

[Erza Scarlet. POV.]

As the dust cleared and the debris settled, I realized I had been pushed quite a distance from the Lacrima. With a groan, I pushed myself to my feet, swaying slightly from the force of the explosion.

Looking back, I saw the shattered remnants of the Lacrima, the glow it once held now dispersed, a clear reminder to what had just occurred.

Feeling some of my strength return, I allowed myself a small smile. It had worked. Adam was free.

That being said, there was no time to celebrate. From the corner of my eye, I could see movement, catching glimpses of Laxus fighting Faust without using his magic.

For what I could see, both seemed somewhat evenly matched.

If only the Dragon suit wasn't immune to magic.

Suddenly, a flash of light burst forth, a silhouette descending from the sky and landing between Faust and Laxus, creating a shockwave that pushed them apart. As the light dimmed, and the dust cleared, the figure turned, and my heart caught in my throat.

Adam.

The world seemed to come to a halt as he turned around, and calmly lifted his hand, all while the mechanical behemoth rushed forward to crush him, Faust roaring from within.

"Adam! The suit is immune to magic!" I shouted, worried he would get hurt by it due to his well-earned confidence.

Adam remained silent, not moving a muscle, and as the giant claw closed in on him, then, with a simple flick of his hand, something snapped, shattering the mechanical suit into pieces.

"WHAT?!" Laxus shouted in indignation.

I could understand his frustration.

After all, a mere touch, that's all it took for Adam to do what we hadn't been able to accomplish.

Faust's surprised shout was lost in the commotion as his machine crumbled away, the magical energy maintaining its form dispersing in a brilliant flash as the battlefield went silent.

Everyone in the scene watched, stunned, as Adam stood there, unscathed amidst the wreckage. His eyes held a certain calmness, a sense of control that hadn't been there before the last time I had seen him.

"Thanks, Adam," I smiled, my voice lost in the wind. My eyes met his across the battlefield, a silent acknowledgement passing between us.

"This was my fight! Bastard!" Laxus barked, one of his eyes twitching as he advanced towards Adam.

"Was it?" Adam replied with a mischievous smile curling up the corners of his lips. "I mean, I saw you struggling so I thought you wanted your big brother to help you out."

Laxus scoffed, his fists clenched as he stepped closer to Adam. "I didn't need your help," he spat. "I could have taken him on my own."

Adam chuckled; his eyes bright with amusement. "Of course, you could have, you're a big boy now," he said. "Isn't that, right?"

"Do you want to die?" Lexus muttered, glaring at Adam without much of a bite behind his words.

"Bring it on, double AA," Adam replied, his smile transforming into a challenging smirk.

I chuckled.

No matter what, some things always remained the same. And for that, I was grateful.

"What are you laughing at?!" Lexus barked, and for a moment, I could swear I was seeing him pout, perhaps it was my imagination.

[Adam C. POV.]

After defeating Faust, things followed just as they had in canon.

We pretended to be evil, Mystogan defeated us, and everyone with magic within them returned back to Earth Land.

Meaning every single Exceed also came back with us to Earth Land.

That also meant that Gajeel, who had been trying to join the guild, had finally found his cat. Which for some reason he thought was a requirement to join, something that once cleared up enraged him, as he asked for anyone to open a portal back to Edolas in order to allow him the opportunity to have his revenge.

I guess Mystogan tricked, for what reason? I don't know, maybe this was his sense of humor.

"Adam!" Mavis floated over to me, her eyes dancing with excitement. "You're back, I missed you!"

I narrowed my eyes. "I found you reading a book in my bed. I can feel how much you missed me..."

Mavis giggled like an anime girl, her hands covering her mouth as she tried to hide her amusement. "I couldn't help myself," she said, her eyes sparkling with mischief. "Your bed is just so comfortable. But I wasn't lying when I said I missed you!"

I rolled my eyes, resisting the urge to smile. "Whatever you say, oompa loompa."

Mavis huffed, her cheeks puffing out like an annoyed chipmunk. "I told you not to call me that! I don't know what it is, but I know it is insulting!" she whined, floating closer to me and narrowing her eyes.

I couldn't help but chuckle at her adorable pout. "You might not know what it means but be sure it suits you so well."

Mavis crossed her arms over her chest, her expression turning even more sour. "You're so mean sometimes," she muttered, before flying off in a huff.

I watched her go, shaking my head with a smile. Mavis was like the little/big sister I never wanted, and had no choice but love, and deal with her shenanigans.

"Did anything happen in my absence?" I asked her.

Mavis spun around, her eyes wide with excitement once again. "Oh, you won't believe it! Your familiar and I had a blast talking about magical theory!" she exclaimed in a rush.

"Master, please don't leave me alone with her again," My familiar squawked from the bookshelf he had been hiding in. "She's... insatiable, the questions never stop coming... I'll be having nightmares about her for a while..."

Mavis pouted at my familiar. "Oh, come on! I'm not... that bad."

Yes, yes you are, you evil tiny demon. I wouldn't wish what my familiar endured on anyone.

"Enough about that, tell me about this world you visited!" Mavis demanded, her eyes sparkling with curiosity. "Did you meet anyone interesting? Discover any new spells, magic, species?"

See what I mean?

I sighed, rubbing my forehead. "It's not really something I want to talk about right now, Mavis. I'm honestly pretty tired right now."

Mavis' expression fell, her lower lip jutting out in a pout. "Oh, okay. I understand, there's never enough time for Mavis, I get it. I'm old, obsolete."

God, she was good at the game of shame. "You're evil, you know that?"

Mavis giggled, her mood shifting back to her usual mischievous self. "Maybe a little bit. But that's what makes me so lovable, right?"

I rolled my eyes, unable to hide the smile tugging at the corners of my lips. "Sure, Mavis. You're lovable."

I guess I could give her the summary of what happened, after all, I had time, all I had to do after this, was prepare to help the master with the upcoming S-class trials in three months.