

Another World 311

Chapter 311 - Keeping Up Appearances

On the streets of Casa City, a strange convoy was slowly moving forward. One could say strange, since the convoy only composed of two carriages. The carriage at the front looked like it was made of high-quality materials, the continent's rare lightwood. The appearance of the carriage was very succinct, it had some resemblance to the carriages that the Radiant Church uses, but it can be seen that its more likely from an old aristocratic family.

The main thing about this carriage was that it had an exotic touch to it. The style of the carriage did not purely adapt human craftsmanship, there were also beastman craftsmanship here and there.

Beastman craftsmanship was very different than the humans. The human were very rich in materials, so when they construct carriages, they would use a lot nails and metals parts.

But the beastman race weren't blessed with resources. Since they were lacking iron, their carriages would be mostly made of wood and used wood joints for their processes, using the least amount of metal as possible, a discerning eye would be able to tell which is which.

And one can see that on this carriage's body, there were a lot of beastman style wood joints present. If one was knowledgeable, he could see that the carriage was very different than the other carriages used by humans.

Even more bizarre was the magic beast pulling the carriage, it looked much like a bull, but it was very different. The bull had massive horns at the sides of its head, each about 2 meters in length. When the Bull lowers its head, it would occupy about 4 meters of road width.

In addition to lightwood, the carriage also uses a lot of pure white beastman blankets. If one were to feel it and if they had experience in the prairie, they would see that this was the same material used for high-profile tents.

Driving this carriage was a warrior, he wore ordinary warrior clothing, and at his back were axes, he was calmly driving the carriage through the streets.

Following behind the carriage was an ordinary Cow-headed race's carriage. The carriage was very large, capable of holding a lot of things, a servant was sat driving the carriage.

The pedestrians were often seen inspecting the carriages, they felt curious about the shape and appearance of it. But since it looked like the carriage belonged to a person of status, they didn't dare disturb the owner.

The owner of the carriage was naturally Zhao Hai, it was the altered carriage originally belonging to Lindsey Becker. Because they had some Giant-horned Bulls involved in making the carriage, there obviously would be some traces of beastman craftsmanship, and because they needed to stay warm, blankets were heavily used.

Shue was the one driving the carriage, he was basically done with investigating the Iron Mountains. He took several days to explain to Green and the others his findings. When Zhao Hai noticed that Shue had nothing else to do in the fort, he made him drive his carriage.

Shue didn't oppose, he was now very convinced of his young master's ability, he was even pleased to be his carriage driver.

The carriage behind Zhao Hai was driven by Blockhead. Blockhead and Rockhead were now 6th rank warriors and are about to break through to 7th rank, what they needed the most was actual experience. So Zhao Hai made them come and drive the supply carriage.

Because the two looked exactly the same, Zhao Hai had one of them drive the carriage while the other would be inside the Space, switching between them from time to time.

The two were also glad, they were either in the Space or inside Iron Mountain Fort, they didn't have any chances to go out. They are still young, so this was a good time for learning, but they didn't have any opportunities to do so. So when they were asked to come, they certainly wouldn't decline.

Inside the carriage that Blockhead was driving were some ordinary commodities, enough for someone to use during a long travel, this made the pedestrians even more curious.

Zhao Hai didn't start his carriage ride to Casa City from the Black Wastelands, but instead he decided to head from the direction of the prairie. This was so that the peculiarities of their carriage as well as their supplies wouldn't bring forth suspicions from other people.

Inside the carriage were Zhao Hai, Laura, Meg and Nier. The carriage was more spacious than Laura's, but the designs were quite similar. There were doors on the front and back of the carriage, as well as windows made of glass. In the middle was a cabinet, suspended above it was a magical furnace where you can use either magic or charcoal to boil water, the upper part of the cabinet held various tools while the lower part had a freezer. On the left and right sides were two rows acting as seats. Even with these, the carriage was still very spacious.

On the walls of the carriage were thick wool blankets draping towards the floors. Although the outside was snowing and cold, inside the carriage was as warm as spring.

Zhao Hai naturally wouldn't leave Shue and Blockhead freezing outside. He gave the two appropriate clothes for the weather, additionally, both driver's seats were modified so that cold winds wouldn't directly hit them.

Amidst all of these, the main distinguishing feature of the carriage was actually its usage of glass. In the continent, glass could be considered as a top level luxury, but now they were used in Zhao Hai's carriage. It really seemed like Zhao Hai kept up his appearance up until the end.

Looking outside through the glass window, Laura smiled at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, do you think the people who see this carriage would think that the owner would be a beastman?"

Zhao Hai looked at Laura's brown dyed hair, then he smiled faintly, "I don't think so, I didn't hear any beastman who'd be so extravagant to use windows made of glass."

Laura just smiled then she said, "So how was it? Was my idea good?"

Meg looked at Zhao Hai's golden hair awkwardly, then she turned to Laura and laughed, "It's very good, you'll have to know that the young master was also a silkpants before at the imperial capital. This time, nobody would suspect his current identity."

Worn on his face were the pink crystal eyeglasses, coupled with his golden hair and his highlighted eyebrows, it really did seem that he was a young noble master.

Looking at Zhao Hai appearance, Laura cannot help but smile, just like when he first Zhao Hai with this appearance. She became curious and asked Meg, "Meg, tell me all about how Brother Hai was back at the imperial capital. Did he really look and act as a silkpants?"

Meg smiled, "Of course, he was even worse than the rumors, you didn't know. but he....."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but scratch his head and have a headache, but he couldn't do anything, these things were what the former Adam did. And he was now using Adam's body, so he had to own up to these things.

Looking at the girls chit chatting, Zhao Hai's mood became good. He suddenly had a blissful feeling, it was very warm, very moving.

Zhao Hai's convoy appeared at a location not far from Casa City, therefore before the day turned dark, they already arrived outside Casa City.

Because they didn't have a identification badge, the guards stopped their convoy at the gate. But Shue took out a Mage's badge and gave it to the city's guards to look at. The guards allowed them to pass, Mages in the continent had the privilege of entering cities for free.

However, the city's guards were still curious about Zhao Hai. Even though the Purcell Duchy was in the continent, they were not far from the prairie. Still, these people had not seen a giant-horned bull before. These giant-horned bulls were the companion beasts of the Giant-horned Bull tribe so they were not sold, thus the people of the continent naturally wouldn't recognize them.

Zhao Hai entered the city and immediately attracted the attention of the people inside. The hadn't seen a giant-horned bull before, thus they directed their curiosity towards Zhao Hai's carriage.

Zhao Hai didn't mind them, his carriage had already stopped in front of Casa City's biggest hotel. Looking at Zhao Hai's entrance, the hotel's attendant immediately thought that Zhao Hai was some influential

person. He immediately came forward and greeted from outside the carriage, "Shelley Hotel welcomes you, distinguished guests."

Shue just stared at the attendant, then he stood up from his seat and prepared the stairs hidden under the carriage and said, "Young Master, we have arrived."

The carriage door opened, then two figures came out and stood at both sides of the stairs. Zhao Hai came out of the carriage holding Laura's hand, and when he descended the stairs, he let go of Laura's hand and held Meg's. He then slowly went down the stairs, ignored the attendant, and went directly inside the hotel.

The attendant wasn't offended, instead, Zhao Hai appeared much bigger in his mind, he couldn't recall any other person like him. This was maybe because of Zhao Hai's aura. The attendant just stayed there bowing, and didn't follow Zhao Hai inside the hotel.

Shue turned toward the attendant and said, "Look after our carriages and magic beasts. If there are any mistakes, I will not spare you."

The attendant immediately responded, "The guest can be relieved, our Shelley hotel would ensure that there would be no mistakes. Guest, you can just hand them to me."

Shue nodded, he then signaled to Blockhead and entered the hotel.

Entering the hall, there were resting areas at both sides of the hall. Zhao Hai was just sitting there while Laura was with the hotel's receptionist discussing something.

Chapter 312 - Playing the Role of A Silkpants

Laura looked at the vast lands, she repeated the words with a flat tone, "Our own kingdom, Our own kingdom." This thought would make any person feel excited.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "Yes, our own kingdom. Let's wait for Grandpa Green and the others to come back, we need to discuss the matter about the living conditions of the hundred thousand people so that after spring they could arrive. Although they were only half-beastman, they still had lived their entire lives in the prairie, so they might not have any experience with farming. It seems that we need to head sooner towards the Rosen Empire and buy some human slaves."

Laura agreed, "We should, but before that we should meet up with Bell and settle the milk wine business with him, then we proceed, what do you think?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "Sure, we can go through Stony Mountain to head towards Casa City and see the situation there. From Casa City, we could then head towards Iksa Territory and find Bell, then settle the milk wine business and at the same time asking if he has any connections in Carson City. This is important for our later actions, but this time's travel, we cannot do so with my Dark Mage persona, that would be obviously inappropriate."

Laura nodded, "Naturally, that wouldn't be proper, if you go with your Dark Mage persona, people may hold suspicions. First we need to head back and wait for Grandpa Green and the others to come back, then we should discuss with them our further actions."

Zhao Hai agreed, then turned his head towards the snowy area outside, he then lead the three females to return to the fort. The four sat down, and after a while, Green and the others had come back from the outside, along with Green were Merine, Kun, and Shue.

Shue wasn't in the castle most of the time, the nearby terrains of the Iron Mountains weren't explored before so Green gave the task to him.

Shue carried out reconnaissance on the surrounding mountains, Green wanted to know all about the mountains these past few days. He wanted to know where were the good spots for mining stone, as well as spots for cutting trees.

Green wore a cloak made of rabbit skin, it was obvious that the temperature outside didn't compare to inside the castle. Since the castle was warm, they just put on this easy to remove cloak on.

Seeing that Zhao Hai's group had returned, Green stared for a moment. Then after which the others became happy, Green smiled and asked, "Young Master, why did you return this early? Was the matter in the prairie already dealt with?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then gave them some items he got from the prairie, then he told them about the Radiant Church's Ultimate Weapon Program and the church's nurturing of beastman children to send them back to the prairie and deal with the prairie's inhabitants, he also made these things confidential.

This was the first time that Green had learnt of these matters, when he heard Zhao Hai's testimony, he frowned, "I didn't think that the Radiant Church would have such a plan. Young Master, you should inform someone from the League of Dark Mages about this. If they receive this information, they would definitely do some preparations against it, additionally, they could deal with the Radiant Church, relieving us of some pressure."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I was going to do that exact thing this time that I came back. I cannot wait for spring to arrive at the prairie, so I planned to use this period of time to arrange some matters. I would like to take a look at the situation inside Casa City, then head towards Iksa domain to find Bell and settle the milk wine partnership. I could also use this time to tell him this information as well as ask if he has any connections inside Carson City of the Rosen Empire. If he did, then it would make our travel more convenient, we would be able to open a proper trade route towards the prairie."

Kun agreed, "Good, Carson City is considered to be the biggest supply market and distribution center in the entire continent. It is a truly good place, we have our products and if we decide to sell it there, nobody would take notice. And Bell wouldn't be able to handle our full milk wine capacity, so we should sell those at Carson City. But in Carson City, there are numerous influential figures, each and every one of them had greed as their second nature, if we cannot find a powerful backer, then I fear that we cannot escape the same destiny as in Purcell Duchy. Bell is a member of the league, so perhaps he has some connections. I heard that among the Rosen Empire were some Dark Mages who were serving their army, which says that Rosen Empire wasn't opposed to Dark Mages. So the League of Dark Mages may hold a lot of influence there, we could use that influence to our advantage."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Grandpa Kun's words are right, we could use this to our advantage, but the issue now is, I want to look for Bell but I cannot go out with my Dark Mage persona. I am thinking as to persona should I go with?"

Green chuckled, this really became a problem. Currently, in the Aksu Empire, all Dark Mages were under deep monitoring, so if Zhao Hai appeared as a Dark Mage, then people would deduce who he is.

Green looked at Zhao Hai, “Young Master, what persona would you like to go by?”

Zhao Hai thought for a moment, then he said, “A merchant would not be good, I think I could appear as a Mage, but not a Dark Mage. Now, the Space could use Fire and Earth Element magic, might as well appear as a dual element mage. Moreover, it would be best to get arrogant, making myself widely known, if it’s like this then people would perhaps not suspect me.”

Green nodded, “Acting high-profile wouldn’t be a problem, we didn’t need to fear anyone judging by our present strengths. Even if they came to know of our real identities, they would only send a 9th rank expert, which we can make deal with easily, even more so with an army, therefore being high-profile would be good.”

Zhao Hai smiled, “I have never thought of releasing my identity, if it were really revealed, then I certainly wouldn’t need to fear. But it would be a problem with future missions, as my false identities might be exposed, so I absolutely cannot make them know who I am.”

Kun smiled and said, “Right, a dual element mage isn’t bad, in the entire continent, there weren’t a lot of dual element mages. So these mages were considered to be geniuses, and they were given leverage to become a bit arrogant. But we still need to make Little Hai prepare, we should at least apply some simple makeup.”

Zhao Hai scratched his head, “How to we apply it?”

Kun looked at Zhao Hai, then turned to Laura and said, “This depends on Laura. Laura, make Zhao Hai look like a silkpants.”

Several people chuckled, Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, “We need to dye Brother Hai’s head. I happen to have some dye powder, we can dye his hair golden. Then we could glue a small beard on his lip, making his age look older, a pair of pink crystal glasses would do good as well.”

A black line appeared on Zhao Hai forehead, “I could settle with the dye and the beard, but why the pink crystal glasses? Can we trade it with another color?”

Laura smiled, "Pink is good, pink is a very popular color in the Continent right now. I saw a lot of silkpants wearing pink crystal glasses, very beautiful. Rest assured, I have a pair of pink crystal glasses, I will give them to you in a while."

Zhao Hai shook his head, and decided to not oppose anymore, and just went with Laura's plans. He turned to Laura and said, "How about you? Exiting like you are currently would be conspicuous. I think in the Continent, there are a lot of people who knows of you more than me."

Laura faintly smiled and replied, "Mine would be very simple, I could just dye my hair and then wear a veil. You should know that any aristocrat would have their female companion usually wear a veil, so as to prevent any other people appreciating their female companion."

Zhao Hai can only smile bitterly, he really didn't have anything good to say. Here, there were differences between men and women. For men, generally only Dark Mages would wear veils, but for women, the could wear them casually.

Green nodded and said, "This is good, but when the day comes, you should travel by carriage, and not any ordinary carriage. We need it to be more majestic, Laura's carriage cannot be used since many had already seen it. The Radiant Church's carriage cannot be used either since one could notice it at a glance. What kind of carriage would you use?"

Zhao Hai knitted his brows, to be honest, he didn't think that he would act a role of being a silkpants. So having proper carriage wouldn't just be enough, to the continent, a carriage is a sign of a man's wealth and status.

Now the issue is that Zhao Hai embarrassingly didn't have a very good carriage. In the continent, a good carriage is made from good materials. But Zhao Hai didn't have any good materials, naturally, he also wouldn't have a good carriage.

Zhao Hai just shook his head and said, "It would be very difficult to get a good carriage in such a short time."

Laura knit her brows, "It's not impossible, we can demolish the lightwood carriage of the Radiant Church, then use those lightwood to make our own carriage. A lot of good carriages in the continent

uses lightwood as their material. As long as we do not follow the carriage design of the Radiant Church, then would should be fine.”

Kun agreed, “Good, then well arrange for it immediately. We shall bring some artisans and also among the beastmen there should be some who knows how to make carriages. I think the task should be done in a few days, but what Magic Beast would you use to pull the carriage with?”

Zhao Hai thought for a moment then said, “How about using a large horned bull? This magic beast is ordinary, its endurance is also very good. What’s most important is that a beastman race’s magic beast is a rarity, if we pull the carriage with this magic beast, then people would know that we are in a good relationship with the beastmen. Like this, we can sell beastman products and nobody would have suspicions.”

Kun thought for a moment then agreed.

Chapter 313 - Ruyen Purcell Steps into the Stage

Shue was naturally aware of Laura’s identity, so he didn’t dare make Laura do these kinds of things. He immediately approached the receptionist and took over the task of arranging their rooms.

Laura saw Shue coming, she didn’t hesitate to have him handle their things. She told him, “Prepare the best room for the Young Master. You and Blockhead should also live in high grade rooms, the young master said that his servants shouldn’t be looked down upon.”

Shue understood Laura’s words, Zhao Hai didn’t want to treat them unjustly therefore he just made this excuse. Shue immediately nodded and didn’t say anything.

Before long, the two accommodations were prepared. At this time, the attendant who was tasked to take care of Zhao Hai’s carriage came back, Shue gave him a silver coin as a tip, then turned him away.

Zhao Hai led Laura and the others to the arranged hotel accommodation. The accommodation had three bedrooms, a living room, as well as a dining room, it was certainly one of the best accommodations in the hotel.

Zhao Hai acted like he was just in an ordinary noble young master's journey. He just stayed inside the place, letting Laura handle everything. When it came to eating, the food was just delivered as well as ordering a bottle of expensive wine, no different than any other noble young master.

Not long after Zhao Hai arrived at the hotel, a servant was running quickly toward the Grand Duke's mansion and headed towards the rear courtyard.

This courtyard had a very elegant name, it was called the Orchid Courtyard. This was because it was full of orchids before, hence it had acquired its fame.

But now, even though the place is called the Orchid Courtyard, it didn't have a single orchid in it. In place of orchids, it had a lot of Redspring flowers in it.

The redspring flowers were very beautiful, its flowers were red, but its flowering season was short. Moreover, even though these flowers were extremely attractive, some nobles sees its color as uncouth. Because of this, there were rarely any noble houses who planted these flowers.

Despite these, there was someone inside the Grand Duke's mansion who liked this flower. So currently, the Orchid Courtyard were filled with these flowers, to the point of uprooting all of the original orchids in the courtyard.

Although the inhabitants of the mansion thought that it was a pity, nobody dared to express their thoughts. This was because the person living in this courtyard was the Grand Duke's daughter, Ruyen Purcell, formerly the fiancée of Adam but later recalled the engagement.

Before, Ruyen had a huge influence inside the Grand Duke's mansion, naturally it wasn't because of Grand Duke Evan. Since Evan didn't have any power in the past, Ruyen didn't like him very much. Even though he was her father, she always responded to Evan with sarcastic comments, she didn't give Evan any face.

At that time, Ruyen depended on her grandfather, an old elder from Evan's clan. Her grandfather was a staunch supporter of Great Elder Caesar, therefore she was doted heavily by the clan. This made Ruyen develop a very arrogant attitude, she became someone whose eyes were way above their head.

It was because of this arrogance that when Ruyen heard that the Buda clan had lost its power, she immediately wanted to renounce the engagement. His grandfather was in support of this, and the Great Elder, although he didn't voice it out because of noble honor reasons, still put pressure on the Buda clan. But they didn't imagine that the Buda clan would take initiative and renounce the engagement themselves. But it was at that point that the situation began to turn downhill.

The Great Elder lost his power, so naturally Ruyen's grandfather lost his as well. Without power, he just became an idle elder, with an absence of responsibility and power.

While this was happening, Evan's influence and power went the opposite direction. Evan suddenly took control of the entire Purcell Duchy, and with Laura's help, made a lot of money. And then when Laura managed to provoke Southern King, the entire Magic Lily store was handed to him, making the Purcell clan's power and influence even more abundant. Now, Evan's status as the Grand Duke was unshakable.

Ruyen was very regretful, but it was no use. Her previous attitude towards Evan was very terrible, in addition to her actions towards the Buda Clan, it was impossible for Evan to forgive her.

However, she was still Evan's daughter. Although Evan dislikes her, she was still provided with necessities such as food and clothing fitting for a young lady. But everyone in the Grand Duke's mansion were well aware that Ruyen's status in the mansion wasn't as great as before.

Despite all of these, Ruyen's arrogant personality couldn't just be erased. Coupled with her unsatisfactory state, the house servants became her punching bags. No matter the servant did was right or wrong, she would still scold them. More importantly, Ruyen wasn't a reliable lady, she had many scandals with various young masters inside Casa City, which gave her much infamy.

Grand Duke Evan initially didn't want to meddle with her, but now that she was affecting the entire clan's reputation, he couldn't ignore it anymore. So Evan sent warnings to the young masters to get away from Ruyen, at the same time, he had Ruyen prepare to travel towards Rosen Empire's capital Carson City to study.

Because of her father's decree, Ruyen was very frustrated these past few days. She didn't want to leave Purcell Duchy. In the duchy, she was a princess, although not in good graces, she still had her young lady status. Here, if she wanted wind, wind would come, if she wanted rain, rain would pour.

But if she went to Rosen Empire, everything would be different. What was the Rosen Empire? It was the most powerful human nation in the continent. Let alone a Purcell Duchy lady, even if the Aksu empire's princess were to go there, she would be a nobody, not to mention a mere Purcell Duchy young lady.

Because she was frustrated, she ordered her servant to find her some amusing things to make her feel better. Otherwise, she would have to give her servants a good beating.

Now all of the servants in the mansion were afraid of her. This young lady's temper was very short, every so often she would whip a servant. What made the servants most distressed was the fact that the young lady grew up inside the Duchy, there were very few interesting things that she had not yet seen here.

And while these servants were worrying, Zhao Hai's convoy suddenly arrived at Casa City which caused quite a stir. They hadn't seen a giant-horned bull before, so the servant immediately ran to the Grand Dukes mansion's Orchid Courtyard to tell Ruyen this information.

Ruyen was truly bothered these days, since in two days she would leave Purcell Duchy. This frustration caused her to shout loudly, "Someone come here, Jill hasn't arrived yet? If he's still not, might as well not let him return."

At this time, an excited sound came from outside, "Young Lady, Young Lady, an interesting thing had arrived in town."

Ruyen froze for a moment, then said, "Come in."

The door was opened, Jill came in from the door, he had a long nose with small openings, his body wasn't that tall. He was Ruyen's personal servant, a children of a Purcell Clan slave, thus he cannot betray the clan. At the same time, he was also a eunuch, otherwise, Evan wouldn't let him become Ruyen's servant.

Jill immediately entered the room and knelt beside Ruyen, "Young Lady, I had an interesting matter to tell you."

Quite amused with Jill, Ruyen said, "What? What amusing thing has this young lady not seen inside Casa City? If you dare deceive me, you'll better watch out for your skin."

Jill just smiled then replied, "I wouldn't dare, your highness. This time there really is an interesting thing, it just came from outside the city, a carriage. The carriage was made up of lightwood, the person inside seemed like someone of significant status..."

Without even hearing all of Jill's word's, Ruyen grabbed a golden whip from her table and whipped Jill's shoulder with it as she scolded, "Lightwood carriage, our family also has one. And what kind of person with significant status has this young lady not seen. So is this the interesting thing you'd like to say? If so you might want to take a taste of my whip."

Jill quickly replied, "Your highness, this one didn't deceive you, the interesting thing I mean isn't the carriage nor the person, but the magic beast pulling the carriage. It was not a horse, but a bull, it looked like a bull but it had two huge horns, each one about two meters long and a width of half a meter. This one hadn't seen that kind of bull before."

Ruyen was about to raise her whip, now that she heard what Jill said, she was surprised. Then she put down her whip and looked at Jill, "Are you really not deceiving me? There really is a bull with horns that big? I don't think that you can find something that interesting, what nonsense."

Jill added, "Your highness, I really didn't deceive you. What I said is actually real, it's currently at the back of Shelley Hotel, I saw it with my own eyes. It's horns were this big." He said as he gestured with his hands how large the horns were.

This time, Ruyen was really interested. Actually, she didn't believe that Jill would lie to her, so she immediately said, "Really? You're not lying?"

Jill nodded again and again, "Even if I had extra courage today, I still wouldn't dare deceive the young lady."

Ruyen nodded, "Prepare the carriage, I want to go to Shelley Hotel and take a look. If there is no bull like what you've told me, you're finished." She stood up as she spoke.

Standing in front of the door were two maidservants, they didn't suffer any little sufferings from Ruyen's whip, therefore they would tremble whenever Ruyen approached them. Jill also followed Ruyen, appearance looking calm but in fact, his shoulder was in agony. His shoulder was still burning from being whipped, but he cannot make Ruyen see his pain, so he can only follow her with a small smile.

The three servants immediately left the Orchid Courtyard. Jill was immediately tasked by Ruyen to prepare the carriage, Ruyen was still holding her golden whip.

This whip was also Ruyen's special instrument. Ruyen was a magician, so it stands to reason for her to have a magic staff, but she didn't like staffs, so she got a whip. But her whip was very displeasing to the eye, making her a joke inside Purcell Duchy.

Ruyen got on a majestic carriage pulled by a flaming horse and headed for Shelley Hotel. Her two maids were sitting with her inside the carriage while Jill became the driver. They didn't need guards since the carriage had sported the Purcell Family's insignia, and nobody dared to touch them inside the Duchy.

The horse quickly moved towards the hotel. Regarding the hotel, Jill was very familiar with it. Not only was it popular inside the Duchy, but also in the entire continent. It was owned by the Shelley Family who were the owners of the biggest hotel chains in the entire continent.

The Shelley Family, also known as the serpent family because of their insignia being coiled serpents, had been in the hotel business for about a millennia. Their names represented high-end hotels in the continent. Almost every big city in the continent would have its own Shelley Hotel.

Besides providing lodging and dining, the hotel also accepts mercenary missions, big mercenary missions that cannot be handled by small mercenary groups.

Ruyen had also come to dine in this hotel before, so Jill was familiar with this place. Quickly, they arrived at the front door of the hotel.

The attendant noticed Ruyen's carriage, and after seeing Ruyen arrive, he immediately welcomed her outside the carriage, "This one welcomes the young lady."

Ruyen walked out of the carriage then looked at the attendant and asked, "Wellen, I heard that there was a strange magic beast that arrived at your hotel, is it true?"

When Wellen heard what Ruyen said, he immediately understood why she came. Wellen fully knew that this young lady was a tyrant inside Casa City, so he cannot dare to offend her. He immediately responded with a respectful tone. "Your Highness, there was such a magic beast. It's horns were massive, I hadn't seen bulls with horns as massive as those."

Ruyen replied, "Quickly, lead me to take a look." As she said that, she left the carriage and headed to the hotel. Wellen, Jill, and the two servants immediately followed.

Ruyen was also very familiar with the hotel, she didn't only dine here but also had meetings with her friends, she also came here to do other things, so Shelley Hotel had been very familiar with this young lady. But since the hotel had a rule to not disclose their guest's matters, not many people came to know about it.

Because of this, Ruyen was also very familiar with the hotel's back door. One had to pass through the lobby and then head the door at the back to go towards the back area of the hotel.

At the back of the hotel wasn't single stable. It was divided into small courtyards, they were there for nobles who didn't want to be disturbed, so the hotel would give them the courtyards. And the place where the hotel would place the magic beasts would be in the very far back. There were people who were specialized to take care of the guest's carriage and magic beast. Carnivorous and herbivorous magic beasts were also separated.

Chapter 314 - Meeting His First Fiancee

Ruyen stood outside the giant-horned bull's pen. The giant-horned bull looked very carefree while grazing leisurely. These giant-horned bulls were docile magic beasts, even under Ruyen's gaze, it didn't even respond, it would only occasionally flap its ear.

After looking at the bull's massive horns, Ruyen was speechless for some time. Then, her eyes lit up, she walked towards the bull and reached her hand out towards its horns.

This move scared Jill and Wellen, although the bull looked very docile, the way it was brought up was unknown. The two quickly moved to stop her, but they were a step too late. Ruyen had already traced her hand along the horns of the giant-horned bull.

Despite this, the giant-horned bull didn't do anything, as if nothing happened, it just stood there leisurely chewing on its fodder.

Seeing its response, Jill and Wellen breathed a sigh of relief. The two were also very curious of this magic beast, they couldn't help themselves and also traced their hands on the bull's horns.

The giant-horned bull didn't have any reaction at all. Even if it was surrounded by these many people, it just went on and ate its fodder calmly.

The more Ruyen looked at the docile giant-horned bull, the more she liked it. She turned towards Wellen and asked, "Wellen, who owns this bull? Tell me, I want to buy it."

Wellen smiled bitterly, "Your highness, you know the rules of the hotel, we cannot just disclose our guest's identity. Moreover, from what I could tell from that guest, it was very unlikely that he would sell this bull."

Ruyen snorted, "Telling me this is useless, I didn't ask you the identity of the guest. Just tell me where the guest stays and were fine. I'll take care of the rest."

Wellen smiled bitterly for a moment, he knew that the lady was irritated. This lady was a very troublesome person, but it was like what she said, their hotel cannot disclose information about the guest, but if some people like to visit a guest, the hotel could comply.

Wellen told Ruyen Zhao Hai's room number. Ruyen understood that this accommodation was one of the hotel's best, not counting the rear courtyards, this room would be the best one.

However, she was also relieved, although Ruyen was quite unruly, she wasn't a fool. In her mind, Zhao Hai's identity wasn't that high, otherwise he would have rented the rear courtyards.

Actually, her idea was correct, Zhao Hai's identity was indeed just normal. Since he cannot use the status of his Buda family, and Laura cannot disclose her identity, they didn't have the status of a noble. With only Zhao Hai's magician identity, the other nobles won't pay attention to them.

Jill understood the young lady more than Wellen, so he didn't obstruct Ruyen. Ruyen continued to walk towards the hotel.

The hotel was divided into six floors, the sixth floor contained the best rooms, the fifth floor was a notch lower, the fourth floor would even be worse, the third floor was the restaurant, the second floor had the conference rooms and leisure quarters, and the ground floor contained the reception and basic rooms.

Zhao Hai's room was at the sixth floor, but Shue and Blockhead stayed at the fifth floor. Although Shue's status outside was higher than Blockhead, he knew that to Zhao Hai, he wasn't more important than Blockhead and Rockhead. Blockhead and Rockhead grew up together with Zhao Hai since they were little, and they were ready to sacrifice their lives for Zhao Hai at any time. Zhao Hai regarded the two of them as his own brothers, so even though Shue acted like he was more important than Blockhead in front of the hotel staff, he didn't act all highly when they entered their room.

Zhao Hai didn't give them orders, they just wanted to look at Casa City's situation while they were passing by as they head towards Iksa Domain. They didn't want to stay here for long, therefore they maintained a low profile.

However, even though Zhao Hai wanted to be low-key, there were some people that don't want him to maintain his low profile. It was just like what other people said, "even when staying at home, a calamity would still come". This was Zhao Hai's current situation.

Laura also did nothing, she just looked outside the window at the people being busy outside. To be honest, being at a high place while looking at the scenery outside felt very good.

Zhao Hai was holding a glass of red wine while Laura stood beside him, they were looking at the people below Casa City through the window. Suddenly Zhao Hai sighed, "One day, I want to build a tall building within Iron Mountain Fort so we can see the entire landscape of the Black Wasteland."

Laura smiled, "We do need to construct a tall building, hehe."

While she said that, a knock was heard. Laura immediately wore her veil, then Nier's sweet and delicate voice was heard, "Yes?"

Shue's voice replied, "Young Master, an attendant from the hotel just came to see me, it seems that there's someone who wants to visit you."

Seeing that it was Shue, Nier opened the door to let him enter. When Shue entered the room, Zhao Hai looked at him while holding his wine glass, "Visit me? With my identity, there should be no one who knows of me in Casa City right? Why would people want to see me?"

Shue glanced at Laura and the others. Then with a weird expression, he replied, "The identity of the person who wanted to visit the young master is quite special, its Purcell Duchy's young lady, Ruyen Purcell."

Hearing Shue mention this name, Zhao Hai and the others were shocked. These people knew of Zhao Hai's true identity, so they would naturally know of the conflict between Zhao Hai and Ruyen Purcell. They didn't think that Ruyen would pay them a visit this time.

Zhao Hai frowned, "She wanted to visit me? What did the hotel attendant say?"

Shue replied, "The attendant said that young lady Ruyen would be waiting for you at the third floor dining room. Because the name we registered this time was Wales, nobody knows about our identity, the hotel attendant just told me that Her Highness Ruyen wanted to see Mister Wales."

This time, Zhao Hai used Wales' name, Wales personally knew a few people in the continent. So when it happened that Zhao Hai needed a name, he used Wales'.

Zhao Hai nodded, "It seems that she doesn't know my identity, then what did she want to see me for?"

Laura smirked, "Why? You don't want to see your former fiancée? She's Casa City's most beautiful woman and also very famous, moreover she likes person with distinguished status. With Elder Brother Hai's current appearance, she will definitely like you." Meg and the others laughed. With Zhao Hai's current appearance, he truly looked like a distinguished person.

Zhao Hai cannot bear but force a smile, he turned his head and said, "Well, let's stop talking about this, Purcell Duchy's princess is waiting for us. Not accepting her invitation wouldn't be good for us. I also wanted to see what young lady Ruyen really wants." With this, the group started heading downstairs.

Blockhead was waiting for Zhao Hai below, when he saw Zhao Hai walk out, he immediately followed him. Together, the group headed towards the third floor dining hall.

Shelley hotel's third floor dining hall was open to the outside. Also, the chef here was very capable, he's very famous inside Casa City. If someone of high status in Casa City wanted to treat someone, they would definitely take them to Shelley Hotel.

Right now, there were many people inside the dining hall, eating. These people were the most distinguished and influential people in Casa City. Some were residents of the hotel, whose identities were not simple. In fact, if you stay in Shelley hotel, your status wasn't ordinary, at least a wealthy businessman, otherwise, the hotel's prices would make your wallet cry.

Ruyen had already entered the dining hall for quite some time. All that knew her in the dining hall gave her a salute, they all knew that Ruyen wanted to be in the spotlight, so they would be happy to cooperate.

Ruyen was sitting there drinking, her golden whip was on the table. Jill and her maids stood behind her. At the same time, the guests of the dining hall were paying attention to her, they didn't know who Ruyen would meet today.

Ruyen's romantic affairs were quite well known inside Casa City, this included the fact that she wanted to break her engagement with the Buda clan, which made the Purcell clan to place pressure to the Budas to break the engagement. Despite this, many people believed that one reason the Buda clan broke the engagement by themselves was because of Ruyen's romantic affairs.

An aristocrat's life was sometimes very boring, and they also wanted to look for some entertainment. So these matters of romance became the most popular topic among nobles.

At this time, a group appeared on the dining hall's entrance. These nobles looked towards the group, and their eyes turned bright. What made their eyes lit up were Laura and the other two women. These

nobles were flower plucking experts, they didn't need to look at a woman's face to determine whether they were attractive or not. They only need to see these women's body to determine their appearances.

Without a doubt, Laura and the other two were rare beautiful women. More importantly, when they saw Laura and the other's stature, they knew that they were unmarried girls, this fact made their eyes brighter.

The other person that caught their eyes were Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai wore a low-profile yet elegant robe. His eyeglasses and mustache showed his style. These people could see that Zhao Hai's age wasn't young nor old, but he still happened to sport a mustache. Paired with his pink eyeglasses, it showed his status. They felt like Zhao Hai's identity wasn't simple, and that he was someone of a distinguished background.

The people inside the hall knew that Ruyen liked distinguished people. Those who were rumored to had been with her were all of distinguished background, Ruyen liked associating with those kinds of people.

Now, those inside the hall understood who Ruyen was waiting for. Ruyen was surely waiting for this glasses wearing gentleman with an arrogant look on his face. But they had no objection to Zhao Hai's fashion, they were just waiting to see a show.

Ruyen also saw Zhao Hai, but she didn't express anything. Although Zhao Hai's fashion style was good, and his temperament was what she liked. Zhao Hai had a disadvantage, he was not handsome enough. Ruyen just gave him a glance.

Chapter 315 - Completely Speechless

Ruyen liked people with status, since they tend to be tall and handsome. Moreover, they all knew how to flatter women, which, for Ruyen's own vanity, was very important.

Ruyen didn't care what connotation your status has, as long as you look good and knew how to please her, you pass. She looked like a queen playing with her men.

However, Zhao Hai wasn't able to enter her qualifications. This was because even though Zhao Hai was charming, he wasn't able to catch her attention.

Zhao Hai also looked at Ruyen, he knew about this fiancée of his since a long time ago. But this was the very first time that he came to see her in person, Ruyen was a beautiful woman with a long brown hair and fair skin. She was wearing bright clothing, she looked like a beautiful spring flower just by sitting there.

However, Zhao Hai didn't like women like her. It was widely known that she was extremely arrogant. Even though she was extremely attractive, she always gave the impression of arrogance and frivolity. Such attitudes weren't to Zhao Hai's liking.

Laura looked at Ruyen, unlike Zhao Hai, Laura and Nier had seen Ruyen many times before. Ruyen was a woman constantly in the spotlight on Casa City. They had some interactions before, but since their dispositions were vastly different, they didn't manage to have much connections.

Zhao Hai didn't take initiative to greet Ruyen, instead he turned his head to Shue. Shue immediately understood Zhao Hai's intention, he arrived at Zhao Hai's side and said, "Young Master, like what the attendant said, a young lady Ruyen wanted to see you, but was afraid of disturbing your rest, thus waited for you at the dining hall, this is young lady Ruyen." He said as he referred to Ruyen.

Although Shue's words sounded normal, it clearly expressed what Zhao Hai wanted to convey. Shue said that Ruyen wanted to visit him but was afraid to disturb him and therefore she waited at the dining hall. But what it did not express was the fact that Ruyen sent a request to see Zhao Hai, and thus making Zhao Hai come see her at the dining hall.

Shue's words echoed throughout the dining hall, the people inside the dining hall all knew Ruyen well, she cared very deeply for face. Now, with Shue's words, it seemed like she begged for Zhao Hai's attention, this was something that she couldn't bear.

When Ruyen heard Shue's words, her complexion turned for the worse. She placed her wine glass heavily on her table, making the entire dining hall silent. All the people present looked at Zhao Hai as if they were waiting to see a good play.

They saw Zhao Hai as a small noble coming from somewhere unknown that only came here to keep up appearances. Nobles would always flaunt their status when meeting someone of a lower social standing. But this method wouldn't work well against Ruyen.

In the Purcell Duchy, Ruyen was a princess. It was unwise to not give Ruyen any face while inside the Duchy.

However, Zhao Hai didn't care, he thought that Shue's words were said very well. He didn't pay attention to Ruyen's reaction since currently, he was supposed to act like a dandy who didn't know about the immensity of heaven and earth. So if he were to act normally, people would be suspicious.

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned his head to Ruyen and said, "This one doesn't know why the young lady wants to see me."

Ruyen looked at Zhao Hai's impolite expression, with a pale complexion she asked, "You are Wales?"

Zhao Hai nodded and replied, "I am Wales."

Ruyen banged the table, "Impudent, you dare to be impolite with me?"

Zhao Hai looked as though he was curious at Ruyen, "This is impolite? Firstly, I am not a citizen of the Duchy. Secondly, I am a Mage, I have a corresponding authority. It can't be that the young lady didn't know about this?"

Ruyen's white face was riddled with anger, she stared at Zhao Hai and said, "Impudent Mage, don't forget that you are still in the lands of the Purcell Duchy. Daring to be rude to me? It seems like you don't want to live anymore."

Zhao Hai knitted his brows, "Young lady, if there's nothing else, then I'll take my leave." It seemed like he didn't take Ruyen's threat seriously.

The people inside the dining hall looked at Zhao Hai. They didn't expect to see such a scene. In their view, Zhao Hai's balls were too large. Inside the Duchy, those who didn't give Ruyen face were simply looking to die.

Ruyen was too mad to speak. Zhao Hai looked at Ruyen's appearance, then he calmly added, "Young lady, if there is really nothing else, then I would have to say my goodbyes. I still need to hurry along tomorrow."

Ruyen couldn't bear how Zhao Hai treated her anymore. She held her whip and sent it whipping towards Zhao Hai, but suddenly a wind blade appeared, striking the whip away from her hand.

The wind blade was from Meg, she was a 6th rank Mage. Although she had the Iron Book in her hands, Merine always instructed her to not use it as much as possible and instead use her own magic. This was so that she could enhance her own strength as soon as possible, the Iron Book was, after all, only an external tool, and relying too much on external tools wasn't good.

At the same time, Shue also made his move. Another Shue appeared beside Ruyen, grabbing her neck.

The dining hall's visitors froze for a moment, then an uproar quickly followed. They didn't think that Zhao Hai would dare to lift a hand against Ruyen, his balls were too large.

Meanwhile, they also noticed Shue's prowess. They didn't think that a formidable warrior such as Shue would be serving Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai coughed and said, "Right, Shue, please let go of the young lady." Shue snorted, then the clone beside Ruyen disappeared.

Ruyen was actually terrified, she really thought that Shue would kill her. One had to know that for someone like Shue who had killed a lot of people, there would be a murderous aura that surrounded them. Ruyen was like a plant grown in a greenhouse, except for when she used magic spells during practice, she didn't have any other occasion that she needed to use magic. So when Shue went to seize her, she couldn't react at all.

After Shue released Ruyen, Zhao Hai looked at her and said, "I apologize to the young lady for my subordinate's rudeness. But if the young lady didn't attack me, he wouldn't act. So what does the young lady actually want with me? If there's nothing, then I really would like to rest."

Ruyen answered, her response made all present feel odd, she looked at Zhao Hai with a complicated look. "Mister, please wait a minute, I think that we had started on the wrong foot. I only came to ask mister if he would be willing to sell me that bull that pulled his carriage."

Ruyen's response made all people in the dining hall speechless. They blankly looked at Ruyen, they didn't think that Ruyen would give such a response.

Hearing Ruyen's words, Zhao Hai finally understood why she came to find him today. He could not help but be surprised, then he smiled, "I'll have to apologize to the young lady. That bull was something my beastman friend gifted me, I cannot sell it to you, I'm sorry."

Ruyen suddenly became a polite speaker, she quickly responded, "Sir is too polite, since the magic beast was something important to mister, then I won't raise the matter of buying it anymore. Right, what matters did mister come to the Duchy for? Maybe I can help?"

This sudden transformation of Ruyen made Zhao Hai mind blank. But since Ruyen was being polite, he couldn't keep giving her the cold shoulder. He shook his head and replied, "The young lady is too polite, this time I was just passing by Casa City, tomorrow I will leave the Duchy to head towards Iksha Family's territory. There's no need for the young lady to trouble herself. Well, I'll have to excuse myself, young lady."

Ruyen looked at Zhao Hai's appearance, then she nodded, "Mister can do as he pleases." Then Zhao Hai led Laura and the others to return to their accommodations.

Seeing that Zhao Hai has left, Ruyen turned her head towards Jill, "Let's go back." Then she turned and walked toward the dining hall's exit without even retrieving her golden whip.

Ruyen's actions were very unusual, this was far from her usual behavior, all that was present looked confused as they looked at the leaving Ruyen. They didn't know what Ruyen was thinking, but they were clear that Ruyen was someone who would definitely think of ways to get back at Zhao Hai. They knew that Ruyen wasn't someone who would take a beating without retaliating.

After Zhao Hai's group had returned to their room, Zhao Hai frowned as he said, "What do you think about Ruyen's actions? Shouldn't she be furious? Why was she calm?"

Laura looked at Zhao Hai , then she coldy harrumphed, “Because of what you did, Ruyen seemed to look at you with flames in her eyes. Brother Hai, do you want to bet with me? Ruyen will join us tomorrow to visit Iksa Domain.”

Zhao Hai stared, he shook his head and said, “Don’t talk nonsense, I almost killed her. I think that after she heads back, she’ll find someone to deal with me. How could it be possible that she would want to travel with us?”

Laura harrumphed again, “You’re too naive. You can ask Meg whether Ruyen’s eyes while looking at you was right.”

Zhao Hai turned to look at Meg. Meg nodded, “Young Master, the way Ruyen looked at you was indeed not right. I think what Sister Laura said was right. It seems like young lady Ruyen would join us on our trip tomorrow.”

Zhao Hai was stunned, he didn’t think that Meg would agree with Laura. He was puzzled, “Was it really too obvious? Then why didn’t I notice it? Also, in addition to not giving her face, Shue also nearly killed her. Wouldn’t she bear a grudge at all?

Laura harrumphed for the third time, “Who knows, maybe she was born with deficiencies. Still, we need to see whether the young lady has made any indications of travelling. If she made preparations, then she really might follow us.”

Zhao Hai tapped his own head, he was completely speechless.

Chapter 316 - Seen Through

Zhao Hai was sitting on the living room of his hotel accommodation, Shue was before him conveying his report, “Young Master, from my inquiries, because of Ruyen’s recent scandals in the city, Grand Duke Evan has just recently decreed to have her study in Rosen Empire’s Carson City. Because of this, Ruyen is very frustrated these past few days. I heard that in the Grand Duke’s mansion, many servants had already suffered under her whip.”

Zhao Hai was shocked, he didn’t think that Ruyen would be sent that far. Moreover, she had the same destination as him, Rosen Empire’s Carson City.

Laura who was at his side smiled, "This must be heaven's will, ah, I didn't expect that the young lady would have the same destination as us. If we let her know that we are also headed for Carson City, she may even travel with us."

Zhao Hai forced a smile as he replied, "Don't talk nonsense, I don't have that kind of charm. Look, we want to head towards Iksa City, she's headed towards Carson City. The roads don't go the same way, so she should not be going along with us."

Laura just nodded and she said, "I hope so, it would be very troublesome if the young miss would really join us. Right, Brother Hai, Shue's identity was exposed today. Uncle would certainly know, what do you think his response will be? Shouldn't we be prepared in advance?"

Zhao Hai agreed, "Shue's identity would be exposed sooner or later anyway. I had long since prepared, not many knew that we had captured Shue back then. We can just say that Shue had a serious injury and we just happened to save him. And due to his gratitude, he decided to serve me. Shue, you should remember this, if someone asks you later, tell them this."

Shue complied, "Yes, Young Master."

At this time, a knock could be heard. Zhao Hai knitted his brows, it was already late, who would look for him at this time?

Shue immediately arrived at the door then he asked, "Who is it?"

Outside, a voice could be heard, "Mister Wales, hello, I am an attendant of the hotel. I'm here to tell mister that Grand Duke Evan wishes to invite you over to his mansion."

Zhao Hai was stunned, he didn't expect Evan to ask them to visit his mansion. Zhao Hai cannot help but scratch his head and said, "Really troublesome, it seems that you are right, The young lady is really a headache. I just came in contact with her and now trouble came."

Laura laughed, she knew that Zhao Hai disliked Ruyen. But this time, Evan's invitation made Laura wary, he turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, why did you think Grand Duke Evan invited you over? Is it because of the matter of our meeting with Ruyen?"

Zhao Hai frowned, from what Laura said, he couldn't think of this matter as anything simple. It was impossible for Evan to invite them just because they got in touch with Ruyen, this matter isn't something that a Grand Duke would trouble himself with. So what was the reason?

Looking at Zhao Hai frowning, Laura made Shue notify the attendant. Then she turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Elder Brother, we'll accompany you to see the Grand Duke. It was the Grand Duke who invited you, it wouldn't be proper to ignore his invitation."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Let's go and see Uncle Evan." He said as he led the group outside. Shue was a step ahead since he needed to prepare Zhao Hai's carriage.

While Zhao Hai and others were waiting, Shue rushed their carriage to the hotel's entrance. Then, Zhao Hai and the others proceeded to head towards the Grand Duke's mansion along with another person. This person was a steward of the Grand Duke, he was the one who delivered Evan's message.

The steward rode his horse and lead Zhao Hai's carriage. He was afraid that Zhao Hai didn't know the way to the mansion.

The carriage quickly arrived at the Grand Duke's mansion. Shue immediately led the carriage inside the mansion, then had a house steward arrange the carriage's parking. Zhao Hai led Laura and Meg inside while the other three people followed another steward. Then the three went inside and were lead towards Evan's study.

Compared to before, Evan has already consolidated his power so he had less matters that needed his attention. When he just took over the power center of the Duchy, he needed to know about a lot of the family's matters, making him extremely busy. Now, however, he already had complete control of the family's resources. He had arranged his trusted subordinates to important positions, therefore he could trust them to do his job, he didn't need to deal with every small problem anymore.

Zhao Hai brought Laura and Meg together with him. Shue, Blockhead, and Nier were left to care for the carriage inside a small courtyard. Since Zhao Hai's current status can't be compared to the original Laura, Shue and the others cannot be arranged to a better place.

When Zhao Hai arrived outside Evan's study, the steward leading them went towards the study's door and told the servant inside to notify the Grand Duke that Mister Wales had arrived.

The servant looked at Wales and gave him a bow, then he said, "I ask mister to wait a moment". It was obvious that the servant had received proper training and was very polite. Zhao Hai nodded then just calmly stood there.

Up until now, Zhao Hai still didn't understand why Evan wanted to see him. To call him just for Ruyen is a bit improper. The reason shouldn't just this small thing. But no matter how he racked his head, he was still confused.

The servant who entered the study returned then said to Zhao Hai, "Mister Wales, please, the Grand Duke is waiting inside." Zhao Hai nodded then led Laura and Meg inside.

There were no changes inside Evan's study, it was still like its original appearance. Evan was sitting inside waiting for Zhao Hai and the others. Then Zhao Hai was lead inside by the servant, when the three arrived in front of Evan, they gave a salute, "Has met his Excellency Grand Duke Evan."

Evan looked at Zhao Hai and cannot help but knit his brows. It was obvious that Zhao Hai was disguised, but he still nodded, "Mister Wales, please sit down."

After expressing his gratitude, Zhao Hai sat opposite Evan, while Laura and Meg stood behind him. The two were wearing veils, Evan just looked at the two then didn't care about them anymore, but his impression of Zhao Hai had already dropped by a few points.

The servant gave Zhao Hai a cup of tea, then Evan talked, "I was presumptuous this time for inviting mister, I just have a few inquiries to ask mister."

Zhao Hai quickly replied, "Please, Grand Duke, I'll aid you as long as its within my capabilities."

Evan smiled faintly, then he continued, "I heard that Mister has friends in the Beastman Prairie?"

Zhao Hai stared for a moment, then quickly thought about what Evan said, then he realized that he told Ruyen this fact. Zhao Hai immediately replied, "That's right, I'll let the Grand Duke know that I have some few commercial relations with beastmen, they are my friends."

Evan nodded, "I don't know if Mister has heard some recent news in the prairie about a Dark Mage?"

Zhao Hai and Laura sa stunned, then they immediately understood that Evan didn't call them because of Ruyen, but instead because of this.

When they retreated from Casa City, the bought a lot of supplies needed to survive in the prairie, making known that they planned to head towards the prairie. Now that Evan has heard that Zhao Hai had friends in the prairie, he immediately invited him to ask for information.

However, Zhao Hai just knit his brows and said, "Dark Mage? I don't know if the Grand Duke knows, but the prairie is very large, the area that I had explored is very small. Therefore I didn't hear of any Dark Mage moving about in the prairie."

Evan was somewhat disappointed, but he still nodded and said, "Forget it, I want to ask mister for help, if mister returns to the prairie later, I'll ask mister to pay attention to information about a Dark Mage and a young lady named Laura."

Zhao Hai nodded, "This isn't an issue, by the way, can I ask the Grand Duke why you are asking information about these two people? If they offended the Grand Duke, I can discuss with my friend to issue a bounty for the arrest of these two."

Zhao Hai intentionally said this to look at Evan's response. Evan was stunned, then he smiled, "Mister has misunderstood, these two has not offended me. It's quite the opposite, they are friends of mine. But because of a previous matter, they went to the Beastman Prairie to conduct business, then we lost all contact, I wanted to know their situation."

Zhao Hai was suddenly enlightened, he responded embarrassingly, "I had misunderstood the Grand Duke, so they are the Grand Duke's friends. The Grand Duke can feel relieved, I will help you pay attention to them. Can I ask for their names?"

Evan smiled, "Right, the Dark Mage is called Zhao Hai, the other was Laura, Laura was originally from the Markey Family. I hope mister can pay attention to them."

Zhao Hai responded, "The Grand Duke is too polite, this is just a small matter to me. I can just ask my beastmen friends for help gathering information."

Evan nodded, "Then I apologize for troubling mister, when mister arrives to the Duchy next time, please come visit me in the mansion. I would appreciate meeting an outstanding young man such as you."

Zhao Hai chuckled, "Grand Duke overpraises, this one just manages a small business, just enough to live by, nothing more. Not that outstanding at all."

Then Zhao Hai pretended to look at the weather, he said to Evan, "The sky is already late, I need to say my farewells, I still have to leave early tomorrow. I ask the Grand Duke to excuse me." Then he stood up.

Evan smiled faintly and responded, "I have tired mister with my invitation." Then Evan stood up and was ready to lead Zhao Hai out, but suddenly his eyes fell on Laura and Meg. Although the two of them were wearing veils, their faces were only covered by a thin gauze, if you look close enough, you could see their faces. The two's appearance made Evan stare.

Then, his two eyes lit up. He carefully looked at Laura, then he carefully sized Meg up. Seeing Evan's expression, Zhao Hai didn't feel well, it seems that Evan has noticed something.

He immediately said, "Grand Duke, please don't bother seeing me off, I'll excuse myself." Then he led Meg and Laura outside the study. At this point, Evan was staring at him, Evan couldn't help but be surprised as he immediately shouted, "Mister, please stay."

Zhao Hai stopped then turned his head to Evan. Evan carefully sized him up. A happy expression flashed within his eyes, then he commanded the servant, "You go out first, make sure nobody approaches my study."

The servant complied, then turned around to go outside and guard the door. Zhao Hai couldn't help but complain in his heart, he was sure that Evan had found something out.

When the servant exited, Evan immediately arrived at the door, he carefully looked outside. Then he turned his head to Zhao Hai and looked at him with a strange expression. Zhao Hai looked at Evan, confused, "Can I know what the Grand Duke needed me for?"

Evan looked at Zhao Hai's appearance then sighed, "Boy, no need to pretend anymore. You really think that since I have not seen you for many years, I wouldn't recognize you? Even if I don't recognize you, you really think I wouldn't know Meg? You still don't know, but your father gave me your portrait, I can already identify your appearance."

Zhao Hai stared blankly, when Evan said Meg's name, he knew that their secret had already been revealed. He didn't think that Evan's vision was that sharp.

Evan looked strangely at Zhao Hai, "I don't understand, why are you and Laura together? Laura, what's happening?"

Laura was also stunned, she didn't imagine that Evan would recognize her. Since their cover was already blown, there wasn't any point in wearing her veil anymore, so she removed it and looked at Evan, "How did Uncle Evan recognize me?"

Meg also took off her veil, although Zhao Hai didn't do any action, he observed Evan, Evan didn't answer Laura's question but instead looked at Zhao Hai, "Adam, why are you with Laura? What's going on?"

Upon hearing Evan, Zhao Hai finally lost heart since he was recognized by Evan, he sighed and responded, "Nephew has seen Uncle Evan, your nephew has already changed his name, I'm now called Zhao Hai Buda, you can call me Zhao Hai."

Evan stared at Zhao Hai, "Zhao Hai, you said you're Zhao Hai? The Dark Mage Zhao Hai?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "I am, nephew has appeared in the Duchy in the past as the Dark Mage Zhao Hai."

Hearing what Zhao Hai said, Evan couldn't believe it, "How is this possible? This is impossible! Didn't you drink the Water of Nothingness? How can you use Dark Element Magic?"

Zhao Hai looked at Evan and said, "Uncle Evan, I did drink Water of Nothingness. Although the Water can make a person unable to learn magic nor battle qi, they could still use their Divergent Abilities. When nephew drank the Water of Nothingness, I got a Divergent Ability, thus I can pretend being a Dark Mage."

Chapter 317 - Mask and Status

Divergent Ability? So it's surprisingly a Divergent Ability! No wonder." Evan looked at Zhao Hai with a complex expression. "Good, a Divergent Ability is good. With this ability, I won't need to be worried about you. Right, Little Hai, where are you living right now? Why do you have so much grain?"

Zhao Hai was embarrassed, "This, I must apologize to Uncle. I cannot tell you this."

Evan stared at Zhao Hai, then he sighed, "Alright, you don't need to tell me, I won't ask anymore. But your current disguise isn't enough, there would be some people who could recognize you. Right, you wait here first, I'll come back in a bit." Evan said as he left the study.

Zhao Hai and Laura looked at each other, then they sighed, Zhao Hai shook his head, "It looks like we overestimated our disguise, to think that we would be recognized this early."

Laura just forced a smile, "I didn't think that Uncle Evan would have such sharp eyes. Brother Hai, why did you think Uncle Evan had us wait here?"

Zhao Hai just shook his head "Forget it, let's just see what Uncle Evan is up to, I don't think he would harm us. Let's just wait and see what he wants to do."

Laura nodded, at this time, the study's door opened as Evan entered. In his hands were boxes as well as a stack of papers.

Evan went towards Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, before, Uncle didn't have the ability to help you. But now I do, but since I cannot just aid you in front of the clan, Uncle just had these things prepared for you. In these boxes are three magical Elven masks, when used, you won't need to worry about your disguise being discovered. And written on these papers are entitlement rights. Although it only gave the status of a Viscount, it's already enough to travel outside with. I already prepared this for a loyal servant of mine, so I just slightly changed the name and age so when you use this later on, you won't need to be extra careful."

After finished speaking, he placed the items on the table. The boxes were opened, inside were three thin silk masks, each one had mystical symbols in them.

The papers were used to prove a Viscount's identity, there was also an illustration on the paper, which was naturally the Viscount's family insignia.

Evan was Purcell Duchy's Grand Duke. According to the empire's law, he has the authority to bestow titles. But he cannot bestow the title of a count, he could only bestow the status of Viscounts or Barons, titles for Lords.

Zhao Hai didn't expect that Evan would provide them with these things, especially the mask, which they needed the most.

The Elven mask, as the name suggests, was a mask made by the Elven race. The way these masks were made are unknown and had to do with the Elves' secret methods. When worn on a person's face, it would meld together with their skin. The person wearing it won't need to remove the mask when he wants to wash his face or do other things. The mask had the ability to change its form. It can turn into five different faces and did not need any magic to activate. It only needed to be worn on your face to work.

Of course, this item isn't readily available. In the continent, only great families would have them, but the quantity wouldn't be that many. Only through a fortuitous encounter did the Purcell Clan manage to obtain these three masks.

Additionally, the Viscount title is as equally important to Zhao Hai. Now that Zhao Hai's Buda Clan status, and Laura's Markey family status cannot be used, they could only use Zhao Hai's status as a Mage.

Because this identity didn't have any official status, there were little things that they could do while moving around.

But having this Viscount title would change everything. Although a Viscount is only a low level status among the aristocracy, it would allow Zhao Hai to move around without attracting suspicion. Some merchants from other countries would find ways to obtain a low aristocratic status like a Viscount or Baron to be able to move around in the continent. Although these ranks were low, they were still recognized all throughout the continent. Having these titles makes it more convenient to move around.

From what Evan sees, Zhao Hai would travel the continent with the status of a merchant. So he gave Zhao Hai this title of Viscount, and as he said, he already had this status prepared for a loyal servant, so as long as he changed the age, it would be fine.

This matter is very common in the continent, all noble families would select a loyal servant and bestow them a title. Then they would have the servant help in managing the matters of the house, not only could this increase the strength of the family, it would also attract some people over.

Evan prepares these kinds of papers every year. The papers that he took out were already prepared a long time ago, he just changed the name and age. Zhao Hai can immediately take these to use, his name would be Wales who was 20 years old.

Looking at the items in the table, Zhao Hai cannot help but feel a deep gratitude towards Evan. Just like Evan said, even though he could help Zhao Hai now, these items were the extent that he could do so. Evan was the Purcell Family's head, he held great power, but he needed to consider the clan if he wanted to help Zhao Hai. Evan must make his decisions in accordance to the current situation, after all, he held the entire family on his back.

Zhao Hai was moved by Evan's actions, "I have to thank Uncle Evan for these items. These are very important to me. I'll have you know that with my present situation, I cannot just show myself inside Aksu Empire, thus I want to head to Rosen Empire and take a look if there are good things there."

Evan thought for a moment then said, "Good, Rosen Empire is good, Although the situation in the Rosen Empire is complicated, there are big opportunities waiting there. Moreover, compared to Aksu Empire, trade is very lucrative there. Whatever you sell won't attract suspicions. Unfortunately, I have no friends in Carson City, thus I cannot help you in that regard."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Uncle has already helped me a lot. Uncle, I have something to give you." After he said that, he flashed his hand as a space bag appeared. He gave the space bag to Evan and said, "Uncle Evan, this is a space bag, it has ten cubic meters of space in it. I'll gift this to you."

Evan was stunned, he knew that the Buda clan didn't have any space items. And now that Zhao Hai gave him a space item, if he didn't confirm that the one sitting in front of him was Adam, he thought that he would have made a mistake.

However, Evan didn't become polite. He nodded and received the space bag and said, "Are you really headed to Iksa Territory? What are you doing there?"

Zhao Hai smiled and replied, "When I was conducting business in the prairie, I met Bell and discussed business with him. This time I want to discuss the cooperation with him."

Evan frowned, "Bell? Why would you cooperate with that person? This guy is not a good partner, Laura, what's going on? Adam, no, Little Hai, is it because you didn't know what kind of person this Bell is?"

Laura smiled, "Be relieved, Uncle Evan, I know exactly what kind of person Bell is. But our cooperation is just selling him things and nothing else. You don't have anything to worry about."

Evan nodded, "I just want you to be careful of Bell. Right, this time, Shue's identity was exposed, won't this bring trouble? How are you going to deal with this?"

Zhao Hai told Evan his solution. Evan agreed, "Good, let's do it according to your plans. Tomorrow, I'll release information that you are a magician who was conducting business in the prairie. When Shue was injured, he went towards the prairie and was saved by you. You came to the mansion this time to ask a title from me. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and said, "Won't this make people suspect my identity? After all, Dark Mage Zhao Hai had worked with you in the past. If at this time, I suddenly worked with you, won't the people be suspicious?"

Evan smiled and replied, "They won't, don't worry, every year there would be people I would make deals with, no one would suspect this time. Right, this time you're heading to Rosen Empire's Carson

City, Ruyen was also coincidentally heading there. Let her follow you along the way, help me take care of her.” There was a sly smile on Evan’s face as he said that.

Zhao Hai and Laura were stunned. Zhao Hai worriedly scratched his head, “Uncle Evan, I have to remind you that I am engaged now. I have two fiancées, one is Laura and the other is Meg. Moreover, I already renounced my engagement with Ruyen.”

Evan just smiled bitterly and replied, “I know that you don’t want to marry Ruyen, she simply isn’t a match for you. But Little Hai, me having Ruyen follow you is also good. She could be a cover for your identity, many people would think that I gave you your title because of your connection with Ruyen. This way, your title would have some sort of justification.”

Evan was aware as to what kind of person Ruyen is, the entire Duchy knows. Laura had stayed in the Duchy for a long time so it’s impossible for her to not be aware. And now, with Zhao Hai’s capability, as well as having fiancée like Laura by his side, what qualifications did Ruyen have to marry him?

Thinking about these made Evan sigh. Before, Zhao Hai was a spoiled brat, but with his present appearance, he had changed completely and became a talented person who could take care of important matters. But now that Ruyen turned into her current image, Evan couldn’t help but feel sad.

Seeing that Evan wanted to insist, Zhao Hai felt it wouldn’t be good to decline. He just nodded and said, “Alright, but since we’ll wear the mask tomorrow, wouldn’t Ruyen not recognize me?”

Evan smiled and said, “Don’t worry, I’ll tell Ruyen.”

Chapter 318 - Travelling Together with Ruyen

Zhao Hai was very dizzy by the time he left Evan’s study. For fear of being suspicious, Evan didn’t keep Zhao Hai in his study for long. Evan didn’t accompany him out, but the matter of Ruyen following them towards Rosen Empire was already finalized.

Although Zhao Hai was against it, there was no other way. To be honest, he didn’t want to mingle with Ruyen, but now that became very impossible.

Laura was by Zhao Hai's side, she also didn't have anything to say, She also didn't want Ruyen to travel with them, however, Evan was right that Ruyen would be the best shield for Zhao Hai's status.

At the study's exit, a servant immediately approached Zhao Hai and bowed, "Sir, your carriage is already parked at the front."

Zhao Hai nodded, the group followed the servant to the front door. Zhao Hai and the two stared at the carriage in front of them. This carriage was his, but there seems to be an addition of an insignia on the carriage.

Zhao Hai was stunned, he carefully looked at the badge that Evan gave along with his viscount title. He didn't think Evan would be that quick.

He knew that Evan already prepared the insignia for his servant's promotion to a Viscount. But now, the title was given to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai's current viscount status that was given by a Grand Duke was very different than an entitlement given by a King. A title given by a King gave you the right to develop your own insignia. A title given by a Grand Duke also gives you the right to make your own insignia, but in the corner of your badge there should be a scaled down version of the Grand Duke's insignia. In other words, you get the mark of a Grand Duke.

Zhao Hai looked at his insignia, because his title was given to him by Evan, Zhao Hai could see Evan's family emblem on the top-left corner of his insignia.

Zhao Hai gave the insignia a look, then he proceeded to leave the Grand Duke's mansion. He already told Evan that he will leave Casa City tomorrow. So if Ruyen wanted to follow them, she would need to be earlier than them. Otherwise, they will not wait for her.

Evan didn't object, although he had Ruyen follow Zhao Hai as cover for his status, this wasn't his original intention. Though he only interacted with Zhao Hai for a short time, he didn't forget that Zhao Hai settled in Purcell Duchy as a Dark Mage before. Adding Zhao Hai at that time and the present Zhao Hai, Evan knew that his nephew was very outstanding.

Adding on Evan and Zhao Hai's father's relationship, how could he give up having him become his son-in-law? Although Zhao Hai broke their engagement, Zhao Hai forgot that he didn't have any power to break the engagement. Although Evan couldn't change Zhao Hai's mind right now, he hoped that Zhao Hai can get along with Ruyen and see whether they would come to like each other. If they can fancy the other person, then any other issues would be easy to solve.

However, Evan also knew that Zhao Hai couldn't have any liking towards Ruyen. Ruyen was adamant to break her engagement, the Buda Family also knew about this since Green was informed when he came to break the engagement, and it would be impossible for Green to not inform Zhao Hai about it. Thus, Evan can only resort to giving Zhao Hai some help, making Zhao Hai grateful, and hopefully insert Ruyen by his side. If fortune favored Evan, his plans would maybe succeed.

Evan was very clear that if he didn't help Zhao Hai, Zhao Hai could still survive with his current strength, he didn't need to fear anyone. Especially, when Zhao Hai arrives at Rosen Empire, Aksu Empire's matters wouldn't be able to affect him. Zhao Hai wouldn't need to care about Evan then. Therefore Evan must make use of this opportunity and make situations where Ruyen would get to interact with Zhao Hai. Otherwise, Ruyen wouldn't get many chances to do so in the future.

Fortunately, Evan obtained some information that Ruyen's impression of Zhao Hai seemed to be quite good. Although there was a bit of a clash at Shelley hotel, it seemed to make Ruyen even more attentive towards Zhao Hai.

To Evan, this daughter of him was a headache. He knew that her daughter was spoiled by her mother which formed her bad habits. Although Ruyen was very rude to him before and made him quite angry, she was still his daughter, he couldn't just overlook her future.

Zhao Hai correctly guessed Evan's intentions, but even though it was what he expected, he couldn't just reject Evan's request, so he had no other choice but comply.

They quickly arrived at the hotel before dark. Zhao Hai and the others discussed about their travel tomorrow and then rested early since they had to hurry the next day.

They didn't know that their trip to the Grand Duke's mansion caused quite a stir in Casa City. When their carriage entered the mansion, it didn't have the insignia of a viscount, but when it came out, there was already one. This made the people in Casa City quite puzzled.

The next morning, Zhao Hai and the other got up early. They had their breakfast and prepared to head out of Casa City. When their small convoy left the city, they saw that ahead of them was another convoy.

The convoy was composed of five carriages, on each of them had the insignia of the Purcell Family and along with it were 100 guards. At the forefront of the convoy was a very luxurious carriage, it seems that the carriage at front carried the passenger and the following carriages were packed full with items.

Zhao Hai looked at the convoy and guessed that it was certainly Ruyen's convoy. The young lady's self-image was truly very big. Zhao Hai could only bear with it and force a smile, he made Shue overtake the carriage.

The carriage arrived by the side of the luxurious carriage, the window of the carriage opened and Ruyen's flower-like face appeared. She smiled at Zhao Hai, "Mister Wales, you are late."

Zhao Hai still didn't wear the mask that Evan gave him. He just exited Casa City, there were many people who had seen him in the city. He didn't want the people to see that his face just changed overnight. He didn't want them to be suspicious, so he just maintained yesterday's appearance.

Zhao Hai nodded to Ruyen, "I apologize for making young lady Ruyen wait, let's get going." Then he closed his window and blocked it with curtains, then he had Shue lead the carriage forward.

Zhao Hai was very rude, if it was another person, Ruyen would be raging. But when facing Zhao Hai, Ruyen felt that she just couldn't get angry, she surprisingly smiled and said "Really very stubborn, Jill, follow them." Jill immediately complied, he quickly had the carriage follow Zhao Hai.

Jill actually felt grateful towards Zhao Hai, this was because in the past few days, Ruyen's temper was very terrible. If they were unlucky, they would be whipped suddenly. But ever since Ruyen encountered Zhao Hai, her mood suddenly became better, they didn't manage to get whipped even once since then. Because of this, Jill was very thankful towards Zhao Hai.

The entire morning, they were just quietly hurrying along, Ruyen also didn't look for trouble. When noon came, Zhao Hai's group just ate inside their carriage then continued along while Ruyen's group

needed to stop and eat. Zhao Hai didn't bother her, he only had his carriage go, if she wanted to stop and eat, then she could do so, Zhao Hai will not stop in any case.

Ruyen had no other choice but have Jill follow them. When they went out, they didn't prepare any dry rations, now Ruyen was very hungry.

For Jill, this was not a problem. It was also the same for the guards who followed Ruyen. They were all servants, so this kind of hardship is very normal. If they didn't head out suddenly today, they could still prepare some dry rations. For soldiers, it was common sense to do so. There were times when there was no time to stop to eat a meal, so you can only eat dry rations while on horseback.

Ruyen was a bit annoyed, but she didn't care too much. Her carriage's design was quite similar to Zhao Hai's. It had a cooling box inside, as well as a magical furnace. Moreover, there were also some snacks inside the carriage, so even if they didn't get to eat at noon, she could still munch on some snacks, alleviating her hunger.

When evening came, Zhao Hai arrived at a small town called Blanca. This town's population was quite small, altogether less than a hundred thousand people. But because of the constant traffic, it was very prosperous. Hotels and restaurants could be seen everywhere.

Zhao Hai and the others had found a medium sized hotel called Brown hotel to rest in. Although Brown Hotel wasn't that large, its service quality was very good. When Zhao Hai's carriage parked outside the hotel, two attendants immediately came out to cater to them. They stood by Zhao Hai carriage while bowing waiting for Zhao Hai to exit. Then one attendant led Zhao Hai and the others inside the hotel and helped them to arrange their accommodations. The other one led their carriages to the back of the hotel to park.

When Zhao Hai arrived at the hotel's resting area, Shue arrived at the reception desk to reserve their room. At the same time, Ruyen also arrived at Zhao Hai's side. Without caring for Zhao Hai's reaction, she sat opposite him and curiously looked at Zhao Hai's face.

This time, Zhao Hai already wore the elven mask. His face changed to his original face back on Earth. An ordinary yet unordinary face, it was the kind of face that was very easy to forget.

However, Zhao Hai's disposition was still arrogant. Which awarded him some points from Ruyen, because of this she just stared at Zhao Hai, somewhat curious. Seeing this, Zhao Hai frowned, "Young lady Ruyen, don't you think that what you are doing is rude?"

Chapter 319 - Who is it? Such Gall!

The young lady Ruyen smiled and said, "I am curious, why does mister use this face specifically?"

Zhao Hai calmly replied, "What's the difference? What does a face represent? Even if I were handsome, but if I have no strength, what's the point?"

Ruyen looked at Zhao Hai's serious expression, she could not help but curl her lip, "Mister, from your appearance, you shouldn't be a serious person, how come you're being serious right now?"

Zhao Hai was surprised for a moment, then his complexion changed. He had lost his self-control, he was supposed to act like a dandy, and acting serious wasn't something that a dandy would do.

Zhao Hai's expression was clearly seen through by Ruyen, now she became even more curious of Zhao Hai, she didn't think that those few words elicited such reaction from him. This was another ability of the mask, when changing your face to another one, even the expression made would be reflected to the new face, general disguising items couldn't do this.

Zhao Hai's expression turned normal, then he responded as he looked at Ruyen, "That depends on the person, I only put a serious face towards people I don't like."

Ruyen felt that Zhao Hai's words were a lie. If what Zhao Hai said was true, then his complexion wouldn't have changed. What he said then should only be a cover-up, so Ruyen didn't get offended by it. Now Ruyen was looking at Zhao Hai with an even more curious expression, Zhao Hai was getting more and more interesting to her.

At this time, Shue arrived, he bowed to Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, I had arranged twenty low-class rooms for the guards, I also arranged two high-class rooms each for Young Master and Young Lady Ruyen. Me, Blockhead, and mister Jill would be in a mid-class room.

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Arrange mid-class rooms for the guards. You get a high-class room next to mine so that it'll be easier to issue orders and arrange escape routes.

Shue complied, then he turned around and arrived at the hotel's reception desk. Before long, the rooms were arranged. Because there were a lot of people today, not only do they to arrange for the rooms but they also need to prepare for meals. Fortunately, Shue was a former mercenary, he was used to these types of things, so the arrangements were quickly done with anything going wrong.

Zhao Hai was now rich, so he didn't care about money. Like in this hotel, arranging for the meals and rooms for more than a hundred people could cost a few gold coins a day, but it was no big deal.

Although Zhao Hai had the Space, they still needed to put on an act, so he had Shue tell the Brown Hotel to prepare some dried food so that they could have something to eat while travelling.

After everything was arranged, Zhao Hai and the others went to their rooms to rest. Shue also had the hotel prepare their meals, they will meet Zhao Hai at the dining hall for their dinner when it is ready.

Zhao has was now acting as a dandy young master, so when young masters went to a place, how could they just stay in their rooms to eat? They would certainly go to the dining hall to eat while keeping up appearances and showing off. So Zhao Hai didn't stay in his room to eat today, but went to the dining hall.

However, this arrangement was a great inconvenience to Laura and Meg. This was because according to the continent's customs, while Zhao Hai is eating his meal, Laura and Meg cannot seat on the table since they were currently acting as ZHao Hai's concubines, not wives.

Laura and Meg didn't have any say in the matter, Zhao Hai was currently fulfilling the role of a dandy, it wouldn't be any good if he suddenly became a good person.

In the end Zhao Hai had them eat in the Space first, when they are done, only then did Zhao Hai came out of his room and headed to the dining hall.

In the Dining Hall, the food was already prepared. The dishes were all made with magic vegetables. Although it was winter, there were methods of growing vegetables in house available in the continent. And of course, their prices would be anything but cheap.

While Zhao Hai was just sitting down, Ruyen arrived and impolitely sat opposite him. Zhao Hai couldn't help but frown, he felt very uncomfortable. Laura and Meg, who were his genuine fiancées couldn't sit on the table to accompany him for a meal, but Ruyen just naturally sat opposite him. This made Zhao Hai complain for his current identity.

Although unsatisfied, the act should continue. Thus Zhao Hai can only sit on his table, looking at the dishes at the table, Zhao Hai actually lost his appetite.

Zhao Hai turned to Meg and said, "Gemma, go get me some liquor that we got from the prairie, I want to drink that wine today." The matter of names was already discussed by the group. This time Meg's name would be changed to Gemma. Laura's name was also changed to Julie, Nier's name wasn't changed.

Hearing what Zhao Hai said, Meg knew that Zhao Hai meant to get their Milk Wine. She immediately complied and went out of the room, before long she came back bringing a liquor bag with her.

Humans were used to placing their liquors in bottles or pots, nobody used liquor bags. On the other hand, almost all beastmen used liquor bags to store their milk wine. This was because of its convenience, using liquor bags while mounted was more comfortable.

Whether they were Ruyen or the other people in the dining hall, they were curious about the liquor bag on Meg's hands. They didn't understand why Zhao Hai suddenly wanted to drink milk wine at this time. Could it be that he thinks that a beastman's milk wine is better than human's fruit wine?

The beastman's milk wine is well known in the continent. Every so often, merchants would bring back rare items from the prairie to be sold the continent. But unfortunately, only a few humans could stomach the taste of milk wine, and with the lack of distillation, milk wine's shelf life wasn't very long. Because of these issues, milk wine wasn't sold in high volumes among the humans.

Zhao Hai didn't care about these, he just dumped the contents of his wine glass and placed it on the table. Meg took the liquor bag and poured Zhao Hai a glass of milk wine.

When the wine poured out, everyone became surprised. Among the people in the dining hall, many of them had drunk milk wine before. In their minds, milk wine was white, but Zhao Hai's milk wine was colorless as if it was water.

Then they smelled the wine's fragrance, the fragrance of milk was mixed in with the wine. This was a very unique type of fragrance, it made the people present feel that they were undergoing aromatherapy.

Zhao Hai lifted his glass and took a sip, he nodded and placed his glass down. Then he ate some of the dishes with an expression of enjoyment.

Ruyen looked at Zhao Hai, she was curious of the contents of Zhao Hai's wine glass so she asked him, "Mister, what is that liquor?" Ruyen had drunk milk wine before, but she didn't like how it tasted so she didn't drink it anymore. Today, she looked at Zhao Hai's cup of milk wine and became curious, this was because the milk wine that she had drank before was different to Zhao Hai's.

Zhao Hai smiled, "Naturally it's milk wine, its wine that beastmen produces."

Ruyen frowned and replied, "But I had drank milk wine before, and it was very different than this."

Zhao Hai grinned, "This is a specially-made milk wine, even among the beastmen, it wasn't widely consumed. This wine is much better than fruit wine. Gemma, give young lady Ruyen a cup, have the young lady taste the wine."

Meg complied, she took the liquor bag, went to Ruyen and poured her a cup of wine, then she returned to Zhao Hai.

Ruyen looked curiously at the liquor in her glass, she took a deep breath and lifted the wine glass. She looked at Zhao Hai's appearance then took a small sip. Her face immediately turned red, but she didn't place her glass down, instead she took another sip. Then she put the glass down and ate a dish. She looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Really good, this wine tastes very good."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and didn't say anything. He just ate some dished and drank liquor. When his glass had become empty, Zhao Hai took a napkin and wiped his mouth gently. Then he turned his head to Ruyen and said, "Young lady, take your time, I'm taking my leave."

There was still half a cup of liquor left in Ruyen's glass. Although the wine was very good, it was too strong so Ruyen just drank it slowly. Now, Ruyen's face was crimson red, becoming more charming. But Zhao Hai seemed to not take notice of it, he just got up and left.

Seeing Zhao Hai leave, Ruyen lost her mood to drink. She also stood up and headed back to her room. The rest of the people in the dining hall were looking at Ruyen's half finished cup of milk wine. They believed that if there weren't a lot of people in the dining hall, someone would have already drank the wine left in that glass.

After Zhao Hai returned to his room, he immediately went to the Space to prepare something to eat. He didn't get full back at the dining hall since he didn't feel like eating a meal together with Ruyen. But he still had to put on an act, therefore he just drank his glass of liquor and left the hall.

But he didn't think that as he entered the space, a prompt would be heard. "Camouflage item equipped, supply class, mask type. Can change a person's appearance. Extracting feature, integrating to the Ghost Staff. The host can now use this feature through the Ghost Staff."

Zhao Hai blankly stared, he recalled that he didn't remove his mask. Now he was very curious of this disguise function. So he remove his mask and took out his Ghost Staff. On the skull on the Ghost Staff, mystical symbols could now be seen. Zhao Hai immediately said, "Use disguise function." After he said that, the skull on top of the staff flew out and covered Zhao Hai's head. Zhao Hai was too terrified that he closed his eyes, but in the end he didn't feel anything.

Zhao Hai opened his eye to look at himself and sees that there was no change on his body. But the Ghost Staff now looked like a normal staff, except that it looked like it was made of a green crystal and was very beautiful. The skull on the wand had disappeared.

Zhao Hai arrived in front of a mirror and looked at his face. He saw that his appearance didn't have any difference compared to when he wore the mask. Moreover, another amazing thing was that the skin on his face wasn't any different to the skin of his neck. It looked as if he wasn't in disguise at all. Now he really seemed to be just like the Zhao Hai back in Earth, except for the skin color and the eye color which was different.

He couldn't help but touch his face. The skin of his face moved along with the force exerted by his hands as though it was always been there. Now he feared that even when a deity came, they couldn't guess that he was actually wearing a disguise.

Zhao Hai smiled, the Space was really very mysterious, it can unexpectedly extract the mask's disguising ability. Laura and the others also expressed their admiration, they were already used to the Space's mysterious abilities, so they were just a bit surprised and didn't take it any more seriously.

After eating, Zhao Hai and the others sat inside the Space Villa's living room. They looked at the situation inside Brown Hotel. They didn't monitor anyone but they already developed this habit. In the evening, they went to the space to sleep, even Shue and Blockhead were also inside the Space.

Zhao Hai looked at the situation outside as he asked Shue, "Shue, had the food and drinks of the guards been arranged?"

Shue nodded and said, "Young master doesn't need to worry, it's already arranged. The guards didn't have any special requests so I had the hotel prepare ordinary meals for them. They had been very satisfied, but they still had ten people casually dressed roaming around the hotel."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "No need to manage them, that is their job. They do that so that we could be free of worries, but you three should make arrangements to have someone pay attention to the hotel's situation and inform us right away." Shue, Blockhead, and Rockhead nodded. When monitoring for the evening, they could just sit in the living room and look at the situation through the screen, a very easy task.

The night was still early, so Zhao Hai and the others washed themselves up before resting. The Space is very peaceful, the air was also very good, so the people quickly fell asleep.

While Zhao Hai was sleeping soundly, the voice came from the space stone, "Master, Young Master, wake up quickly, something is happening."

Zhao Hai stared blankly, then immediately sobered up. He quickly walked toward the living room and looked at the screen. The screen showed the current situation inside Brown Hotel, a group of a hundred people surrounded the hotel and rushing towards it.

The Purcell guard placed on guard duty was taken down. It seems that the enemy has used doomed soldiers this time. Zhao Hai turned towards Shue and said, "Go to your room and pretend to be asleep. Come out when you hear sounds from my room."

Shue and Blockhead complied, then they vanished from the Space to return to their rooms. Zhao Hai seriously said, "Cai'er, come out. After we leave, pay attention to the situation on the screen. These people must be headed for my room, pay attention and detect the invisibility magic used by the doomed soldiers."

Cai'er complied, and looked at the hotel's situation with bright eyes. Zhao Hai and the others appeared on the hotel room and laid down on their beds, waiting for the enemy's arrival.

Although these people had not entered the hotel yet, Zhao Hai already believed that they should be heading for him. Otherwise, they wouldn't just attack the hotel. For the hotel to be attacked tonight isn't common, Brown Hotel didn't open just a day or two ago, they were an established institution inside Blanca. If they were attacked like this from time to time, then they would have a hard time keeping their business up.

At this time, Cai'er suddenly said, "Young Master, they had come, in front of the door is a stealthed doomed soldier." Zhao Hai sat up from his bed and took out the transformed Ghost Staff. Then he called out, "Who is it? Such gall!"]

Chapter 320 - Eight Armed Demon

After shouting, Zhao Hai waved the staff in his hands, then a one meter diameter Fireball flew towards the hotel door. Boom! The entire hotel shook, then outside Zhao Hai's door, a pitiful yell could be heard. Naturally, the doomed soldier's sleath had been broken by Zhao Hai's fireball.

At this time, the door of the room right next to Zhao Hai's opened, Blockhead and Shue were carrying their weapons, "Young Master, what happened?"

Zhao Hai loudly said, "Some doomed soldiers attacked, I already killed them."

Zhao Hai's voice was too loud the the entire hotel was alarmed. Ruyen's guards grabbed their weapons to took action, they didn't even have time to wear their armors.

Jill ran up to Ruyen's room, holding what looked to be a rapier. It seems like Jill wasn't just an ordinary servant.

At this time Ruyan also stumbled out of her room and looked at Jill confused, "Jill, what happened? Why is it noisy?"

Jill replied, "Your highness, someone just attacked Mister Wales. But Mister Wales already took care of it. The night guards we sent to patrol earlier seemed to have met unfortunate ends."

Ruyen was smart, so she immediately sobered and turned to look at the scraps of Zhao Hai's door which he destroyed with a fireball. Her face became ugly then she commanded, "Immediately send someone to see who dared to attack."

At this time, Ruyen's two maids also arrived, on the hands of one of the maids were a set of clothes, she turned to Ruyen and said quietly, "Your highness, put some clothes on first."

Ruyen was currently wearing her night garments. Moreover, they were the sexy type of night garments. The hotel was currently chaotic, it would not be good if someone ran over and saw her.

Ruyen nodded, then returned to her room and quickly wore her clothes. After a short while, she went out of her room and asked Jill, "How is Mister Wales' condition?"

Jill replied, "He's alright, mister hadn't exited his room yet, Shue went out to deal with the enemies. But the attackers seriously underestimated mister. They didn't know that Mister was a Fire element Mage."

Ruyen started, then she nodded, "Looks like mister is really formidable. Mister is a Fire element Mage, his maid is a wind element mage, and his carriage driver is Shue of a thousand shadows. Who knows how strong the driver of his other carriage is."

At this moment, battle cries could be heard outside, and before long the sounds vanished. Then Shue walked in from the outside, he quickly went to Zhao Hai's room, "Master, it has been taken care of."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he went out of his room, already wearing his clothes. Laura and Meg followed behind him. The group walked toward the courtyard of the hotel. Ruyen also hastily followed them. Her guards were holding their weapons while being extremely vigilant.

Zhao Hai quickly arrived at the courtyard, there a fat person had already been waiting for them. When he saw Zhao Hai come out, the fat person quickly ran toward Zhao Hai, Shue stopped him from going further.

The fatty immediately stopped, then he greeted Zhao Hai, "Respectable mister, I am the boss of Brown Hotel. Sir, I must apologize regarding the earlier matter. I ask mister to believe me when I say that it had nothing to do with our hotel."

Zhao Hai was sizing up this fatty. The fatty was wearing very magnificent clothes with perfectly combed hair. Sweat could be seen hidden along his fat head, but there was no expression on his face, it made him look very weird.

Zhao Hai felt that something was a bit wrong, but he just couldn't put his finger into it. At this time, footsteps could be heard, Zhao Hai turned around and sees Ruyen. Ruyen's head was very messy, her clothes looked like they were worn hastily. This surprised Zhao Hai, but he immediately knew what was going wrong.

He turned to the fatty and said, "You are the boss of this place?"

The fatty immediately nodded and said, "Yes sir, I am the owner of this long-established place, Brown."

Zhao Hai nodded, then when he sees that the fatty relaxed, he suddenly told Shue, "Kill him". Shue stared blankly, but immediately took action, his axe struck towards the fatty's head.

The fat boss suddenly demonstrated a flexible body-maneuvering technique that looked strange when coupled with his body. His body moved, avoiding Shue's axe. But he seemed to forget Shue's nickname,

a thousand shadows. As soon as his body evaded, a whole troop of shadows suddenly appeared around him, making the place extremely packed. On their hands were similar axes, eyeing the fatty maliciously.

Feeling that he had no other place to go, the fatty suddenly cried out and his figure moved. Clothes fell off of his body, and when the people's attention were still on his garments, a small and thin man suddenly emerged and threw himself towards Zhao Hai. Simultaneously, he raised his arm and sent cold lights towards Zhao Hai as well as striking with his two hands.

Shue saw the situation and cannot help but be alarmed, "Eight armed demon! Young Master, be careful!"

As his voice fell, Zhao Hai suddenly became surrounded by four stone golems, each to his four sides. The stone golems looked like walls keeping everything off from Zhao Hai who was in the middle. Following the 'dang dang' sound after the cold lights hit the stone golems, two huge golem hands went and captured the small and thin figure.

The small and thin form immediately stopped, then he pitifully yelled, "Surrender, I surrender, I'll take a blood oath and follow you, please do not kill me!"

Zhao Hai became surprised, then he waved his hand, making the golems vanish. However, the small figure still couldn't move, his body looked to be bound by invisible chains, he cannot move whatsoever.

The discerning people among the crowd could tell that this was wind element magic. Everyone was shocked, presently, Zhao Hai had used two elements of magic. Adding on to the fireball he casted earlier, it would make him a three element Mage.

Zhao Hai looked at the small figure, he turned to Shue and said, "Shue, you know this guy?" Ruyen was also observing the man, he wasn't very tall, maybe 1.5 meters tall. He was very thin, he probably weighed less than a hundred jin. He wore black clothes, his head was wrapped around with a black cloth only revealing his two eyes. On his backside was a very short stabbing sword, it wasn't even right to call it a sword, maybe just a long dagger.

Shue looked at the captured person then turned to Zhao Hai, "Young Master, this person is a very famous freelance Assassin with a nickname of Eight-armed demon. His name is Shun. And while he didn't have a divergent ability, he held techniques of doomed soldiers. His unique skills are related to

hidden weapons. Nobody knows where he hides his hidden weapons, but no matter what he could manage to bring them everywhere. He has formidable skills of disguise, and can act as anybody for a short time, making him very difficult to deal with. Being an assassin, coupled with the quick skill of his hidden weapons and his formidable strength, he could whip up weapons as though he has eight arms, thus people called him the eight-armed demon.”

At this time, Shun shouted, “Right, I am the eight-armed demon. Mister, can I know how you managed to see through my disguise?”

Zhao Hai looked at Shun and faintly smiled, “Your costume was very well made, but do you think that the hotel’s boss could still organize his clothes and tidy himself while his hotel was having an accident?”

Shun stared for a moment, then he sighed, he didn’t think about that. Zhao Hai looked at him and asked, “The hotel boss?”

Shun breathed helplessly and replied, “In his room, knocked out.” Zhao Hai nodded and didn’t care anymore, he turned around and told Shue, “Bring him to my room.”

Zhao Hai nodded to Ruyen then headed to his room. His room’s door was broken but luckily Shue was just staying right next door, and his door was still intact. Zhao Hai immediately entered Shue’s room. Shue carried Shun in his arms, Blockhead shut the door and acted as a guard.

Zhao Hai sat down, he looked curiously at the small and thin Shun, “Who sent you?”

Shun shook his head and said, “I don’t know, I was at a restaurant when I got the task, I didn’t know who hired me.”

Zhao Hai looked at Shun, “What is your task? Kill me?”

Shun shook his head and replied, “I wasn’t asked to kill you, they only said to attack you. Regardless of what happened, as long as I am able to escape, then I can obtain ten gold coins as commission. They also probably sent someone to monitor us, if someone didn’t come, then they would pay for it.”

Zhao Hai became surprised, then with a gesture, a screen appeared in front of him. Zhao Hai carefully looked at the projection, then he asked Cai'er, "Cai'er, did you find the monitoring person?"

Cai'er appeared on Zhao Hai's shoulder, she shook her head and said, "I presently cannot, there are many people in the hotel. The monitoring person could be a resident of the hotel, there are currently no means to find out."

Zhao Hai nodded, then turned the monitor off. He paid no attention to the dumbfounded Shun, instead he turned to Laura and asked, "Laura, why did you think they sent people to attack me, without taking my life?"

Laura knit her brows, "From the task, they seem to not want to kill you, only probe. I just don't know what they are probing for."

Zhao Hai frowned, "Who was it? We're currently disguised and didn't have any enmity with others. How come some people suddenly want to attack me?"

At this time, Blockhead who just stood there silently, talked, "Young Master, someone is probing to see if you know dark element magic!"