

DIVINE EMPEROR 71

### **Chapter 71: Rules Of The Preliminaries**

Somewhere on the Island, a black-robed silhouette held a token in its hand which glowed red as it thought.

'Fifth Island? Why is it red now?'

That silhouette then looked into the sky and thought.

'I wonder if he is in the arena? Hmph! I'll surely pass through this preliminaries and meet him there!'

It then returned to its teammates who were some few hundred metres away.

...

That solemn voice then echoed again.

"Now for those of you got the First to Third Island tokens, head to the north end of the Gote Island and board the ship which carries you to your designated Island."

"Next, for those of you got the Fourth to Sixth Island tokens, head to the east end of the Gote Island and board the ship which carries you to your designated Island."

"Then, for those of you got the Seventh to Ninth Island tokens, head to the west end of the Gote Island and board the ship which carries you to your designated Island."

"Finally, for those of you got the Tenth to Twelfth Island tokens, head to the south end of the Gote Island and board the ship which carries you to your designated Island."

"The rules will be explained once you reach your designated Islands!"

The whole Island was silent for a moment before some people scrambled to get to their destination.

Davis who was already on the east end of the Island, laughed wryly while looking at the incoming ships.

The ships docked on the shore as the participants began to board the ship in a hurried manner.

Davis and Ellia also casually boarded a ship which was designated to go to the Fifth Island.

Sometime later, that silhouette also boarded the same ship.

The ships hosted about a million youths each, which then set sail to their designated Islands after a period of time.

It was already noon by that time.

The ships then reached their destination when it was almost night.

It was starting to get dark when Davis and Ellia arrived at the Fifth Island.

The solemn voice echoed again to all the twelve Islands.

"I shall explain the rules now, the tokens you have carries each one point. Some of you may have a red, blue, or green token. These tokens contain a hundred, fifty and ten points respectively. These tokens are distributed randomly and the one who possesses these tokens may have a headstart from all of you. But it may also be a disadvantage if a weak cultivator possesses it."

"The preliminaries will go on for ten days, earn as many points as you can and distinguish yourself from the other cultivators!"

"The Top 100,000 on the eleventh day will be qualified to participate in the second round of the Grand Sea Continent Meet!"

"The preliminaries will officially start in the midnight, so scatter throughout the Island for the time being."

"Young cultivators of all the empires, the stage has been set for you to achieve your glory. The strong will advance while the weak will lag behind. Your fate depends on your prowess. So if you don't want to lag behind the others, give it your all even if you have to die for it!"

As the voice echoed, all the youths were filled with renewed vigour.

Davis who heard that couldn't give a sh\*t about it while Ellia couldn't help but get nervous.

"So, this is the Fifth Island?" Ellia muttered as she looked at the eerie forest from the shore.

"Stay with me, don't get lost though..." Davis casually said as he yawned. He almost got bored by this tiring trip.

They then headed into the forest, so did the other young cultivators.

Many followed after them as people thought that two kids were easy targets.

But Davis and Ellia managed to easily leave them behind with their speed. But some managed to follow them, but only by managing to use their full speed.

Those people who followed them were astonished by the fact that these two kids were faster than them.

"That's right, Ellia. If someone wants to take something away from you, don't let them get away with that. Just plunder them back!"

"If they want your life! Then take away their life! Don't leave anyone behind as that might come to be fatal one day."

Ellia kept nodding her head as she learnt how to survive from him.

"There are about 8 people who are following us. When midnight starts, you will face them."

Ellia who heard that was astonished.

She asked, "You are not coming?"

"I will be near you but I won't help you. Since it's your first fight, depend on yourself. Win with your own power."

"Alright, I will do as you say..." She narrowed her eyes as she said. Faint fighting intent emitted from her eyes as she clenched her little fists.

Davis had already measured their pursuers strength, so he was confident that she should be able to handle it.

Davis nodded his head in satisfaction. If she threw a tantrum right now then he will have no choice but to give in as he couldn't force her to do something that she doesn't want.

Time passed as the chase continued through the forest. Davis even identified many Mortal Grade herbs as he thought wryly, 'As I thought, looks like the high-grade herbs had already been cleared a long time ago...'

Just when it was about to become midnight, that solemn voice echoed again.

"Now young participants, whether you rob or kill, work hard to accumulate your points as your fate depends on it. I hereby declare the start of the preliminaries!"

"It's time!" Davis said as he disappeared from Ellia's view.

'How did he do that!?' Ellia widened her eyebrows at his disappearance. She hurriedly stopped at a place and climbed above a tree and stood upon its branch.

The eight youths arrived at that place and looked like they were searching for something.

"Sh\*t, where did that little boy go!?"

"Haha, little missus. It will be better if you hand over your token. We don't want to hurt you after all."

"Look, even your friend who was with you got scared sh\*tless and escaped."

"Yes, it would be better if you hand over your token. Then we'll be on our way..."

These 8 people teamed up to advance in the rankings and coincidentally, also noticed Davis having a red token, which was why they decided to follow them.

## **Chapter 72: Killing Without Blinking An Eye**

Ellia, who heard that managed to calm down as their intent wasn't to kill her but only rob.

The eight youths were clad in different armours and had different weapons which made them look like a group of ragtag.

Ellia narrowed her eyes and shouted in a brave voice as she steadied herself, "If you want it, then come and take it from me!"

"Haha, I admire your courage but it wouldn't be wise to let go of our offer."

"Leave it, everyone, who participates here have their own backbone. You can't just expect them to hand it over."

"Then, I'll take care of her..."

A youth with a spear on his back approached Ellia.

'I can do this!' Ellia thought as she readied herself.

"Bullying a little kid isn't my hobby, but we are fighting with our lives on the line here. You can only blame yourself for stepping on this land!" That youth who had a spear charged at her with open fists. It seemed like he had cultivation but no fist skills as he was clearly clumsy with his fists.

'A spear user? He went easy on me?' Ellia thought as she jumped out of the branch. She aimed her fists at him and collided with each other.

\*Bam\*

"Argh!" That youth was sent flying as he felt his bones crack in his arms.

"H... Hand over your token... now that you have been defeated.!" Ellia threatened in a not so threatening tone.

"Heh, little miss, did you forget that there were 7 of us left?" A voice echoed at the back of her head which startled her greatly.

She ducked her head down as suddenly a black sword cut the top of her hair a little while she hurriedly moved away from her position.

Ellia who was almost killed was greatly angered as she looked at the scrawny youth who sneak attacked her.

"Hawk, what are you doing?" A youth with a sword shouted.

"She's just a little girl, why are you aiming to kill her for?" Even the guy who had his fists broken shouted at him.

"Hmph! You guys should just give up and go back to the ship. If you don't have enough resolve, just go back to your hometown!" That scrawny youth who was called Hawk sneered in derision.

A short handling of the little girl led to a confusion in the newly formed random team. They exchanged back arguments as they decided what to do with her.

After all, every team here was either formed way before or after this preliminary started.

"He's right! If you don't have enough resolve then you guys should just hand over your tokens and leave!"

"That's right!..."

The situation went out of hand as an internal fight broke out among them while they argued whether to kill her or not.

Out of the eight individuals who pursued them, it was only that youth who had a sword and the youth who had a spear outright denied to kill her.

Ellia who watched that felt an emotion wash over her as she laughed at herself in derision as she thought.

'How lamentable! They're fighting over whether to kill me or not as if I am a savage beast. So this is what Davis, my prince, meant by that he is weak, even when he is so strong.'

'Heh, this is why he told me to make myself stronger, so that there will be none who could control my fate by then!'

\*Stab\*

"...You!" The scrawny youth who argued with the youth with the sword suddenly had his heart pierced as electricity ran through him like a snake that was bent on devouring the innards of its prey.

Ellia looked up at him in indifference as she thought of him as an ant.

That scrawny youth's eyes went red as he collapsed while his heart corroded as it let out a charred smell.

"Kill her!!" The two youths who supported her froze, while the other five youths who were clad in different armours surrounded as they charged at her in all directions.

Ellia looked at her surrounding calmly as if she weren't the one who was targeted anymore. She looked like a bystander who was calmly watching an ongoing battle. Her eyes looked indifferent to her surroundings as she cast a technique.

"Lightning Storm..." She lightly muttered to herself as she looked at those two youths who shielded in a different light.

Suddenly, thick lines of lightning tinged with a light black colour erupted from her body as it flew to the youths who charged at her in a zig-zag motion.

"Hurry dodge!" A youth shouted in horror as he saw that lightning approach him like a snake.

But alas, the lightning discharged by Ellia was faster than them, resulting in the black lightning hitting them with a crackling sound.

Lightning covered them as they were burnt like a pig while a charred smell wafted in the air.

The two youths who supported Ellia, froze in fear as if they saw a ghost, their face pale as snow.

"Hand over the tokens and leave..."

Those two youths who heard that threw over their tokens hurriedly and ran away with their lives pathetically as if they were granted an amnesty for a great crime they had committed before.

"Davis! I won! Look!" Ellia shouted as she turned jubilant while she collected the tokens from their tokens as if nothing of importance happened a moment ago.

Just when she collected the last of the eight tokens, she collapsed on the grass as if she was exhausted.

But just when she was going to fall on the grass, a hand extended around her waist and supported her from falling.

...

A few minutes ago.

Davis looked at the confrontation in utter concentration as he couldn't let Ellia die in front of him so easily, no matter what.

'Eight youths, let's see how she would handle this...!' Davis thought.

He was on the branch where Ellia had supposedly stood on before, watching the battle below with eyes wide open. He used his Dark Concealing Shroud Art to make himself invisible to the people below.

In fact, even all the people in this preliminary couldn't see through his cloaking. Even if he stood beside them and acted like a clown, they wouldn't be able to notice.

### **Chapter 73: It's Nothing**

Davis saw Ellia send a youth flying, with her fists.

'Oh, looks like that youth is a bit okay as he is not aiming for Ellia's life. Guess I could spare him...'

Just when Davis thought like that, suddenly he noticed a scrawny youth get behind Ellia as he lifted a dagger and slashed at her.

Davis almost immediately launched himself at him if it weren't for the stupid mistake the scrawny youth made when he arrived behind Ellia.

'That idiot! I thank the heavens that he isn't an assassin!' Davis's heart, felt at ease when he looked at that scrawny youth speak before slashed at her.

He was at least sure that Ellia would've been able to dodge that with her skills as he had sparred with her before.

Then he saw Ellia dodge that slash as she hurriedly retreated when suddenly an internal fight broke out in the enemy team.

'What the hell!?!'

Davis almost couldn't almost hold his laughter but his impression of those two youths who shielded Ellia turned good.

Suddenly he could see Ellia laugh weirdly as she moved to the scrawny youth in a second.

Davis's eyes went wide as he saw her stab that scrawny youth's heart with her finger while she had a calm and indifferent expression on her face.

He gulped as he thought that was scary. He never saw this expression before.

'Had she killed a person before?' He thought as he shook his head.

He then saw those five youths who were ready to kill her, surround her in a bid to end her.

Davis narrowed his eyes as he thought of making his move. He thought that Ellia will panic as she had no battle experience before, but the sight before him made him stay his hand.

He saw Ellia cast the Second Layer Technique of the Extinction Lightning Judgement with a calm face as she fried her opponents to crisp without any reaction.

Davis's heart almost leapt out of his chest as he couldn't believe this scene. He thought that she turned into a person that he doesn't know of.

'Since when did she start killing people like cutting cabbages?' He had this thought and hurriedly moved to spare those two youths who had supported her.

He then saw Ellia sparing those two youths which then made him heave a sigh of relief.

He thought as he ruefully smiled. 'Haha, guess I jumped to conclusions. It was my fault, I brainwashed her too much about survival that she didn't even blink to kill her opponent.'

Davis then saw her call out to him as she collected the tokens one by one.

Just when he was going to reveal himself, he saw her suddenly collapsing while he quickly moved to support her.

'Fuck! As I thought! Which human could possibly not be exhausted and pained mentally when they kill another living being for the first time.' He thought as he felt guilt in his heart but quickly assured himself that it was a necessary process for her to stay alive even if anything happens to him later on.

After all, he couldn't be there for her every single time when something bad happens.

...

A day passed while the participants either killed or robbed to get their hands on the tokens.

At a place, where there was a multitude of flora and a vibrant grassland filled with countless trees, two silhouettes could be seen as one was sleeping on the other one, who was sitting.

These two silhouettes were Davis and Ellia.

'What is this? Why is she still not waking up?' Davis thought as he looked at her worriedly.

It had been a day and still, there was no sign of Ellia waking up.

Just when he thought of scouting his surroundings, he saw her eyelids gently tremble.

Ellia opened her eyes as she looked at Davis who was looking at her intently. She then realised that she was given a lap pillow by Davis while she blushed visibly.

"Good Morning, Ellia. Although it is night, hehe," said Davis as he greeted her in a warm tone.

Ellia quickly stood up while she involuntarily remembered about the event that took place earlier as she started to breathe heavily.

"Calm down, Ellia. What you did was correct, there's no need to be hard on yourself! It was for survival and there was no helping it!" Davis couldn't help but comfort her, seeing this sight. He originally thought that he shouldn't pry on this topic as it might remind her of something unpleasant but since she remembered, then he had no choice but to comfort her.

Ellia who heard that was visibly comforted but she shook her head as if that wasn't the case.

"Hmm?" Davis couldn't get what she was trying to say.

She then shook her head again and looked at him sadly as she bit her lips.

"It's nothing, I was just too scared..."

Davis replied, "Anyone will be scared after their first experience of killing. No need to worry over that."

'In this world, we will probably get used to it.' He thought to himself ruefully but didn't say it to her as he thought that she should understand this herself.

Ellia nodded as she stayed silent.

A few moments passed awkwardly before Davis suddenly remembered something he had to say to Ellia.

"Ellia, just when the first day ended, that solemn voice made its entry again. It said that we will be able to see our ranks in our tokens, as well as the number of points we hold."

While saying that, he took out his token as he inserted his energy into it.

[Fifth Island

Name: ---

Position: 9,046,970

Points: 50]

"Oh, it also said that we could insert our names or alias into it." Davis then added.

"Ellia, check your token now."

Ellia nodded while she took out her token as she inserted her energy into it.

[Fifth Island

Name: ---

Position: 11,446,330

Points: 1]

"It says that I have only one point?" Ellia muttered in confusion.

"Of course, you haven't still absorbed their tokens, have you?"

"Uh, yes..." Ellia uttered as she gave the tokens she collected to Davis.

"Hey! Increase your points! Didn't you defeat them!?" Davis refused it as she was the one who defeated them.

"Okay!" She muttered as she absorbed those eight tokens. The eight tokens then disintegrated as if they didn't exist in the first place.

Out of the eight tokens, two tokens were green, one token was blue, while the other tokens were white.

[Fifth Island

Name: ---

Position: 8,636,767

Points: 76]

### **Chapter 74: Encounter**

"Now my points have increased to 76," said Ellia as she looked at her token and had a sudden doubt.

"But the name slot is... empty?"

"Oh, that voice also said that we can use our energy to input our names or alias," Davis said as he looked at her in a meaningful way.

"...What?"

"Hehe, I'm going to use an alias!" Flicking his sleeves, Davis gave off an impeccable air which seemed to imply that he had a grand alias in store for himself.

Ellia looked at him weirdly as she knew whenever he posed like this, there wouldn't be one good thing that would happen. She then ignored him and replied as she used her energy to input her name into the token, "Oh, I'll just use my name."

[Fifth Island

Name: Ellia

Position: 8,636,767

Points: 76]

She looked at the token in satisfaction and felt a little good as though she managed to carve and leave her name in a monument.

"So, what alias did you pick?" Even though Ellia was not even the least bit looking forward to it, she was still a little curious.

"Heh, not telling!" Davis laughed.

...

Days passed as Davis and Ellia actively hunted for tokens.

They killed whoever wanted to kill them and robbed whoever only wanted to get their tokens.

They did as they pleased and spared no one even under any circumstance. As long as they felt some killing intent from their enemies, they won't hold back either.

Davis made Ellia do all the fighting and as a result, her battle experience increased, furthermore she never got to be in a disadvantage during a battle, as she dual cultivated both Body Tempering and Essence Gathering Systems.

Ellia faced more than a 100 battles and she collected more than 3000 points. Meanwhile, Davis ran off to hunt whenever she had taken a break from her exhaustion from battling.

He had also managed to gather 2000 points as he made his way into the Top 10,000.

People who had lost their tokens had no way to participate unless they rob a token from a participant and start from the beginning.

So it doesn't matter how many points one collect, it was important to protect their own token as well. Once a person lost it, all the points that the person had collected will disappear, but it won't add to the one who absorbed the token.

The one who absorbed will just get the point of the token that they have absorbed.

It was the fifth day of the preliminaries.

A black-robed silhouette, along with 5 young people ran across the forest.

They looked pretty happy as they checked their tokens.

"Hey, look at this, my ranking is in the Top 1000's" The youth who said that had a lush green hair tied up behind his neck. He looked suave and had a dashing presence around him.

"Hmm, not bad..." The voice sounded out with a tone that can melt one's state of mind.

"Haha, Young Mistress, it still doesn't compare to your ranking of getting into the Top 100."

"Stop that, all the tokens that I absorbed were from the hard work of us all. Honestly, all of this should have gone to you, Kent."

The six of them were none other than the Cauldon Family youths who were sent to participate in the Grand Sea Continent Meet. There were two women and four young men in this group.

"It doesn't matter if my ranking is in the top 10 or top 100 in this preliminaries. This ranking will be of help to you when you marry into the Loret Family so that others won't look down on you, Evelynn." Kent Cauldon smiled and said.

"Thank you, thank you all..." Evelynn felt touched and replied in a heartfelt tone.

She was wearing black robes to cover her identity from someone.

Kent was a close cousin of Evelynn's. He was next in line to inherit the Family Head position since Evelynn was born as a girl.

The other candidates don't quite measure up to him in cultivation, so they were no threat to him at all.

The only threat to him was Evelynn. If someone had married her and got into the family, then he would lose his Family Head position.

But to his luck, Evelyynn got engaged to the prince and she will marry him into the Loret Family which clears the line for him to become the next head of the Cauldon Family.

This made him feel content, so he had no calms in helping Evelyynn, who was his cousin, achieve a greater glory in the Grand Sea Continent Meet.

The Cauldon Family team was quite powerful that each of them could hold their own against a motley team of youths who were only out for the Top 100,000 positions.

Evelyynn who had a pretty low cultivation rode on their coattails as she didn't deem it necessary to use her own powers in this preliminaries.

They chatted as they randomly went in a direction to encounter a team to battle and casually collect some tokens while they were at it.

Suddenly Evelyynn froze as her team encountered two kids who were lone without any reinforcement.

Her team also froze because they have seen this two kids before.

"Well, isn't this a coincidence? my dear Evelyynn." An astonished voice drifted, breaking the silent atmosphere in this place.

Davis was surprised to see her in this Island. There were other eleven Islands which made his chances of meeting her were very low as well.

Evelyynn was dumbfounded to hear that he had found out her identity with just a glance. She felt that all that concealing her identity and strength had gone to waste.

She removed her hood and replied calmly, "My Evelyynn? I don't remember becoming yours?"

"Oh, you will, hehe. That matter? Are you up for it now?" Davis asked with a playful tone.

"You sure you want to take me on?" She said as she released a greyish aura from her body.

"This... She has reached the Iron Stage!?" Kent and the others who saw Evelyynn was visibly astonished at her cultivation.

### **Chapter 75: It's Enough**

Evelyynn said nothing as she revealed her cultivation proudly, expecting Davis to be astonished at this sight.

\*Clap Clap\*

Davis clapped as he was genuinely happy for Evelyynn, but he still said in a playful tone while he walked closer to her, "Congratulations on breaking through the Iron Stage, I'll happily take you on right now!"

'Hmm? Don't tell me his Body Cultivation reached the third stage?' Evelyynn frowned as she saw his playful expression.

Still, she walked forward as she readied herself for a battle. She couldn't possibly back out even if she now knew that he was in the Iron Stage.

"Make your move, Miss Evelynn..." Davis said as he stood calmly not bothering to pose for a battle at all. Evelynn who saw that, sneered as she thought, 'Heh, what was I worried for? He is still a kid...'

"Then, here I come!" Evelynn shouted as she used a technique to muddle a person's thoughts with her aura.

That shout travelled as it reached Davis's ears that made him look a little disoriented.

Evelynn hurriedly moved forward with elegant steps to hit him as soon as possible. She closed in on him and used her delicate palms to attack.

Davis who looked befuddled, suddenly dodged her palms as he caught her dainty wrists which were soft with his small hands.

He then playfully smiled at her as he freed her wrists and moved back calmly.

\*whistle\*

Kent who saw that, whistled in approval while Evelynn's face went red.

She now knew that she was cheated as he wasn't affected at all by her sonic technique.

"Again!" This time, she didn't use those support attacks and charged at him with her full speed and power.

They then both exchanged fists as the battle intensely erupted between them. But it was intense only for the onlookers and Evelynn as she was fighting with her full strength while Davis was visibly relaxed.

A few moments passed by, Evelynn was visibly shaken as she felt herself tiring down with her fast-paced movements.

But what made her truly shaken and tired was that Davis still didn't release his Body Cultivation Aura and was still fighting solely with his own bodily strength.

The Cauldon Family youths were visibly horrified at the sight of it.

'He is only 10 years old and has such strength!?'

'Does he have a beast bloodline!?'

'He will surely be able to rank in the top 10 of the grand Sea Continent Meet!'

When such thoughts were running around the Cauldon Family youths, Davis suddenly backed out and smiled wryly at her.

"Miss Evelynn, can you give up?"

"Why? You won't dare to attack a woman!?" Evelynn shouted at him as she knew that he was defending the whole time and hadn't made any moves on her at all. She now knew that she was no match for him but still, she felt frustrated at the thought of giving up, so she continued attacking to save herself some face.

She felt that she could give up if she was beaten up badly, but giving up before that made her think that it will be a stain on her life and ungraceful.

"Haha, Miss Evelyann, it's not like I don't dare to hurt women, it's just that I don't dare to harm my future wife!"

"You! Shameless!" Evelyann blushed as she felt her face burn but felt an unknown emotion in her heart.

"Hmph! You tricked me, but I will keep my word!" Evelyann said as she gritted her teeth in frustration.

'Yes!' Davis howled mentally in his mind as if he had achieved a big dream.

"I know that my future wife isn't a sore loser. Hehe, I can always trust my instincts!" Davis replied as he waved his sleeves.

Suddenly, she calmed down and smiled as if she was the one who achieved victory. "Whatever, keep bragging. Though I lost, it won't end here!"

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Davis narrowed his eyes as he continued, "Are you going to go back on your words? Miss Evelyann."

"No, I did say that I will give my heart and soul to you," She grinned playfully as she added, "But I never said that I will give my body to you!"

Davis widened his eyes in astonishment as he thought wryly, 'This woman! She played with her words'

He suddenly laughed holding his stomach.

Everyone thought he went insane including Evelyann and Ellia.

Evelyann suddenly felt that she bullied this kid too much and was just going to comfort him when suddenly, the Davis in her vision blurred and appeared right in front of her in an instant.

Davis held her chin as his face went closer to her ear while she momentarily froze as he whispered.

"As long as your heart is with me, it's enough..."

Evelyann dumbfoundedly watched as he mystically disappeared along with Ellia, while the whole Cauldon Family was horrified at the fact that they lost sight of two kids who were not half the age of them.

The whole Cauldon family team looked at Evelyann with envy and jealousy, especially the other woman who was in the team. She almost went insane as she thought why she didn't get to be born as the Young Mistress? Why didn't she get to marry this monstrous Prince?

'Such a delicious deal! Who wouldn't want that!?'

These kinds of thoughts ran through the Cauldon family youths.

Kent Cauldon suddenly had a weird thought that if he were to be born as a woman, then he would do all in his power to fight with Evelyann.

"Evelynn... looks like you did a great deed in your previous life to be able to be blessed with this kind of opportunity. I hope you have a great life. And don't forget about us too." Kent Cauldon said with a congratulating tone.

The whole affair happened in front of everyone, so they were able to form their own theories about the 'matter' both were talking about.

Everyone congratulated her while Evelynn was dazed. She nodded her head absentmindedly to their compliments and praise. Her head was still buzzing with those sweet words he whispered.

Abruptly, she came out of her reverie and said in a calm tone, "I'm withdrawing!"

### **Chapter 76: Unraveling Thoughts**

"What!?" The whole team were dumbfounded as they all thought doubtfully, 'Shouldn't she work hard to gain the favour of the Prince by giving it her all in the Grand Sea Continent Meet?'

They couldn't understand why she was acting arrogantly in front of the Prince.

"This... Young Mistress, isn't this a little too hasty to withdraw from the Competition?"

"Yeah, this is only the preliminaries, with your power, you could score more in the second round of the Grand Sea Continent Meet."

Evelynn calmly said, "I have finished my business in this place, so I'm withdrawing," She then whipped out her red token and stretched out her hand to Kent, "Take this, it's of no use to me now."

Kent looked at that token weirdly and backed off, then he slowly said, "Evelynn, I have no idea what business you had here, but shouldn't you at least make an effort to be worthy of the prince. I thought about this before as well, but you are too arrogant."

Evelynn who heard that was visibly shocked at his thoughts.

"I am arrogant!?" Her eyes went wide as she asked them. But her tone was one of questioning herself.

"I meant no offence, but what makes you think that you are worthy of Prince Davis? Comparing your measly talent with his talent, combined with the age difference, what exactly makes you think that you are worthy of him? If it weren't for the risky decision of our family during the rebellion, which as a result, made the Royal Family indebted to us, do you think that you would be able to enjoy its benefits?"

Evelynn was visibly shaken while each word hit her deeply as she was dragged down to reality.

"It's not like I wanted this marriage, he was the one who had taken a liking towards me!" She shouted back in frustration.

Kent narrowed his eyes as he continued, "The prince had miraculously somehow taken a liking to you, probably because he had just reached puberty. If I guessed it correctly, then he was probably enamoured by your charms and figure which could drive a man crazy. If it weren't for that, how could he, a person of high stature, possibly take a liking towards you who at best possesses only an average talent?"

"Don't you think that one day when he grows up that he will just get tired of your figure and realises that he should no longer try to please you since you are so arrogant and not worthy of his time?"

"No! Stop! I didn't want this! It was our family who forced me to marry him!" Evelynn shouted as she couldn't bear to face her reality anymore.

"Hmph, what had you done for the Cauldon Family other than wasting resources? Do you think that you can be so free that you can do anything you want just because you were born as the daughter of the Family Head? As the Young Mistress of our family, you have a responsibility to satisfy the family whether you like it or not!"

A few moments of silence passed by as the atmosphere turned rather tense.

Kent harrumphed and said, "So you don't want him, huh? Fine! Look at Zara! She looks like she couldn't wait to steal the Prince from you, so why don't you rather gift the Young Mistress status to her if you don't want this marriage! Simple, right?"

Evelynn looked at Kent in disbelief and Zara Cauldon, who was the only other woman in this group, suddenly looked startled as she had no idea why she was brought into this conversation.

"Zara, don't you want to marry the prince? Weren't you keen on her marriage? Evelynn says that she would gladly give her status to you if you want to do so..."

Zara was shocked again as her secret motives which she hadn't acted on, were revealed in front of everyone. She hurriedly bit the bullet and said, "Yes! I would gladly take the Young Mistress's position and marry the Prince if Young Mistress doesn't want it!"

"There you have it! Zara says that she would like to marry the Prince! Your problem is solved right!? I know you just want a peaceful life in the family. Zara, with your position as the future Young Mistress, isn't this a piece of cake for you?" Kent grinned as he feined his voice to a serious tone.

"Yes, if our Evelynn wants to live peacefully, then it is within my powers to do it! In fact, I can agree with her future demands as well!" Zara spoke seriously while she hid her excitement at the prospect of climbing the hierarchical ladder.

As a talented member of a family, she had envied the Young Mistress position of Evelynn. She felt that Evelynn didn't deserve to be the Young Mistress just because she was the daughter of the family head.

In the Cauldon Family, it was difficult for one to keep their positions if they haven't achieved anything. If it weren't for Evan Cauldon, Evelynn's father, who had secretly protected her from every problem, then Evelynn would probably be dead or sold to some powerful characters even before she reached 15.

As a father, Evan Cauldon had wished the best for his daughter in everything, and to him, marrying her off to the Prince seemed like a deal from heaven which couldn't be any better.

Silence reigned down on the place as everyone looked at Evelynn for her answer.

"... I ...I " Evelynn stuttered as she trembled.

Visible anger filled her face violently when suddenly, she felt reality drowning upon her.

Abruptly, she lost her bearings and went crazy as reality hit her hard, "Shut up! Who do you think you are!?! I won't hand over my position! Neither will I hand over my fated one! He is mine!"

Utter silence reigned once again as everyone looked at her lose her mind while Kent, who was the only one, who was calm, grinned in satisfaction as he nodded as he thought, 'Provoking always works on someone who thinks that they're high and mighty.'

Evelynn looked at others bewilderedly. It was not that she couldn't believe what they had said, it was because she was dumbfounded at her own words.

Various thoughts raced through her head as she realized her own deep wishes.

### **Chapter 77: End Of The Preliminaries**

Time passed as it was almost the end of the preliminaries.

Davis was in a good mood these four days. He felt ecstatic as he thought that he managed to leave an impression on her. But most importantly, he felt that their relationship would move forward a little as well.

After that, he thought that seizing the first position was a drag, so he and Ellia stopped hunting for tokens altogether.

It didn't take them long to realize that their positions stayed stable as all the weak opponents had been eliminated from the preliminaries so far.

So they explored the Island and enjoyed the scenery as if they were on a vacation. It was a refresher as they didn't have to see blood and kill people. And of course, during this time, they encountered a little stronger opponents than the usual teams, but they still didn't opt to fight them but instead, chose to steer away.

"Brave youths of the Grand Sea Continent Meet, I hereby announce the end of the preliminaries. The Top 100,000 positions will move on to the next round. The others will have to return to their designated ships if they are alive."

A solemn voice echoed throughout the Island as it marked the 10 day period of the preliminaries come to an end.

It continued, "Those who have passed the preliminaries will move onto a ship that holds the flag of the Guardian Alliance and hand over your tokens."

The Guardian Alliance Ship flag was yellow in colour with a shield of different colours in the centre. It sailed from the First Island to the Twelfth Island picking up the contestants who were in the Top 100,000.

It was pretty quick as everyone knew their own rankings, and the ship released a signal, indicating its position to the participants, making it easier for them to head over to the ship.

They then handed over their tokens to the staff on the ship as they went to their designated rooms.

The ship was big as the first ship they came in, so there was plenty of space to accommodate the remaining Top 100,000 participants. They were all satisfied as this was a luxurious ship with plenty of delicacies and services.

The youths who were in the ship started to imagine their glorious future as the ship sailed to a new Island.

"I wonder what the second round entails?"

"Hey look at that, she's hot, go talk to her."

"No way man, she's way out of my league!"

Various conversations ran through the ship as everyone started to either give up and enjoy the ride or get nervous and stayed in their room, preparing to compete for the Top 1000 positions. Only a few who had faith in their abilities were carefree as they knew that they would advance into the Top 1000 positions.

Suddenly, a voice echoed in the ship solemnly.

"Victors of the preliminaries, I will now explain the second round of the Grand Sea Continent Meet!"

"The second round is to hunt magical beasts!"

"What!?"

"Magical Beasts! I knew it!"

"Whatever, it is better than killing people..."

Everyone had different reactions when they heard that they have to hunt Magical Beasts.

But most people felt happy as they didn't have to needlessly kill anymore due to survival.

Somewhere in the ship, in a certain room.

"Isn't that good?" Davis asked

"Yes! But a beast? I've never fought them before..." Ellia replied meekly, totally different from the way she used to behave during a battle.

"Don't worry, I haven't fought them before as well. We'll stick together as we try to kill them one by one!"

That solemn voice which waited for the youngsters to digest its words, echoed again as if mocking Davis's words, "I will explain what exactly the second round involves. Each of you will hunt for the magical beasts individually, so if anyone of you is found hunting a magical beast with another participant, you will be immediately disqualified without any delay. Robbing is also forbidden as this round only depends on your ability to hunt magical beasts!"

A clamour broke out in the ship as everyone who tried to get lucky through their teamwork felt dejected. But no one can change the rules, so they continued listening.

"After you arrive on the island, each of you will be given a spatial bag, in which you will store the cores of the Magical Beasts you personally hunt!"

"The cores of the magical beasts also contain fixed points. A Low-Level Mortal Beast Stage Core will give you 5 points."

"A Mid-Level Mortal Beast Stage Core will give you 10 points."

"A High-Level Mortal Beast Stage Core will give you 20 points."

"A Peak-Level Mortal Beast Stage Core will give you 50 points."

"A Low-Level Earth Beast Stage Core will give you 100 points."

"A Mid-Level Earth Beast Stage Core will give you 200 points."

"A High-Level Earth Beast Stage Core will give you 300 points."

"A Peak-Level Earth Beast Stage Core will give you 500 points."

"A Low-Level Sky Beast Stage Core will give you 1500 points."

"A Mid-Level Sky Beast Stage Core will give you 3000 points."

"A High-Level Sky Beast Stage Core will give you 5000 points."

"A Peak-Level Sky Beast Stage Core will give you 10000 points."

"A Low... \*cough\* That island doesn't have a 4th Stage Beast so you can relax."

Everybody had black lines on their face as they heard the voice continued speaking even more after a Peak-Level Sky Beast Stage Magical Beast. But after they heard the voice comforting them, they couldn't help but laugh and relax.

'That voice made their nervousness go away in an instant' Davis thought as he sensed the atmosphere in the ship visibly relax.

A Sky Beast Stage Magical Beast can possibly kill them even when they work together as a team. So what is the possible result when they confront one individually? It is almost certain death. This made them nervous and sent them panicking before the voice made them relax again.

Magical Beasts are inherently stronger than humans!

Unless one trains in at least two of the Cultivation Systems, one cannot hope to fight equally with them unless their battle prowess is higher than the norm.

## **Chapter 78: Uh... Ellia?**

"Young Geniuses, as the Top 100,000 Cultivators, you are the future of our continent. If you sense that your life is in danger, please do back out and go to the east end of the island. There are already more than 5 million deaths in the preliminaries. Each of them was promising in their own right, but ultimately it still led them to die in the process of gaining glory."

Everyone was shocked to see the death toll but quickly returned to normal as this was expected. This also happened in every other previous Grand Sea Continent Meet, so nobody cared. But they cast looks of gratitude towards the voice as it told them to retreat when danger closes on them.

However, Davis sneered, 'Huh! What please do back out? You guys only want to recruit them and get them under your control, strengthening your respective empires in the process.'

The voice then continued, "However, if you are caught cheating, instead of you youngsters getting yourselves killed by the magical beasts, you will be executed by us!"

The Top 100,000 participants who had thoughts of cheating, immediately wiped away such thoughts.

"Also, the spatial bag contains your token, and it works in tandem with a formation. So the number of points you obtain will be updated in the scoreboard which is on the deck of the ship. In fact, you youngsters should also try to work hard, because another scoreboard is also in the Main Arena, so your ranking will be displayed in front of the Great Emperors!"

The youths clenched their fists in agitation, dreaming to arrive at the top position, so they can distinguish themselves from the others. They were all thinking that once they reach the Top 10, they can enjoy all forms of luxury for the rest of their life.

The ship then continued to sail to the island where the second round will take place.

Time passed by as the twelfth day arrived.

In the distance, a huge volcano could be seen on an Island.

Davis and Ellia, who were on the deck, looked at it in awe. But what they were admiring was not the volcano, but the island which was divided into two by a river.

The whole island was elevated while one end had a volcano while the other end looked like a glacial mountain.

"An Ice volcano..." Davis muttered as he looked at it in awe. He never saw an ice volcano before, this was a new sight to him.

"Young Geniuses, we have arrived at the designated island! Now is the time to prove yourselves in front of everyone and make it to the finals! Move on to the island!"

"The second round will last for a total of five days! Collect as many cores as you can! I hereby declare the start of the second round of the Grand Sea Continent Meet!"

Just when everyone was going to jump out of the ship, that voice kindly echoed again.

"Uh... Don't forget to collect your spatial bag from the exit of the ship..."

The contestants had black lines on their faces as they forgot about it or either thought that it will be handed over once they reach the island.

Suddenly a youth ran in front of the exit and inserted his hand into a big chest. He took his hand out, collecting a spatial bag in the process. He then made his way out as he went to the island.

Looking at that, all the youths understood one by one as they made their way to take their spatial bags that were in the chests. They all understood that it was a formation but couldn't figure out which type of formation it was.

'An identification type formation?' Davis thought while he looked at it. He had more knowledge than these people concerning formations. He had read about it in the library, after all, he had almost spent two years there, only reading books.

"Why do they take a random spatial bag from the chest? Didn't that voice say that our tokens are also in a spatial bag?" Ellia asked in confusion. Although she was in the Royal Castle, she wasn't allowed entry to the Library after all.

Davis explained as he shifted his look to her, "What the formation does is identify your energy imprint. Everyone has their own unique aura, energy and soul. So what the formation does is match your energy with the token and bring it out."

"So what I take out is mine?"

"Yes, you can say that." Even though Davis wasn't totally sure, but he assumed that this was the case.

Ellia nodded as she understood, but she also lamented at her ignorance. She secretly vowed that once she had reached enough strength, she will achieve something and get permission from the Emperor himself to gain entry into the library.

Just when he was watching the exit of the ship, he saw Evelyn and her team approaching the exit.

'Hmm? Why is she still participating? Didn't she only come here to battle with me?' Davis thought as he looked at her in confusion.

'Maybe I was secondary and she came to achieve a position for herself in this competition?' Davis laughed at himself but felt a little sad for some reason.

'Well, I'll keep an eye on her too. In case if anything happens...'

Suddenly, his face was pushed aside. He turned to look back at Ellia, who was the culprit who pushed his face.

"Uh... Ellia? Is something wrong?" He asked in incredulity as this had never happened before.

Rather than being angry at her, he felt happy that she pushed his face aside because she never had the courage to touch him herself, not even once.

Ellia just pouted without saying anything, as she moved towards the chest at the exit of the ship.

'Ahhh... What did I do? Why would I do that? It's that, it must be that!' Ellia panicked internally and had no idea why she did that. Sadly, she could only guess.

"Wait! I'm also coming!" Davis had no idea what had happened, but he happily rushed forward as he caught up and walked beside her, jubilantly.

They collected their spatial bags and then reached the Island.

## Chapter 79: Being Vigilant

The island was almost 500 km long, and it was unquestionably a unique zone in the Grand Sea.

Fog eternally perpetuated in this place, as the conflict between the two conflicting temperatures endlessly clashed from the time people found this island.

The left end of the island had seabeds which were extended by the erupting volcano every decade. There were also hidden reefs and molten caves which were used as a hideout or as a home for the magical beasts.

The right end of the island was covered in ice, and the land was frozen widely with small hills that looked like it was encased in ice magma.

Davis walked hand in hand with Ellia to the left side of the island. It was perpetually hot in this place, and their field of vision was quite limited, but Davis had a unique soul which made him sense his surroundings with clarity, so he couldn't help but appreciate the beauty of this island.

Furthermore, he also sensed a bizarre bug flying around him.

'A monitoring bug?' He thought as he guessed. It was all over the island, but the bugs were quite small and almost invisible to the naked eyes, but he could sense them as he had a powerful soul which also made him sensitive to his surroundings.

That said, he confidently walked together with her because he knew that he was not violating the rules of the second round.

The rules only said that the participants were not to hunt a magical beast together. But the rules never stated that the participants cannot travel together.

This was a loophole which was realized by some of the smarter participants, which led them to also travel again with their previous team.

"I never thought that I would get to see the Firzen Island which had been stated in a certain book of the royal library." Davis nodded in appreciation. He could see unique plants and herbs which were growing on this island. Most of them were fire attributed herbs which were very useful in alchemy. He collected some herbs and tore those apart as if they were roadside weeds.

These kind of herbs were quite ordinary to him, and he wanted to get a realistic feeling on the internal structure of the herbs.

Ellia followed beside him and curiously looked at his serious expression that was on his face. She personally felt that it was cute.

Then Ellia had a confused expression on her face just when she had realised something.

"Davis, aren't we supposed to be hunting for magical beasts? What are you doing there?"

"I'm just looking into the internal structure of the herbs so I can learn about it's working and essence when used in alchemy." Davis continued his research and didn't look at her.

"But... don't you think that something is wrong? We are already in the outer zone, but we haven't encountered any magical beasts! This is kinda weird..." Ellia said in worry as she believed that they should've encountered a magical beast by now.

Davis suddenly froze as he looked at Ellia in horror while pointing behind her.

"Look... A Great Serpent!"

"!!!" Ellia felt alarmed, "Ahhh!" She then immediately screamed as ran behind Davis while covering her head.

Few moments passed by as nothing happened.

Ellia then opened her eyes and looked at Davis, only to see him having a 'can't hold my laughter' expression on his face.

Her face went red as she embarrassedly screamed, "Stop playing around! Don't scare me like that!"

"Calm down, Ellia. Honestly, you have a good sense and perception. Just relax and maintain your vigilance at the same time. I know that it is difficult, but this is something that you should master if you were to become a pro magical beast hunter."

A magical beast hunter is just the name that the people have given to people, who mainly hunt beasts for their survival, it isn't an official occupation or anything.

Ellia then discerned that she was stressed out the whole time, even though she acted calmly on the outside. This was a new experience for her, and as a maid, she had seen the scary carcasses of magical beasts which had made her not want to see them alive, walking around.

Davis had his senses and perception heightened thanks to his soul cultivation, so he could maintain his vigilance without being stressed out.

"What you said has a point. But the concept you forgot was that we came to this island openly. We, the 100,000 people who are currently hostiles to the natives of this island. Do you think that those magical beasts will just get slaughtered by us? Even though they can't think or speak like us, they do have sharp instincts. So the magical beasts you were talking about must've run to the inner zone of this side."

Suddenly, he grinned as he walked to a tree that looked charred.

"Except some brave magical beasts which are looking to have their own delicious victim!"

A burst of light passed through the tree vertically, as the tree slowly split into two trunks that fell on each side.

A brown snake slid off the tree as blood washed over the ground gradually. It was 3m in length, but its thickness was quite small. Its scales were brown as if they were burned, though it was not the case as it was a natural scale colour for it.

"A Charred Boa, a High-Level Earth Beast Stage Magical Beast," Davis mentioned its name calmly as he collected the core of the snake by cleaving up its head with the spear he used to kill it.

He then smiled at her as he said, "I wasn't kidding around when I said that there was a great serpent..."

Ellia who was flabbergasted by his method of teaching, nodded her head in appreciation and apology, "Sorry..."

Davis smiled. "No need for that, I'm just trying to teach you the best I can..."

Ellia stared at him blankly and wondered, 'Is this the difference between a royal and a commoner? I feel as though I can never reach that place...'

No matter how she saw it, he was always ahead of her, even when they are of the same age. Though she thought that this was because of their difference in status, she didn't attribute to it and felt that wasn't the case.

Suddenly, she discerned something and had a mocking smile on her face, 'How ugly am I? Without even realising it, I was taking advantage of his kindness to improve myself? Heh, it was too arrogant of me to even think of always staying by his side, much less berate him.'

### **Chapter 80: Ellia's Resolve**

When Ellia had realised that she had started treating Davis like a friend, she started feeling happy and almost at the same time, she felt fear as well.

She felt happy that she was able to live a good life but felt fear because she was afraid of being abandoned. Adding to the thought that she had about Davis, this was almost like heaven for her. But one wrong move and she felt that she could end up in hell.

To her, even though she also treated Davis like a friend, it just didn't feel natural. With the binding of a slave servant on her fate, she always had a subconscious limiter in her memory that kept her reminding about her status and position, which made it truly difficult to make friends with Davis.

"You are so kind..." Ellia muttered as tears involuntarily dripped down her face.

"Eh!?", Davis's face changed to an awkward expression as he thought that his method of teaching went too far.

Ellia then started wiping away her tears with her wrists while her face went red again from the embarrassment. She felt that she had made herself a laughing stock.

"Haha, hey... st... haha... hahaha", Suddenly, Ellia was shocked as she felt ticklish on her waist which made her suddenly laugh like an idiot.

Ten fingers were simultaneously stimulating her waist, giving her a ticklish and pleasurable feeling which made her want to die as she laughed like an idiot.

"Haahahaha... sto... Dav... haha... enoug...hnnngg!" Ellia lost her footing as she fell back when...

Davis stopped and held her by the waist by twisting his arms around her back for support.

Ellia's breath was heavy as she gasped for air. She had a smile on her face with a heavy blush on her cheeks.

"That's right, you only need to have a smile on your face. Please don't make such a sad face in front of me...", It was Davis who was embarrassed this time as he turned his face sideways as he continued,

"Actually, don't be sad even when not in front of me, I will always protect you no matter what kind of a person you are..."

Tears erupted again from her eyes like a flood which she had no way to stop, but this time, she was smiling as she was crying. She was shedding tears of contentedness.

Davis smiled wryly. He only wanted to comfort her and make her stop crying.

During the time he spent with her in the preliminaries, he felt that she had changed a little bit as her character and her actions were a little off. He only felt that a little bit and couldn't put his hand on it, which in turn, led him to believe that she was facing some kind of internal conflict which he didn't know.

All he felt like was like sh\*t, not knowing what was going on in her mind. Without knowing it, he could only offer some comfortable words with his non-existent social capabilities.

Davis sighed, "It was all my fault, it was too soon for you to experience all these things...mm"

A delicate finger was placed on his lip which made him unable to open his mouth.

"As you said before, this is the only way for me to increase my standing and status." She paused for a moment as she thought before continuing, 'And if I could be with you', "I wouldn't stop halfway! Besides, what do you mean that it was too soon for me to experience these things? Aren't you the same age as me? Prince Davis!"

Her tone was more of a mocking one rather than a berating one.

Davis had a wry smile on his face and didn't answer this question of hers. There was no way he would tell about his origin or their relationship wouldn't be the same anymore.

"And when exactly are you going to release me?" There was a faint shy tone to her voice, which made her sound like a cute fairy.

Laughing slightly, he made her regain her balance as he removed his arms from her waist.

An awkward moment of silence emanated in the surroundings.

Suddenly, Ellia spoke, "Let's go hunt, and this time I won't be afraid or fall back."

Her face was calm, but her eyes were clear as if she had resolved her inner conflict.

Davis looked at her and smiled, "Good!" But suddenly thought of something and continued, "You will have to hunt by yourself, don't forget that!"

Ellia looked taken back but quickly formed a smile on her face as she remembered the rule, 'That's right, I can't keep depending on him...'

"Guide me then...", Ellia uttered as she started walking in a direction.

"Sure, no problem," Davis spoke as they walked together.

The direction they were heading to was the inner zone of the volcanic mountain.

...

Four days had passed since the start of the second round.

In the Gote Island, Main Arena.

People were bustling with activity as conversations of the second round of the competition were being discussed on.

People remained here as they talked about the various happenings as they never seem to run out of topic.

The main reason that they were able to be free of boredom was that because of the profound formation which projected the situation and the events of the Firzen Island through the bugs which were monitoring the whole island.

"Oh, look at that blue robed youngster take down a Crimson Ape with pure strength! He must've purely trained in the Body Cultivation System and reached at least Low-Level Iron Stage!"

"I know this person! Isn't he the Young Master of the Nolan family from the Loret Empire?"

"Young Master of the Nolan family? I think he was called Kevin Nolan..."

They then checked the scoreboard, which had his name in the 13th position, with a score of 14500 points.

Not only the Cauldon family but all famous and noble families from all the empires had also participated in the Grand Sea Continent Meet. After all, It is an opportunity for them to increase their strength and fame.

Various conversations of the famous youths like him could be heard throughout the arena.

Even the emperors and the royal family geniuses watched them with some interest in their eyes.

But no matter what, all their eyes were concentrated on a certain someone.

Emperor Tritor had a smiling expression on his face the whole time. He then suddenly commented with a mocking tone, "It's been four days since the start of the second round but your son seems to only have killed a Peak-Level Earth Stage Beast which gained him 500 points. Even his maid had killed a lot of beasts. He mainly seems to be following and instructing her. At this rate, wouldn't he be a failure to the position of a royal heir?"