

“Are you sure we’re going to find that lacryma in here, Natsu-nii?” Romeo looked around unsurrenderly at the vast cave the two boys found themselves in.

The entire cavern was teeming with crystals lining the walls, floor, and ceiling. Almost every direction you looked there was a sea of crystal. A brilliant glow shrouded the room in light from an unknown source, almost eerie but welcome.

“It’s definitely here,” Natsu replied with a snuff as if something was bothering his nose, “I can definitely sense a powerful aura. It almost stinks.”

Their group had been tasked with a mission of utmost importance: the retrieval of a powerful lycrama named the Draconis Raitus. It was said to have been created by the mage Zeref himself hundreds of years ago as a means to end life on Earth but even he found it too powerful and sealed it away. Only now it had resurfaced and its powers were something many mages were vying for.

“I just don’t know how we’re going to find a single lacryma in all of this.” Romeo sighed. “We don’t even know what this thing looks like.”

“I’ll know it when I see it. Don’t worry little buddy.”

Natsu’s words of assurance were not overly comforting to the purple-haired fire mage. He scanned the room with a nervous energy, knowing they had to find the crystal fast or others were most assuredly on their heels.

“Zeref certainly did a good job hiding everything. What better way to hide a powerful crystal than amongst thousands of others. It’ll take us hours to fin-ACK!”

Not looking where he was going, Romeo’s foot caught the edge of a protruding crystal, sending him tumbling down a small dip in the cave and into a bed of crystal. The sounds of cracking and crumbling rock filled the room as his body crushed the fragile formations.

“Romeo! Are you OK?” Natsu raced over to help his partner up.

“Owww...yeah...I’m OK,” Romeo groaned as he picked himself up and dusted himself off. Overall he was not hurt, though a few tiny shards of crystal were piercing his skin. As he attempted to wipe them away, he noticed one rather large crystal lodged in his palm. “What the...” He took a look at the crystal, a deep, vibrant purple in hue about 5 inches in length jutted from his hand and yet there was no blood to be seen. It was as if the crystal had merged with his flesh. “Uh...Natsu-nii...I think I found something.”

Natsu looked over at the crystal as Romeo held up his palm. A powerful aura radiated off of it which made his nose twitch in repulsion.

“Ugh...yep. That’s it alright.”

Romeo’s eyes widened in shock as he looked down at the crystal.

“Y-You mean this is it!? H-How do I get it out of me then?”

Before Natsu could answer, the crystal gave off a soft light and quickly sunk into Romeo's palm, disappearing from sight. They both looked down in confusion until Romeo felt a sharp sting in his chest. The young mage's bare chest helped to not hide the crystal as it erupted from his skin, now a long conical spike.

"We're going to have to get the old man to weigh in on this," Natsu sighed. "No way we're going to be able to remove that thing without hurting you."

Romeo nodded in nervous agreement, "Hey...you think what they say about this thing is true? Can it really absorb magic?"

"I'm not willing to find out," Natsu huffed, "That thing gives me bad vibes. Best not to mess with it until we know what to do with it."

Romeo agreed, but he couldn't help but feel compelled to test the crystal's legendary powers. He gently touched the gem in his chest, feeling the skin around it pull as the crystal wiggled in place. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to give it a bit of magic ...just to test it.

His curiosity getting the better of him, Romeo pooled a small ball of fire in the palm of his hand - not too large, about the size of a baseball to start - and slammed it into his stomach right over his cut abs. The mage expected to feel a burning sensation where the magic hit but there was none. As soon as the ball of magic touched his skin, it was sucked up into his body.

"Whoa..." Romeo gasped in shock at the lack of an effect his magic had on his body.

Natsu caught the small utterance and turned around in time to see the crystal on Romeo's chest glow, the boy looking down at it with wide, scared eyes.

"Romeo...what did you do?"

Romeo looked up at the elder mage like a kid getting caught with his hand in the candy jar. He was about to respond when a jolt of electricity coursed through his body, taking him by surprise. He let out a small gasp as his body thrummed with energy. It felt like every muscle in his body was ready to burst out of his skin.

The two mages looked on in fear as Romeo's body started to change, his chest slowly heaving out as his already athletic pecs swelled with new muscle, his abs deepening on his stomach as they became more defined. His vest gave a clear view of his arms as they bulged and billowed outwards, his shoulders stretching horizontally while his biceps inflated. He was taking short, panicked breaths, his chest rising with each but failing to return to their original size when he exhaled. He grimaced and let out a pained groan as his feet tore through the leather of his boots, now two sizes too small and still growing. His thick, plump toes wiggled in relief, causing his diamond-like calves to ripple, each one standing out from the back of his leg like a softball. Above them his quads were stretching the confines of his shorts, the silky fabric starting to creak and protest at having to contain a set of quads much larger than they were originally designed for. Romeo gave a low groan as his body creaked audibly with a last surge of growth, a loud SHRRRIP emitting from behind him as a large tear formed in the back of his vest.

“Uhhh...” Romeo moaned as the flow of energy subsided, his hand reaching for his head, “Th-That was a rush...”

Natsu could not believe his eyes as he stared at the younger male before him. Gone was the lithe yet athletic kid he once knew and in his place was a teenage bodybuilder brimming with strength. Size for size, he looked to be as heavy as Natsu now, but his slightly shorter stature made that muscle appear much larger. He watched speechlessly as his partner began exploring his new body, flexing and feeling his new bulk with awe and a hint of excitement.

“N-Natsu-nii, look at me!” Romeo cried out and flexed a bicep, a ball of muscle the size of his fist rising up, “I’ve gotten buff!” Natsu continued to stare as Romeo excitedly ran his hand over his newly formed peak, “All this muscle...it feels so hard! I can’t even dent it with my fingers...” He looked down giddily and bounced his pecs. “Hee hee! This is so cool...”

Natsu managed to snap himself out of his trance as he heard the enthusiasm in the purple-haired boy’s voice, something that was not there moments ago. “Romeo...we gotta get you back to the guild. The old man needs to look into this immediately!”

“Sure thing,” Romeo agreed with a confident grin, “I wanna show everyone these big muscles anyway.” He growled as he flexed a most muscular, another RIIIIIPPP signalling the destruction of his vest as the back tore in two. He giggled as he stood back to his full height, the fabric hanging loosely around his broad shoulders. “I mean...who wouldn’t want to see me now?” Romeo smirked as he flexed his bicep, admiring it for a moment, “Though maybe...I need to get a bit bigger...”

Natsu’s heart leapt into his throat as Romeo pooled another fireball into his palm, now about the size of a softball. He attempted to lunge for him, but it was too late. In a flash of sparks, the magic was quickly eaten by his bicep which now bulged with fresh veinage. The effect of the crystal was almost immediate now, the glow from before washing over his body as his bicep quivered and surged in size before their very eyes.

“Ugh...Ohhh yeah...just look at it now...” Romeo was almost drooling at the sight.

The rest of his body quickly grew to match, his forearms bulging as new cords of sinew wrapped themselves around it, his hands swelling slightly to match their new heft. He put his hands on his hips and puffed out his chest, inhaling slowly as his entire torso bulked and swelled. His pecs ballooned outwards like they were being inflated, but they showed clear signs of striation rather than being perfectly spherical. His abs rose like loaves of bread in an oven, splitting themselves from the toned four-pack he originally sported to a deep 6-pack surrounded by defined obliques and wide, sprawling lats. The vest around his torso was crying out in pain as his thickening body pushed against the silky fabric. Their fate was sealed as his traps rose up from behind his neck, twin hills of rolling muscle that snapped the strained bands of material with nothing more than a soft grunt and two quick SNAPS.

As the fabric of his vest fluttered to the ground, his pants were fairing a similar fate, only now they had to deal with more than the massive truck-like quads that they were not painted onto. Between the perfectly defined, teardrop-shaped mounds was a swelling bulge that signaled the growth was hitting more than just his muscles. His manhood was billowing out before him, stretching the crotch of his pants with new cockmeat and testicles the size of large eggs. He cupped the new bulge with a slight blush, feeling the weight and heft of his sac as it filled out more of his palm. A long slow rip rose up from below as his

mammoth feet split the sides of his wrecked boots, growing wider to match their length. Thick with muscle, their bulbous toes scuffed the ground below them as they clenched in pleasure. They had to have been twice the size of his originals now.

Romeo continued to grow until a chorus of rips and tears announced the end of his pants, his quads finally proving too much for the fabric and leaving him in just a speedo-like strip of fabric. His ponderous cock, now around 10 inches in length, standing out profoundly within the material.

The new Olympian god of a boy grinned down at his body, admiring the sheer mass that now covered every limb. He strode up to Natsu, finding his quads rubbing against themselves and his prodigious bulge even more thrilling. He almost laughed as he stood before Natsu, their eyes meeting level with each other for the first time ever.

“So how do I look now, Natsu-nii?” He asked with an arrogant smirk, puffing out his chest as he crossed his arms in front of them. He was feeling a new sensation he’d never come across before: pure, unadulterated power and confidence. He didn’t wait for the speechless dragonslayer to respond, instead flexing his bicep for himself to watch the softball-sized ball of muscle bounce beneath the skin. “Aww yeah...I think I look pretty good!. I could get used to this.” He gave his bicep a deep kiss on the peak before turning his attention to his hulking chest, bouncing each pec in a rhythmic dance. “It’s so amazing how huge I am now...I barely even put half of my magic into this and just look at me!”

Romeo posed and flexed for himself, Natsu breathless and unable to even form an intelligent thought at the display of might before him. Every muscle perfectly cut and striated as the rippled and writhed with the slightest movement. He swore he looked like he was still getting bigger.

“URRRHH,” Romeo grunted as he threw out another pose, “Look at me...I have to be bigger than Elfman at this point...Hey!” He suddenly exclaimed, looking over at Natsu with excited eyes, “How big do you think I’d get if you hit me with some of your magic? Bet your magic’s much more potent than mine. I could get massive!”

This helped to jolt Natsu out of his stupor. “WHAT!?! No! No way! We don’t even know if this is actually good for you or not!”

“Look at me, Natsu,” Romeo grinned as he flared his lats, “do I look hurt to you? I feel better than ever!”

“No, Romeo. We have to get you to the guild so that we can figure out what’s really happening with you.”

“Not until you blast me with some of your magic,” Romeo demanded, his temper flaring. “With this sort of power I could beat even Acnologia single handed!”

“And what if it turns you into Acronologia, huh?” Natsu countered, trying to get the boy to see reason.

Romeo was having none of it. He wanted to feel that thrill of feeling his body brim with power, growing bigger by the second. It was intoxicating.

“You just don’t want me bigger than you!” he shouted. “You just want me to be the weak, little Romeo who keeps looking up to you like a little puppy! Well look at me now!” He stood chest to chest with Natsu, making it evident that there was now a distinct inch or two difference in height between the two mages; a

fact that made him arrogantly sneer down at the now smaller role model, "I'm more of a man that you ever will be. I bet I have more power in my pinkie toe that you have in your whole body! And I want more!"

Natsu squared himself up, slightly intimidated by the looming teen, but undeterred, "No means no, Romeo. I didn't bring you on this mission to let you become some power-crazed monster."

"Yeah, you brought me here just so that you could show off like you always do." Romeo could feel his ears heat up as he looked down at Natsu. "I'm tired of always being seen as the weakest member of the guild! I finally get a way to get strong and you don't want to help me? Fine! I'll go find someone else who's way more willing to do so!"

"Romeo, I-" Natsu was about to object but was shoved to the side by a large palm as Romeo stomped his way out of the cave. He watched the rippling mass of his back vanish from sight. His thundering steps echoing loudly through the cavern until they too were gone. "Dammit..." he seethed, quickly dashing after him.