina paled considerably, her eyes breaking away from Leonel’s as she looked down. Her breathing hitched, she was almost on the verge of another panic attack. What would she do now?

But, Leonel’s next words left her stunned.

“That’s so cool!”

“ ‘! Huh?” Aina looked up somewhat weakly, at a loss for words.

“Just imagine it, if I told the guys that my girlfriend was a vampire, they would die from envy, don’t you think?”

Leonel grinned wildly, his face carrying with it a naïve, boyish charm. It was hard to believe that this was the same man who struck so much fear on the battlefield. At that moment, he was far more like the boy who said Shield Cross Stars had a cool uniform rather than the man who reaped lives with a single thought.

As for thinking Aina was gross, Leonel had never had such thoughts. He so easily accepted the little mink's darkness affinity, why would he care about drinking blood? Though current technology was far beyond it, he had even read about how their ancestors used to use blood transfusions to save the sick and injured. How was that much different from ingesting blood?

Leonel, at least, didn't see much of a difference. All he had thoughts of was having a cool vampire girlfriend. That would definitely give him points to show off to the boys.

He couldn't help but grin like a little boy. And, because he was so busy grinning, he couldn't react before Aina shifted upward, her lips planting firmly against his.

Aina's palms held Leonel's face in place as though she was scared he would run away. At that moment, she only wanted to kiss him, kiss him so deeply that the memory was engraved onto her mind.

Leonel was stunned for a moment, but a heat in his chest tossed such thoughts out of his mind. He wrapped his arms around Aina's waist as her hands traveled to the back of his head.

The two embraced one another, their lips locked.

Aina shivered when she felt Leonel's tongue invade her mouth, but she didn't resist.. It felt like a warm liquid was filling her body, her mind entering a state of euphoria it had never tasted before.

Chapter 508

Aina sunk her fingers into the heavy threads of Leonel's hair. She had never experienced such an intoxicating feeling before.

When Leonel shamelessly stole her first kiss, her heart had fluttered and her mind had grown foggy. But, that moment had been filled with innocence and purity. It was the kind of memory that filled one with sweetness.

But at this moment, Aina didn't feel sweetness. She felt heat, as though her entire body was burning up from the inside out. However, rather than wanting to separate from Leonel, she only wanted to get closer.

Leonel could feel the same heat. And maybe, in some way, it was even more potent for him.

Aina might have been petite, but her chest had volume that left him at a loss for words. Her face might have been scarred, but he couldn't find a single other flaw on her body. Everything from her touch, to her breath, to the silky smoothness of her skin left him in a daze.

Leonel's hands slipped down from her waist, grasping the underside of Aina's thighs and lifting her up.

Aina gasped slightly from the sudden change, subconsciously causing her arms and legs to wrap around Leonel tighter. With the strength she used, maybe if it wasn't for the fact Leonel had a Metal Body, his bones would have been crushed.

Being risen into the sky, Aina felt one part helpless and another part elated. She loved the feeling of Leonel sweeping her off her feet, the feeling of him bearing her weight in his strong arms.

Leonel gently placed Aina down at the side of the pool. From this position, all he could imagine was thrusting into her with all his might. The instinct was so potent that his body trembled, his cock pulsing as though a beast struggling against its chain.

Aina could feel Leonel pressing against her below. Her mind was somewhat hazy, feeling just as intoxicated as Leonel's own. She could feel a wetness spreading that had little to do with the pool of water they had just been in.

She had a mind to let Leonel do as he pleased. No, she wanted him to do as he pleased. It was a completely different feeling from before. Whereas previously she felt like she had to, now she wanted to.

But'! Somewhere deep inside, she didn't quite feel ready yet. It wasn't because she didn't trust Leonel, nor was it because she didn't have feelings for him. She just felt that things were moving too fast, it left her at a loss.

She separated from Leonel's kiss, pressing her forehead against his. Her hands held onto his cheeks as he held onto her hips. Her thighs trembled against Leonel's sides when she felt his heated shaft pressing against her below. PANDA NOVEL

Aina reached a hand down from Leonel's face and began to slowly stroke him, her movements gentle and caring.

Leonel's breathing hitched, his gaze carrying a tinge of red as it locked onto Aina's. He could see the affection within those amber irises. Though her movements were slightly awkward and unrefined, just the fact she was willing to try left his heart feeling warm.

"! Look at me." Aina said softly, her words tickling Leonel's eardrums.

As a Five Star Health Professional, Aina was more familiar with the human body and its psychology than most. The same way she knew that it would be dangerous if Leonel's lower region wasn't cleaned was the same way she knew that men were visual creatures. Even if she couldn't give everything to Leonel at this moment, she still wanted him to know that she was his.

Leonel's breathing quickened, his eyes hesitating somewhat before leaving Aina's gaze and traveling downward. The feeling of her hand slowly moving up and down seemed to intensify, his body heating up like flamed coals.

All this time, he had been subconsciously avoiding looking at Aina's body. It was one part due to respect and another part due to him not wanting her to think he hated the sight of her face. But, hearing her ask him to do it so blatantly left his mouth dry. PANDA NOVEL

At that moment, Leonel stood at the edge of the pool, Aina seated at its ledge, her legs wrapped around his hips. Their foreheads were lightly pressed against one another, giving Leonel a vantage point that almost made his nose bleed.



Aina leaned back slightly, her hand motions never slowing. She invited him to gaze at her body, a gentle red blush dancing across her skin.

The first thing Leonel saw was Aina's toned belly, glistening with wetness. With her half seated position, it flexed beneath the lights of the bathhouse and the shadow of his head. With Aina's every breath, her abs constricted, showing off the faint outline of a powerful physique. Leonel felt as though he could watch her breathe like this indefinitely.

“ ‘| Move my hair.” Aina whispered.

Leonel gulped.

Aina's hair draped over her shoulders, blocking much of the view of her chest. All Leonel could see were two rounded protrusions.

With slow movements, Leonel brought a hand up, sliding it underneath Aina's hair from her shoulder and moving it away.

Aina's blush became more furious, the redness of her skin only making her more alluring. Leonel could see the rapid beating of her heart through her skin. Every pulse made her chest move just a bit, leaving him at a loss for words.

He had never seen something so beautiful in his life. He had been feeling it against his chest all this time, but this was the first time he truly knew how gorgeous the sight could be. Even with how large his hands were, he didn't believe he could cover them completely.

The healthy drop, the alluring pink dots, the perkiness of youth. It left him not knowing how to breathe.

It was perfect.

“ ‘| Touch me.”

As though too embarrassed to look Leonel in the eye when she said this, Aina dove into another kiss, her hand movements increasing just the slightest bit.

Her movement caused Leonel's hand which had been hovering after moving her hair to land directly onto her chest.

The supple silkiness of her skin sent Leonel into cloud nine. He couldn't hold back anymore.

Aina felt the pulsing of the raging beast in her hand grow past a point of no return. But, this time, she didn't try to avoid what came out.

She focused entirely on their kiss, a deep happiness blooming in her heart.

## Chapter 509

Leonel's sharp intake of breath slowly calmed, his emotions sitting on a cloud high above. He didn't believe that there could be a greater happiness in the world. It wasn't just about the feeling itself, but rather about the fact the woman he liked so much had been by his side during it.

"! You didn't have to do that."

Leonel's voice carried an edgy gruff to it. Maybe it would still take him a while longer to recover completely.

"No, I didn't have to." Aina said with a sweet smile. "I wanted to."

Leonel smiled beside himself.

"Looks like we need another bath." Leonel said playfully before hoisting Aina up again.

She giggled lightly, letting Leonel do as he pleased.

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While the couple were in their own little world, they had no idea about the goings-on outside.

Though the Segmented Cube had been left right in the middle of a battlefield, no one dared to disturb it. Was that a joke? With how wrathful Leonel had been despite the fact no one had actually laid a finger on Aina, how would he react if they tried to interfere in his matters now?

By now, though, the battlefield had been cleared and the dead had been dumped in a pile to be burned. Or, rather, Arthur had tried to do this, only to realize there was no chance of burning the corpses of Fourth Dimensional entities with normal flames.

Without a choice, he had to call upon one of Camelot's Three Star Magi to do the job. The last thing they could afford now was some sort of diseased outbreak. Arthur didn't know if the Fourth Dimension still had plagues, but what he did know was that if they did, they would be far beyond what a disease of the Third Dimension could compare to. There was no need to take such a risk.

It was during these moments that the others finally learned of what happened at the Demon Empire.  
PANDA NOVEL

“'1 He did what?”

King Arthur stood in a daze, looking toward Crakos as though he was examining a mentally ill patient. He wasn't very fond of Demons to begin with, so he was hesitant to believe their words in any situation, let alone this one.

Crakos looked down toward Arthur, his gaze indifferent and his demeanor carrying the very same scholarly air. He didn't understand the rhetorical question culture of humans. In fact, he didn't understand their sarcasm either.

He knew well that Arthur had already heard what he said, so there was absolutely no need for him to repeat himself.

“Stop.” Mordred put out a hand, stopping the situation from reaching a point of escalation. “Is what you said true, Crakos?”

Crakos nodded seriously. “Yes, Your Majesty. He helped us to eradicate the entire army. The ones we tried to capture killed themselves, so now there’s no one left. There should only be the normal citizens of White City left. Before he left, Leonel suggested that we mobilize an army to capture it.”

“Capture White City?” Mordred fell into her thoughts.

It was indeed not a good idea to leave a city filled with citizens of another world unconquered. Also, there was always the chance of others coming to take it over. If that happened, then Camelot would be thrust right back into the same situation.

Mordred looked toward her father and they both nodded. They were both aware that Leonel’s suggestion was the smartest. It was really inadvisable to leave a city unchecked in their territory like this.

“Alright, we will”

Arthur’s words paused, his gaze narrowing.

At the moment, the three of them “ Arthur, Mordred and Crakos “ were within a military tent on the very same battlefield City Lord White had fallen on. It had been about two days since Noah and his troop left.

Of course, Arthur didn’t blame them for leaving. After the ass whooping Leonel gave them, he wouldn’t have had the face to stay either. But, to think they would come back.

From the looks of it, it seemed that Noah had semi recovered while Nile was nowhere to be seen.

In truth, Leonel was quite lenient with Nile at the time. He could have blasted a hole through his heart, but he gave the Junior Governor Duke a chance at life. Whether he seized it or not seemed to remain to be seen.

Noah led the troop, his face pale. It was clear that he was still heavily injured. Yet, if it wasn't for the natural reaction of his skin tone, it would be impossible to tell from his facial expressions.

Noah swept a glance over the battlefield. Seeing that the Segmented Cube was still in the same place it had been before, his gaze flashed with an imperceptible light, but he didn't say anything until he made his way to Arthur's tent riding upon the back of another black wolf.

With a leap, Noah descended from the back of the wolf as Arthur, Mordred and Crakos exited the tent.

Without mincing his words, Noah spoke.

“White City has been captured and I've stationed half of my army to keep the order. I will need to return to Earth to report this to my Imperial Grandfather. Before I do, we have yet to begin our negotiations.”

Mordred and Arthur's expressions became serious.

Even if most of White City's main forces had already died, capturing a city was no laughing matter, especially not in such a heavily injured state. Yet, Noah had done it!

It was impossible for Terrain to not have made contingency plans to protect their cities! So, how had he done it exactly?

But, even beyond this, in all the chaos, they had almost forgotten that there were negotiations that had yet to be completed. Let alone completed, they hadn't even begun.

Before, they had been reliant on Leonel, but now that they knew that Leonel was actually a Prince of this Royal Family! Could they still count on him the same?

At that moment, the Segmented Cube which had remained immobile for the past several days suddenly moved.

Two figures walking hand in hand appeared out of it. One was a smiling young man and the other was a young girl wearing a mask.. Despite the fact they were only leisurely walking and idly chatting with one another, the world's energies seemed to revolve around them.

## Chapter 510

Leonel pocketed the Segmented Cube and seemed to finally realize that the atmosphere was a bit off. He swept a gaze forward and noticed Noah.

After a brief pause, he turned back to Aina.

“Are you sure that it’s comfortable?”

Aina giggled. This was the fourth or fifth time Leonel had asked this question.

“Yes, really, it is.”

She lightly touched the mask on her face, a light smile blooming beneath.

She normally wouldn't wear a mask, but the purpose of this one wasn't to hide her appearance.

After learning about Aina's curse and the time limit, Leonel found out that there was a way to delay the progress of the curse. It was obvious that it was greatly suppressed by Cleansing Waters, so Leonel chose to Craft a mask for Aina that could help her.

What he hadn't expected, though, was for Aina to like the mask so much. Though she never said anything, the curse placed her in a perpetual state of discomfort. Even in its least inflamed form where her scars appeared no different from knife wounds, there was an uncomfortable tightness and itchiness she always had to deal with.

But, for the first time, she felt completely at ease. If she didn't know better, she would have thought that Leonel had cured her completely.

The mask itself was something that Leonel put his heart and soul into. It was actually the reason they had taken an extra two days to exit the Segmented Cube, other than celebrating Aina's birthday, of course.

The mask used the pearl of the Purifying Fog Clam as a base. It gave the mask itself a premium white glow that seemed somewhat like marble but carried the off-whiteness and milky texture of pearls.

The inner-workings of the mask were forged with the Ice Vein type Ore, Misty Dream Ore. PANDA NOVEL

The Purifying Fog Clam was known for its ability to turn large amounts of water into a gentle mist that almost appeared like fog. As for the Mist Dream Ice Vein Ore, it was known for its ability to keep its ice-like state even in the hottest of climates, almost as though it was in its own dream world regardless of the environment.

Leonel crafted veins patterns throughout the mask with the Misty Dream Ore and filled its innards with Cleansing Waters. The combination of the two allowed Aina to have a fine mist of Cleansing Water perpetually hovering around her face. Any unease she had completely vanished.

In the end, the mask gained the appearance of a beautiful piece of art. The contrast of the milky whiteness to the sharp blue lines of the Misty Dream Ore made it look particularly dazzling. In fact, even Aina hadn't expected to like it so much.

What she was more shocked about, though, was the fact that Leonel actually managed to give it defensive strength rivaling a Tier 8 Black treasure despite the fact it wasn't designed with such a thing in mind.

Others might not know how valuable Force Crafters were, but how could Aina not be aware? The realization that Leonel hadn't been joking before left her quite stunned.

Of course, she hadn't thought that Leonel had been lying. He wasn't that type of person. Rather, she was more shocked by Leonel's level of skill. ρ??∪???????

From what she understood, he was almost at the standard of a Fifth Dimensional Force Crafter. At his age, at least in worlds as weak as theirs'! That was completely unheard of!

Mordred smiled bitterly when she saw how the two were still somehow in their own world. Didn't they see the gravity of the situation?

Mordred cleared her throat.

"Ah, right." Leonel looked up toward Mordred and grinned. "Sorry, I heard that there were negotiations happening now? I've already promised Em to take the helm in these matters, so if you want to negotiate, you'll be doing so with me."

Hearing these words, Mordred couldn't help but smile. It seemed that she had thought too much before.

That was right, if he was willing to beat this cousin of his so savagely, there shouldn't have been anything to worry about to begin with.

Jessica, who had descended to Noah's side, frowned when she heard these words. As the Prince of The Empire, something like Leonel negotiating on behalf of outsiders was highly inappropriate. She wanted to open her mouth to say something, but Noah stretched out a hand that stopped her.

"As you wish."

Leonel nodded.

Soon, the group had entered the military tent.



Leonel sat on one side of the table with Aina to his left and Mordred to his right. As for King Arthur, he sat to the right of his daughter.

On the other side of the table, Noah faced Leonel with Jessica to his side. On the other side of Noah, there was another young man.

The young man had his long hair done up in an elaborate bun that seemed to come straight out of an ancient world. He had sharp features and an even sharper gaze all hidden behind his glasses.

However, while the glasses Leonel's father wore were more of gimmick because he simply liked their appearance, Leonel could tell that the glasses of this young man were actually a treasure that helped boost his ocular ability.

The young man swept a gaze toward Leonel before observing Mordred and then finally turning toward Aina. But, before he could, Leonel snorted lightly.

An audible crack resounded in the quiet room.

The glasses of the young man snapped, their lenses breaking into tiny fragments. If it wasn't because the young man was quick to close his eyes as soon as he realized that something was wrong, he may very well have been blinded in that moment.

Leonel's gaze didn't shift away from the young man as the latter slowly took his glasses off, his visage indifferent but the aura he was exuding reaching a tangible level.

“Watch where you're looking please, or else I'll have to ask you to leave.”