

Another World 181

Chapter 181 - Jealousy

Right now, Zhao Hai didn't plan to handle this matter. He turned his head to look at Green and Meirin, saying, "Grandpa Green, Grandma Meirin, if we really do plan to cooperate with the beastfolk with regards to our food business, then I think we should let Laura come forward as well. If we act now, then sooner or later we'll be exposing our weaknesses. To be honest, with regards to doing business we truly are inferior to the skills of Miss Laura."

Green and Meirin looked at each other and the two of them saw a happy light in the other's eyes. Meirin said, "I agree with Master's point of view. For this matter, it is really better to allow Laura to act. But Master, if that is the case then I fear that we will be resigned to give up a large portion of our profits to Miss Laura."

Zhao Hai hadn't noticed the meaningful glance between the couple and instead replied, "There is no other way as we don't have any personal connections with them. On the other hand, this might not be true for Laura; after all, she has been doing business within the Purcell Duchy for quite some time now. Saying that she doesn't have any previous cooperations with the Beastfolk Empire won't be believable."

"Miss Laura is beautiful, does Master intend to marry her and have her become the lady of the house?" Meg asked as she stared at Zhao Hai. Hearing him speak about Laura made her heart uncomfortable.

Zhao Hai gawked after hearing what Meg said. He turned to look at Meg who seemed grumpy at him. In Zhao Hai's head, two characters suddenly appeared: jealousy .

Meg really looked like a girl that was in love, yet now her boyfriend was talking about another girl in front of her. This was what her expression conveyed.

Zhao Hai looked at Meg, embarrassed, while Meg's small face was red all over as she lowered her head. Green and Meirin also looked at Zhao Hai's expression and they couldn't help but smile faintly.

Both of them were getting older and were refined people, so it wasn't that they couldn't see Meg's thoughts. They were happy to see how Meg reacted, though if it happened before, they wouldn't have agreed . But now that Zhao Hai had become so competent, they naturally hoped that he would receive Meg.

There were no laws that specified that people had to be monogamous in this world. It was common to see a man with three wives and four concubines . Even a woman, if you were powerful enough, could keep a few men around and nobody would say anything. Strength was everything.

Since the situation of the Buda clan right now was progressing smoothly, Zhao Hai could now be married and have children. That is, of course, after he cures himself from the effects of the Water of Nothingness, which could be solved when his Space reaches level 30 . In Green's opinion, Zhao Hai shouldn't be married to only one wife and have a child, but to have many wives and many children with them. More children was a sign that the Buda clan will flourish.

Zhao Hai looked at Meg's charming appearance, which made his heart beat faster. He immediately turned his head. Since the issues they needed to handle now was far too much, this wouldn't be the right time to talk about love.

Zhao Hai turned to Green and Meirin and said, "Once we've solved the issue of the Carrion Swamp, we should immediately go to the beastfolk and have a look around since we are really short on manpower."

Green nodded. He turned his head and looked at the screen. The screen showed the seven-colored smog that continued to seethe. It almost looked as if this wasn't even a part of the Ark Continent, but of some other space and time.

Zhao Hai enlarged the map at the corner of the screen and compared it to the map Buffy had drawn. At present, they hadn't seen any terrain that was similar to what had been marked on the map, making them feel relieved .

However, their hearts felt uneasy. The eagles had followed the map Buffy had drawn when they'd started flying, but they didn't know how the eagles flew onto a different route. Furthermore, even if they deviated from the original track, it shouldn't have been by too much. They had been flying for over half a day now and hadn't seen any terrain similar to what was on the map. This meant that they'd deviated from the route by a great deal. If they had been allowed to fly along on their original route, then they wouldn't know in what part of the year they would have arrive at Flower City.

Zhao smiled wryly and said, "I never thought that the Carrion Swamp would really be this big. We've really underestimated its size."

Green frowned, his complexion becoming ugly. "It seems that this Carrion Swamp had been left behind by a powerful ancient magician. I heard that ancient magic was really mysterious. Some people could be kept circling around. There is something known as a maze, and in my opinion there is a maze here in the Carrion Swamp. Buffy was really lucky last time as he'd even been able to get to Flower City. It seems like that is the center of the maze, and the maze itself protects it."

Meirin nodded. "Although I do not know of that type of magic, I do have some knowledge. A lot of the magic used on the continent right now is based off remnants of magic from the ancient past and are definitely inferior to that mysterious ancient magic. The Carrion Swamp was certainly an important place from ancient times, otherwise such magic wouldn't exist there."

Zhao Hai nodded. "Since that is the case, we really must go to Flower City. I feel a lot more curious now. As long as we can set up a foundation in Flower City, it will become our strongest fortress. No one will ever think of moving against us with that."

Green, along with several of the others, nodded as they knew that the matter in their hands this time wouldn't be easy. For so many years, the Carrion Swamp had been a mystery. If this mystery was easy to solve, then that wouldn't be normal.

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It was already dark by the time Laura and Nier arrived at their home in Casa City. Laura sent someone to look for Quinn John immediately. Nier, on the other hand, settled down with those several Eagle Virtuous Phantasms.

Before long, Quinn John arrived in the study room. Quinn John gawked upon seeing Laura frowning. "Laura, what happened? What accident has occurred to Mister?" Quinn John asked.

Laura recovered after hearing Quinn John. She shook her head and said, "Mister hasn't met with any accidents. I'm just worried about Alodia and them."

After hearing Laura, Quinn John knew that she was worried about the Markey Dell clan. He had spent a longer time working for the clan than Laura had and also understood the young masters to a greater extent than she did. He knew Carlo, and was clear that this time, since he'd sent Alodia, they wouldn't

easily give up even if they failed this time around. For this matter, however, if Zhao Hai really gives them wool, then the consequences couldn't even be said .

Zhao Hai was not a friendly person, this fact was known by Quinn John. If Carlo really went too far, then he feared that they would suffer some losses.

If Carlo suffered losses at the hands of Zhao Hai, then don't even think about the other young masters, the house's master himself wouldn't accept this result.

What person was the master? He was obstinate and overbearing. Whomever dared to offend him, he would return to them a hundredfold. If Zhao Hai really offended Carlo, then that would be a visibly smack in the face of the Markey Dell clan. By then, the master would definitely move to get rid of him.

If the master really moved, then even if the clan wasn't able to extinguish Zhao Hai, Laura would still be affected. When the time came, their following days would be disastrous.

Laura hadn't spoken as she watched Quinn John. She knew that he was also thinking of the issue she was currently worried about. Laura said, "Mister told me that as long as Alodia doesn't move excessively, Mister will give me face and won't care about them. However, if Alodia goes too far, then Mister wouldn't be polite. With Mister's strength, which you also know about, if they fight each other then Fifth Uncle will really suffer a loss. This matter will then become complicated."

Quinn John nodded. "I'm also worried about this since you know the temperament of the young masters. If they like something, it is impossible to make them let it go. I'm afraid this thing will be a lot more troublesome than the matter some time ago."

Laura frowned and said, "Yes, the clan members really are like that. Those people don't even bother looking at what we did to get to where we are now. For them, we're no threat. They're people who never forgive—an annoying kind of people."

Quinn John smiled bitterly as he didn't know what to say. If they were to describe the Markey Dell clan members in a few words, then it would be greedy, arrogant, black hearted, and stingy. For people like them to have raised a child like Karen was unexpected. If Laura hadn't been taught by Karen, then what she would have become by now would be really difficult to determine.

Just then, Nier came in from outside. Laura glanced at Nier who had just come in, then said to Quinn John, "Grandpa Quinn John, I have one more thing to tell you. Today, Mister has given us five Eagle Virtuous Phantasms, which came from those Virtuous Phantasm colored eggs we had given to him before. However, the ones he'd given back aren't the same as the common ones. Do you want to go and take a look?"

Quinn John was surprised and said, "Alright, let me see them." Quinn John knew that common Virtuous Phantasms lived together with their master and imprinted a symbol onto the body of their master. It then absorbed battle qi or magic power from its master in order to survive. If they were not used in battles, then they were kept invisible. That's why Quinn John thought that Laura had the Virtuous Phantasms along with her.

Laura smiled. "The Virtuous Phantasms aren't here. I let Nier arrange a room in order to keep the Virtuous Phantasms. Nier, have you fed the Virtuous Phantasms already?"

Nier nodded and replied, "I already fed them, Young Lady. Those several Virtuous Phantasms really can eat. The meat that was usually given to a hundred wind falcons had been eaten by those five Virtuous Phantasms alone. It seems like raising them will require a larger expenditure."

Quinn John was actually shocked after hearing what Nier told them and said, "Wait, Nier, did you just said that you fed those Virtuous Phantasms with regular meat? Did they actually eat them?"

Laura smiled and said, "Grandpa Quinn John, this is one of the characteristics of Mister's Virtuous Phantasms. They don't need to take in battle qi or magic power from a person, so long as you feed them the way you would feed a normal magic beast. Let's go and check them out." She stood up and walked out with Nier while Quinn John followed behind.

Chapter 182 - Karen Speaks of the Past

The three arrived at the room where they raised the Virtuous Phantasms. After the doors opened, Quinn John looked shocked. These Virtuous Phantasms were really impressive and handsome, something which he hadn't seen before.

After looking at these five Eagle Virtuous Phantasms, Quinn John couldn't believe what he saw. Only after some time did he turn to Laura and ask, "Young Lady, are these the Eagle Virtuous Phantasms you were talking about? The ones we had actually bought before?"

"Yes, these are those five Eagle Virtuous Phantasms that Mister gave. However, I haven't made these eagles into armor, so I don't know what kind they are," Laura replied with a smile.

Quinn John looked at the eagles one more time, then turned to Laura and said, "Young Lady, let's go back. I have something to tell you." Laura nodded and the three of them returned to the study.

They sat down upon arriving in the study room. Laura looked at Quinn John, who seemed sullen, and asked, "Grandpa Quinn John, what's the matter?"

Quinn John looked serious as he nodded and said, "I have to say, this matter with Mister Zhao Hai, Young Lady, have you not thought about it? Everything that Mister Zhao Hai touches and has given us, they look very ordinary at first, but in fact they're all extraordinary, right? "

Laura was frozen for a moment, looking at the matter carefully. Her complexion changed as she answered, "Right, all of them."

Quinn John nodded and said, "Yes, every one of them, no matter if it is the fire fish, corn, bamboo rice, fruit oil, blue-eyed rabbits, or today's Virtuous Phantasms. These are all ordinary objects, but once they pass through Mister's hands, in a blink of an eye they become extraordinary. Furthermore, Mister had told us before that he had an ancient magic tool in his possession. However, we were mistaken about this. We thought he only had one tool. Nobody would actually think that he had two, three, or possibly even more."

Laura was surprised for a moment. She really hadn't thought about this. Ancient magic tools would be difficult to check. After they knew Zhao Hai had one, they'd only thought he'd possessed the one ancient magic tool. They wouldn't have actually thought that Zhao Hai might be in possession of two or three of them.

Quinn John looked at Laura and said, "Even if Mister doesn't have numerous ancient magic tools, I think he is in possession of a few ancient books about alchemy and pharmacy. Due to the existence of these things, Mister can make ordinary things extraordinary."

As Quinn John said this, Laura also thought that this was the only way of explaining things. Quinn John followed up, "Mister can make ordinary things extraordinary, less common to common. He may have formulae that allows accelerated plant growth and death through pharmaceuticals . Adding in his strength, along with that of his followers and undead, then although we haven't seen any Rank Nine experts, Mister's status and fighting strength can be considered to be not any worse than that of a large aristocrat. This kind of person, we cannot dare to offend."

Laura nodded while saying, "I have never thought of offending Mister. What help has the Markey Dell clan given to us that can be compared to Mister's? Why must we help that ruthless clan plan against our benefactor? Grandpa Quinn John, I understand what you mean; you want me to control Alodia, making them lose their opportunity to move against Mister, right?"

Quinn John nodded and said, "Yes, Young Lady. What we have today is all thanks to Mister. This matter of Alodia—if they fail, then it still won't be good for Mister. We won't help them, but we shall certainly help Mister. Along with Grand Duke Evan, our combined strength isn't bad and it should be enough to destabilize the Markey Dell clan. Don't forget, Mister had also helped the Purcell clan during that crisis and Grand Duke Evan isn't an ungrateful person. If we told Grand Duke Evan about the situation, he will definitely help us. Then we can convey things to Mister. Through this matter, we can set up our tripartite strength and nobody would dare to move against us. Young Lady, how do you see it?"

Laura stood from her seat and paced slowly. She understood what Quinn John meant. Quinn John wanted her to make a decision right now. If she helped Zhao Hai, then that would be tantamount to tearing the face of the Markey Dell clan into pieces. But in return, they would gain an invaluable ally in Zhao Hai, not to mention, they would continue to be on good terms with Grand Duke Evan. The most important of all was that they could finally get rid of their connection to the Markey Dell clan, removing her fear of being married off by the clan.

However, this matter wasn't only related to her, but also to her father. If they directly confronted the Markey Dell clan, then her father would be in a very difficult situation.

Quinn John looked at Laura's expression and knew what she was thinking of. He sighed and said, "Young Lady, are you thinking that your father's situation will become awkward?"

Laura sighed. "Yes, no matter what, father is also the Markey Dell clan's second young master. If we had a falling out with the clan, then father will be in a dilemma."

After Laura spoke, a cold voice replied, "Don't worry, I won't be in a dilemma. After all these years, if not for you, then I would have already left the Markey Dell clan."

Quinn John and Laura looked towards the entrance and saw Karen. Laura hastily replied, "Father, when did you arrive?"

Karen entered the room with a smile. Turning his head, he looked at Laura and said, "My silly daughter, why is it that you won't tell your father about your problems? Your father has said that if you had a problem that you couldn't solve, your father can help."

Laura looked at Karen and felt that her father's presence seemed different today. He gave off a majestic aura with an imposing manner.

Karen looked at Laura and sat down on the sofa. "Sit down. Today, I also have something to tell you."

Laura sat, puzzled, while looking at Karen. Karen looked back at her and gave a forced smile. "Laura, you should already know that your grandmother passed away when I was still young, thus, I was raised by the Great Lady ." Laura nodded as this was known throughout the Markey Dell clan. Karen's birth mother was the Markey Dell clan's Second Lady, who had passed away when Karen was still young. He was then raised by the Great Lady. But, the Great Lady's real son was the Markey Dell clan's eldest son, Cenwen.

Karen watched Laura, then continued, "The people outside the Markey Dell clan have said that your grandmother died due to an illness. However, that isn't the case. Your grandmother was actually killed by your grandfather and the Great Lady."

Laura's face was full of shock as she stared at Karen. She really hadn't thought that Karen would say such a thing. Karen continued to watch Laura as he said, "Your grandmother was her own clan's successor. As she was just married into the Markey Dell clan, she was highly favored by all. Afterwards, she then gave birth to me. However, during the fifth year of their marriage, your grandfather made a mistake in management and owed a very large sum of money. To make matters worse, he had also offended several respected clans during that time, and those several respectable clans joined together to suppress the Markey Dell clan. At that time, it was a life and death situation for the Markey Dell clan, and the only one who could help was your grandmother's clan."

Laura silently listened and didn't say anything. Karen seems to have been caught up with his memories and continued, "Your grandmother told your grandfather at the time that her clan would help the Markey Dell clan as far as they could. However, your Grandfather wanted more, he wanted all of their property. He sent assassins to kill my grandparents, then killed your grandmother. This, in turn, made the entirety of the properties she should have inherited pass along to your grandfather, to the Markey Dell clan."

As he continued, Karen clenched his jaw, his eyes burning with anger. "Nobody knows that the five-year old me had known of these events back then. Your grandmother would tell me everyday about the situation of the Markey Dell clan. Like you, your grandmother was very good at running the business and was quite famous for her beauty back then. Although she had no steward of the Markey Dell clan, she knew a lot about their business. She told me back then that the Markey Dell clan had met a troublesome situation and that she wanted to help your grandfather. But I, in the end, saw your grandfather and the Great Lady give your grandmother a glass filled with poisoned liquor."

Laura was shocked after hearing what Karen said. No one would have thought that there had been this kind of a situation. Even Quinn John, who'd been Laura's mother's servant, hadn't known of such a thing. While Quinn John was a servant of the Markey Dell clan for 20 years, Karen's matter had happened way back when he was small, so of course he didn't know of it.

Karen continued. "They didn't know that they were being watched by me. I hadn't made a single sound during that time, giving my all to endure myself to not to cry. I remember that day firmly."

After saying that, Karen stopped for a while and closed his eyes. He had probably recalled an unforgettable moment in his life. After some time, he continued, "Afterwards, I was placed under the Great Lady's care by your grandfather. I knew that they had killed your grandmother and that the Great Lady had her share in it. However, I pretended not to know, living my life daily with the enemy. Later on, I heard that the Great Lady wanted me to have a look at the account book. If I was interested in doing business, then she would remove me as she didn't want anyone to hinder your First Uncle. Since then, I didn't look at any business books, nor did I study magic earnestly. Instead, I only researched magic everyday."

Karen stopped talking for a while. He turned his head and looked at Laura. "Because of that, I could grow up safely. Everyone on the continent knows that I'm not that knowledgeable and that I only wanted to learn strange things and was a waste of a person. I thought that I would be like this for a lifetime, but never thought that the heavens would feel sorry for me. The heavens delivered me in front of your mother. The me, who had been a waste, was loved by her with all her heart and soul. That was my life's dawn of light."

“Everyday now, I don’t want to open my eyes after your mother had passed away. She left us too early. If, at that time, it wasn’t for you, I would have already committed suicide. But I knew that if I died, that you would be finished as you’d only end up as their tool. Don’t even talk about business. I feared that you were going to be married off, therefore, I requested the clan to let me develop here in the Purcell Duchy. This is so that we could leave the clan. Laura, don’t hesitate when regarding me. Towards that clan, I feel no sentiment. If you can fight the Markey Dell clan then do it boldly. Get revenge for your grandmother.”

Chapter 183 - Grounded

Laura was about to say something when Karen waved his hand to stop her. “I, your father, was very cautious throughout my life as I feared that your grandfather and the Great Lady might hurt me. That’s why I decided to not study that much. Even in the military arts, I made sure to show that I didn’t have potential. As such, it was impossible for me to get revenge for your grandmother.

“You, however, are different. You’ve shown extraordinary business talent, and adding in Uncle Quinn John’s guidance, you had the ability to back it up. Now, you’ve grabbed onto a great foothold here in the Purcell Duchy. Don’t forget that even before you met Mister Zhao Hai, we didn’t have any backing from the inner members of the clan, nor would the people of the Purcell Duchy have backed us up if we offended the Markey Dell clan.”

Karen’s eyes shined with rays of wisdom as he continued to explain to Laura, “The situation now is different. Mister Zhao Hai has the food commodities, so surely he can control the food prices here in the Purcell Duchy. The Purcell clan also owes him a debt, and Mister is a powerful magician. To sum all of this up, do you think the Purcell clan would have given us face just because you helped them? I don’t deny the existence of this reason, but it also might be due to our relationship with Mister Zhao Hai. These great nobles show kindness only if they can get benefits from it.”

Quinn John and Laura were both shocked as they stared at Karen. They never thought that Karen, who had only wholeheartedly conducted magic research, would be able to analyze their situation. And unexpectedly, one after another, they were all reasonable deductions.

Karen looked at their appearances and smiled. “Well, I’ve told you everything, so you can figure things out. Laura, this isn’t just an opportunity to befriend the Purcell clan and Mister Zhao Hai, but similarly, it is the best time to completely cut off our relationship with the Markey Dell clan.

“Although the Markey Dell clan is powerful, in the end they are still just a merchant clan. The methods they can use can only be attributed to their commercial aspects, while in other aspects they are very weak. Moreover, don’t forget that on the continent, it is not only the Markey Dell clan that calls itself a merchant clan. These past few years, the Markey Dell clan has offended several merchant clans due to the expansion of their businesses. If they are going to receive a big loss, then those people won’t let this chance slip by. If the Purcell clan is fat, then the Markey Dell clan is the bigger fat, isn’t it?”

Quinn John and Laura hadn’t thought of this point. They had both thought of the Markey Dell clan as a colossal power, one that wasn’t affable. They’d forgotten that a monster could only be fought with another monster. One wrong move from them will cause their deaths to become more miserable than those of shrimps.

Karen looked at the two, then continued, “One more thing. These past few days, although I’ve been researching, I have also been in contact with magicians, pharmacists, and alchemists I know. If they move, such a force wouldn’t be a small one. If you need my help for anything, so long as the matter isn’t about any aspect of the market, which I don’t understand much about, just look for me in the office .”

Karen stood up and patted Laura’s head, saying, “You don’t need to be worried about anything. Even if the Markey Dell clan is strong, so is my daughter. Now that we’ve left the nest and got into conflicts and disagreements with them, don’t be afraid and don’t worry; your father supports you.” He turned around and walked out, then continued, “The magic I’ve been researching doesn’t feel right, I must go back and have a look.” He completely disappeared from the study room.

Laura looked at Karen’s back with teary eyes. Only when Karen had completely disappeared from her sight did she wipe her tears away. She turned to Quinn John and said, “Grandpa Quinn John, arrange a meeting between me and Alodia for tomorrow. I will give him my last warning. If he doesn’t give me face and still continues, then he shouldn’t blame me for being impolite.”

Quinn John nodded and replied with a gratified expression, “I had been thinking that the Second Young Master didn’t understand these matters, but it turns out that the Young Master has a very clear understanding. Ha-ha. No wonder, back then, when Young Master had asked to be placed in the Purcell Duchy, I thought that he’d just completely lost hope. I hadn’t thought that the young master was actually scheming something. Young Master’s move is very fierce, especially since the influence of the Markey Dell clan in the Purcell Duchy was the weakest. So long as we’re here each day, the Markey Dell clan will probably have no way of dealing with us. Oh yes, this is good.”

“Father isn’t stupid,” Laura replied with a smile. “It’s only that he hadn’t used his time to think about this matters. I looked into his research once, and after that I felt dizzy. Ha-ha.”

Karen’s transformation today made them both happy. They hadn’t thought of letting Karen help them, but with Karen’s attitude, they now would. Sometimes, a person’s attitude was a lot more important than their other aspects.

Quinn John showed a faint smile as he said, “I’ll arrange your meeting with Alodia tomorrow. Go and strike at him. If he doesn’t know the good from the bad, then don’t be polite and tidy him up well. Then you must go to Grand Duke Evan, wait for things to settle down with the Grand Duke, then personally go to Mister and clearly discuss this matter.”

Laura nodded. “Alright, I will start the arrangements. Grandpa Quinn John, do those people sound like they’re coming towards us? This is our mansion, so they shouldn’t make too much noise when they come. Our faces wouldn’t look good.”

Quinn John’s eyes brimmed with a cold light as he replied, “Rest assured, in our mansion, they can’t afford to stir up a storm for no reason. It seems that they’re coming with some news.”

The voices faded as a servant stopped before their door. Looking towards Laura and Quinn John, the servant said, “Young Lady, Steward, this small one has something to report.”

Quinn John nodded. “Come in.”

The servant bent his body while walking in and stood quietly in front of Quinn John.

Quinn John ordered, “Speak.”

The servant replied, “Steward Alodia has called for three people to enter his room. Although these three people looked to be part of his entourage, from my point of view their movements and mannerisms aren’t that of ordinary people. They seem to place an emphasis on watching how they look .”

Quinn John nodded. "Anything else?" The servant shook his head and Quinn John beckoned away with his hand, allowing the servant to draw back.

Laura turned her head to look at Quinn John and asked, "Did they investigate the status of those three people thoroughly?"

Quinn John shook his head and said, "They didn't as those three were new faces. Evidently, they were characters that already had blank backgrounds. The fluctuations of their battle qi also isn't obvious. Seemingly, Young Master Carlo has recruited new men."

Laura nodded. "First, let's make them seem optimistic. From now on, if Alodia brings in more people, we cannot let them leave our mansion. Grandpa Quinn John, look into those people who had come into contact with them. So long as they had contact, no matter who it is, they're suspicious."

Quinn John nodded, stood up, and went to arrange those matters. Laura walked to the door of the study and looked up at the already darkened sky while muttering, "Since father doesn't have any issues, then we must give them a good play."

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The next morning, after breakfast, Laura arrived in the study. Quinn John had led Alodia as they too entered the study. Alodia immediately gave a salute to Laura, showing his etiquette in such a normal situation.

Laura nodded while her eyes still looked at the files on the table and said to Alodia, "Oh, Steward, today I was looking for you and wanted to tell you something. Just recently, the Purcell clan had survived through a food crisis, and much of the populace is still on guard. Because of that, the streets aren't as peaceful as they once were, so I hope Steward Alodia wouldn't allow those who came with you to move around. This is the Purcell Duchy, which isn't comparable to other places and is near the Beastfolk Prairie. The social practices are different here. If an accident were to really happen, then I wouldn't be able to easily confess it to Fifth Uncle."

Respectfully complying, Alodia drew back. Quinn John remained and watched Alodia as he left, then told Laura, "Young Lady, it seems like your warning wasn't effective."

Alodia's expression was obviously perfunctory. In his heart, it was impossible to do what Laura told him.

Laura coldly snorted. "In the past, we didn't even rely on the Markey Dell clan. Hmph. Grandpa Quinn John, convey my message to everyone; don't permit any of them to leave the compound. If they dare to insist on leaving, then break both their legs. Prepare the carriage, I'll head over to the Grand Duke's Mansion."

Quinn John complied immediately and went down to prepare the carriage for Laura. Now that she was certain that Alodia couldn't leave their mansion, he will have placed the job onto some other people. One must know that dealing with Alodia wouldn't be that easy.

As Laura stepped her left foot out of her home, one of Alodia's people tried to go out as well. This man was one of those that had been seen with Alodia last night. As he walked in front of the gate, a servant stationed inside stopped him and asked with a smile, "This big brother, may I know where you're going?"

The man was surprised for a moment. He looked at the servant and said, "It's my first time in Casa City, so I wanted to go and stroll around for a bit. Does little brother need something from me?"

The servant looked back at him and slightly chuckled. "Ah, I have no issues with you. But today, the Young Lady ordered that no one may go out of the mansion, otherwise we will be forced to break both their legs. This little brother is only concerned for big brother. It wouldn't be good to be punished." The man smiled, but his features were actually ice-cold.

Laura's people within the residence were all trained by her throughout these years. That was why their loyalties to her was also very high. Adding in the current situation, although they seemed big, compared to the aristocrats they were just a small household. Moreover, in the hierarchy within this household, she was naturally the one present with the most power and wouldn't be disputed on this sort of thing. The servants' hearts were all for their master which, of course, meant that all of that honor went to Laura.

As soon as the man heard what the servant said, his complexion couldn't help but change. He refuted angrily, "This is absurd. We aren't people from your household, so why do you limit us? You also dare to cut our feet? I have chosen to go out today, so I am going to look and see how your steward will punish me." He lifted his foot to step out after saying that.

Chapter 184 - There are only two Masters

The eyes of the servant stationed at the gate flashed with a chill. Moving his hands slightly, a baton appeared and he used it to attack the man who wanted to go out.

The man intercepted the servant's attack, his stature turning while he simultaneously threw darts out from his hands toward the servant.

Moving the baton in his hand, the servant knocked several of the darts to the ground. His body moved forwards, aiming the baton at the chest of the man.

The baton was pitch-black and didn't give off any shine. After being brandished, however, it emitted a very heavy aura, showing that this length of metal was forged through a special method.

That man obviously wasn't easy to deal with. With a slight movement of his body, a Piercing Sword appeared in his hands. As Quinn John had implied, this man was Carlo's assassin. This Piercing Sword was his weapon.

The man was just about to stab his sword out when he was suddenly blocked by the baton of the servant. Suddenly, two feathered arrows came out of nowhere and were directly shot at the man's feet. The timing and angle of the feathered arrows was quite good. They were shot while the servant had blocked the man's sword with his baton, so there was no way for the man to move away after the feathered arrows appeared. Thus, they sealed off his retreat.

The man saw the attack but didn't hide. Instead, a Sickle flew out from the door. One after another, the two feathered arrows were knocked out of the air. At that crucial moment, another servant called for them to stop. Baton in hand, the servant stopped and the two looked towards the door.

Two people slowly walked out from the door. One was Alodia, while the other was one of the three people summoned by him last night. The chain of the Sickle was held in his hands.

Alodia sullenly watched the gatekeeper and the servants. With a cold voice he said, "How dare you all. Who gave you the courage to lay your hands on my people!"

The servant actually wasn't afraid of him. He coldly snorted as he watched Alodia. "Young Lady has commanded us that today, no one will be allowed to leave the residence. If anyone dares to disobey this order, then we are to break their legs."

Alodia looked at the servant and, with a colder gaze, refuted, "Don't forget; this is the clan mansion of the Markey Dell clan, and you are all servants of the Markey Dell clan. Offending the Fifth Young Master wouldn't benefit any of you."

The servant sneered. "I don't know about the Markey Dell clan, but what I do know is that here in the Purcell Duchy, there's only Faith Mansion. In Faith Mansion, there are only two masters. The first is Karen, while the other is Laura. Others do not have any right to call themselves our masters."

Alodia's eyes flashed with light. In a cold voice, he said, "Good, you dare to speak against us. The Markey Dell clan owns this residence—do you dare to rebel?"

"Who said that this residence is of the Markey Dell clan?" A hoarse voice spoke these words, and everyone knew the prestige of the man behind it, Quinn John.

Alodia, this time, didn't salute but instead answered back, "Isn't the owner of this residence now surnamed Markey Dell? Is this place not of the Markey Dell trade?"

Quinn John snorted. "A lackey knows nothing. As I've told you, Faith Mansion isn't of the Markey Dell clan. There are no Markey Dell clan members here save two people. One is the Second Young Master, while the other is Young Lady Laura. Young Lady Laura's order is the law here; whomever dares to not comply will be executed. Mark my words. Go ahead and try to step out of the gates of this residence."

After Quinn John stated these things, his expression stayed calm. As Alodia watched him, he was quite surprised. Adding in Quinn John's calm demeanor, it was as if Alodia were already a dead man. He understood. Today, if they dared to leave the residence, they will certainly die.

Most of these men, although they were masters, when facing Quinn John they would obviously suffer defeat. Quinn John was a Rank Eight expert, and the men who'd come this time around didn't have any Rank Eight experts among them.

Alodia coldly looked at Quinn John and said, "Alright. With Steward Quinn John's words, I have nothing more to say. However, this matter will be known by the Fifth Young Master."

Quinn John slightly chuckled and said, "Nobody told you not to do so, but you better not head outside of the residence. Otherwise, do not blame me for being impolite. If any of you dare to break this rule today, then both legs will be broken. Nobody should dare think of being unruly here in Faith Mansion."

Faith Mansion was the name of the mansion where Laura resided . On the Ark Continent, the name of an aristocrat's mansion had their own surname in them, such as the Chen Mansion, Zhao Mansion, and so on .

Generally, however, this wouldn't commonly be done. The aristocrats tended to name their mansions with their title. For example, the Purcell clan had the Grand Duke's Mansion, and the Marquis would have the Marquis' Mansion, and so on. Even if someone weren't a merchant or an aristocrat, they could name their own residences with an elegant sounding name, such as Gentle Breeze Residence, Mountain Forest Court, and so on . Very few would hang a plaque with just their surname engraved on it.

However, the clothing of servants in each mansion would always have the master's surname or the host clan's family crest. This also acted as a proof of identity.

The reason why Laura called her residence Faith Mansion in the Purcell Duchy was because she wanted the servants and the people of Faith Mansion to remember that being a businessman relied on one having good faith.

Alodia heard what Quinn John said and he couldn't help but be furious at the man. His eyes filled with fury as he said, "I think that this one dares."

Just after saying those words, he heard two resounding brittle cracks. A pitiful yell cried out from his subordinate behind him.

Alodia looked back and saw his subordinate fall down. The bones in his legs were sticking out, obviously broken.

After seeing this situation, Alodia couldn't help but turn his head back towards Quinn John. "You...you have such great courage!"

Quinn John snorted. "Do not forget. Here in the Purcell Duchy, you are not the master, and nor is the Fifth Young Master. You had better be honest; if you continue to have this kind of situation like today, then don't blame my hand for being heartless." He then turned around and didn't even look back at Alodia.

Alodia was angry. His clenched teeth creaked loudly, but he had no choice as he and his men were living under the roof of this mansion. Thus, they had to lower their heads. Alodia took a few breaths, calmed down, then turned around and ordered his man, "Bring him, then let's go." He tossed his sleeves, walking towards the mansion. He didn't dare to leave the mansion, because if he did, Quinn John wouldn't let him off.

* * * * *

What happened in Faith Mansion wasn't something Laura knew about. She had just arrived at the Grand Duke's Mansion at this moment. Since her status was quite high in the Grand Duke's Mansion, the people of the Purcell clan knew her. During that time of crisis for the Purcell clan, Laura had bravely stepped forward to help the Purcell clan in their time of need. Moreover, the Clan Lord also had a very good relationship with her. One could say that the Clan Lord had gotten his position with the help of Laura.

The elders hadn't hid those words here within the Grand Duke's Mansion, so it wasn't a secret. Therefore, the servants also knew of it. Once they saw Laura's carriage, someone immediately went to notify another servant to politely lead Laura through the second gate.

Laura was quickly welcomed into the study of the Grand Duke's Mansion. Grand Duke Evan's study wasn't simple, as this study was also his workplace. Back when the former First Elder was in power, nobody went to the study of Grand Duke Evan. Now, however, it was different. Everyday, there were many different people coming in and out of there now.

His study was very large, almost a hundred square meters . There was a blue stone pillar in the center of the room, and the floor was made of white marble and was very clean. The study had several shelves filled with books, while the other side had a fireplace. There were a total of eight doors and six windows in the study, making the room very bright.

In the inner corner of the study was a large desk. The desk was red colored and quite luminous, apparently made from some ancient materials. Three rows of chairs were arrayed on one side, while behind the desk was another chair.

The wall behind the desk had a portrait of a person hung there. This person wore a suit of armor, his hand leaning against a sword, and he wore a helmet with horns. The portrait was large, bigger than a life-sized one. Although it was only a portrait, people would actually feel overawed by the imposing manner of the portrait. The person shown was the first Grand Duke of the Purcell clan, Naren Purcell.

Every time Laura came into the study, she would always take a look at the portrait first. The image of the portrait was really good; the person's imposing manner completely portrayed.

Upon entering through the door of the study, there was a combination of a sofa and tea table. The sofa could seat a dozen people, and was used as a waiting area for the Grand Duke's subordinates, or as a place where guests waited for the Grand Duke.

Evan stood near the sofa, waiting for Laura. Upon seeing her, he waved his hand, smiling as he said, "Little Laura, come and sit." The age of Grand Duke Evan was almost the same as Karen. Moreover, he had a straightforward temperament. Since he was familiar with Laura, he called her 'Little Laura', showing their intimacy.

Laura responded with a smile. "Grand Duke, I'm sorry for bothering you again today."

Evan pulled a long face and said, "How many times will I have to remind you to call me Uncle Evan? The next time you call me wrong, I won't let you pass through the gates."

Laura didn't insist and replied with a smile, "Uncle Evan, this is somewhat impolite. Still, I will call you like this afterwards." She then sat on the sofa, and a servant arrived with a cup of tea.

After they both sat down, Evan ordered the servant to draw back. He looked at Laura and asked, "What's the matter this time around? Is it due to that person from some time ago? Rest assured, I had already warned him."

Laura smiled bitterly. "Your warning, even if useful, wasn't held in their hearts."

Evan paused for a moment and the two stared each other. "What's wrong? Did they really dare move against you? Are they tired of living?"

Laura smiled wryly. "They didn't dare move against me, but they intend to attack Mister. If they succeed, then I would lose the Taoyuan products. If they aren't successful, then they will definitely continue to harass Mister. If Mister gets into a conflict with them, then that will be equal to having a conflict with the Markey Dell clan. This is what I'm worried about."

Although Evan's temperament was straight, he wasn't stupid. He had fought for a long time against Kaiser, and finally, after collaborating with Laura, he'd taken away his power in one fell swoop. How could such a person be a fool? Therefore, as he listened to Laura, he quickly understood what she meant.

Chapter 185 - Evan's Plan

Evan frowned and said, "We must control this matter involving Mister. We had been lucky to get help from Mister during the crisis, otherwise, the losses of the Purcell clan would have been very big. We absolutely cannot allow them to succeed."

Laura sighed. "The problem here lies in the fact that my uncles do not back me up. They are wolves, and being eyed by them won't be good. This time around, they had sent someone and aren't planning to let Mister off. If Mister complies to them, then it would be fortunate for them, but if not then they will certainly haunt Mister."

"A couple days ago, I had spoken to Mister and he told me it was impossible for him to comply with their demands. I then asked him to give me some face. As long as they don't do anything excessively, then Mister wouldn't give much care. If they move excessively, however, then Mister wouldn't comply with my concerns and instead deal with them. By that time, what I fear will happen is that there will be major conflict between the Markey Dell clan and Mister."

Evan understood that Laura was testing him to see what his attitude towards Zhao Hai would be. In fact, Laura didn't need to do so. Evan had his own plans already.

Evan was a person who noted graciousness and was a man of gratitude, otherwise, he wouldn't have helped the Buda clan in the past. Due to that, he had lost authority within the clan, but he had never regretted his actions. It was also because of this that he saw what a violent temper the Purcell clan had. He endured, and finally, today, he held that power.

He came into power this time around with the help of Laura and Zhao Hai. Therefore, he was very grateful to them. He had long wanted to meet with Zhao Hai. With regards to Zhao Hai's magic, he also knew that his battle efficiency wasn't weak. Aside from Zhao Hai's help, he required his battle prowess as well.

However, Zhao Hai didn't want to receive any guests. He wouldn't meet with even the Purcell clan. Only Laura was able to see him, therefore, Evan regarded Laura highly. This was what Quinn John had said—Evan's regard for Laura was not only because of his gratitude, but more so because of her connection to Zhao Hai.

Evan was very clear. If he allowed the Markey Dell clan to do as they pleased, then Zhao Hai would be unlikely to continue living at Stony Mountain. Not having any contact with Zhao Hai right now wasn't the main problem. Instead, he was afraid that Zhao Hai might become their enemy.

Therefore, he couldn't let the Markey Dell clan be successful. He was willing to offend the Markey Dell clan, so long as Zhao Hai remained. If Zhao Hai remains, then later on, the Purcell Duchy wouldn't have any problems in regards to food. If their relationship with Zhao Hai was good, then later, if the Purcell clan faced problems, Zhao Hai would help them. Zhao Hai's strength wasn't weak. If he were willing to help the Purcell clan, then the strength of the Purcell clan would increase, which was good for them.

To be honest, Evan didn't have a favorable impression of those great merchant clans. If those great merchant clans hadn't acted mischievously back during the food crisis, then the situation wouldn't have developed to what it was today. Although he was the one who profited the most in the end, he wouldn't thank these people. This was because Evan was of the Purcell clan, and those great merchant clans had dared to act against his clan.

The reputation of the Markey Dell clan on the continent wasn't good. Besides Laura, the other members of the Markey Dell clan had been nicknamed members of the vampire clan.

A vampire was a dark creature that sucked the blood of humans and magic beasts in order for them to live and could also transform itself into a bat. They were annoying creatures . This was how people described the Markey Dell clan, and this was what their reputation looked like.

For a vampire clan, would you expel your own powerful and strong benefactor? Only idiots would do so! Obviously, Evan had the same thoughts as Quinn John. They both thought Zhao Hai had a deep background, otherwise, it would be impossible to supply such a large amount of food.

Although people hadn't heard of such a person as Zhao Hai here in the Aksu Empire, there was no guarantee that Zhao Hai wasn't some great lord from another country. If Zhao Hai was, then offending him would be a bad choice.

The continent was divided into several countries. In every country, however, an aristocrat would always be given respect. Even during times of war, when a defeated aristocrat was captured, they could use that person to request a ransom. Thus, that captive wouldn't receive any injuries. With that, one could see the influence an aristocrat had.

In this case, how could Evan offend an unidentified aristocrat? Evan couldn't say that Zhao Hai wasn't an aristocrat of some other country. With regards to that, it was equal to making contacts with the aristocracy of another country. This way, even if the Purcell clan faced some tragedy within the Aksu Empire in the future, they could still seek exile to another country.

There was this unwritten rule among the aristocrats of the Ark Continent. For example, if you were an aristocrat from the Aksu Empire, and you committed treason or some other crime against your empire, then you wouldn't be able to stay there. You could then seek protection with another country's aristocrat, provided that the aristocrat from that country was of the count rank or higher.

Evan had no such contacts with the aristocrats from other countries. The Buda clan, once a great clan, had degenerated to their current situation because their time as an aristocrat was too short. Furthermore, their own strength wasn't that good and they also had no connections with the aristocrats of foreign countries. These were the reasons why they weren't able to safely leave the Aksu Empire. They couldn't move out of the empire as they had no connections, nor would other countries have accepted them as their own aristocrat in order to avoid needlessly offending the Aksu Empire. Since they couldn't grow in another country, and they definitely wouldn't find any security there, their situation had thus deteriorated to such a level.

Since Evan had seen what happened to the Buda clan, he gained a sense of crisis. Thus, he wanted to establish a connection with aristocrats from other countries.

With such an idea, it was impossible for Evan not to look into this situation of Zhao Hai's, so he nodded and asked, "Mister will certainly not be facing any accidents, so I wonder what you mean to do?"

Laura snorted. "Yesterday, I told father about the situation, and father made his stance clear. Here in the Purcell Duchy, everything we have gained was due to our own hard work. Now, we cannot be regarded as a member of the Markey Dell clan. Since Mister Zhao Hai had helped us, how could I not help Mister?"

Evan nodded, saying, "That's good. Since it isn't good to deal with the Markey Dell clan alone, it may work with our tripartite strength. We must speak with Mister. Since I can't talk to him, you must go to him instead and tell him about the Purcell clan and these matters. Also tell him that he can rest assured."

Laura took a deep breath, smiled, and said, "After hearing what Uncle Evan has said, I feel relieved. I will certainly tell these words to Mister. In fact, I really want to say this; Mister doesn't fear the Markey Dell clan. So long as the Markey Dell clan doesn't send a Rank Nine expert, they cannot beat Mister. What I'm afraid will happen, however, is that the Markey Dell clan might become desperate. If they become completely desperate, then they might do anything."

Evan calmly nodded. "This matter is really troublesome. Before, our Purcell clan had two deities, but Wind Saint Buffy had gone into the Carrion Swamp. After such a long time, he still hasn't come back. I fear the unfortunate rather than the fortunate. With that, our clan's overall power has decreased. Things are somewhat difficult, but let Mister know that if the Markey Dell clan really does send out a Rank Nine expert, then even if I have to give up my authority, I will ask the consecrated deity to move and get rid of them."

Laura nodded. Sighing, she said, "This is only if the worst comes. I came here today to let Uncle Evan know, and to be prepared in advance in case something happens. "

Evan nodded. Looked at Laura, he said, "You have to be prepared. If this time around the Markey Dell clan doesn't dare to move against Mister Zhao Hai, then they'll certainly move against you. Mister is a small target, and they wouldn't dare to move against our Purcell clan. On the other hand, you are different as you have too many stores. Your stores are large, thus, they might come and get you."

Laura nodded. "My people there are really nervous. When I spoke to Mister previously, however, he told me to tell him if there was a problem, and that he would help me. When Mister Zhao Hai sent some undead in the past, however, I was quite scared of them, so he didn't push the idea. This time, I must have thicker skin."

"There are no bad undead. Sometimes, they're better than humans," Evan replied with a smile. "I'm a little envious of Mister since I had no talent in learning magic. I really wanted to be a black magician. Laura, you and Mister have had a lot of contact, so please tell me—what kind of person is Mister?"

Laura smiled as he heard Evan's question. "Mister is a good person, but a very traditional black magician. He wears a black robe, and has more undead than humans around him. He also doesn't want to see other people that much. He has a good heart, however, and I feel that his age probably isn't too old. I don't think he's as old as Uncle Evan."

After hearing what Laura said, Evan paused for a moment, then asked, "Are you telling the truth? That Mister's age is smaller than mine?"

Laura nodded and answered, "Yes. Although I haven't seen his appearance, his voice tells me that he is young."

Evan nodded. His heart was actually startled, but this strengthened his beliefs about Zhao Hai being a powerful magician, especially after his previous battle. A Rank Six magician would be a great master on the outside, and a lot of mercenaries would rush to invite him, even if he would be a bit expensive. This was because the battle prowess of a magician was just too lethal.

A young Rank Eight black magician, however, would be even more incredible. This simply meant that he had a great chance of becoming a Rank Nine expert, one of the continent's pinnacle existences. Thus, becoming friends with such a person wouldn't bring him any harm.

Laura had a reason for telling Evan all of this. She feared that Evan wouldn't be willing to cooperate, so she'd disclosed Zhao Hai's age in order for Evan to gain a greater understanding of the importance of Zhao Hai. If an expert had a chance to reach Rank Nine, then helping him and waiting for him to reach that level would give far too many large benefits. Any great clan wouldn't miss such an opportunity.

Although Laura and Evan hadn't personally witnessed how strong Zhao Hai was, the fact that Zhao Hai had dealt with Garan wasn't something only Laura knew of. Evan also knew about it. Since Garan had vanished, they had a general understanding of how strong Zhao Hai was.

Laura understood even more about Zhao Hai's strength than Evan, therefore, she vigorously tried to facilitate an alliance between herself, Evan, and Zhao Hai. Once the three of them truly joined together, they wouldn't fear anyone.

On the surface, officially the power and authority would be with the Purcell clan, while the commercial aspects went to her. Behind them stood Zhao Hai, who could provide the most aid to either of them. The three of them together would truly be a strong union.

As Evan looked at Laura, he suddenly laughed. "Little Laura, your thoughts are really clever, but I must thank you. If you didn't tell me these matters, I wouldn't have known of Mister's strength; though I would still have helped Mister even if you didn't tell me. I won't let Mister be disturbed by these matters, so you should immediately go and meet up with him. You must explain and tell him about everything we had just agreed upon. The Markey Dell clan is strong, and we must have a consensus as soon as possible so that we can have a chance of contending against them."

Laura stood and said, "Alright, I'll go see Mister then. Uncle Evan, I'm going to leave first. While I go and see Mister, I'll have to ask Uncle to look after our situation."

Evan also stood up, laughed, and said, "Be at ease, nothing will happen, so go peacefully."

Laura nodded and turned to go.

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Laura left the Grand Duke's Mansion. A servant waiting outside immediately reported what happened at Faith Mansion to Laura as she sat inside the carriage.

Sitting quietly in the carriage, Laura listened to the servant. After the servant finished the report, Laura nodded. "Very good. Grandpa Quinn John dealt with them amazingly. Go back and tell Grandpa Quinn John that I'll be heading straight for Stony Mountain."

The servant complied and immediately went back.

Laura turned her head to the next carriage and ordered the nearby Searle, "Searle, we're going to Stony Mountain to meet with Mister."

Searle complied immediately and told the driver to quickly leave Casa City and head directly for Stony Mountain.

At present, Laura wasn't worried about the situation inside Faith Mansion. She had Quinn John assume personal command, so she didn't need to be worried about anything. Even if an issue arose, they had Evan to aid them within Casa City. Moreover, Laura had told Nier to let out the Eagle Virtuous Phantasms earlier this morning and have them patrol and guard. They were to attack anyone who leaves the mansion. One could say that even if Alodia wanted to leave, it would simply be impossible.

Laura also believed that Quinn John was apprehensive enough and has begun to investigate those who had met with Alodia's men yesterday. Quinn John wouldn't let these people go. Right now they just needed to keep Alodia there. They needed to wait till they were all ready before dealing with Alodia.

Laura also wasn't worried about the situation of Casa City. She knew that Carlo was too self-confident. He thought that by sending a steward, Laura's camp wouldn't dare do anything. He wouldn't have thought that aside from Laura having managed her business in Casa City for years, her strength was great enough now that she didn't need to fear him.

Carlo had misjudged the matter this time around. This was due to the fact that throughout all these years, the Markey Dell clan had been unopposed because of their power and influence. This caused them to unconsciously gain a superiority complex, a belief that everybody they met would just bow down in front of them. They hadn't thought that the ones they bumped into this time would have thorns

Nier looked at the distressed Laura and said, “Young Lady, there’s no need to rush things. I could send a message ahead to Mister by using the Eagle Virtuous Phantasms. Presumably, he won’t be against our decision.”

Laura looked back at Nier, smiled, and said, “Silly girl, delivering a message while we still need to personally see him? This matter is of the utmost importance, thus, we need to personally meet with Mister Zhao Hai.”

Nier replied with a smile, “I thought that if we do this, it would seem too polite. Didn’t Mister tell us not to be too polite?”

Laura smiled. “Silly girl, being polite to Mister isn’t the point here. What I meant was that we should personally go and often visit and meet with Mister. This way, we can try and make our relationship closer.”

Nier looked back at Laura. Then she smiled and said, “Young Lady wants to be more intimate with Mister. I also think it is good to be a little intimate with Mister.”

Laura scoffed at the words, but this time around, she suddenly heard a pitiful yell coming from outside. Then she heard Searle frantically cry out, “Protect the Young Lady, move quickly!”

Soon, she heard the sound of wind breaking through the air . Since she was a knight, she knew what these sounds were. It was the sound of arrows—a massive assault using arrows.

Laura wasn’t worried about those arrows hitting her. After its modification, her carriage had consumed the best materials available. It simply wouldn’t be broken through just by being shot at with arrows . What made her worried was that the sounds of those arrows indicated that there were far too many being shot out. Seemingly, they were being attacked by a large number of people.

She didn’t move. Looking at Nier’s pale complexion, Laura smiled and said, “Don’t be afraid, everything will be alright.” Then she turned her head and called out, “Searle, how many of them?”

Searle replied, “No idea. They are hiding in the woods while attacking with arrows and none have come out yet. Young Lady, I think we should speed up. So long as we get to Mister’s place, we will be safe.”

With a cold voice, Laura said, "I'm afraid it won't be that easy. It seems that Fifth Uncle didn't send only Alodia. Good. Fifth Uncle, it seems like you really want to succeed."

Laura clearly knew that Carlo was a somber person. This time around, they feared he had concealed one thing by covering it up with another. He had secretly planned several things. The first plan should be Alodia, while the hidden plan was laid out by someone unknown. They most definitely wouldn't be an average person, otherwise, Carlo wouldn't feel assured by giving them tasks.

Nier said, "Young Lady, what should we do now? Will something happen to our home?"

Laura shook her head as she replied, "There won't be any incidents happening at our home. Even if Fifth Uncle's courage is big, he wouldn't dare cause trouble inside Casa City as it would mean offending the Purcell clan. If he did so, then it would mean that they'd be in conflict with the Purcell clan. Fifth Uncle doesn't have the guts to do so. Even if it is grandfather, he wouldn't dare. It seems that someone saw what happened earlier this morning at our residence, thus they came out to give us a lesson."

Nier nodded and asked, "That being said, are we in danger?"

Laura shook her head. "That's hard to say. They know that the people in Casa City are under my command. So long as I'm removed, then even if Father or Grandpa Quinn John wanted to take command, it wouldn't work because their authority wouldn't ring true. They can naturally just let them go. Well, let us see. Regardless of how they do it, I want to see if they can really put me in my place."

Just then, several more screams were heard. Laura, however, realised that the cry didn't come from those protecting the carriage along with Searle. She quickly asked, "What happened?"

Searle replied, "Young Lady, there might be someone helping us. The screams a moment ago came from the woods. It seems someone is attacking the people ambushing us."

Laura ordered, "Protect the carriage, do not move heedlessly. The enemies might just be leading you into a trap. No matter who it is helping us, all of you should just focus taking care of the carriage."

* * * * *

After hearing the command, Searle immediately complied.

The screams coming from the woods became more and more frequent. After some time, they soon heard a whistle coming from the woods. The shadows of the woods then started to shake as a large number of people rushed out.

The people rushing out of the woods were dressed as mercenaries. They took out their weapons as they moved towards the carriage. Searle noted, however, that some at the back wore black warrior clothing as they chased afterward to kill. The weapons of these people were mainly Piercing Swords, and one look was enough to tell they were dead warriors .

Although Searle didn't know where those dead warriors came from or why they were helping them, it was still a good thing that they were helping. He kept his 20 subordinates around the carriage, not daring to take a half-step away from it.

Seeing the mercenaries coming closer to them, Searle and the rest unconsciously grasped their weapons. However, during this time, the sky suddenly resounded with the low, deep cry of an eagle. Searle didn't understand what was happening before seeing the sky darken as a large eagle appeared from the air, diving directly down and surprising him. He found out, however, that the eagle wasn't attacking them. Instead, it directly engaged the mercenaries.

This was the first time Searle saw the battle prowess of these eagles. It was simply too strong. The eagles fluttered down and Searle saw with his own eyes as an eagle's talons took hold of a mercenary's head. As the eagle placed its talons onto the head of the mercenary, the mercenary screamed out pitifully. The eagle kept hold of him and flew up into the sky. In an instant, they both disappeared.

The other eagles had few differences. Sometimes it was only one eagle, sometimes a few of them joined together, but all of them picked up a mercenary and soared high. They actually didn't put them down. Instead, they flew over in the direction of Stony Mountain. After only a short time, they couldn't see anyone in the dress of a mercenary anymore. Those people who looked like dead warriors kept back from the carriage. Not far from Searle, one of them bowed in their direction and then they returned to the woods.

Searle was stunned for a moment, then heard a voice behind him saying, "It is Mister's people. Continue forward towards Stony Mountain." Searle turned his head around and saw Laura. He didn't know when

Laura stood up, but he complied hastily. He immediately organized the team and protected the carriage until they were at Stony Mountain.

Laura had left the carriage when she had heard the sound of eagles coming. Upon hearing the cry of those eagles, she knew that it had been Zhao Hai who'd sent them. She really hadn't thought, however, that Zhao Hai would actually be able to send so many eagles.

Chapter 187 - Marry the Young Master

At this moment, Laura's heart was agitated. She was clear that those were Eagle Virtuous Phantasms. However, Zhao Hai hadn't had them at the beginning. She had given the five Virtuous Phantasm colored eggs to Zhao Hai, and he had tamed them easily. He had hatched several of them in a short time, and even allowed them to mutate. This was contrary to what Laura imagined, and she simply wouldn't have thought that these Virtuous Phantasms could also be mass bred.

The Eagle Virtuous Phantasms that Zhao Hai passed to her were exactly the same as those she saw now. If he said that those weren't Eagle Virtuous Phantasms, then she wouldn't believe him. But if he does tell her that those were Eagle Virtuous Phantasms, then Zhao Hai's abilities would have to be re-evaluated.

Virtuous Phantasms were different from magic beasts. Magic beasts needed to mate, then there was an ovulation period. This, however, wasn't the case for Virtuous Phantasms. For them to reproduce, their master must order them to do so. Moreover, after their first parturition, their strength would greatly diminish. This was the reason why there were few Virtuous Phantasms on the continent. Even if humans could breed them, their reproduction rate wasn't high.

Massive breeding of Virtuous Phantasms would not only require a large amount of energy from the master, but would also affect the quality of the descendants. Their strength would degenerate if they reproduced frequently.

Laura had been given those five Virtuous Phantasms a few days ago, yet Zhao Hai had already hatched them. Furthermore, he was also able to reproduce them on a massive scale. What's more intriguing was that the strength of these Eagle Virtuous Phantasms had not decreased. Rather, they had become stronger, startling her.

He could accelerate the growth of plants and could reproduce Virtuous Phantasms on such a large scale. With these two abilities alone, people on the continent would go crazy for them.

Thinking about it, Laura couldn't help but remember Zhao Hai's secret cache of fire fish in the courtyard. Before, she had thought that Zhao Hai's fire fish came from elsewhere. Now, she realized that it might not be the case. It was now a possibility that Zhao Hai was using the Bluestone Villa of Stony Mountain for fire fish reproduction.

Laura couldn't help but feel excited. She now understood why Zhao Hai wanted magic beasts, and preferably, unique magic beasts. If her guess was correct, then Zhao Hai really could reproduce magic beasts. That would explain many things. Zhao Hai's goal was to reproduce and breed lots of magic beasts.

Reproduction magic couldn't only bring in a massive income of gold; it could also increase battle efficiency. If this were really the case, then so long as Zhao Hai had time, he could continuously increase his strength. To what degree was hard to say for now.

Then Laura remembered the blue-eyed rabbits. How was Zhao Hai able to reproduce so much of them? This explanation might be the reason.

Laura took a deep breath, her heart shaken as she couldn't calm down. Zhao Hai's ability could easily attract others. If people were to know of his ability, then sure enough, they would be tempted to rob it from him. Not even adding in this heaven-defying ability, with only the Taoyuan products, he had already attracted others.

Thinking about such things, Laura couldn't help but shiver. Nier looked at Laura's expression and thought Laura was feeling cold. She hastily asked, "Young Lady, are you feeling cold?"

Laura shook her head. "I'm not cold. Searle, transmit my orders. What happened today should not be spoken of. Let it rot in your stomachs. If I hear a word about today's matter, then don't blame me for being ruthless."

Searle complied immediately and passed the order. Laura didn't need to order Nier as Nier was with her everyday. It was alright not to order her.

After a little while, the carriage arrived at Stony Mountain. Green was waiting at the foot of the mountain, and led Laura as they climbed the mountain. Laura didn't ask Green about the issue of her being saved as she thought that directly asking Zhao Hai would be better.

After the carriage was parked in the backyard, Laura and Nier went into the parlour room. Zhao Hai was waiting there for them. They greeted each other and sat as guest and host. Laura then said to Zhao Hai, "I thank Mister for your aid today. I fear that I would have been in danger otherwise."

Zhao Hai chuckled, waving a hand as he said, "Miss is too polite. Even if I hadn't helped you today, you could have gotten rid of the danger easily. Miss wouldn't have had any difficulties and those people couldn't have blocked you."

Laura smiled and said, "That may not be the case. But anyway, I thank Mister for the help. Also, I have come here today to tell you of a matter. The clan lord of the Purcell clan, Grand Duke Evan is willing to form an alliance with us to deal with the Markey Dell clan."

Zhao Hai froze for a moment, frowned, then became excited. Naturally, Laura didn't see his facial expressions since they were hidden.

After a little while, Zhao Hai said, "Is this matter serious?"

Laura smiled wryly as she was worried about Zhao Hai's reaction. She told Zhao Hai about the matters she had discussed with Evan.

Zhao Hai frowned as he calmly listened. He hadn't thought that this matter would unexpectedly be such a serious deal. It had reached the point where even Evan had decided to participate.

After Laura finished, she didn't hear anything from Zhao Hai, so she said, "Mister, I am not exaggerating things. I understand the Markey Dell clan. For benefits, they won't give any face. Mister should have guessed it, but the attack today was done at my Fifth Uncle's orders."

Zhao Hai also knew who attacked Laura as he had caught those men and brought them to Bluestone Villa. Those caught by the eagles were already dead. Zhao Hai didn't bother to threaten them and just

turned them all into undead. The final conclusion was that they were all Carlo's men. This time, the ambush team had a total of 120 men, led by the warrior Reo .

Alodia was the bright thread and Reo was the dark thread. It was the dark thread that was supposed to come after Laura while the bright thread was supposed to prevent Evan from meddling in this matter. Alodia was to meet up with him and ask him to not cooperate with Laura anymore. Both threads worked under Carlo. The bright thread, however, failed to do his job. Thus, the dark thread had been forced to act.

Zhao Hai had long anticipated such moves by Carlo. However, he was still angry because Carlo had done all this to get benefits, even at the cost of losing everyone. Now this person wanted his life in order to gain more benefits. How could Zhao Hai possibly work with this person?

With what Laura told him, Zhao Hai understood that this time around, he was involved in a troublesome matter. This was surely going to be a problem, but what made him more annoyed was that it was due to him that this trouble arrived.

they must face the Markey Dell clan. He feared that he wouldn't be able to deal with them alone. The Markey Dell clan's business had spread throughout half the continent. Such an influence was too large. Even if Laura and Evan united, it wouldn't be of use. Only when their tripartite was established could face the Markey Dell clan. If he wanted to face them alone, then it would be no different from courting death.

With this thought in mind, Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, please pass my message to Grand Duke Evan. I pledge myself to be a part of this alliance. Thus, the three of us are allies."

Laura couldn't help but feel relieved. She feared that Zhao Hai might not agree as she knew Zhao Hai had some arrogance . If Zhao Hai didn't agree, then this matter would be troublesome.

Zhao Hai looked at Laura's expression and smiled. "I don't want to have any relation with the Purcell clan, but the situation has already developed to this point. If I don't want to die, I will have to rely on you, Miss Laura."

“This is nothing. We’re both prospering. If one side suffers, then all sides will take losses,” Laura said with a smile. Her two eyes suddenly began shining as she looked at Zhao Hai. “Mister, can I ask you a question?”

Zhao Hai looked at her appearance and couldn’t help but feel surprised. He said, “Miss, please ask.”

Laura looked back at Zhao Hai and said, “Mister, the eagles you sent to help me today were hatched and reproduced from the five Virtuous Phantasm colored eggs I had given you, yes?” The question seemed simple, but in fact it was hard to answer.

Zhao Hai was surprised for a moment after hearing Laura’s question. Looking at Laura’s appearance, Zhao Hai knew that she might have been having her own suspicions up till now. He knew that this day would come, but never thought it would come so quickly. He took a deep breath, turned back, and then asked Laura, “Miss Laura, I’m sure this isn’t the only question you have, right? If so, ask them all anyway.”

Laura’s heart was conflicted, but she still listened to Zhao Hai’s words that didn’t seem to show that he was angry. She clenched her teeth and, nodding, finally said, “Mister, I really have many things I want to ask of you, though I don’t know if it is convenient to do so.” Having said that, she looked elsewhere, her gaze falling on the silent Green .

Zhao Hai understood what she meant, so he replied with a smile and said, “Miss, please speak. There are no outsiders here.”

Laura nodded. She looked at Zhao Hai and said, “I want to know how Mister was able to accelerate plant growth, how you were able to reproduce Virtuous Phantasms without their strength degrading, and lastly, I want to know what is Mister’s true identity.”

Laura had decided that she must lay all her cards on the table before Zhao Hai. This time, after their cooperation starts, she would really be with Zhao Hai, locusts tied to one rope . Therefore, she must know about these matters.

Zhao Hai didn’t speak, but instead stared back at Laura. Green suddenly interrupted, “Miss Laura, knowing the answer to your questions wouldn’t be difficult, so long as Miss Laura accepts our condition. Then we can tell you everything you want to know.”

Zhao Hai was frozen for a moment while Laura's eyes were full of concentration as she said, "Please, do tell me, Sir."

Green said, "Marry the Young Master ."

Laura was shocked. Zhao Hai turned his head to Green and said, "Grandpa Green."

Green didn't listen. Instead, he decided to look at Laura and say, "As long as Miss Laura marries the Young Master, then the Young Master's identity and all his secrets will be told to you. If Miss Laura doesn't comply, then we're sorry. We will definitely withdraw from the Purcell Duchy and make everyone unable to find us. We also cannot tell you the identity of the Young Master if that happens ."

Chapter 188 - Divergent Warlock

Divergent Warlock

Laura wouldn't have thought that Green would actually make such a proposal. She was surprised, her face becoming pure red. This condition was just too sudden and beyond her expectations.

Although the culture here on the Ark Continent wasn't like that of Ancient China where women paid attention to the three obediences and four virtues , they still had their own set of rules. There was some equality between men and women. For example, in a large clan, it wasn't only the men that could obtain the inheritance, but the women as well.

The context of marriage was also relatively free. Just take a look at Ryan Purcell who didn't like Zhao Hai. He could propose an engagement, then she would let her clan find a way to break off the engagement. This kind of setting was normal .

However, the present situation, where someone is suddenly offering a condition of marriage to a girl such a Laura, could easily make the girl extremely shy. Others might have forgotten this.

Green watched Laura's reaction, smiled, and said, "Miss Laura, please don't worry. The Young Master of our clan is less than 20 years old and is at a comparable age with Miss Laura. Furthermore, he is an aristocrat, so he is absolutely not unworthy of Miss Laura."

Zhao Hai forced a smile while saying, "Grandpa Green, don't say such things. Miss Laura, please don't be offended, but my identity will bring you too much trouble. Even our alliance with the Purcell clan wouldn't be enough to save me. I will kindly ask Miss to not delve further."

Laura was actually shocked as she wouldn't have thought that Zhao Hai would say such things. His identity would bring her too much trouble? Suddenly, she thought of when Zhao Hai spoke Green's title.

In the previous visits Laura had, Zhao Hai had always called Green by the name of Ringer. On the continent, Ringer was a common name, so it was nothing special. As such, Laura hasn't cared about it before.

Zhao Hai, however, had been anxious and had addressed him by the name of Green. Although it wasn't anything special, after thinking of Zhao Hai's status and Green's strength, Laura suddenly thought of a clan.

Laura stared at Zhao Hai and said, "Is it possible that Mister's surname is Buda? And the Sir beside you is the Spiritwind Battle General Green? This isn't right, didn't Mister drink the Water of Nothingness? How can you use magic?"

Zhao Hai and Green were both startled. They hadn't thought that Laura was so unexpectedly smart that she had guessed their identity with just a name as her clue.

The two looked at each other and smiled bitterly. Green removed his helmet that hid his face and tossed it aside. Looking at Laura, he smiled and said, "Miss Laura really deserves to be called Heaven's Lovely Daughter. You are really smart. With just a word from the Young Master, you had actually correctly guessed our identity. Ah, this is great."

Zhao Hai had also removed the cap of his magic robe. With a forced smile, he said, "I never would have thought that I would be the one revealing flaws. Miss Laura, I'll re-introduce myself. I am called Zhao Hai Buda, formerly Adam Buda. This is my Head Steward, Green Buda. My maidservant here, who is the

granddaughter of Grandpa Green, is Meg Buda. And the person who had prepared food for you back when you visited several times is Meg's grandmother, Meirin Buda."

Zhao Hai stood up while introducing everyone to Laura. Green also gave his greetings to Laura. Laura was shocked as she watched them.

She hadn't really thought that she had guessed it correctly. This place was actually of the Buda clan. Who would have thought that the Buda clan, exiled to the Black Waste, would suddenly re-appear here. Looking at them, they appeared to be so free.

Laura looked at Zhao Hai who still wore his magic robe. After removing his hat, Zhao Hai had lost his mysterious presence. Yet, Laura felt that Zhao Hai was more appealing this way.

Being mysterious could attract a woman, but being such an extremely mystical man wouldn't be to the liking of women because they wouldn't have a sense of security. While Laura was attracted to the mystery of Zhao Hai, she actually liked Zhao Hai's disposition more than that mysteriousness.

Zhao Hai's character. After their several meetings, Laura had some understanding of it. Zhao Hai was just too mysterious though, thus, Laura didn't want to delve deeper into a relationship.

Now she finally saw Zhao Hai's appearance. Zhao Hai wasn't that tall. If he stood beside Laura, he would be seen as obviously smaller than her. His face looked quiet, even somewhat weak and thin looking. Adding on his disposition as an otaku bookworm, and he had a refined and somewhat gentle appearance. However, Laura could also feel an optimistic perseverance from Zhao Hai's presence. This was what Laura appreciated the most.

After Laura returned a greeting to Zhao Hai, they sat back down. Zhao Hai looked at Laura, smiled, and said, "Now you know, Miss Laura, why I don't wish to meet with the Purcell clan, right? Moreover, if my identity were to be known by outsiders, then I won't only be able to defend myself. Even Miss Laura would be involved. Therefore, we can only hide here."

Laura sternly replied, "Mister has thought all of this thoroughly. However, Mister saved my life, thus, I am not afraid of involvement. If there is no Mister, then there would be no Laura today. I'm asking Mister to not say no to this."

Zhao Hai shook his head. “Miss might be wondering how I can use black magic when it is a fact that I drank the Water of Nothingness. To tell you the truth, although I have drunk the Water of Nothingness, I had another ability. I am a Divergent Warlock.”

Divergent Warlocks were a group of mysterious people who, on the continent, were known as the occupation with the least combatants. No one knows the origin of these Divergent Warlocks, nor how they cultivated. There was no way to learn Divergent techniques, and its qualifications weren't affected by bloodline. Since there was no known cultivation method necessary for it, then along with an incomplete system, it made people fear that slaves might also become Divergent Warlocks.

There were all sorts of strange and unusual abilities that Divergent Warlocks were said to possess. Some cannot be used in battle, while some enhanced their battle capabilities. If black magicians were known as people the continent didn't want to provoke, then Divergent Warlocks were people that even black magicians didn't want to provoke.

At the beginning, Zhao Hai didn't know about the existence of Divergent Warlocks. It was only after some time that he finally found out about those Divergent Warlocks. To put it bluntly, they were like the mutants in the X-Men movie he'd watched back on Earth. Some people had different abilities and were called mutants.

On Earth, mutants and abilities existed only in legends. These legends, however, were real here on the Ark Continent. They really existed and were considered occupations that had its own identity and status.

Divergent Warlocks were different from black magicians because while the common aristocrats didn't like to invite black magicians, Divergent Warlocks were actually people the aristocrats liked to invite.

Strictly speaking, the Space capability of Zhao Hai was a Divergent technique, but this Divergent technique was really a bit too strange. Zhao Hai didn't know where the Space came from, except that he knew that the Space was related to the farm games of his past. His understanding of the Space made it different than that of other Divergent techniques of the Divergent Warlocks.

Laura felt relieved after hearing Zhao Hai's explanation. The occupation known as Divergent Warlock wasn't subject to any medicinal restrictions. Thus, the Water of Nothingness wouldn't have any effect on Divergent techniques.

Laura hadn't seen a Divergent Warlock before since they were few in number. Therefore, she looked at Zhao Hai curiously. "Does Mister's Divergent technique work the same as black magic?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "My Divergent technique is somewhat strange, therefore, explaining it in such a short time wouldn't be enough. I won't be able to elaborate it to you. Also, Miss Laura doesn't need to call me Mister. Instead, call me Zhao Hai from now on."

Laura smile and replied, "I will call you Mister since I have been accustomed to do so anyway. Oh, right. Mister, if you had an ancient magic tool, then why didn't you use it when your clan was being exterminated? The last time Sir Green went to the Purcell clan, hadn't you used one? Do you still have that ancient magic tool?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I didn't have any ancient magic tool. If I did have such a thing, then I wouldn't be in this situation. What you're talking about is just part of my Divergent technique."

Laura held her breath. Although she hadn't seen a Divergent Warlock before, she knew that there were many different types. Some of them had a very high potential, even reaching a Rank Nine expert's strength. Some of these Divergent Warlocks, however, didn't have much use, such as the ability to study skin or the ability to read when their eyes closed. Those things were absolutely useless and didn't have any battle efficiency .

Zhao Hai wouldn't speak of how many abilities his divergent technique had since even having just this ability was already sufficient to cause envy. It was equal to owning an ancient magic tool.

But Laura still wanted to confirm things. Therefore, she continued to question Zhao Hai. "Mister, do you mean to say that your ability is like an ancient magic tool that can transfer a human. Such as, you can transfer them here to Stony Mountain?"

Zhao Hai smiled again and replied, "The ability isn't as easy as you say and, in fact, has a great limitation. First, the person to be transferred should be trusted by me. Second, he needs a medium so that I can transfer him . If it were really easy, then I wouldn't need to be here?"

Laura smiled while nodding, then blushed. After she listened to Zhao Hai tell her that the person must be someone he trusted, she thought that the person couldn't be anyone but people close to him. She couldn't help but think about Green's words.

Green, who cut a wise and fine figure, looked at Laura's reaction and knew what she was thinking. He couldn't help but smile as he told Laura, "Miss Laura, our identity is extremely sensitive. I do hope that Miss can give the Young Master some assurance that you'll keep it a secret."

Laura smiled after hearing what Green said. She looked at Green's expression and couldn't help but blush. Laura soon calmed down. She was different from common girls and said, "Sir Green, rest assured, I know what I should do."

"Miss Laura is too polite. Please don't call me Sir Green, but just call me Green. Or maybe, it would be even better if you call me Grandpa Green as that is what the Young Master calls me," Green replied with a smile.

Laura's face became even more red. Quietly, she replied, "This Laura is impolite. From now on, I'll call you Grandpa Green." Though she said this, her voice was very low.

Chapter 189 - Brother Hai ?

Green looked very happy as he laughed and said, "Alright, good. From now on you will call me Grandpa Green. Ha ha ha ha."

Zhao Hai patted his head, completely silent. He wasn't stupid; of course he knew why Green was happy. Laura calling him grandpa meant that she wasn't against Green's sentiment, and this was what made Green happy.

What Zhao Hai observed, others would naturally observe as well. Laura's face became even redder, Nier laughed at her side, and Meg, who should have been angry, unexpectedly wasn't.

Meg's life was very simple. She was a Buda clan member, and although she liked Zhao Hai, she understood that it was impossible for Zhao Hai to marry only her. Don't even speak about if Green or the others would agree to it, she herself wouldn't agree to that either.

The Buda clan needed a successor. And not just one, but many successors. Only then could they guarantee the continuation of the Buda clan. Therefore, Zhao Hai was destined to have many wives.

Also, Laura, after knowing Zhao Hai's identity, showed a positive reaction. Thus, this had won her a favorable impression from Meg. No matter what, the Buda clan was still an enemy of the empire. Once people knew that Laura had a relationship with them, it wouldn't do Laura any good.

Accepting Zhao Hai's situation, along with the matter of her falling out with the Markey Dell clan, increased Meg's favorable impression of Laura. Also, after having meeting with her several times, Meg found that Laura was a nice person; she was friendly while still being a young lady of a clan. She was a good person.

Zhao Hai felt a bit of anguish. He couldn't understand how or when his charm had become so great. Now it had easily, and unexpectedly, made an idol have a favorable impression of him. This really wasn't part of his plans.

Zhao Hai was an otaku, and as an otaku he didn't like changes or matters that were hard to control. Obviously, Laura's matter was something Zhao Hai hadn't been able to control, thus making him unable to respond.

Soon, Meirin also came in. As soon as she saw Zhao Hai and Green's face exposed, she couldn't help but change her expression. "Green, Young Master, what's this all about?"

"Miss Laura, this is Grandma Meirin." Zhao Hai responded to Meirin's question by introducing her to Laura.

Laura stood up and greeted Meirin. "I have seen Grandma Meirin. Please rest assured, I will not betray the Buda clan."

Meirin looked at the calm Zhao Hai and the smiling Green. She exchanged eye contact with Green and immediately understood Green's meaning. Her eyes began to shine brightly while looking at Laura and she said, "Good, this is good. Miss Laura is too polite. Oh, I just remembered. Today I cooked your favorite fire fish. Alright, everyone, let's go eat first." Afterwards, Zhao Hai led Laura towards the dining room.

Laura's face was all red. Meirin's eyes held a sort of passion in them when she looked at Laura. Laura thought it was a bit much, but she couldn't help it.

Zhao Hai stood up and went to the dining room along with Green, whose face was filled with a smile. Afterwards, they sat down in the dining room while Meirin brought out the meal that included the fire fish Laura liked.

While they ate, it wasn't only Meirin who urged Laura to eat the other dishes, but also Meg. Laura felt that Meg had changed her attitude towards her, something that puzzled her. Based on her calculations, Meg should be more hostile towards her. Now, however, it didn't look that way. It seemed like Meg didn't have any hatred towards her.

Zhao Hai was speechless after eating the meal. Afterwards, they returned to the parlor room and Laura said, "Mister, I have also visited this time to ask for your help. Although I won't be harmed in any way when I'm inside Casa City, that won't be the case if I went outside. I fear Mister might take it as a joke, but the strength I have now won't be enough to ensure my security. Therefore, I want to ask Mister to give me some aid while I travel back home. Is that okay with you?"

After they ate, Zhao Hai also wanted to open up some topics. Anyway, their future development will depend highly on Laura. To say he wasn't affected by those ideas earlier, however, would be a mistake. After all, to him, Laura was an idol. Since he currently had the qualifications to pursue her, it would be unfair to himself if he didn't.

Laying down the knot in his heart, Zhao Hai replied with a lot more ease and lightness. He smiled and said, "Call me Zhao Hai or Brother Hai since I think I'm older than you. Also, you do know that these people are undead? While there certainly wouldn't be a problem on my end, won't it be troublesome for you?"

Laura shook her head and said, "Don't worry, I already have an agreement with Grand Duke Evan. He also agreed with me about bringing some undead back."

Zhao Hai nodded. He turned to Green and said, "Grandpa Green, do you remember how Drunk had led two hundred undead in the past? Miss Laura, would two hundred undead be sufficient?"

Laura nodded and said, "It will suffice and be more than enough. Brother Hai, please also call me Laura instead of Miss Laura." After calling him Brother Hai, she blushed a little but recovered soon after.

Zhao Hai nodded, turned around once again, looking towards Green. Green immediately understood what Zhao Hai meant, so he nodded and said, "Ok. Anyway, Drunk and the undead look like any other human that roams the continent, and an average person wouldn't even be able to recognize them. However, if Alodia himself checks, then perhaps he would be able to see them for what they really are."

Zhao Hai nodded and transferred Drunk over. Before long, they appeared in the courtyard of Stony Mountain's Bluestone Villa.

After Drunk and his team returned from the Carrion Swamp, they were ordered to guard Fort Iron Mountain. Since there were transfer points at Fort Iron Mountain and Stony Mountain, Zhao Hai didn't need to have them enter the Space. Instead, as long as he intended for it, the Space could transfer them directly.

Seeing Drunk and his team appear in the courtyard, Zhai Hai turned to Laura and said, "These undead, Drunk and his team, were once a part of the Immortal Mercenary Corps that had attacked you back when I had saved you. They are now under my control, however, and I have turned them from skeletons into zombies. Right now, their battle efficiency should be equal to that of a Rank Seven Magician, thus they can be of help to you.

"These two hundred individuals with Drunk are mostly warriors, and they are the ones I had subdued during the battle against Garan. They are mostly Rank Seven warriors, and all of them are zombies that can use poison attacks through a skill called Corpse Virus. They should also be able to help you. Furthermore, the ones that had attacked you earlier by order of Carlo were all made into undead. However, I won't let them go with you in order to avoid any further trouble."

Laura hadn't thought that Zhao Hai really had subdued the Immortal Mercenary Corps. She had thought that he'd let them escape back then. After what Zhao Hai had said, she was curious and asked, "Are they really the ones from the Immortal Mercenary Corps? Those in the yard?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes. Most of those two hundred and eight people outside were mercenary soldiers that had initially attacked me during the Garan incident. Now, however, they are all undead, but are still easy to recognize. I think that I should turn them into skeletons so that no one could easily identify them. "

This undead ability was something that Zhao Hai had just recently discovered. The Space had made all those skeletons into zombies, which gave Zhao Hai a headache. Due to the changes of the undead, it could cause suspicion from others. It was a good thing that Alien wasn't altered. Because of that, Zhao Hai thought that the Space was intelligent enough to know that Alien was Zhao Hai's personal ride. Therefore, it hadn't changed its appearance.

Later on, he also discovered that Alien could also turn into a zombie. Alien was probably smart enough not to change into a zombie and stay in the form of a skeleton. After several experiments, Zhao Hai found out that the Space had improved the biology of the undead, and they could now switch between a skeleton or zombie form.

When Laura and Nier came out of the villa, Searle stood stupidly in the courtyard. There was no other way for him to react. A white light continually flashed out, sending teams of mercenary warriors to appear in the courtyard. Not waiting for them to react, this team of mercenary warriors, led by a few people wearing magic robes, instantly transformed into skeletons. Searle understood that these mercenary warriors weren't of the living, but of the dead.

Laura hadn't seen this change. She only saw the eight magicians leading two hundred skeletons standing before her. Laura curiously observed the eight magicians, but in the end, she couldn't find any clues to their identity. Drunk and them all wore black magician robes that hid their features, causing Laura to be unable to find out anything.

Laura turned around and ordered Searle and his men, "Everything you have just seen at Mister's place is not permitted to be divulged to the outside. Do you understand what I said?" All of them immediately complied. These people were all carefully selected by Laura, thus they were highly trusted by her. They would put their lives on the line for Laura, and were therefore allowed to accompany her to Stony Mountain.

Zhao Hai wore his magic robe again, smiled, but didn't say anything to Laura. Laura observed for a while and didn't find anything. After that, she re-entered the villa with Zhao Hai.

They sat down and Zhao Hai turned his head towards Laura, saying, "If you need more people there, just tell me. I have a lot of manpower right now and can move them at a moment's notice. Oh, right. Before I forget, I also have a matter to ask of you. This is a thing that I have handwritten and drawn up. I want you to find people who can help me accomplish this thing." Zhao Hai took out a sample of the marriage

certificate that he had made and gave it to Laura. There were characters written above that stated where the word marriage certificate should be printed.

Laura received the sample and looked at it. She immediately understood the use of it. This made her curious so she asked, "What does Brother Hai intend to do with this?"

Zhao Hai smiled. "Nothing much. Just that in my territory, some people haven't gotten married yet. Therefore, I made this for them. Ha ha."

When the Buda clan entered the Black Waste, they were accompanied by a hundred slaves. This was known by everyone on the continent. Laura had thought that Zhao Hai already made them into undead, but now she knew that wasn't the case.

Chapter 190 - Warning, Threaten

When Laura came down from Stony Mountain, besides the guards that followed behind her, there were also two hundred and eight undead. With the exception of the undead magicians, the others wore warrior clothing and moved quickly. They dashed behind Laura, and, unexpectedly, weren't any slower than Laura's horses.

Laura wasn't paying any attention to these undead. Instead, she looked at the sample blueprint of the marriage certificate Zhao Hai had made. One could say that this was quite simple and could be done using thick paper. He wanted it to be red-colored with a few words of golden text printed on top, which was also quite simple. Laura, however, was actually lost in her thoughts. This lasted for quite some time.

Nier looking at Laura puzzledly. She didn't understand what was so attractive about this paper. The piece of paper only had simple things written on it; nothing remarkable about that.

While Nier couldn't understand, Laura did. This piece of paper might be simple, but it represented so much.

There had never been a marriage certificate on the continent that was given out when people married. After the ceremony was over, although there was a kind of marriage certificate given, it was mostly attached to the engagement itself. There was no marriage certificate for after the wedding.

This marriage certificate Zhao Hai had made, however, was proof that the two people were a legally married couple. What was more amazing was that this document could be taken to Zhao Hai and used to ask for a divorce if they were no longer compatible with one another. As long as it was approved, they would no longer be husband and wife.

If it were before, Laura wouldn't have thought that this thing was useful. Zhao Hai wouldn't be able to enforce monogamy, so what was the use of this paper? But when Zhao Hai gave that piece of paper to her, Laura somehow felt a greater desire for that piece of paper.

Nier couldn't stand it anymore, so she waved at Laura. "Young Lady, haven't you had enough of sightseeing the periphery of Stony Mountain? You have been watching for over an hour."

Laura recovered, blushed, and hurriedly stored the sample paper. She looked at Nier and said, "Nier, why do you think Brother Hai gave me this blueprint?"

Nier wasn't stupid and understood what Laura meant. She look at her and teasingly said, "Young Lady, are you lovesick? Mister also let you call him Brother Hai. To make you call him Brother Hai, ah... how shameless."

Nier knew of Laura's sentiment for more than just a few days. As such, she could speak as such to her. Laura didn't get angry at Nier and instead said, "You silly girl. If I really marry Brother Hai, then you won't be able to escape. Some people might be tricked by your small and hurt appearance, but Brother Hai might be in favor of it."

Laughter filled the air afterwards. They soon arrived outside Casa City not long after. The garrison at the city gates were surprised to see so many undead coming along with Laura, but they had already been given orders by Evan. They didn't stop the group and let them pass.

Laura's action this time around caused a huge commotion inside Casa City. Bringing in a large army of undead and blatantly marching them through the streets was daring, and also quite rare.

There were many onlookers watching Laura, but everyone on the continent knew that black magicians could use skeletons, thus nobody was scared.

Laura rampantly led the undead into the city, which was intentional. She believed that Carlo already knew that those who had attacked her were already dead. Although Carlo was very arrogant, he wasn't stupid. It was impossible for him to only send in two threads. He had certainly sent other spies.

This time around, Laura came back with a lot of undead, so those spies would understand immediately that she stood together with Zhao Hai. Upon seeing that the garrison of Casa City had also allowed them in meant that the Purcell clan stood with them too. What she was doing right now was demonstrating this.

Soon, the carriage arrived at Faith Mansion. Faith Mansion wasn't large, so having two hundred undead arriving made it very crowded. Quinn John, however, had already received an advanced notification about this. Thus, he had finished the arrangements already.

Apart from Drunk's eight, the other undead were arranged nearby, outside the mansion walls. They wouldn't feel cold anyway, so being stationed at the walls was ok. They seemed like a row of statues, though these statues looked a bit scary.

Alodia watched Laura, whom had just come back. Seeing that she had brought so many undead made him feel that something was wrong. Although they didn't know much about Zhao Hai, they knew that Zhao Hai wasn't a weak black magician. Laura went out, came back, and had brought a lot of undead. They knew that this was certainly related to Zhao Hai.

Moreover, why did Laura bring back so many undead this time around? Those undead didn't appear to be of low level, so was she really thinking of breaking off from the clan?

As he thought this, a servant came to Alodia and told him that he was asked to meet with Laura. He calmed down, straightened his clothes, and walked towards Laura's studyroom.

Upon arriving at the door to the study, Alodia gawked as he saw that standing in front of Laura's study were two skeletons, one on either side of the door. They looked as though black jade had been used to carve them.

Besides the two skeletons, there was also Searle standing there. Looking at this scene, Alodia's face sunk as he said to Searle, "Steward Alodia is ready to meet with the Young Lady."

As Alodia watched Searle's expression, he knew that his fears had happened today. Alodia knew what Reo was to do if he couldn't leave the mansion, but it seems that the task wasn't successful.

Alodia nodded with an ugly expression and walked into the study. He looked inside and saw that there was only Laura, Quinn John, and Nier. There were no others present.

"I have seen the Young Lady," Alodia courteously greeted Laura.

Laura sat back behind the desk and looked into Alodia's eyes, saying, "You arrived in my mansion, therefore, you must follow the rules of the mansion. Otherwise even Fifth Uncle wouldn't be able to save you. As long as you follow the rules of the mansion, I won't treat you badly. Do you understand and remember what I just said?"

Alodia looked back at Laura and said, "Young Lady, we are servants of the Fifth Young Master and have come here to visit the Young Lady, not to work as a servant for the Young Lady. Now that I have seen the Young Lady, this little one wishes to go back. I ask for the Young Lady's consent."

Laura looked at Alodia and said, "Stay here for some time. These days, the outside isn't too peaceful. Today, I had just left the mansion and was unexpectedly attacked. Moreover, the strength of those people wasn't weak. If I let you go out now, and an accident were to occur, then I wouldn't be able to face Fifth Uncle. As such, stay here for a period of time. I'll let you leave after things calm down. You can go back now."

Alodia listened to what Laura said and an eyelid couldn't help but unconsciously jump. What Laura meant was very clear. Laura was giving him a warning, threatening him. You people had attacked me, but I had survived. Your attacks were defeated. Now she said that outside wasn't peaceful. This means that if he were to leave Casa City, she would kill him and let him die in vain.

Alodia wasn't stupid. He knew that he was currently in Laura's territory. It was impossible for him to fight Laura. They would never have thought that Laura's strength would have increased to such a height already. Now, he could only hope that Carlo would quickly hear the news and save them.

Earlier this morning, when they were told by Quinn John to stay put in the mansion, Alodia had sent a wind falcon to inform Carlo. He estimated that Carlo should have received the message by now. He would never have thought, however, that the wind falcon he'd sent had already become food for the Eagle Virtuous Phantasms.

Laura couldn't attack all of the wind falcons that flew out of Casa City, however. Such a move would offend a lot of people. Therefore, Laura also knew that Carlo would soon enough receive the message.

After she came back, she didn't directly go to the Grand Duke's Mansion. Instead, she sent someone to inform Grand Duke Evan that Zhao Hai had agreed to form an alliance. She believed that once Grand Duke Evan received the news, he would know what to do next.

Alodia was worthy of being a steward of Carlo as he bore it patiently. After hearing what Laura said, he nodded and replied, "Yes, Young Lady. Then, please excuse me."

Laura nodded and said, "Alright. Tell your people not to go out without my permission. A lot of undead have come with me here and these undead do not recognize people. If any of your people decide to leave, they could possibly be killed."

Alodia lowered his head and complied, slowly drawing back as he knew he couldn't do anything. If he did move, then he would be the same as courting death. Looking at Laura's expression, it showed that she didn't mind killing them.

Watching Alodia retreat, Quinn John looked at Laura and said, "Laura, are you alright? I saw the arrow marks on the carriage. It seems to have been a very fierce attack."

Laura shook her head and said, "It's alright. Brother Hai came to my rescue. Grandpa Quinn John, please sit down. I have to tell you about Brother Hai's situation."

Quinn John nodded as he also wanted to know these matters. Upon Laura's arrival, he had been summoned immediately, so there hadn't been any time to explain things to him.

Laura sat besides Quinn John, then ordered Searle to move further away. Quinn John understood the meaning of this, as it showed that Zhao Hai's identity must be extremely delicate

Quinn John had thought of a lot about Zhao Hai's identity, but he never would have guessed that he was of the Buda clan. No wonder no one had found any of the Buda clan in the Black Waste; they had hid from everyone in the blink of an eye. Ah, so terrible.

After Laura told him everything, Quinn John slowly stood up and walked around aimlessly. He then said, "You handled this matter correctly. If Zhao Hai didn't want you to know of their identity, then you wouldn't know it. Others wouldn't have been able to guess his current status, and we have cooperated with them without a problem.

"I also heard that Grand Duke Evan had been an old friend of the Buda clan and had helped them during their time of crisis. However, even if he asks for Zhao Hai's identity, we shouldn't say anything. To be safe, we shouldn't tell anyone of this matter. So long as we are able to repel the Markey Dell clan, we will be able to gain a strong foothold here in the Purcell Duchy. But as Zhao Hai said, if you let others know of his identity, then even the Purcell clan wouldn't be able to protect them. We are currently cooperating with them both, and before the alliance we were already on good terms."

Laura gave a soft cry of agreement .