

CHAPTER 41: MY GOD IT WASN'T A MADE-UP STORY

“Hey!”

“I won't do it.”

“I didn't say anything yet...”

“Right! I'm not doing another archer contest, Mr. Lame Dad,” Lee Gun replied to his friend.

Crunch!

Hugo glared at Lee Gun. However, Lee Gun ignored him and looked at his record with a satisfied expression.

[Your win against the Archer Saint has humiliated the Sagittarius.]

[You have earned a massive amount of Saint EXP.]

[You have gained reputation.]

[The morale of your familiars has increased.]

Lee Gun had performed well, but in truth, the battle wasn't won through only archery.

<Bowstring containing the Archer's Resentment> S rank

– Ingredient Item

– In extreme situations, it increases accuracy by 70%

– It is almost impossible to snap (Tough as one's personality)! S rank

<Small Thimble! A rank! (Increases Concentration)>

<Power of the Obsessed! S rank! (Tracks target)>

In truth, Lee Gun wanted to test these items in his match against Hugo. He had secretly incorporated them into his bowstring.

Even Hugo recognized Lee Gun's talent with the bow, but it would be foolhardy to challenge the Archer Saint without proper equipment. This was especially true since Hugo specialized in long-distance sniping.

Lee Gun had used the stolen data from the midpoint of the match.

‘As expected of the data extracted from a Saint...’ He was very satisfied with the result.

On the other hand, Hugo was vexed by the fact that he had been spurned by his son.

[The Saggitarius is feeling tormented by the intolerable humiliation.]

[He states that this match was unfair.]

[He states that another match should be conducted with the treasure of the Archer on the line.]

“Hey! Did you hear what I said? Let’s do another match!”

Lee Gun just ignored Hugo as he manipulated the strings containing Hugo’s data. Soon, a rope appeared in his hands. ‘Anyway, I was able to work on all the ingredients I had acquired at the Exchange.’

Lee Gun had also tempered the bone. He just had to wait three days, then he would be able to make a weapon with it.

‘The only thing left is the fire.’ Lee Gun needed a fire for his forge. His Creation Workshop contained only a workbench; it didn’t have a forge. Moreover, the fire he needed wasn’t ordinary fire; he needed a monster’s special flame.

‘At the very least, it has to be rank A.’ In other words, he had to hunt the monsters in the red zone. ‘However, the red zone is too far away. It’ll be troublesome.’

If push came to shove, Lee Gun planned on bullying Hugo into summoning a Divine Flame for a whole day.

“Fine! Let’s put aside the contest for now!” Veins popped out on Hugo’s neck as he pointed at the desk. “Do something about that!”

His hands pointed out the phone in the office.

Brrrr!

Brrrrrrrr!

Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Hugo was about to lose his mind as the constant ringing sound of the phone serenaded him. “Are you aware that we’ve received over two hundred calls since lunch?”

“Yes, yes! I know you’re popular. I’m so jealous of you.” Lee Gun remained nonchalant.

It made Hugo frustrated. “This is all because of you! The government is in an uproar! They are asking me if I’m hiding you! And if I am, I should bring you to them as soon as possible!”

“Really? It seems you’re having a lot of trouble because you have a distinguished friend. You don’t have to thank me.”

Hugo thought about breaking their friendship at that moment. “Whatever! Just go show your face!”

“Nope. I still have a long way to go before I’m fully leveled up.”

“Hey!” Hugo was about to let loose a barrage of swear words. However, he reigned himself in. It was clear that Lee Gun was trying to make him move at his pace.

With an unconcerned expression, Lee Gun said, “Let’s put that aside for now. I want you to go and recover my funds”

“What fund?”

“I heard a lot of contribution was received in my name.”

“Ah...”

That was true. After Lee Gun’s death, all the support was given to the twelve Zodiac Saints. Of course, even though Lee Gun had died, donations and tributes were sent to his estate nonetheless. It was a gesture from those who he had helped. Naturally, the other Saints had tried to take Lee Gun’s share in this too.

That was why Hugo had gotten in a big fight with the others for them touching Lee Gun’s possessions. Ten years had passed since that fight.

‘They are trying to take his stuff to this day.’ This was true for the Saints that had a deep relationship with the Korean government. This included the Gemini Saint of Japan, Sheep Saint of China, and the Leo Saint of America; they were the most tenacious. They were salivating to this day, but the rightful owner had shown up.

Lee Gun laughed. “From the rumors I heard, some special items were donated.”

Hugo understood what Lee Gun wanted him to do, but the request left him dumbfounded. “You can go yourself. Didn’t you declare war against the government not too long ago?”

Lee Gun scrunched up his face in disgust. “If you go, I don’t have to see those assholes. If I go, I’ll have to hear their bullshit. There is no benefit for me in going there. It’ll be a waste of time. I’m busy!”

“You want me to waste my time?” Hugo shouted in anger, but for some reason, he started grinning. “If you aren’t there, the government won’t believe that you’re back. Do you realize how many Lee Gun impersonators show up to take the fund for themselves?”

Lee Gun remembered reading an article about that topic.

Hugo grinned with a triumphant expression. “You have no choice now. You have to show your face...”

“Alright! You can take that with you. Just say it’s me.”

“...?” Hugo was shocked when he saw what Lee Gun pointed at.

“?!”

Lee Gun was standing there with a hideously smashed face and angry eyes. Scars and wrinkles were all over his face. His shoulders and muscles were wide. However, it was apt to call him an ugly man. This was how Lee Gun looked twenty years ago.

It was the slime that had used its transformation skill to look like the past Lee Gun.

Lee Gun laughed in a triumphant manner. “That’s my amazing holy item. It’ll fool them.”

“Huh.” Hugo was dumbfounded.

As if the slime wanted to assure that it could do the job, it started doing poses Lee Gun would never do. If it didn’t act so oddly, everyone would be fooled except...

“Why does it have a full head of hair?”

“What?”

“This is you from 20 years ago. You were bal—”

“Shut up!”

“Kuhk!”

Hugo took a shot from Lee Gun.

[You’ve acquired data]

[Tactless Mouth (Increase Aggro +10%)]

At the end of the day, it didn’t matter.

It was true that Lee Gun was sending Hugo to the government because it was annoying. However, he had another reason behind it as well; he had more important things to do. “You take care of it while I’m gone.”

“Where are you going?”

Lee Gun’s final destination was Sophie’s press conference. However, he didn’t say it because he knew Hugo would get noisy. “It’s nothing. I’m going on a blind date.”

“Blind date?”

‘What kind of nonsense is he spouting?’ Hugo knew Lee Gun hated dealing with women. He hated dealing with people in general.

His eccentric personality had something to do with it, but it mainly had to do with his previous appearance.

Hugo never expected to hear such words out of Lee Gun’s mouth.

So what was this?

However, he soon accepted it. Lee Gun's current face would make women give him their numbers in the street.

"I don't know who you are meeting, but good luck wooing..."

"Ah, Sungjae. Where does your noona want to meet me?"

Hugo, who had been drinking his coffee, almost dropped his cup on the floor.

Luckily, the corner of the desk stopped it from falling.

"What did you just say?! Noona?"

As a father, he doted on his daughter. He was taken aback. He shot up to his feet.

"Cough... Wait a moment, you are going to meet... Is it my daughter?!"

Lee Gun, who was making a call, pretended as if he didn't hear Hugo. He exited the room.

Hugo tried to chase after him, but he soon sat down.

He knew he wasn't acting like an adult.

'Yes. If it is Yooha, it'll be fine.'

His daughter wasn't as big of a fan as his son.

In fact, she had berated Sungjae for buying a limited edition Lee Gun figurine. She had made a big issue about how much the item cost.

His daughter was trustworthy.

This was why Hugo relaxed as he looked at the Slime Lee Gun.

It seemed he would have to take the slime to meet the government officials.

[Don't worry~ chu chu! ♪]

[He said to call him Oppa. Oppa~ Oppa ♪]

The Slime was watching an idol music video. It was dancing along to the video while it looked like Lee Gun

Hugo frowned.

Could they really get away with this?

* * *

<The Leo Saint is missing. The entire Leo temple is in a state of emergency.>

-hk989: Leo Saint fell towards the Red Zone. Hella Funny.

-qqq33: It wasn't the Redzone. He skydived into the Black zone.

: ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

ㅋㅋㅋㅋ Is he alive?

ㄴqqq33: Don't look down on the Leo hyung. He bought that one-billion-dollar weapon.

ㄴ: That already broke ㅌ

-ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

-vita: I'm glad that happened to that racist. I wanted to kill him when he used Korea as bait.

-stuki: I heard Lee Gun dropped him.

-joy: Why would Lee Gun do that?????????

-pasan: Is Lee Gun really back?

-ffkg: The culprit was very handsome.

-clio: It's not Lee Gun.

-fai: It's not Lee Gun. ㅌㅌ

-kon : ㅍㅍㅍㅍㅍㅍㅍㅍ

: ㄸ ㅂ ㅋㅋ If it is Lee Gun, I'll eat my shoe ㅋㅋ

-stuki: ㄴ ㄴ Possibility is high. Lee Gun wrote on the Aquarius Saint.

-fai: Why would he kidnap the Aquarius Saint? Lee Gun has a temper, but he isn't immoral.

-o o : There is something there.

There was a buzz around the world in regards to the news.

Sophie felt like dying in the midst of it.

It was thanks to the reporters that rushed her after she left the hospital.

“Is there another reason why Lee Gun was unable to exit the tower 20 years ago?”

“Can you confirm that the Lee Gun’s message is real?”

“The message said, ‘Who kill me?’ What do you think it means?”

“Why are you having a press conference today? Will you address what happened at the Devil’s Tower 20 years ago?!”

Sophie almost swore when the reporters kept shouting their questions at her.

Why would she do a press conference to talk about what happened 20 years ago?!

That’s right.

The reporters were in a frenzy because Sophie had declared she would have a press conference today.

Why would she gather the reporters unless she had lost her mind?

‘I’m trying to hide what happened that day!’

On the other hand, there was a good reason why the events had developed this way.

[Please gather the reporters. I have to speak the truth about what happened 20 years ago.]

Someone had contacted the reporters using her name.

However, Sophie hadn’t done it.

‘That d**n man...’

She was sure Lee Gun had used her phone while she was unconscious.

She was sure he was trying to drive her into a corner.

‘Is this why he kept me alive?’

Sophie trembled.

The world was buzzing at the news that she was holding a press conference.

‘I can’t believe it is being broadcast live around the world...!’

People were already talking about it in the streets.

The news and shows unrelated to the news like variety shows were talking about it.

All information about the press conference was being treated like breaking news.

A crowd was starting to form around the location where the press conference was being held.

However, she didn't care about that.

If she spoke the truth, the other Zodiac Saints wouldn't stand back and do nothing.

'They might assassinate me.'

On the other hand, she couldn't call off the press conference either.

'It would make everyone that much more suspicious.'

What if she created a different narrative?

She tried to come up with an idea, but in the end, she was stumped.

Why?

– Do you remember what I fed you?

Sophie shook from fear as she clutched at her throat.

There was no adverse reaction yet, but Lee Gun had fed her something.

'I think it was a ring.'

Sophie's face turned pale as she turned on her handphone.

At this point, she had no choice.

'I'll use the rental skill.'

Sophie laughed as if she had come to a big decision.

Lee Gun wasn't here. He had no idea what she was up to.

Sophie was about to do something with the handphone when it happened.

Brrrr.

“?!”

Sophie screamed when she saw the screen. She threw her handphone.

[Bedwetter♡-nim was registered as your friend.]

[Bedwetter♡-nim started following you.]

[Bedwetter♡-nim sent you a message.]

The notifications made it seem like Lee Gun was monitoring her.

[If you don't do the press conference at 7 PM, I'll kill you.]

She didn't even need to check who had sent the message.

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“Wow! You are persistent.” Lee Gun spoke to a man in his thirties as if the man were pathetic. “I don't want a dude to stalk me like this.”

This left the man in front of him dumbfounded.

“I'm not trying to stalk you.” The man blocking Lee Gun's path was none other than the Gemini general, Choi Sunghyuk. He was accompanied by a hidden person, the guard who had accompanied Chun Sungjae that day. The guard was a pretty well-known power mage.

Choi Sunghyuk was preventing Lee Gun from heading toward the cafe, and that was why Lee Gun looked at him with contempt. ‘Didn't they say he's one of the two strongest people in Korea?’

Lee Gun had been the hero of Korea. After his death, Korea continued to gain a strong batch of S-rank Users. One of the two strongest of them was the Leo general; he was under the Leo Saint, who was considered the strongest in close-quarters combat. The other one was the Gemini general. He was under the Gemini Saint, who was the strongest in magic.

The Gemini general was known as a go-getter. He was famous for dragging the Gemini temple to the first rank in Korea when Korea had been adversarial toward the Gemini temple in the past.

‘In other words, he's tenacious.’

However, this piece of information didn't matter to Lee Gun. He chewed on a baguette and kicked toward Choi Sunghyuk. “I'm busy, a*****e. Get out of my way!”

Choi Sunghyuk laughed in an easygoing manner. A simple kick was nothing in front of his strongest magical barrier. “I'm also a busy man. I have to guard the Saintess today— Kuhk!”

When the general caught Lee Gun's foot, his face immediately turned pale.

‘What the hell.’ He had used a magical barrier, yet he felt extreme pain wash over him.

Lee Gun tilted his head. “You're guarding the Saintess? You?”

Lee Gun had held back when after hearing Choi Sunghyuk's words. If he hadn't held, the ribs of this man would have been crushed into pieces. He had put very little power in his kick, yet the kick had still caused damage.

It was unknown if Choi Sunghyuk was aware of this; he just smiled through his pain as he spoke. “The Saintess's press conference will start at seven in the evening. It will be held at the Gangnam exchange. At the request of the Saintess, the generals of the temples will gather to guard her.”

The Saintess was going to speak about what had happened to Lee Gun twenty years ago. In truth, the generals had quickly accepted her request because they were curious as to what she was going to say.

Sophie had wanted to do the press conference at her holy ground. However, Lee Gun had rejected that idea. The conference was now being held in Korea, but...

‘She called in the generals to be her shield?’

In the end, It didn’t matter. Lee Gun was about to leave when Choi Sunghyuk desperately kept him in place.

The general said, “You’re going to sign a contract with the Gemini temple, right?”

“What?”

“The Gemini temple spent millions of dollars to purchase auction items for you. You wouldn’t go back on your word, right?”

These words surprised Lee Gun, and he looked towards the hidden guard. ‘Did he not have a talk with Choi Sunghyuk?’

The guard was on the same team as Sungjae. The previous day, he had gone looking for Lee Gun. He had been worried about Sungjae, and so, he had desperately asked that question to Lee Gun.

‘You aren’t Lee Gun, right? Please say you aren’t!’ At that time, the guard had a desperate expression on his face. He hadn’t spelled it out, but his expression had indicated that if Lee Gun was the real deal, he would be in trouble.

‘I can see why he would be screwed.’ Lee Gun thought.

The problem was the Gemini Saint. The Gemini Saint was one of the Zodiac Saints who truly hated Lee Gun. Actually, the only Zodiac Saint who liked Lee Gun was Taeksoo.

However, the Gemini Saint considered Lee Gun a sworn mortal enemy. The two of them were like cats and dogs. It wasn’t an exaggeration to say that they tried to kill each other whenever they met. Blood had been shed several times.

Thanks to their leader, most of the Gemini temple’s disciples hated Lee Gun. It had become a culture. Therefore, Lee Gun found it funny when a general of the Gemini tried to scout him. Moreover, the Gemini temple fund had been used in Lee Gun’s favor. Millions of dollars had been poured into him.

‘Anyone involved will be in big trouble if it gets revealed that I’m Lee Gun.’

Of course, Lee Gun had known this but decided to be shameless. He had taken a slice of the pie. On the other hand, the guard was keeping his mouth shut because he might take the blame for this debacle. He didn’t want to be the scapegoat.

The guard wanted to tell the truth, but he had missed his timing. This was why he was groaning.

Well, it didn't matter.

'This is good. My next target was that man.' Lee Gun had been annoyed that government facilities in Korea had been taken over by the Gemini Saint.

A total of three assholes had invaded Korea. Lee Gun had taken care of the asshat and the dog bone, leaving only one. The only problem was that the Gemini Saint was a genius magician. He had reached the pinnacle of mastering all types of magic. The Gemini Saint's powers would even cause him trouble. Moreover, the government facilities and his holy ground had powerful defensive magic placed on them. There was only one way to pierce through the barrier.

"Alright! I'll enter your temple." Lee Gun let out a bright smile.

The guard looked at Lee Gun as if the latter had lost his mind.

Choi Sunghyuk was very happy with his answer. "The Gemini Saint will be very happy"

'No, he won't! In fact, he'll probably faint!'

The guard couldn't speak up, so he pounded his chest in frustration.

"Let's go sign the contract right now." Lee Gun urged the General. Choi Sunghyuk might find out his identity once Sophie conducted her press conference. He had to s**k them dry before that happened.

However, Choi Sunghyuk started beating around the bush. "This is a bit late to say this, but the Gemini Saint doesn't like Lee Gun..."

"I don't care! I'm not a Lee Gun fan." Lee Gun replied.

Choi Sunghyuk was very surprised by the answer.

Lee Gun was telling the truth. 'I am him.'

"In fact, I really don't like him." Lee Gun was talking about his face from twenty years ago.

"You used the sword technique of the Thirteenth when you killed the Spider Queen..."

"Ah! I had no choice but to learn it." Lee Gun had developed the move during a part-time job when he had been short on money. "In fact, I want to wipe out the videos of Lee Gun's exploits from the internet whenever I see them. I want to kill the uploaders." They always uploaded weird videos of him.

Lee Gun continued, "Also, the assessment of his skills is completely wrong."

Choi Sunghyuk had heard what he wanted to hear. So, he moved close to Lee Gun in a friendly manner. "That's surprising to hear, but I agree with you. Lee Gun's true skills were around B-rank."

"Yes. He was a nasty piece of work," replied the man himself.

The guard, who stood hidden next to them, was dumbfounded. 'This is ridiculous.'

Choi Sungyhuk, who had been closely assessing Lee Gun's words and actions, laughed. 'He's not lying.' The Gemini's perception skill allowed the general to determine that Lee Gun was telling the truth.

"???" The guard was baffled as he looked at Lee Gun. He had no idea why the truth-determining skill didn't trip up this man.

Lee Gun just laughed.

[Your opponent dares to use his perception skill.]

[It doesn't work against a Saint rank]

Choi Sunghyuk relaxed when he got no reaction. "It's agreed that you will be joining the Gemini temple..."

"I have a condition." Lee Gun interrupted him.

"Condition?"

"I want that."

The guard and the general were surprised by the item Lee Gun pointed out. It was the badge pinned on Choi Sunghyuk's collar.

The guard was shocked by the request. He pulled Lee Gun to the side and whispered, "Listen here! That's a special badge given only to generals! How can you—"

"Shut up! You already know about me. I'll snitch if you say anything."

'D**n it!' The guard was close to crying. Lee Gun was the hero of Korea. Even he respected Lee Gun. There was no way this person would do something truly bad, yet... 'F**k it. I know nothing.'

When Lee Gun returned, Choi Sunghyuk readily handed him his badge. "You can have it. I can get a new one made. Ah! Please don't sell it. You'll get caught."

A high-rank badge boosted magical energy just by its presence. Choi Sunghyuk assumed that Lee Gun wanted to boost his status with the badge. Anyway, only Saint-rank Users could properly use the badge.

Lee Gun laughed as if his plan had worked out. It was understandable.

[You have activated Gaze of a god!]

<Gemini Badge> S rank

– Contains body tissue of the Gemini Saint.

One of the conditions needed to break the Gemini's magic was the tissue from the caster's body. With this tissue, one could create holy items capable of breaking the magic of the Gemini. 'What a naive b*****d.'

The situation wasn't done yet.

Choi Sunghyuk then brought out his tablet. He didn't want Lee Gun to change his mind, so he had immediately brought out the contract. "These are the perks you'll receive if you join the Gemini temple."

The guard discreetly took a glance at the contract. It shocked him. 'That's crazy! What kind of a special contract is this!'

Basically, Lee Gun could name anything, and it would be free.

The general laughed. 'He's a prospect worth that price.'

This young man was a type of prospect called the King's Hand. It meant that he possessed the left and right hand. It meant he had the possibility of becoming an SS rank disciple, a user directly under the Zodiac Saints. Only ten such people currently existed in the world.

The power difference between a god with a King's Hand and a god who didn't possess one was pretty great. Basically, if a King's Hand was stolen from a god, the god's power could be almost halved.

The Leo Saint had a female King's Hand amongst his c**e fighting force. The Gemini Saint didn't possess one. Chun Sungjae had a small potential to become a King's hand, so Choi Sunghyuk had secretly recruited him.

Lee Gun laughed. "I want to add another condition. No matter what happens, I want all the benefits to be maintained during the contract period."

These words made Choi Sunghyuk put his guard up once again. "Why?"

"How come? You might retract the benefits if I get into trouble. This should be no big deal to the number one temple in Korea, right?"

Choi Sunghyuk accepted the explanation. A lot of awakened beings operated in that fashion. "Please don't cause too big of a mess." He modified the terms of the contract.

The guard was about to stop Choi Sunghyuk, but he gave up when Lee Gun glared at him.

"This is the contract. Let us work hard to unseat Lee Gun," the general said.

Lee Gun replied, "Alright! As a favor, I'll work for the Saintess as a guard. Put me right next to her so that I can show off my abilities."

"Alright! I'll discuss this with the Gemini Saint."

The guard couldn't take it anymore, so he was about to approach Lee Gun. However...

[You have received a contribution.]

[Someone is using your holy item.]

“?” Lee Gun turned his head. He had discovered something.

“Are you sure he is Uncle Lee Gun?”

“Yes! He changed a lot, but he really is our uncle! He’s amazing!”

Chun Sungjae was sitting in a cafe with his sister. He had met up with her before meeting with Lee Gun. The young man was having a hard time tamping down his excitement.

It was really rare for the woman to see her prickly brother make such an expression. She sulked a bit as she spoke to him. It was to be expected. “If he’s amazing, why didn’t you send me a single picture?”

Chun Sungjae screamed like a dolphin, “D**n it. I forgot to take pictures! I was too mesmerized...” He quickly took out his phone. “S**t! I’ll ask him to take a picture and send it to me!”

“No. It’s fine.” Her idiot younger brother was the type of guy who had bought a limited figurine with scratches on it. “I don’t have to see a picture. I’m sure Uncle will be cool.” ‘Of course, he has probably changed a lot. He probably looks much older...’

“Ah! You have to prepare yourself. You’ll faint from surprise once you see Uncle’s face.”

“!” Chun Yooha’s eyes shook. ‘Is he perhaps beyond being an old man? Is he unimaginably hideous?’ It was understandable. ‘He spent twenty years inside a hellhole.’

It was probably why he refused to reveal himself to the press. Everything fell into place. Even her young brother, who had a strong stomach for anything repulsive, was warning her. ‘How bad is it?’

‘Yes. I won’t be surprised. I cannot show bad manners to him.’ Chun Yooha became serious. As she was getting ready, she received a text.

[Scarlet Light-nim! We received an S rank assignment. We have to guard the Saintess. Where are you?!]

Her uncle was more important than a mere assignment. Chun Yooha was about to exit the cafe with a sullen expression to make a call. However...

“The whole cake is packaged and ready, Customer. It’s a three-tier red velvet cake with two XL size oreo shakes.”

“Oh! What great timing.”

Chun Sungjae was about to pick up the items Lee Gun had ordered when...

“Hey, Chun Sungjae. Why are you here?”

“!” He heard a familiar voice as he reached the pickup stand.

“You must be loving it right.”

“The world is plastered with the news of that b*****d.”

The people provoking Chun Sungjae were disciples of the Gemini Saint. Lee Gun was hated in the Gemini temple, yet Chun Sungjae was dumb enough to be his fan. Therefore, this group of senior disciples always made fun of the young man.

“You know what he did today? He said he had to go meet Lee Gun-nim. He skipped his senior’s anniversary.”

“He’s merely an A-rank disciple. Nothing scares him because he’s more famous than an S rank.”

Chun Sungjae furrowed his eyebrows at those words. These people were the direct descendants of the Gemini Saint. Even the generals didn’t dare to mess with these family members. If one messed with them, it would buy the Gemini Saint’s anger. Therefore, Chun Sungjae didn’t even bother dealing with them.

Flash!

‘!’

However, something suddenly flashed in Chun Sungjae’s pocket. It was the weapon Lee Gun had given to him.

<Janus’s Desire! Rank A (Gemini)>

Special attribute: Summon Two-Faced Soldiers(Rank A)

Summon soldiers that like to follow the disposition of the summoner (M)! Summon soldiers that like to attack (S) (Change)

Random skill activation (Additional)

A skeleton appeared alongside a blue smoke. It came along with terrible instruments of torture in its hands. The raging magical energy frightened everyone.

Chun Sungjae freaked out too. ‘Uncle! You never said “that” will come out!’ Lee Gun had advised him to not be surprised by whatever came out with the knife!

Chun Sungjae’s seniors were all frightened by the sight.

‘Is that a red zone monster?’

‘Is it a Construct?’

Usually, the gods created holy items and gave them out to their disciples. This was why there were a variety of holy items. Yet, no one had ever heard of such a nefarious holy item.

Chun Sungjae was flustered. He quickly unsummoned the skeleton.

Shweek!

The skeleton turned into smoke as it disappeared. The other disciples, who had almost fallen to the ground in fear, became angry. They had no idea what Chun Sungjae had done, but he would pay.

“Chun Sungjae.”

“Come with us.”

As they spoke those words, they drank the oreo shakes for Lee Gun, which Chun Sungjae was holding. The sudden terror had made them thirsty.

“Today is the day you die, b*****d.”

Chun Yooha, who had just exited the restroom, was surprised as she witnessed this. She was about to run toward her brother.

“Hey, friends.”

“!”

However, someone grabbed the heads of the two disciples. “Who said you can touch my stuff?”

CHAPTER 43: I’M THE UNCLE

The voice came from behind them.

Chun Sungjae was surprised by the scene. Chun Yooha, who was still far away, also looked on with round eyes. Lee Gun’s approach had gone undetected by both of them.

‘How and when did he get there?’

Chun Sungjae’s seniors cursed out.

“F**k!”

“Which crazy b*****d...”

They tried to turn their heads, but they soon froze. They couldn’t move their heads. Even after they put strength into their necks, the man’s grip prevented them from turning their heads.

“How is this possible...”

They felt as if a powerful pressing machine were holding their heads in place. Suddenly, their opponent turned their heads around. Both men unexpectedly saw a young face.

It was Lee Gun. This surprised them. ‘Who is this b*****d?’

They had never seen this b*****d before. Due to his incredible strength, they assumed he was using Divine power.

‘No way! It’s just pure grip strength?’

However, something shocked them even more.

“Uncle...”

The word Chun Sungjae shouted!

What? Uncle? ‘With that face...?’

Their surprise at the man’s age lasted for only a moment, then they trembled.

Lee Gun laughed as if he were about to crush their heads into a pulp. “You shouldn’t eat someone else’s food without permission. Did your m****r and father not give you that lesson?”

“...!”

‘Someone else’s?’ The two men looked down at the two oreo shakes that they had stolen. ‘Is he referring to the shakes?’

Sure enough...

“Why are you eating what’s mine, bastards!”

Bbah-gahk!

The men saw sparks as they felt their consciousness slip.

Chun Yooha, who had been moving closer to the group, paused. These two men were high-rank disciples in the Gemini temple. The Gemini Saint possessed all kinds of specialized magic spells that gave trouble to even battle-type Saints.

‘They should have the Reflection spell active, so how...’

Gemini Saint’s Reflection spell! In simple terms, this spell reflected an attack on its source, and the energy sent back was amplified threefold.

If one punched a person who had this skill, the spell normally crushed the attacker’s hand.

‘What happened?’

It wasn’t just that.

‘They are...’

Chun Yooha recognized those two disciples.

‘Yoon Shiwoo!’

Recently, a descendant of a Zodiac Saint had just joined the Gemini temple. This person wasn’t the descendant of the Gemini Saint. He had joined the temple to learn magical skills. The man was

participating in something akin to a student exchange program, and this person in question was S rank.

One of the men in Lee Gun's grip was the brother of that disciple, who was an S-rank user.

'He ascended to the A rank not too long ago...'

The other man in Lee Gun's grip was Yoon Shiwoo. He was the grandson of a company founder. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that his grandfather's company kept the Korean economy afloat. Therefore, the media gave him a great deal of coverage, which was on par with what the president of Korea received.

However, all of that hadn't mattered even one bit.

Unfortunately for Yoon Shinwoo, his debut was completely buried in the news. He was the unlucky soul who had gotten overshadowed by the news of Lee Gun busting out of the Devil's Tower. As a result, he held a grudge against Lee Gun. It might have been the reason he had picked a fight with Sungjae, a Lee Gun fan.

However, that wasn't important right now.

'I'm pretty sure the Gemini Saint placed powerful spells over them.' Chun Yooha was puzzled as she was about to step up next to her younger brother.

"Hey. Isn't she..."

The crowd suddenly became abuzz.

"Isn't she the Leo Saint's disciple?"

The trust fund babies, who were being beaten by Lee Gun, looked up in surprise.

"Hey, where are you looking? You want to die?"

Bbah-gahk! Bbah-gahk! Bbah-gahk!

A tray containing magical energy ruthlessly flew through the air.

"Get up."

The two trust fund babies didn't even think about standing up.

Lee Gun scrunched up his face as if something had occurred to him. "Oh really! Are you ignoring me now?"

"I"

If he wanted them to stand up, he should have beaten them less!

Lee Gun didn't care about the men's plight. He just grabbed their heads and dragged them up to their feet. "I didn't even put much strength behind my fists. There is no way you guys can get knocked out by that."

"...?"

'If he has held back, what would a real beating feel like?' The trust fund babies cursed inwardly. It really was Chun Yoocha in front of them. 'S**t! Of all the people in the world, this happened in front of Chun Yoocha...'

Sure enough, her presence was causing a stir.

"Isn't she part of the <Ten Stars>?"

That was right.

Besides the twelve Zodiac Saints, ten other awakened beings could influence the world. They were the strongest of the SS rank Users and the next in line to replace a Zodiac Saint if one died. They were the left and right hands of the gods. They were called the Asura. They were the <Ten Stars>.

According to a rumor, a single member of the Ten Stars could face off against a hundred generals.

"Isn't Chun Yoocha only S rank?"

"If you have no idea what you're talking about, you should keep your mouth shut. In terms of skill, she's S rank. She's one of the ten stars."

The Leo Saint was famous for being a brute, yet this woman was able to carve out a place in his temple with her skills. She was on equal ranks with the Leo Saint's generals.

The only reason she wasn't officially a general of the Leo Saint was the fact that her faith to her god was low. Yet, she was considered a part of Ten Stars.

Her beautiful appearance was the frosting on the cake. All men knew about Chun Yoocha, and most of them were her fans.

However, these two men had shown such an ungainly sight of themselves in front of her!

Lee Gun didn't care how they felt. He furrowed his brows as he started dragging them out of the store with their heads. He was receiving attention from someone in particular.

"Jeez! The store owner doesn't like your antics. Follow me."

"?!"

The two men looked aggrieved as they struggled, but in the end, they were dragged out by Lee Gun. Lee Gun possessed incredible strength.

Boom!

"Ahhhhk!"

Lee Gun threw them out the door, and they rolled across the ground. Laughing, he then looked at Yoon Shiwoo. “You seem to be the leader, so let’s start this with you.”

“Kuhk!”

Lee Gun placed his foot on Yoon Shiwoo’s face. Yoon Shiwoo felt as if his nose was about to break. When he started to resist, Lee Gun brought his foot down to make him pliant.

“Huhk!”

Unfortunately for Yoon Shiwoo, Lee Gun brought his foot down on a sensitive and important location. This made everyone’s face turn pale.

Lee Gun menacingly looked at the other trust fund baby. “You dared to eat what was mine. As if that wasn’t enough, you then harassed my nephew”

“...!”

“The thing I hate the most is when several people gang up on one person. I hate that!”

“We didn’t...”

“Ten-hut.”

“...”

Lee Gun raised his foot as if he was about to kick the other man.

“Ten-hut.”

“...!” The trust fund baby used all the energy in his body to stand up straight.

“At ease! Ten-hut! Assume position!”

The man started moving according to Lee Gun’s commands. For some reason, he knew he was dead if he didn’t follow the orders.

“You stay like that. I have to deal with him now.” Lee Gun finally removed his foot.

Yoon Shiwoo ground his teeth as he was barely able to stand up. ‘Who is this b*****d...!’

He was already in a foul mood because the articles about Lee Gun had buried all the articles about him. Even reporters he was friendly with were giving him a cold shoulder. They were too busy looking for Lee Gun.

– You’re only rank A. You aren’t that important!

– It’s Lee Gun! Lee Gun! Do you understand what I’m saying?

Yoon Shiwoo decided to mouth off. “I have no idea if you’re that b*****d’s uncle or not, but you’re dead. When you mess with me, you mess with the Gemini Saint.”

“What?”

“I was already in a bad mood because of the b*****d Lee Gun...”

The baffled Lee Gun sighed. “I am that Lee Gun, you b*****d. What did you just say!”

“?”

Bbah-gahk!

A single kick made Yoon Shiwoo profusely bleed from his nose.

The other man’s mouth fell open in shock. ‘What the hell! The Gemini Saint’s protection magic didn’t work!’

Suddenly, a blue magical energy wave emanated from the back of Yoon Shiwoo, who had fallen to the ground. The blue magical energy turned into a large ox. It was a special spell the Gemini Saint had placed on him.

Lee Gun furrowed his brows when he saw the nefarious magical energy. ‘Tsk.’

He already knew the Gemini Saint had placed several spells on Yoon Shiwoo. Yet, he was able to destroy the protection magic through brute force.

These spells were cast by either the Taurus or the Pisces. The Taurus was famous for defensive skills and the Pisces were famous for the barriers.

‘This is the Gemini Saint’s offensive magic.’

Since the spell had been placed on someone else, the spell couldn’t showcase a hundred percent of its power. However, the spell was unpredictable, and it troubled Lee Gun several times in the past. However, this time, something else happened.

[You can use your gathered data.]

[Golden Lion’s Data]

– Threaten (Leo Saint’s Unique Attribute)

[Will you use it?]

Lee Gun’s eyes turned round. This was quite out of the ordinary. Data could be used on buildings, skills, and holy items. It could be used in various ways.

Flash!

[You have used the Leo Saint’s Threaten(S) skill]

[It will intimidate the will of a skill. It works against particular rank skills.]

Boom!

The enormous force made Yoon Shiwoo fall to his knees as if he were being pressed down by enormous gravity.

“Huh-uhk!”

The trust fund baby reared back in fright. As for the siblings inside the store, they looked at this scene with their mouths open.

‘That’s the Leo Saint’s...!’

[You have forcefully neutralized a spell.]

[The acquired skill data is being stored temporarily. The data becomes damaged the more you use the skill.]

[Number of Uses 9/10]

[If you want to use the skill without restriction, you have to use the data to make a holy item to stop its deterioration.]

Basically, this skill should be used in an emergency, and if he liked the skill, he would have to make it into a holy item.

Lee Gun let out a satisfied laugh. ‘One of the skills I covet the most is owned by the Aquarius.’

When Lee Gun had returned home to check the data that he had gathered, he had lamented the fact that he didn’t have the data for that particular skill.

‘I’ll go to the press conference. I can extract more data from her.’ As Lee Gun had that thought, he kicked the bloodied Yoon Shiwoo after taking out his wallet.

When he glanced at the trust fund baby, the trust fund baby screamed, “I’m...I’m sorry! Please!”

“It’s fine. Just buy the same thing that you guys ate. Buy it with your money.”

“Yes, yes!”

“Don’t forget this! I want the oreo shakes, a three-tier earl grey tea cake, ham & cheese toast, chocolate shaved ice, rice cake tart. I want these things.”

For some reason, Lee Gun had listed food items that hadn’t been present on the tray before. However, it didn’t matter as the man ran to get that exact order.

How long had it passed?

Lee Gun dusted off his hands as he walked toward the two siblings. The brother and sister still had their mouths open from shock.

The one to break the silence was the older sister. “Sungjae, is he someone we are meeting along with Uncle? Who is he affiliated with?”

Her brother's eyes turned round. He had no idea what his noona was talking about. "What? No! That person is..."

Lee Gun spoke as he approached them. "Hey, Sungjae! You should just beat them all up. You shouldn't hold back just because you are 5'7"!"

"That isn't why..."

Lee Gun had beaten up one of the reasons Chun Sungjae had to join the Gemini temple. While he felt exalted at the greatness of his uncle, Chun Sungjae started sweating as he saw the bloodied Yoon Shiwoo. Of all the people to mess with, his uncle had messed with a disciple directly under the Gemini Saint.

'The Gemini Saint will be angry enough to search out Uncle.'

Suddenly, Chun Yooha became surprised. She remembered something. "Uh? Weren't you the guy who had almost gotten swindled by that phone salesman?"

Lee Gun also became surprised when he met Chun Yooha's eyes. "What the hell? Aren't you my game character?"

With a baffled expression, he looked toward Chun Sungjae.

Chun Sungjae was puzzled. He didn't know that his dad hadn't shown any pictures of his family to Lee Gun. "She's my noona."

"!" Finally, Lee Gun laughed. 'Ah! Is this the reason Hugo made such a big fuss when I was playing that game?'

Chun Yooha! It was the name of the game character Lee Gun had put in a lot of work into. He had picked her because her abilities were excellent.

'She's more overwhelming in person.'

Lee Gun had assumed Hugo's daughter would look like her brother. However, she had long black hair and pale skin. There was no expression on her elegant face. She looked like an ice princess. Amongst awakened beings, she was considered the most beautiful woman of this generation. Moreover, her skills were on par with general-rank Users.

However, that wasn't important right now.

'That Oh Taeksoo b*****d... She was his daughter?'

For some reason, Hugo had been oddly nervous when Lee Gun had complimented this woman. On top of that, he had hidden all pictures of her.

'That b*****d... ' Lee Gun laughed at Hugo's temerity.

Hugo was a pushover, but he was handsome. So, Lee Gun knew his children would look good, but... 'Both of them look more like their m****r than their father.'

If they had looked like his friend, Lee Gun would've realized it sooner. In fact, the siblings didn't look much alike. The brother looked more like mixed blood.

Suddenly, Chun Yooha asked Lee Gun in an apologetic tone, "At the time, I had some urgent business, so I couldn't stay until the end. Did everything turn out ok?"

She was asking about the incident with the phone salesman. Lee Gun laughed. "It turned out great thanks to you."

He was able to obtain a token and a new phone. Moreover, he still had the phone salesman's number. He received a lot of benefits from the phone salesman to this day. Lee Gun let out an evil laugh.

Chun Yooha didn't know about that arrangement, so she nodded. She was glad it had all worked out.

Right now, she basically looked like a doll. Her expressionless face made her look exactly like the game character Lee Gun was developing in the game.

Chun Yooha was about to thank Lee Gun for helping her younger brother, but her face suddenly turned serious. She looked conflicted. She wanted to ask how he had destroyed the Reflection magic. However, in the end, she decided it wasn't important right now. She looked at her younger brother instead, "Where's Uncle, Sungjae? You said he's nearby, but he's a bit late."

An odd light flashed in her eyes. It seemed she really wanted to meet Lee Gun. "I don't see any old man nearby. I wonder if he's lost..."

Chun Sungjae sighed at her words.

"I'm your uncle!" Lee Gun said with a laugh.

CHAPTER 44: I'M THE UNCLE

"I'm your uncle."

"!" Chun Yooha's eyes turned round. For a moment, she wondered if her eyes and ears had deceived her. "Uncle?"

"Yes, I'm your uncle."

One second passed.

Two seconds!

Three seconds!

“...?”

When Chun Sungjae saw his noona's[1] expression, he knew he had made a mistake. It seemed he hadn't properly explained the situation to her. Sure enough, the expression on Chun Yooha's face was a sight to behold. Her face asked how this could be possible as she stared at her dongsaeng[2].

Chun Sungjae read the meaning behind the look and yelled, “He's the real deal! He really is Uncle Lee Gun! In fact, Dad brought him home!”

Chun Yooha was shocked. She looked at Lee Gun. ‘Did he deceive Dad too?’

However, she soon shook her head from side to side. Her father was a bit unreliable(?), but he would never mistake someone else for his best friend.

‘Then this person really is...!’ Chun Yooha was thrown for a loop. She never expected ‘him’ to look similar in age to them.

Her reaction was understandable since she had spoken to her father. It was after the Leo Saint had skydived into the Red zone. Chun Yooha had asked about the man residing inside the holy ground of the Archer Saint.

[Yooha] Dad, is he really Uncle Lee Gun?

[Hugo] Who told you?

[Yooha] Sungjae!

[Hugo] F**k!

[Yooha] Is Uncle the same as twenty years ago?

[Hugo] ...

[Yooha] Dad?

[Hugo] Are you going to meet Gun?

[Yooha] Why?

[Hugo] Are you going to meet him?

[Yooha] Of course, I want to. I just can't right now due to an assignment.

[Yooha] Anyway, has he changed much from twenty years ago?

[Hugo] He's the same!

[Yooha] So, he is still cool?

[Hugo] ?? Of course, Dad is cooler than him.

[Yooha] Oh! So Uncle is still cool.

[Hugo] Are you listening to me?

[Hugo] Dad is much more handsome than him!

[Hugo] Dad is taller than him!

[Hugo] Dad is a better archer than him!

[Hugo] Dad is better at English than him!

[Hugo] Dad burns less food in cooking than him!

[Hugo] Dad is a better gamer than him!

[Hugo] Dad is a better drinker than him!

[Hugo] Yooha!

[Hugo] Yooha????

[Hugo] Yooha!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Yooha-nim has exited the chat room.)

Chun Yooha still became dumbfounded when she recalled the conversation with her father. ‘He’s completely different from what Dad described.’

How could her dad claim he was cooler than Lee Gun?

‘Uncle is taller and more handsome.’

Moreover, Lee Gun’s appearance was completely different from the past. He now had soft skin and a handsome face. His physique was also built. With just a glance, one wouldn’t think he was a User.

Chun Yooha was flustered, and she was about to speak.

However, Lee Gun’s eyes suddenly turned cold. After erasing the expression on his face, he threw something upward.

Kwahng!

Lee Gun had thrown a piece of chocolate from the order stand. The chocolate piece instantly broke open the sprinkler on the ceiling. Lee Gun had moved so fast that his movement was undetectable to the naked eye.

He had destroyed the sprinkler’s glass bulb. Normally, the liquid within the bulb needed to reach a certain temperature for the sprinkler to release the water. However, one could physically break the bulb to release the water.

Beeeeeeep!

Finally, water erupted as the fire alarm went off, leaving everyone flustered. Before anyone could scream, however...

Doo-doo-doo-doo-doohk!

A magical being approached them. It was traveling through the fault line.

The first one to sense the magical energy was Chun Sungjae, and he flinched. "...!"

Kwang!

The next moment, a flame erupted from the floor.

"Kyahhkhk!"

All of this had taken place in just five seconds. Due to the already-activated sprinkler system, the flame couldn't grow. This made the flame, which had a consciousness, very flustered. It disappeared to some unknown location as it knew that its plan had failed.

If someone else had been in Lee Gun's place, the people inside the store wouldn't have gotten away injury-free.

Beep beep beep beep beep!

The alarm finally rang out from the phones and the cafe. It was the Calamity alarm system.

[The energy of a Calamity has been detected.]

[Please be careful!]

[We repeat!]

[The movement of a Calamity has been detected. The Calamity will soon appear...]

Chun Sungjae furrowed his brows as he looked at his phone. The alert came from the Calamity alert system set up by the twelve Zodiac Saints. However, this alert system was too slow.

The alert had rung out after the monster had appeared.

'No, Uncle is just too fast.'

Of course, Chun Sungjae was also able to locate the monsters pretty quickly, but Lee Gun was on another level. He was so fast that he was beyond the realm of humans.

'The monster hadn't even appeared at that point...'

This meant Lee Gun had known what type of monster would show up due to his senses. Thus, he had activated the sprinkler system.

Chun Sungjae wailed inwardly. ‘Why didn’t I bring my camera?’ This was how it felt to meet a legend. ‘The generals are nothing compared to him!’

Suddenly...

Kwahng!

A black object erupted through the floor. It was an enormous hand made out of rock. The hand was large enough to reach the ceiling, and on top of that, lava was interlaced through the rock. The hand immediately attacked Lee Gun.

Chun Sungjae was shocked. “Uncle!”

Lee Gun was nowhere to be seen. Chun Sungjae wondered where his Uncle had gone when he heard his voice from behind him. “They always crawl out in the middle of the summer when it’s hot as hell.”

“...?”

Before the sound could fully register, Chun Sungjae screamed. “Ahk!”

Something large had flown past his face like a missile.

Boom!

This item was none other than a commercial refrigerator so large that a normal person couldn’t lift it. The refrigerator ruthlessly slammed into the stone hand.

Kwah-gwah-gwahg!

The crushed hand twitched as it tried to rush toward the crowd. However, Lee Gun immediately stepped on it.

Kwah-jeek!

[Saint EXP has increased!]

[You have acquired data! (Solid Body Attribute)]

The data was tasty, but there was a problem.

[Warning! You are receiving damage from the heat.]

“Tsk!” Lee Gun looked down at his foot. In the end, he had stepped on the rock, and it had melted his sneakers. ‘Tsk! It was a pretty high-ranking holy item I stole.’

When the holy item trading center was being attacked, Lee Gun had used the chaos to his benefit. He had snuck into a shoe store and had stolen this shoe. ‘No way an item made by an A-rank crafter should break this easily.’

The A-rank item sucked. Of course, this also meant the heat generated by his enemy was strong.

‘Oh well.’ Lee Gun threw away the sneakers and suddenly headed toward the kitchen. When he came out, he had rubber dishwashing gloves in his hands. Then, he threw the gloves. He had thrown them on top of the rock hand, which was roiling with lava.

At the same time, Lee Gun extended his hands. The green magical energy of the Serpent Bearer instantly appeared on the floor.

Pah-jee-jeek!

[Creation Workshop]

[<Repair Reinforcement> skill has been activated.]

[The special attribute <Random Luck> has been activated alongside the Repair Reinforcement skill.]

[<Random Luck> changes depending on the day.]

[Today is the Gold attribute day. The <Rank> will be determined randomly.]

[When you reinforce an item, its rank may increase or decrease.]

This was the skill Lee Gun had used to strengthen Chun Sungjae’s knife.

Chun Sungjae had never seen Lee Gun use his skill. So when he got the opportunity, his mouth fell open. This was different from the Saints, who had to borrow power from their gods. For some reason, this felt sacred. Chun Sungjae couldn’t look away as a sense of awe overcame him.

Kwahng!

When the magic circle appeared on the floor, something surprising happened. The embers in the ash surged into the sky.

[Attribute Reinforcement has started.]

Alongside the voice, a hammer made out of light appeared in Lee Gun’s hand. It was a skill. Lee Gun brought down the light hammer toward the rubber gloves, which were surrounded by flame.

Ggahng!

A clear sound rang out. It sounded like steel hitting stone. Along with the explosive sound, a light erupted.

Flash!

The pink rubber gloves changed in color. They became black, like a charred stone plate.

[The kitchen’s <rubber gloves> were temporarily reinforced into <Fire Resistant Gloves>]

[The ingredient has merged with the fire to give the item flame resistance.]

Chun Sungjae was fascinated by this scene. He was unable to close his mouth. With the power of the unknown civilization, one could reinforce a normal item into simple weapons and defensive gear. Of course, the gods could reinforce an item into something sturdier.

However, Lee Gun was different. He was very skilled with his hands, so he could freely reinforce the attributes of an item. In fact, the reinforced items were basically reborn as new items.

‘Since I reinforced a normal item, it’s a disposable item.’ It was why Lee Gun made holy items from ingredients that were reinforced. In the past, this process was the reason he had lost his hair, and he had almost died from poisoning. This had happened around the time when he had just awakened to his power.

[<Random Luck> attribute activated]

[All attributes will be distributed randomly.]

[Rubber Gloves(F)

Fire Resistant Gloves(B)]

– Mid-level durability (It might get ruined after a couple of uses)

– Fire Resistance granted.

“S**t! It’s a dud.”

Chun Sungjae was taken aback by Lee Gun’s words. The item looked too good to be called a dud.

“The fire resistance is too low,” Lee Gun muttered.

The reinforce attribute was too low. At the very least, he needed enough fire resistance to resist fire from Red zone level monsters.

“I guess I might be able to use them once or twice.” Lee Gun put on the gloves as he looked at his surroundings. He also put on the slippers left behind by an employee in the break room. He hadn’t forgotten to give the slippers fire resistance too.

Lee Gun moved his foot but suddenly came to a stop. “Hey, Sungjae!”

“Yes?”

“Where’s your noona?”

“!”

* * *

Lee Gun looked at his surroundings. He hadn’t felt it, but Chun Yooha was gone. ‘She disappeared like a ghost.’ When he had broken the sprinkler, he had sensed she was nearby.

Lee Gun was inwardly surprised he hadn't noticed someone with that much magical energy disappear. Of course, monsters were sensitive to humans' presence. They were drawn to humans like mosquitoes. Monsters could detect human presence as if they were mosquitoes detecting the change in carbon dioxide.

This was why it was imperative that one had to hide one's presence. When Chun Yoocha had detected the presence of the monster, she had hidden her presence as she moved.

Despite knowing this, Lee Gun couldn't sense her. 'She's skilled enough to be a master of concealment.'

He was honestly surprised. His senses were a bit dull currently because he still suffered the penalty, but they weren't so dull that he shouldn't be able to sense her at all.

'In terms of concealment, she is better than her father.' He wouldn't notice her even if she followed him as a prank.

Chun Yoocha's nickname was the <Scarlet Light>. Her main skill wasn't concealment.

'Her main skill is lightspeed.'

In terms of fighting ability, Chun Yoocha was in the top three. On the battlefield, she was death personified. As if to prove this, the sound of monsters screaming came from near them.

Kwhang!

The sound came from outside the cafe.

By the time Lee Gun exited the cafe, a field of corpses already lay outside. It was very obvious where Chun Yoocha had gone. She was moving in a fixed direction while killing the monsters outside. She was killing the monsters with a single blow to their vital spot.

Chun Sungjae clicked his tongue as if he was used to this. "She got excited because she met you. Her switch has been flipped."

'Me?'' Lee Gun had no idea why he was being mentioned.

Chun Sungjae huffed and puffed as he went toward his noona. Around two hundred meters away, they could see Chun Yoocha swinging something. At a glance, it looked like she was wielding a spear, but at closer inspection, the weapon was revealed to be a red beam of light.

As if that wasn't enough, red lightning flashed around her.

Pah-jee-jeek!

The lightning swept through the enemies in a flash.

'I wondered what the Ten Stars were all about.'

Chun Yoocha possessed enough skill to make Lee Gun flinch. Rumors said that the defection of a member of the Ten Stars was enough to cut a temple's power in half. It seemed to be true.

Aside from that, one thing still bothered Lee Gun. ‘That is...’

Lee Gun activated his [13th Sense] when he felt an oddity! His eyes turned into those of a snake. Lee Gun then focused his attention on Chun Yoocha’s arms.

In his vision, Chun Yoocha’s entire body was blue. However, her arms were different. ‘They are the only parts that are red?’

From his experience, Lee Gun knew that red meant a connection to the unknown civilization. He was trying to decipher what he was seeing when...

Lee Gun turned his head around as he sensed something.

[Warning! A heinous Calamity has appeared.]

[The Serpent Bearer’s holy ground has been activated.]

1. Noona – Korean word for elder sister <i class="far fa-hand-point-left">
2. Dongsaeng – Korean word for younger brother/sister <i class="far fa-hand-point-left">

CHAPTER 45: NO WAY THIS IS ABSURD

Lee Gun furrowed his brows.

At the same time, an alarm rang out again. However, this alarm sounded completely different than before.

Ehh-ehh-ehh-ehhhhhng!

The alarm sounded like the one that signaled the outbreak of war. The Chun siblings looked surprised.

‘It’s the alarm that signals invasion of Red zone monsters.’

Boom!

In a flash, something broke through the road and flew into the sky. It was a woman who possessed a fire-breathing lizard and the wings of a phoenix.

[As always, the human territories lack class.]

Chun Yoocha’s face turned pale at the sight of the flame. ‘The Fantastic species!’

Twelve types of species were confirmed to be in existence amongst the unknown civilization. The beings belonging to the <Fantastic species> were in contention of being one of the most dangerous types of monsters. These were monsters like fairies and phoenixes, creatures that appeared in the human imagination.

Whenever a Fantastic species monster showed up, the location would turn into a Red zone. At the very least, everyone had to evacuate.

However, that wasn't important right now.

'They are the ones that appeared four years ago!'

Yes, these were the monsters that had raided Beijing. They had created the red zone region between Beijing and northern Seoul. After the generals had failed to kill them at the front line, these monsters had run away.

'Why now!' Chun Yoocha's face hardened.

"Noona!" Chun Sungjae was afraid, so he moved closer to his noona.

As expected of the Leo Saint's warden, Chun Yoocha was surrounded by bodies of monsters with their heads cut off. Yet, she said, "Sungjae... Run away with Uncle."

"What?"

"They are Red zone monsters. Uncle will be in danger." Chun Yoocha had a resolute expression on her face. She had to protect her dongsaeng and Lee Gun.

Chun Sungjae clicked his tongue when he read the thoughts behind her eyes. 'This is why general-rank fighters are a problem. Does she think Uncle is only a B-rank User?'

This analysis was the reason many who achieved success thought themselves to be better than Lee Gun. Of course, his noona didn't think that way at all, but...

"I know what you're worried about, Noona. However, you don't have to worry about that." Chun Sungjae tried to reassure her.

"What?"

"Uncle can blow apart a mountain."

"What?"

"He can send a Red zone monster flying with just a punch."

Chun Yoocha realized what her dongsaeng was trying to say. She became serious and scolded him. It was understandable considering which monsters had shown up, but this wasn't the time for jokes.

She rebuked him, "Aren't you a bit too old to believe that? Dad was drunk, so he exaggerated the stories."

"..." Chun Sungjae found it tiresome to talk about it. "Just see it for yourself."

"...?"

He could understand how his noona felt. Until a couple of days ago, he used to feel the same way.

Chun Yoocha jumped as she targeted the lizard and the woman.

Pah-jee-jeek!

It was a powerful thrust, but the destroyed body parts regenerated.

“...!”

This had happened in the past. However, Chun Yoocha’s tactic was to hit them until they died. She was about to pour out all her magical energy. However, the woman riding the lizard changed her direction. She now headed toward Lee Gun.

“!”

[There’s a very handsome man this time around.]

Chun Yoocha, who had surged into the air, was taken aback. “Uncle! Look out—”

Lee Gun had been picking at his ear. He reacted in annoyance. “F**k! It’s already hot today. Why the hell are you making it hotter?”

Slap!

Lee Gun slapped the female monster’s face, and the two monsters fell away. He had swatted them away like flies.

* * *

At that moment, in front of the Korean holy item trading center, a laser show was happening using a water fountain. The place was crowded. It was to be expected since the press conference was going to take place here thirty minutes later.

“What is the Saintess going to talk about?”

“I heard it’s about Lee Gun.”

“Lee Gun? Isn’t he just a low-rank loser?”

“Why is the Saintess from Europe holding a conference in Korea?”

“Who knows? I heard it might be a political move.”

While the crowd stirred, Sophie was trembling. This wasn’t a political battle. She had been ordered to come here.

[Hey! It’ll be annoying to ride an airplane. You have to come here—]

This meant Lee Gun would come to monitor the press conference, so he wanted her to conduct it closer to him for his convenience.

In the end, Sophie couldn't run away. Therefore, she had used an expensive teleporter to return to Korea. Her press conference was scheduled to start in thirty minutes, but...

“What? It's a Fantastic species monster?”

“It appeared in Gangnam?”

A Calamity had appeared nearby. Sophie trembled at the news. ‘This is nuts! There is no way to defend against the Fantastic species!’

The bug-type monsters were from the <Hatred species>; they usually caused damage through parasitism. On the other hand, the Fantastic species monsters caused damage through natural disasters. They were insane monsters that killed others through pure destructive power.

The press conference wasn't important. There was a chance that she might lose her life.

‘No. This might work out in my favor.’ If that monster was from the Fantastic species, the Calamity level might rise to Legendary level. ‘The press conference might be canceled!’

Before, if she stopped the press conference, Lee Gun might come to kill her. Now, a Calamity that might wipe out Korea had shown up. Even Lee Gun wouldn't expect her to carry on with the press conference. This was a great development for her.

The top temples of Korea were rushing toward the scene of the incident. This response indicated that the situation was dire.

“This is bad! It's the fire monarch that destroyed the Cheongwadae in the past!”

“What? It's that lizard?”

“Yes! I believe it invaded through a blind spot. There might be a chance that it moves past northern Seoul this time!”

The generals turned pale at the crisis.

‘That fiend is back again.’

Only four years had passed since that monster had razed Beijing and the Northern Korean peninsula into the ground. It was all done by a single lizard that swung a fire tail from hell.

Sophie was happy. ‘As expected...’

The press conference was going to be canceled. Canceled!

Sophie inwardly cheered. It was as if she had received a new lease in life.

Kwahng!

“...!”

People screamed as the sound of an explosion rang out.

Hweeeeeg!

Something enormous came flying in. The object fell right in front of the plaza where the press conference was going to take place.

Boom!

“Kyaaaahk!”

“What the hell!”

The impact was so powerful that the floor cracked. As the smoke dissipated, the object revealed itself.

The temples’ disciples and Sophie were shocked by what they saw.

“What the hell is this”

“A tail?”

Something unbelievable was happening.

Bbah-gahk!

The fire monsters that rushed Lee Gun were being sent flying in an instant. Lee Gun, who had his gloves on, swatted them away like flies. That wasn’t all.

“Koo-ehhhhk!”

The fire-lizard, which the woman had been riding, let out a painful cry. The Chun siblings looked toward it. When the lizard had swung its thick tail, Lee Gun had kicked it.

The lizard had done a defensive move. On the other hand, Lee Gun believed the best defense is a good offense. The tail was incapable of withstanding Lee Gun’s magical energy; the force had ripped it away.

Flying like a cannonball, the tail traveled several kilometers, its final destination unknown.

Of course, Lee Gun got angry at this. “S**t! My ingredients! It got obliterated!”

‘Why couldn’t it be tougher?’ Lee Gun started yelling at the lizard, while the lizard looked aggrieved.

When she saw this, Chun Yoocha was unable to close her mouth. The lizard that had destroyed the Cheongwadae had gotten defeated with a single blow!

‘It really is Uncle.’ The person whom she had watched only through videos was in front of her. She saw how he used his magical energy. She saw his spirit and the power that he used to confront the monsters.

He was completely different from what she had seen in the videos.

Chun Sungjae looked satisfied when he saw the shock on his noona's face. It was almost impossible to surprise her like this. In terms of fighting technique, she was one of the top people in the world. Yet she was also reacting this way. He wondered what kind of expression the generals would make in the same situation. They always looked down on Lee Gun. Chun Sungjae was looking forward to seeing it.

“Where do you think this is? You bastards dare come here?” Lee Gun was angry. He sounded as if the monsters had invaded his territory. He approached the lizard.

On the other hand, the firebird lady was having a hard time getting up. It seemed Lee Gun's strike had caused a great deal of damage.

[Kuh, kuh-huhk! You are a mere human!]

Lee Gun looked at the firebird when she insulted him. He laughed at her in a contemptible manner. “Oh! You can speak! You must be at least a platoon leader.”

The firebird lady flinched in surprise. She looked up. This man had spoken as if he knew how her society was structured. ‘How can a human know...’

Lee Gun cracked the knuckles of his gloved hand as he let out an evil laugh. The world might call them Fantastic species, they might treat these monsters like great catastrophes, but he used to meet these monsters every day.

When he had been trapped in the tower, he had killed them over and over again. “I never expected to see these bastards again. I ripped their wings off every day.” Killing intent appeared in Lee Gun's eyes.

The firebird lady trembled when she saw his eyes. She knew that her opponent was dangerous at an instinctual level.

“Kee-ehhhhk!”

The woman screamed, and her partner lizard roared. Fire erupted all over the tailless lizard's body as it approached Lee Gun.

Boom! Boom!

The lizard waddled as it had lost its tail. However, it was still fierce in its charge. The flame it emitted could melt the asphalt on the road.

The flames surged as the lizard finally attacked Lee Gun.

The surprised Chun Yoo-ha was about to move. There was no way a human could withstand that attack with no defensive gear.

Hwah-roo-roohk!

“...!”

Lee Gun remained untouched within the flame. It was to be expected. Lee Gun was called a fighter, but at a basic level, he was a smith who made weapons with fire. His fire resistance had kept increasing over the years, and he could even freely use the flames of his enemies. It was also why Lee Gun got along with Hugo, who followed the owner of the fire element.

Lee Gun grinned as he looked at the lizard. “Good! A fire of this caliber will be quite useful when crafting.”

The lizard felt uneasy hearing the laughter of the man in front of it.

“...!”

Lee Gun, who had been dragging the slippers while walking, suddenly disappeared. He reappeared in the air and took out something from his pocket. It looked like a tape measure. Then, he dragged something out from within.

Chwah-roo-roohk!

[Rope that won't break] S rank

– Rope made with the <Bowstring containing the Archer's Resentment>.

– It's very difficult to break. (Data rank: Saint)

– The Archer Saint's Data (Flame Resistance)

It was a rope Lee Gun had made using Hugo's data. Lee Gun threw the rope toward the lizard.

Shweek!

The rope went around the lizard's neck and coiled around the monster like a noose.

When Lee Gun pulled the rope, the rope choked the lizard's neck.

The monster cried out. “Kee-ehhhhk!” Its fierce struggle split open the ground. However, those efforts were futile. It couldn't loosen the noose.

Bbah-gahk!

“Kee-ehhhhk!”

Lee Gun ruthlessly let his fist fly. His gloves had made the job of fighting the fire-lizard easy.

Bbah-gahk! Bbah-gahk!

After taking a hit from Lee Gun, the lizard was in a critical condition.

The firebird lady had tried to use that opportunity to run away, but her efforts were useless in front of Lee Gun.

“Where are you going?” he asked.

[Kyahhk!]

Lee Gun then kicked the bird lady.

[You have acquired data]

[You have acquired data]

The Fantastic species monster had been defeated in an instant. Chun Yooha's mouth fell open. Chun Sungjae looked like he was about to die from a heart attack.

Lee Gun stepped on the two monsters that were on the brink of death. He laughed. 'Is it possible to make them my familiars?'

If he could register them as familiars, he could bring out or remove them easily. As if it could read his thoughts, he soon heard a voice.

[Their unclean energy is too strong for them to be made the familiars of the Serpent Bearer.]

[You need to purify them.]

Purification! Lee Gun pondered what he should do. Suddenly, his eyes flashed, and he started beating the monsters again.

Bbah-gahk! Bbah-gahk! Bbah-gahk!

He wasn't sure about this, but when he made his holy items, he removed the impurities by pounding his ingredients. Therefore, he thought hitting these monsters would work.

[Your enemies are dying.]

[You cannot purify them.]

[You need a different method.]

'It seems beating them isn't the answer.' Lee Gun pouted.

What could he do to acquire the monsters as his familiars? Without realizing it, he started utilizing his power.

"Uncle!"

"Uh?"

The firebird lady's scream ran out alongside Chun Sungjae's flustered voice. It seemed Lee Gun had failed in controlling his strength.

Poohk!

"Ah!" He had killed the monster woman by mistake.

[You have acquired data.]

[You have acquired Saint EXP]

Lee Gun became angry at this. “F**k! Why are these bastards so weak?” He gave a dirty look toward the lizard.

The lizard flinched as it quickly threw up something. This item was its c**e that was supposed to be stored in its innards. The item seemed to have a connection to the boss of the unknown civilization.

[Your enemy has given up.]

[Its evil energy has decreased.]

[You can register it as a captive.]

[Would you like to use your familiar skill?]

“Oh!” Lee Gun used the familiar skill as he had done with Pixiu.

[Fire Monarch (Fantastic Species) has become the Serpent Bearer’s <captive>!]

[Captive 1]

[Will you like to give it a name?]

“Torch.”

[The <Fire Monarch> has received the name of Torch.]

[If you use your Conciliation skill, you can register it as a familiar or a slave at a later time.]

Lee Gun looked satisfied as he laughed. He thought he could unsummon the lizard as he had done with Pixiu, but the next second, he realized that wasn’t possible yet.

[Serpent Bearer’s Holy Ground (Lv. 1)]

[Area 1.6㎡ (0.5 pyeong)]

[Your holy ground is too small to accommodate your captive.]

[You have to increase your holy ground’s level! You have to increase its size!]

[A Construct or a human familiar may contribute(EXP) to increase the level of the holy ground!]

Lee Gun accepted the explanation. He could just steal Hugo’s house as his own until he upgraded his holy ground.

Koo-goo-goohng!

Lee Gun pulled at the noose around the lizard's neck as if the monster were a dog on a leash. "Let's go. The press conference is about to start soon."

"You... you're going to drag that along?"

"I have no choice."

Lee Gun turned around, but Chun Yooha couldn't take her eyes off of him. She couldn't close her mouth. She had been in that state ever since he had sent the lizard flying.

It was to be expected. These monsters had appeared four years ago and were dubbed the nightmares of Seoul.

Chun Sungjae just shrugged at what he had seen. His uncle was mind-blowingly powerful. Lee Gun exceeded the exploits in the tired stories Hugo had told to his kids. Therefore, Chun Sungjae gave up thinking logically in everything regarding Lee Gun.

Of course, Lee Gun had no idea such thoughts were crossing the young man's mind.

"What? What's wrong?" Lee Gun looked worried as he approached Chun Yooha.

This made the woman's eyes sparkle. "Uncle."

"Huh?"

Chun Yooha became serious as she grabbed Lee Gun. "Please marry me!"

'What the f**k?'

