

The behemoth struggled against the make-shift prison Hajime had sunk it into.

He looked back as he heard a shouting. One of the girls, Taniguchi Suzu, sat on the ground a few meters away from him, pulling a magic potion out of her bag and prepared to throw it towards him.

Why the hell wasn't she behind the battle line?

Her skinned knees offered a likely explanation.

What is this? A second-rate comedy? Hajime thought, catching the vial and gulping down its content.

Mana filled his body but was quickly being used up by Hajime burying the Behemoth deeper into the ground. Maybe Hajime should stand up and shout "You Shall not Pass" but he quickly buried the thought.

It didn't work out too well for that character ... well, he did get a power-up later but everyone thought he ...

The girl's voice pulled Hajime out of his useless musings. He stood up and dashed towards the girl, Suzu, having expended all of his Mana into burying the Behemoth.

The ground prison held for a few precious seconds in which the Behemoth struggled to free itself.

The Behemoth roared. A roar filled with loathing for the puny creature daring to oppose it. The earth shook and cracks appeared as Behemoth thrashed against its prison.

Finally with the last of the four legs freed, it locked its gaze towards the tiny fleeing creature and gave chase. It was focused on its hated target, that the Behemoth didn't even see the barrage of magic rushing in its direction. Colored explosions blinded the beast and stopped its advance.

Hajime rushed towards the battle lines as magic attacks poured over him, raining onto the Behemoth. As he spotted Suzu, seemingly rooted to her spot, he made the slightest correction of his course in order to help her.

The fireball he did not see coming barely passed by him, the heat singeing his clothes and some of his hair before it exploded on the spot where Hajime was merely a moment ago.

Disbelief and bewilderment clouded his mind as he flew and tumbled in the air.

The shock-wave of the explosion launched him, perhaps ironically, closer to the line of students, slightly ahead of Suzu, who stared at him, with eyes wide open.

Perhaps it was the fireball or the thrashings of the Behemoth, but the bridge finally had enough. Cracks started appearing on several spots on it, before it collapsed into several pieces.

The behemoth, still several meters behind Hajime, clawed desperately at the few remaining footholds before vanishing into the dark.

While Hajime's gaze swept from the place the Behemoth fell, onto the girl Suzu, scurrying backwards on hands and feet.

I think I saw a crab running like that once ... he wondered why he thought of that. But it helped in focus for a few precious milliseconds.

As the bridge collapse finally caught up to the both of them Hajime realized Suzu would fall into the ground, probably never to be seen or heard from again if nothing would be done, so he reached and grabbed her by her collar.

Hajime looked towards the line of students to see Kaori struggling against Shizuku's grip, trying to run towards him... trying to fulfill last night's promise.

The other students were looking pale and covered either their eyes or mouths. Meld and the Knights had mortifying expressions on their faces.

The Scaffolding Hajime clung to could no longer support both his and Suzu's weights. As he fell backwards holding onto Suzu with one hand and grasping at the dimming lights with the other.

On that day Hajime and Suzu were swallowed by darkness.

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