

D. of Pride 121

Chapter 121: Ambush (3)

Just as Chuck was getting ready to wrench the both of them of their life, he realized that they were surrounded. Those two were not alone and had brought many people along with them.

Laris gave him a derisive smile and taunted “What’s wrong? Didn’t you say that you wouldn’t allow the both of us to get away with this? Why don’t you come now or was the talk earlier just some false bravado? Hehehehehe, don’t make me laugh... who isn’t going to allow who to get away. Now then be obedient and hand over your space rings before I make your death even more miserable”.

All the members from the Sea God’s guild looked at Laris dumbfoundedly, they couldn’t believe that these people did all of that just to rob them of their items in the space rings.

Seeing that nobody was complying, Laris started getting impatient and roared at them “GIVE IT to me now”. The adventurers from the Sea God’s guild looked at each other and flashed a knowing smile.

If they are going down nonetheless, why should they give their space rings willingly? They should at least make the life of their enemies miserable and take out some of them before going down. Chuck observed his teammates and saw their determination to fight.

But he was all so aware that they didn’t stand a chance not after they suffered all those injuries. He tried to rack his brain to find some way to get out of this but no matter how much he thought, the situation looked quite dire.

If he was not injured while saving Lisa and the others, he might be able to bring some of them alive.

But the situation was now so that even he couldn’t stand against these numbers for long. ‘Am I going to die here’ he thought. Yet when he looked back, he couldn’t allow himself to die here not until he could make sure that Lisa was safe and back into the city.

Grabbing his dislocated hand, he twisted his shoulder to place it back. “Ugggh

” an unimaginable amount of pain assaulted him but he endured it all. Compared to the pain of losing a loved one, this much of a pain was nothing.

He was aware of that after all Chuck had been an adventurer for a long time and had seen many people die along the way. Although dying here would be taking the easier way out, but he couldn't afford to.

Behind him was a person he held very dear to and he wanted to protect her no matter what. Therefore, he couldn't go down even if he has to burn the very last of his life.

The surviving members of the Sea God's guild looked at Chuck and knew what he was thinking. They exchanged a knowing glance among themselves before turning towards the enemy with their weapon drawn.

The both of them did their best to hide it however, the whole guild was aware that Chuck and Lisa liked each other. Their constant bickering was not something new to the guild and they fought just like any husband and wife did.

All of them were heavily injured but despite that, they still charged towards the enemy hoping to stall the enemy and buy enough time for their leader and vice leader to get out.

“Chuck... we are glad that you were our leader. We will never forget our times together in the guild. So you must make sure to bring our beloved vice leader back to the city... don't look back and go” the adventurers said as they made their mind and used the skills and magic to charge towards the enemy.

“What are you guys saying? We will survive this together and return back to the guild” Lisa protested weakly as tears continuously fell down her cheeks.

Seeing that nobody was replying to her, Lisa turned towards Chuck. However, when she saw his conflicted face, she couldn't help but weep even more.

Right now Chuck was going through a great emotional turmoil. On one hand, was his teammates who were willing to throw their lives for his sake, and on the other hand, was Lisa who had barged into his heart even without him knowing.

To them, the answer was clear as they didn't even hesitate to confront the enemy even while knowing that they would most likely die. He couldn't let the last-ditch effort of his brothers go to waste.

'Save their beloved vice leader they say' steeling his mind, Chguck turned around and grabbed Lisa before storming out of the encirclement.

Seeing that their leader had made the right choice, all of them smiled in joy and attacked the enemy with even more vehemence.

Chuck didn't look back, grabbed Lisa, and stormed out of the encirclement. He could hear the blood-curdling roars of his brothers as they gave their life to buy some more time for them.

Many enemies tried to block his path using their various skills and magic but he smashed apart through them all.

"Don't get in my waaaaay..." with a loud roar, he brandished his longsword with one hand and protected Lisa with the other.

Magics of different elements such as the [Electro Blast], [Fireball], [Fire Pillar], [Wind Slash], [Wind Blast], [Earth Spikes] came raining down towards him. He used his earth magic to block as many of them as he can, the remaining which managed to get through, he used his body as a shield to tank through them all.

His armour which was made of Blackgold ore was already broken into pieces and blood continuously dripped down his body.

Blackgold ore was a material much stronger and rare than Whitesilver. However, no matter how sturdy the material is, it still couldn't tank through all of the magic.

Lisa who was hugged tightly by Chuck, felt the blood trickling through his armour as he used his body to shield her from any attacks that were aimed at her, and her eyes reddened.

Being in the embrace of the man she loved, made her blissful but at the same time tragic as the moment wouldn't last long and even more so she didn't want to see him get hurt for her sake.

“Chuck... Chuck look at me” as the situation worsened, Lisa who was in his embrace hurriedly called out to him.

Looking at her face that was as beautiful as a fairy, and her eyes which seemed to be only looking at him at this moment, he flashed a comforting smile and said “Don’t worry... it will be alright. As long as I’m alive, I’ll never let anybody hurt you. Even if I have to use my life in exchange I’ll make sure to get you back to the city”.

Lisa caressed his cheek, gave him an apologetic look, and said “Leave me behind Chuck... if it’s you, then you can make it back to the city. The guild needs a leader like you, don’t waste your life for someone like me”.

Chuck hugged her more tightly as if afraid she would slip through his embrace. “A woman like you is everything to me. I cannot live a single day without you... so there is no way I’m gonna leave you behind” he fiercely denied her words and without slowing down, he continued charging forward.

Lisa looked at the determined face of the man who wouldn’t leave her even when she begged him to. At this moment she felt like she was the happiest woman in this world.

However, fate was cruel to her, it only gave her moments of bliss only to shatter it in the next instant. She knew that if this continues on, the man she loves would no doubt die protecting her.

‘I cannot live a single day without you’ you say but doesn’t it go both ways? How dumb can you be to use your life to save mine?... Lisa thought as she looked at the man who was desperate to save her.

BANG... Chuck couldn’t deflect the [Electro Bolt] in time and it squarely hit him on his back. His whole body shuddered for a moment and his wounds kept getting worse but he still hugged her lithe body and didn’t let go.

At this moment, the determination flashing in his eyes was so bright that it burned like magma.

Chapter 122: Desperate Efforts

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Two more spells came targeting Lisa, but none of them were even able to touch her as Chuck use his body to shield her from everything. The enemies knew that he was trying to protect the woman in his embrace and hence deliberately targeted her.

Another spell took shape but before the mage could cast the spell, he was cut down in half by a swing of Chuck's sword.

Turning around he was about to charge out again, that was when he realized that he was being followed by five assassins who kept chasing him even when he interweaved around the forest and tried to shook them off.

Seeing them fight so hard even while knowing that it was all a wasted effort, Laris was maddened to the point of being insane. Not only did these people not give up, but even while knowing that they would die, they were trying their best to stall for time to allow Chuck Remington to get out of here.

"Do you really think you can get away?" Laris barked and immediately tried to bolt towards the distant Chuck but was held off by one of the level 289 [Swordmaster] from the Sea god's guild.

"Where are you running to? Your opponent shall be me" the heavily injured swordmaster blocked his path and declared.

Laris noticed that the man was smiling and knew that he was going to die soon and so wanted to make the most out of it.

[Heavy Cross Slash] the swordmaster roared and came charging at him with a wide swing.

Clicking his tongue, Laris swiftly deflected the attack with his blades and counterattacked with his own. He looked at Dale who was enjoying slaughtering the members from the Sea God's guild and couldn't help but shout "What are you doing Dale? We can't let Chuck escape out of the forest".

Dale flashed a brutal smile as he wiped the blood that spilled into his face and said "Relax he won't be able to get out of here. None of them will... I have already sent five assassins to follow after him. they will be able to stall him before we arrive".

'Tch, taking it so easy' Laris inwardly cursed as he blocked another attack from the swordmaster.

"This is getting annoying... give me your space rings and ill make sure you die a painless death" he stretched one of his hands and gestured. Laris wanted their space rings because there was a possibility that they have harvested the spirit orbs from the Forest Spring Spirits and kept them into their space rings just like him.

These spirit orbs are priceless treasures, and as long as there is even a small possibility, he couldn't let them get away with their space rings.

The swordmaster seemed as if deliberating something before smiling in ridicule "Since you are so interested, why don't you try and take this space ring from me?". He flashed the space ring in front of Laris before gulping it down.

It wasn't only him but all the surviving members of the Sea God's guild did the same after seeing how much importance Laris was giving to snatch their space rings. Their only salvation now was for their leader to get away from here and to achieve that, they were willing to do anything. And knowing that the enemy was after their space rings, what better way to stall for more time than to gulp it down.

"Y-you bastard..." Laris finally had enough after watching them gulp their space ring down. Drawing the lightning magic from his [C] tier Twin blades, he bolted towards the swordmaster at an insane speed, and before the adventurer could even react, Laris beheaded him.

His [Dual Wielder] was a rare class among the warriors and after reaching level 300, he was fortunate enough to obtain this class.

The [Dual Wielder] class compensated him for his lack of defence and other stats by marginally increasing his offence. Along with his [C] tier Twin Blades, he can dish outbursts of attack that can deal heavy damage.

Just when Laris bent down to cut apart the body and take the space ring out, Dale remarked “Their motive is to delay us by gulping down the space rings. We can take their space rings after we finish off Chuck Remington”.

Laris nodded and immediately discarded what he was doing and ran towards the place where the five assassins were stalling Chuck. Wrapped in lightning, he instantly covered most of the distance and arrived at the scene to find three of the assassins dead and the remaining two injured.

“Don’t think that you can run away” Utilizing his lightning speed, Laris dished out a fury of attacks but all of them were easily deflected by Chuck.

Right when he was about to dish out another attack, the ground started trembling and his centre of gravity became unstable before a kick came sweeping towards his abdomen.

BANG... Laris was blown back far away and smashed into the surrounding trees. Using this opening, Chuck still embracing Lisa wanted to retreat but was cut off by Dale who arrived just in time.

Seeing that Laris was sent crawling onto the ground, Dale mocked him a little “Hahaha, Laris the battle hasn’t even started and you have already tasted the dirt”.

Splitting a clout of blood, Laris stood back again and glared at Chuck whose body was riddled with injuries, and hurriedly said “Shut up Dale, this guy is no pushover. He is a level 359 [Gaurdian Knight]... you better be careful or else you would be the one ending up defeated”.

“I don’t need you to remind me that” saying that Dale looked back at one of the [Wizard] that was following behind him.

The [Wizard] quickly took out a broken whistle from under his robe and quickly blew on it. A resonant sound that of an eagle screeching rang out across the forest before a creature came sweeping down from the clouds above.

Looking at the creature swiftly diving down, Chuck and Lisa were both stunned. Why wouldn’t they be? After all, the creature that appeared was one of the chimaeras that managed to escape from them previously. They thought that it was one of the minions of the demon residing within the dungeon.

Looking at the Falcon Wing Bull-Ox who like a puppet obediently followed every command of the [Wizard] behind Dale, he finally realized they had fallen into a trap laid elaborately for them.

Chuck couldn't understand why would someone go to such lengths when they didn't even have any prior enmity nor any grudge. Little did he know that the trap was laid out for the demon residing inside the dungeon.

But all of this changed after the demon took the Forest Spring Spirit away from the village forcing Laris and Dale to modify the plan.

Looking at the wound-ridden body of Chuck Remington who was still staring at them with the eyes of a tiger, Dale sneered and said "Why don't you give up willingly? Why make it harder for yourself? With those injuries, it's a miracle that you are still conscious. I know you are strong but with those injuries, you are not going anywhere".

Seeing that his words had no effect, he simply shrugged his shoulders. To be honest, Dale much preferred his cornered prey to struggle till their last breath and his excitement only doubled seeing that his opponent was none other than the famous Chuck Remington from the city of Mountmend.

"Give us your space rings and I can let both of you die together or else..." Laris glanced at Lisa who was being hugged tightly by Chuck and threatened.

When he was threatened like that, Chuck became even more enraged and glared at them as if telling him he would end anyone that dared to come forward.

"What is it that you so desperately want from our space ring that even compelled you to commit a massacre?" Chuck roared, his eyes blazing with hatred.

Chapter 123: Desperate Efforts (2)

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“Well if that’s your last wish then I’ll gladly comply and answer your question” Dale commented nonchalantly.

Seeing that Dale was about to reveal the existence of the Forest Spring Spirits, Laris couldn’t help but warn him “Dale don’t be a fool we can’t reveal their existence to anyone. Have you forgotten the orders from the guild master?”.

“Huh? What do you take me for? of course I haven’t forgotten the orders from our guild leader to keep our mouths shut. But you see, If these guys had already gotten their hands on the items, then there is no need for secrecy is there?. Besides he is gonna die here anyway what’s the harm in fulfilling the wish of a dying man”.

Dale scoffed and said before turning towards Chuck and revealing a saintly smile ” Aren’t I so generous? I don’t know if you have gotten hold of them or not but if you wish to know why we committed such an act, well I’ll be glad to comply with this last wish of yours”

“You see if you were in our place, you might have done the same”.

His words made Chuck snort.

Giving it no mind, Dale continued “The item we want is a priceless treasure in this world. One that can improve your abilities and purify your bloodline thus making you a genius that is looked upon by millions of people. It can transform one from a toad that roams in the pond to a dragon that soars high up in the sky. Hehe, you might have an idea of what I’m talking about by now”.

As Dale said, Chuck was aware of what that priceless treasure was. There was only one item that matched the description, one that was rumoured to be so rare that it was considered a priceless treasure in this world.

“Forest Spring Spirit Orb” Chuck said.

“Right the Forest Spring Spirit Orb, a priceless treasure wouldn’t you say?” Dale repeated looking extremely delighted.

There was no way nobody would be tempted after hearing those words. But Chuck was lost, he didn't understand why they were looking for Forest Spirit orbs in their space rings. It didn't make sense at all and on the contrary, made it all the more unbelievable.

"Do you think ill believe that nonsense?" Chuck cursed out loudly and held his longsword tightly.

"Nonsense or not we will soon find out. Now, make your choice... give me your space rings obediently and I shall make it so that you guys die a painless death. Disobey and not even your corpse will remain intact" Laris stretched his hand as if giving a verdict.

To comply or resist that was the only fate for them, either way, the enemy was hell-bent on killing them.

Chuck at this moment felt that all the doors were closed for him and the hope of surviving this was so bleak that in this dark tunnel he couldn't even see a tiny bit of light. Just when his spirit was starting to falter, he felt warmth coming from his embrace.

Lisa who was being tightly hugged by him was at this moment looking straight at his eyes. She said "Put me down you dummy, how long do you plan to keep hugging me. You have done everything to protect me, now let me fight alongside you. We may not be able to survive this, but during our last moments I wish to stand and fight beside you".

Chuck matched her gaze and blankly stared at them. Her clear bright eyes seemed to be like a sparkling lake, clear and unpolluted. To Chuck, they seemed to contain all the splendour of the world.

Gently putting her down, he released her from his embrace. At this moment he felt as if he lost a part of him and wanted to continue hugging her.

However, he respected her decision to fight alongside him. Frankly, if he was given a choice, he would rather not put her in harm's way. During all their previous expeditions, no matter how many times he would have to bicker with her, he would always put her in the backlines and he himself would be in the frontlines to soak all the damage just to make sure that she doesn't get hurt.

But now it seems that the situation was no longer so that he could put her in the backlines. Lisa stood beside Chuck and took out her golden-coloured staff decorated with blue jewels from her space ring.

Standing alongside Lisa, Chuck took a few deep breaths of air before reigniting his spirit and hatred for his enemies. Giving an energetic shout, he gripped his longsword with both of his hands and took a stance.

Seeing that the two had disregarded his merciful offer and instead choose the hard way out, Laris couldn't help but grind his teeth in annoyance. "Very well then I shall make it so that you guys beg for death" blue lightning arced his body from his blades and made him look like a person bathed in lightning.

"Dale no need to show them mercy anymore let's finish this up quick" leaving his words, like lightning he immediately dashed towards Chuck with a breakneck speed. The Electro attribute of mana was the fastest attribute amongst all the five basic forms of manas.

Not only that, but it was also one of the most destructive forms of mana. Lightning magic the intermediate tier of Electro magic was leagues above electro in terms of speed and destructiveness.

Utilizing his skills along with the Lightning magic, Laris delivered one lightning-fast attack after another.

RUMBLE... SPARK... Chuck was pushed back again and again. Each of the attacks dished out by Laris packed quite a punch and if he was careless, it could deal great damage to his body.

Blue lightning arced the ground and scorched it black. No matter, if it was the tall trees or the grasses, whatever came in contact with the lightning, was destroyed until not even its ashes remained.

"Hahaha, Laris you can't hoard all the fun yourself" Dale said as a crimson light started emanating from his body. "[Battle Hunger]" his body started getting bigger and bigger and his muscles expanded to a size that made him look just like a small giant.

"Kehehe, this feeling is the greatest" he said with a distorted voice, his eyes masked with insanity and naked thirst for battle. [Battle hunger] was one of the skills of [Berserker] class that greatly increases strength and defence for a short period of time.

However, the user is overtaken by madness and their awareness becomes limited. Similar to [Dual Weilder], [Berserker] is a rare warrior class. After reaching level 300, a warrior if lucky can change their class to a [berserker].

Feeling the power rushing and overflowing inside his body, Dale gave a coarse laugh before fixing his attention on Chuck who was barely able to hold down Laris. Grabbing the broadsword on his back with his wide hands, Dale delivered a devastating wide slash towards Chuck.

Lisa watched as how Chuck struggled to keep up with their enemies lightning-speed attacks and brutal swings. She continuously cast Light magic, one of the four rare forms of Mana to cover any gap that the enemies might exploit.

[Healing Light], [Light Ray], [Light Barrier] she cast one spell after another without holding back her mana. But even then the injuries Chuck suffered earlier were far worse and as time passed, more and more wounds accumulated on his body.

She thought back to the time when Chuck used all of his strength to shield her from the collapsing cliff.

If only Chuck wasn't injured while saving her, he wouldn't struggle this much against enemies of this level. Now that all of their teammates that have been with them through thick and thin were now all gone, Chuck was left with no choice but to hold the frontlines alone.

Chapter 124: Desperate Efforts (3)

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"[Aiding Light]" Lisa cast a light magic spell and buffed the stats of Chuck for a short period of time. She watched as how even while alone, Chuck didn't back down and held his ground firmly. Even while injured, with every swing of his long sword, he was able to knock back his enemies.

Spells continuously rained down on him from the enemies on the backlines and bathed his body in blood. Clearly, his body had accumulated lots of wounds that couldn't even be imagined by an ordinary person and he was holding on with just his sheer willpower.

Looking at his state, Lisa's eyes glossed over, and tears continuously trickled down her cheeks. Even when her mana was running on a deficit, and pushing her body any further would definitely harm her, she still kept healing Chuck over and over again.

Just when she was about to cast her light magic once again, the tail of the Falcon Winged Bull-Ox managed to slip through Chuck and whipped Lisa smashing her into a tree.

BANG...

"LISA... AHHHHhhhhh

" seeing that Lisa got hurt by the tail of the chimaera that managed to slip through his defence, he shouted in concern towards Lisa and in rage towards his enemies.

Forgoing all his defence due to his fury, he charged up towards the chimaera and brought it down in one fell swoop. However, due to his rage, he was full of openings and his enemies weren't incompetent enough to neglect that opportunity.

Immediately after Chuck brought down the chimaera, rumbling lightning taking the form of hundreds of swords, berserker energy filled with bloodthirst and pure strength, along with novice tier spells of many different attributes came raining down.

Chuck wasn't afraid of being hit by any of them but what made him frighten and lose his mind was that all the spells weren't targeted at him and instead flew straight towards Lisa.

Lisa's class was a mage which made her defence vulnerable than even an ordinary warrior. there was no way she could survive through the barrage of attacks.

"Ugh" enduring the pain, Lisa used her staff to get back on her feet. She was a level 325 [Sage], a class higher than the [Wizard]. Her class greatly strengthened her magic and luck but didn't provide much in the other areas of stats. Taking a direct hit from a level 281 Falcon Wing Bull-Ox, it directly shaved more than one-third of her HP.

Puffing out a mouthful of blood, she desperately tried to get back up. Her mind was currently hazy and a tingling pain kept assaulting her head due to overexerting her mana. She knew that Chuck would be in trouble if she didn't continuously heal him but no matter how much she tried, the haziness didn't disappear and the tingling pain in her head kept worsening.

Lisa could sense that the surrounding manas was in a turmoil and was rapidly convulsing. However, she was currently in a state, where she was not conscious enough to detect the imminent danger.

"LISAAAA" she heard a loud cry coming from Chuck which was filled with desperation and helplessness before everything was drowned by deafening noises.

BOOM... BOOOM... BOOM... BOOOM...

Hundreds of meters of the area was instantly covered by the magic as they devastated around the forest and in the eye of all this magic was Lisa.

The power brought forth by the combined might of Laris, Dale, and dozens of level 200 [Wizard] was enough to make the ground tremble and it felt just like a small-scale earthquake.

Earth and dirt rose into the air for dozens of meters and covered everything in dust.

"Cough... cough... what happened?" after the haziness and the pain in her head finally receded a little, dust-covered all her vision and she couldn't see a thing.

"Lis...a... are you..a.ll..right?" she heard a faint voice from amidst the dust which seemed to faintly resemble Chuck's. Sensing that the voice came from very near her, she tried taking a few steps towards him.

But her steps halted soon enough after she noticed chuck standing right in front with his back facing her.

However, what made her lips quiver and her heart break in sorrow was the figure of the person in front of her.

The man was drenched in blood from head to toe, his body was filled with wounds and he was missing an arm. A large pool of blood lay beneath him but the man was still standing just like a tall tree during a storm that refused to budge down.

“Chuck?!... Chuck!!... Chuck!!!” with a heartbreaking voice, Lisa ran towards Chuck and held him close to her.

The wide-area magic that was targeted at her, was stopped by him. He used his very life to shield her from the attack. His sword that was made of Black-gold, a [C] tier weapon that had accompanied him for a long time was in pieces.

Currently, he felt no pain nor any discomfort, even the wounds he had suffered in his battle, hurt no more. It was as if his sense of pain was numbed to the point where he couldn't even feel anything. His body lost all its strength and was starting to fall back when his body was caught in a soft embrace.

With reddened eyes and tears continuously trickling down, Lisa held Chuck close to her.

“PHEW...” Seeing that the pair had finally gone down, Laris revealed a satisfied smile and at the same time, he felt a sense of pride burning inside.

Chuck Remington his valour and accomplishments were so great that it also reached the city of Morgress and Laris of course heard some of them. The man had accumulated so much merit that he became the guild manager of the branch guild seven years after joining the guild.

Laris acknowledged that the man was truly strong after exchanging blows with him and now, he had defeated that very same man.

As he was about to end the pair, Dale made a move before him. Overtaken by madness and thirst for battle, Dale's towering body sped towards the fallen pair.

“Not enough...more... more” overflowing strength ran rampant inside his body and repeatedly invoked his hunger for battle. Until the duration of the [Battle Hunger] ends, Dale would be in a state where he would continuously seek to battle someone no matter friends or foes.

The side effect of the skill is that the mental state of the user would become unstable the more they used and relied on the skill before losing their mind. Despite that many warriors that got the [Berserker] class after reaching level 300, mostly use it as it provides a massive buff to their stats which can allow them to turn any situation around.

Right now, it looked like Dale had lost his mind and was ruled by his hunger for battle. The consequence of using the [Battle hunger] skill.

Lisa tightly hugged Chuck who looked like he was hovering between the borders of life and death and completely ignored the onrushing Dale. She didn't wish for such an ending but fate was cruel and unpredictable. It showed her moments of bliss only to drop her in the pits of hell the next second.

She embraced Chuck and caressed his cheek, the man who would always wear a stoic face and bicker with her in every opportunity he can find, currently had a peaceful face. She knew how desperately he wanted to save her and for that he worked his body so bad that it was truly a god's miracle that he still had a faint trace of life.

Victory and defeat didn't matter to her any longer. If they were destined to go down, she at least wanted to share the same fate as him.

Chapter 125: Interrupted

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"You are really a dummy you know. An idiot, always wearing a stoic face, constantly arguing with me. Pushing me into the backlines whenever we went on an adventure. Always prioritizing me over yourself, protecting me even when it means hurting yourself. You incomparable fool why couldn't you just leave me behind!" Her words were softly spoken and only reached the ears of the two of them.

UOOoooHhhh... Dale covered the distance in a few seconds and glared at the pair with eyes masked with insanity. "More... More, fight me more Chuck Remington" with a thunderous roar, he brutally swung his longsword in a wide arc towards the pair.

The longsword glowed with a crimson halo which contained all the unrestrained strength and the thirst for battle came smashing towards the two of them.

Sensing that their end was near, Lisa tight hugged Chuck's body before closing her eyes and whispering into his ears "Even though you are the greatest idiot I have met who makes me mad every time, you are also the one I love the most Chuck".

BANG...

a loud voice of something crashing rang out before everything went silent.

Just when she thought that everything was over, as she closed her eyes and given herself to her fate, to her surprise the expected attack never came. Instead, there was a loud noise and everything went silent after that.

For a moment Lisa felt that she was already dead and that was why the pain never came. But that was not the case.

Opening her eyes, she saw a huge crater a few meters ahead of them and a faint figure of a person standing inside. The loud noise she heard must be from the huge crater that person must have made.

"Did he Drop from the sky?" was her first thought

After the clear outline of the person came into view, she was stunned to find that the person was not human. Wide crimson black wings that spanned more than three meters protruded from the person's back, two jagged adorned his head like a crown.

His pitch-black hair seemed to be like the night itself devouring the light around him. His crimson pupils were so oppressing and menacing to look that Lisa was forced to shift her gaze away.

There was no doubt, the person that dropped out of nowhere was a demon. Though the Ghastly Winding Forest was located in the demon continent, it was unusual to see a demon this close to the central continent.

The humans and demons have waged wars uncountable times in their long history with both sides suffering huge casualties. Hence both sides hated each other. If it was not for the ancient treaty being in effect, Lisa had no doubts that there would be even more bloodshed and wars in their history.

The demon had crashed into the place where she and Chuck who was in her embrace were about to meet their end. However, what she didn't understand was that where did the demon come from. As soon as she asked herself that question, the answer naturally came to her.

She remembered the dungeon they had come out from a few hours ago. There was no doubt, it was his lair. A dungeon could only be made by a demon, that is to say, the demon standing in front of her was the demon that resided in that dungeon.

“Why did he come here?!... is he mad that we are fighting so close to his dungeon?” Her mind spurred as she thought about the motive behind the appearance of the Demon. It didn't matter to her if the demon was angry on the human in front of him and takes action to clean them up. Her fate was already sealed; after all, it matters not whether she died by the hands of humans or demons

Laris looked on with irritation flashing in his eyes. Just when he was about to swiftly end the pair, Dale went ahead and lost his mind due to overusing his skills and lost all of his self-control, continuously trying to seek a battle.

It would not be a surprise to him if Dale ended up pointing his sword at his teammates next. If that happened, the situation would turn even more chaotic after all Dale wasn't any weaker than him and his rank was also among the top twenty in their guild.

However, the situation didn't turn out as he expected. It was not that Dale came out of his trance but that something had come falling down from the sky just when Dale was about to finish the pair.

With an uncontrolled speed, something smashed on top of Dale's head who had lost all of his sanity and created a crater due to its insane momentum.

The ground trembled and dust and dirt flew everywhere. After the faint outline of the person came into view when the dust settled, Laris was enraged and maddened to the point of clenching his hands into fists.

Laris didn't need a clear look to know who it was after all his figure was burned into his memory. The person had ruined his carefully crafted plan and had taken things that belonged to him.

Not only that but the person had also made a fool out of him, leading him around in circles by his nose.

"Sigh... I have done it now. Well, it couldn't be helped since I don't want these people to taste any more victory" Simon said as he walked out of the crater.

In the middle of the crater was a burly man unconscious and deeply planted inside the ground. It was none other than Dale who had lost his mind due to the overuse of the skill [Battle Hunger].

Simon used him as a cushion for his free fall and directly landed on top of him. One could only imagine the momentum and inertia he had to create such a deep crater and Dale was the one who had absorbed all of that.

The pressure and force of the fall was so great that Dale immediately lost his consciousness. Of course, Simon did it deliberately as he accelerated and descended from the sky at an insane speed.

His target was none other than Dale who was after the couple behind him. One might even say that he had sneaked upon his enemies and even question his methods. But Simon believed that there was no point in fighting fair and square with these kinds of people.

Purely by their numbers, he was at a disadvantage and therefore he used this opportunity when one of their leaders who seemed to have lowered their guard to bring him down in one fell swoop.

Stepping over the unconscious body of Dale, Simon jumped out of the crater. Fixing his gaze, he looked at the stunned adventurers who were so shocked by the sudden development that they were silent for quite a while.

“Leader...” one of the adventures from Dale’s team hurriedly called out right after he snapped out of his daze. Following him, many of them came back to reality and started calling out towards Dale.

Dale’s team of adventures didn’t recognize the demon in front of them, but that wasn’t true for Laris and his party.

At this moment Laris was glaring at Simon with bloodshot eyes while continuously grinding his teeth in hatred.

To Simon, his hatred filled gaze just felt like a passing glance not even able to faze him at all. Compared to that, he was the one who had a ton of grudge against them and an uncontrollable fury that was difficult for him to hold back.

Chapter 126: Interrupted (2)

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Not only did they destroy the home of his little sister, they even hunted and enslaved them like animals only seeing them for their spirit orbs. Their inhuman and bestial conduct earned his ire and it could be said that he despised these people down to the marrow of his bones.

He was not trying to play some hero of justice but now that he took Cecilia as his little sister, all her pain and worries became his. That also goes for the people she hated.

He couldn't let them be after all they did to her village, parents, clansmen, and friends. They had viciously hunted her down and were the perpetrators behind the death of her mother and father.

Simon could still vividly remember the look in her eyes which desperately sought help and more so wanted to die. Remembering those scenes, brought cold fury inside him as he imagined the pain and wound they had inflicted upon the heart of a five-year-old girl.

If he didn't seek justice for her, how could he be worthy of calling himself her big brother? Though she didn't display it, he could still feel that her heart wasn't healed yet, not until the villains that had massacred her village were dead.

However, she didn't want her big brother who had saved her and her clansmen get hurt because of that and so she buried this desire deep in her heart.

Simon was a demon and especially sensitive to these negative emotions. Plus no matter how much she wanted to hide these emotions, there was no way she would be able to hide them from him.

Forest Spring Spirits are a peace-loving clan and he didn't want them to be harbouring such emotions, that is doubly true for Cecilia who was a Forest Spring Royal Spirit. And according to Irene, when she grows up, her abilities would be heaven-defying. If she harboured such emotions, she wouldn't be able to grow as she was meant to and it might even become her shackles.

Simon didn't want her to be bound by revenge or anything of sorts and live a carefree life inside his dungeon. And to do that, he must first clear these pests who had stained her pure heart and are continuously glaring at him.

Saving the two humans behind wasn't in his plan but since he was impressed by the strong will of the man and also because he didn't want his enemies to have the sweet taste of victory anymore, he decided to step in and save them.

Simon was aware that it was uncharacteristic of a demon to save someone out of goodwill but maybe because he was a human once, consciously or subconsciously his decision had been affected by that and thus he decided to lend them a hand.

However, saving the two humans behind him didn't change what he was about to do. He was going to massacre the rest of the humans until not even their corpses can be identified and strangely enough he felt a sense of pleasure from it. His crimson eyes glowed with a brilliant light and a devious smile crept up to his face.

Right now Simon knew that he was giving in to his urges but that was alright, there is no need to play upright and just with these people.

Even if exacted a slaughter here, his actions would be completely justified. A thought that Simon would never have while he was still a human, started surfacing in the back of his mind. Nonetheless, it was still not time to act.

Restraining these instincts that were about to break out of his control, Simon turned towards the pair that were behind him and pointed "Take that man and get out of here".

Just to make it so that he was not requesting and instead ordering them, he released his violent and overbearing Demon Viscount aura.

Lisa's face became pale when she felt his wild brutish aura and her body shuddered uncontrollably. She looked at the enemies in front and the unconscious man inside the crater before supporting the man in her embrace with all her strength before slowly walking out of here.

It seemed that releasing his aura had worked. Simon saw the woman turning around and silently leaving at his orders. It was for the best, the two of them were already severely injured and they would get in the way of the battle that would erupt soon.

Everything seemed like a dream, they who were destined to die, didn't by some stroke of fate. To Lisa, It was laughable that their lives were accidentally saved by the demon who decided to jump into the fray.

As soon as the demon appeared, he immediately knocked one unconscious and turned the attention of all the enemies towards him.

Just when she felt like they had become the bystanders, the demon turned his attention towards and at that moment she felt all the blood inside her turn cold.

The relief she felt after dodging the jaw of death, was immediately broken and she felt that the feeling creep near once again. How could she be so naïve to believe that they were safe, the demon would be viewing all the humans as his enemies regardless of which side they were in.

At this moment the cold voice of the demon rang out. Hearing the contents, she immediately became flabbergasted. “Take that man and get out of here” the demon said as he looked at her with those crimson eyes of his.

Lisa’s mind went blank and she stood still in a daze for a while. However, it didn’t last long as the demon used his aura to pressure her. Sensing the fiendish and dark aura released by the demon, her whole body which was already very weak due to exhaustion shuddered intensely.

Even while trembling, she forced her body to move and supported the unconscious Chuck before turning and leaving. Though her mind was still reeling in shock, she was more than happy to comply with what the demon said as she didn’t want to be on this battlefield anymore.

Though she hated the people who had ambushed and killed all of her comrades, her priority was now to take the unconscious Chuck back to the city.

Chuck was barely hanging to life and all the wounds he suffered were mostly due to him trying to save her. Therefore he immediately needed healing and she couldn’t be bothered with anything else.

Although she felt that the demon was quite peculiar for allowing them to leave, she didn’t think too much into it.

Just as she took a few steps, Laris’s cold and unfeeling voice sounded out “Where do you think you are going. Didn’t I tell you earlier that I’m not going to spare any of you, or did you already forget about it”.

Laris's face was masked with irritation and impatience. After being repeatedly obstructed, anybody would lose their mind in frustration. The demon had repeatedly foiled his plan and even now he was messing around with the people he had to kill.

Without wasting time any further, and before the target could become aware, he used his [Hell Lightning Slash] which was a culmination of [Swift Slash] skill and [Lightning Magic Mastery] towards the enemy.

Before anybody could even blink, a piercing blue light erupted from the sword and flew towards them. With a thundering sound, a thick bolt of piercing lightning taking a vague form of a sword flew towards the pair of Lisa and Chuck who had their backs turned towards him.

Chapter 127: Clash

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Lisa felt the surrounding mana convulsing and approaching towards her at a very fast speed. With their current state, there was no way they can survive an attack dished out by Laris with all his might.

Dread and fear apparent in her face, Lisa hurriedly tried to dodge the blue lightning sword but failed since her body was way too exhausted plus she also had to carry Chuck. Thinking it was too late, she closed her eyes and accepted her fate.

However, just as she was about to surrender, from the corner of her eyes she saw a crimson light flash that covered her field of view in an instant.

RUMBLE...

the crimson flames clashed with the lightning sword and the force of the two attacks meeting was so great that her body was sent airborne and flew a meters back.

Embracing Chuck tightly, Lisa cushioned his fall with her delicate body. Seeing that he didn't suffer any more injury, she turned her head to look at the place where the two attacks met.

A huge hole appeared where the flames and lightning met evident of the immense might of their wielders. Both the attacks packed enough power to neutralise the other and flatten the land around them.

But what shocked her wasn't their might but the person behind the attack that blocked the lightning sword. It was the very same demon that dropped out of the sky and told her to get out of here.

There was no mistaking it, she saw it clearly. Just when the lightning sword was upon her, the demon ignited his flames to offset the attack that would have otherwise claimed her and Chuck's life. The notion of the demon saving their lives sounded absurd to her.

"Leave," the demon said in an indifferent voice without even turning back. Clenching her hands, Lisa once again struggled to get back up and supported Chuck before retreating back. If she was confused before, she was completely sure now that the demon was deliberately helping them.

Thinking about it now, even his fall from the sky at the nick of time that knocked Dale unconscious before he could hack at them, was probably his way of saving them. The thought sounded so funny that she couldn't help but laugh at herself.

If somebody had told her that she and Chuck would be one day saved by a demon, she would no doubt laugh at that person questioning his sanity.

However, the exact same thing had happened right now. The demon had saved them not once but twice.

In her mind, she didn't even know who was the real demon anymore. The humans who had set up a trap to kill all her comrades, at this moment seemed much more demonic to her than the demon himself.

If somebody had heard her inner thoughts right now, they would no doubt say that her mind was tangled and disoriented right now to think clearly, but she knew that her mind was clear and rational than ever before.

She retreated back, this time without even slowing down her pace because she knew that the humans wouldn't be able to make a move with the demon in front of them. It was laughable that she was scared of the people from her own race than the demon.

"Tch... how many times will you get in my way demon?!" Laris cursed loudly after he saw that his attack to kill the pair was deflected by the demon who was the root of all of his troubles.

Giving a low snort, Simon beckoned with his finger "Your opponent is me". Cold fury burned inside Simon's crimson eyes as he looked at Laris. the guy even dared to distract himself when he was standing right in front of him.

"Looks like the lesson last time wasn't enough that you came in front of me once again to seek some more. Be as it may I was going to look for you after all this was over, but I guess you saved me the trouble by showing up willingly"

Laris smiled before pointing the blade towards him "This time you won't be able to run away. But before that tell me demon before I make you regret being born in this world. Where are the enslaved Forest Spring Spirits?".

Laris made a smug face as he looked down on Simon and questioned. The twenty and more adventurers behind him glared at the demon with the eyes of a tiger. Each of them ready to engage with the demon at a moment's notice and all it took was a signal from Laris before they start casting their magic and skills on him.

Unfazed by all of their display, Simon acted as if he didn't see anything and simply shook his shoulder. "Forest Spring Spirits? Doesn't ring a bell. Why don't you go and search for whatever you are searching for deep inside the western part of the forest? I believe you have a better chance of succeeding" Simon said with a wicked smile on his face.

The western region of the Ghastly Winding Forest is where the strongest monsters resided forget about him, even his entire Seven Swords guild would be wiped out if they carelessly entered that region.

Simon saying him to enter the western part to search for the Forest Spring Spirits, was nothing less of a humiliating remark one that was trying to make a fool out of him.

The western region of the forest was so dangerous that all the neighbouring cities were aware of it and all its adventurers whenever they entered the forest made sure not to wander towards the western region carelessly.

There were even some unfounded rumours going on among the adventurers that there are extremely rare treasures inside the western part of the forest guarded by some extremely strong monsters.

The rumours and tales might sound enticing to many but all the adventurers were well aware of how perilous the journey was. It was not worth losing their lives to search for treasures that may or may not be there.

Despite all the dangers and perils, there had been many adventures blinded by greed in history who had wandered deep inside the western region of the Ghastly Winding Forest and nobody heard what happened to them afterwards. No one after delving deep inside has managed to return back. It was as if they had disappeared.

There were even legends and lore told by bards and minstrels that all the adventurers that went looking for the treasure inside the western region of the forest were all dead. Others say that they were cursed and unable to leave the forest for eternity.

Such talks also flowed inside the city of Morgress and Laris was naturally aware of them. Even when he chased after those Forest Spring Spirits, he didn't dare to delve deeper inside the western region of the forest. Hence Simon's words were nothing but demeaning, a slap to his face.

"I see... I see, it seems like you won't open your mouth that easily. But that's alright with me, I was itching to make you spill it all out. Don't think that I don't know that you used an item to change your appearance to lead us out of the village while your subordinates could take those Forest Spring Spirits away".

Laris smirked arrogantly when he saw Simon knitting his brows after he said his piece and he was finally sure of his assumption that the Forest Spring Spirits were inside the dungeon.

'So the attack from that time which washed away the effect of the Elixir of Metamorphosis gave me away huh' Simon thought inwardly.

However, it was no big deal for his enemies to find out it was him as he had already planned to take all of them out since leaving them alive would risk the possibility of the information about the Forest Spring Spirits reaching the ears of other adventurers.

Chapter 128: Clash (2)

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“From your reaction, it seems that I was right. Hahaha, you tried your best to deceive us demon but it seems I was the better one. No matter what tricks you may use, you cannot deceive me, Laris”.

“After I bring you down and make you spill everything out from your mouth, I will gladly take that item that you used to take the form of the royal spirit girl” Laris laughed callously.

He imagined how after defeating the demon, he would be able to take those Forest Spring Spirits that were hiding inside the dungeon, return triumphant with a Forest spring Royal Orb, and also able to get his hands on the item that can change one’s form.

He was sure that the item was no ordinary treasure as even his brother, one of the seven swords and guild master didn’t have one.

“Aren’t you celebrating too early? Don’t you know about this saying? One shouldn’t count their chickens before they even hatch” Simon said as he looked at the smiling face of Laris.

The man already thought he had won, little did he know that the situation would be turned completely upside down later on.

“Yeah, you are right, absolutely right... I should make this quick so that you don’t run away again” saying that, Laris signalled with his hands, and immediately after the dozens of adventurers behind him started casting their magic and skills.

It seemed that Laris was planning to use their numerical advantage to suppress Simon without allowing him to utilise his abilities.

The air distorted as a huge amount of mana convulsed and gathered towards the adventurers. Fire, Electro, Wind, Earth different attributes of spells started taking shape and immediately flew towards Simon.

One could imagine the might imbued in all of these spells as they interlaced with each other and became a huge conglomeration of spells before targeting him. However, before the magic could come anywhere near him, a huge dark shadow of a demonic warhorse that had three pairs of crimson eyes and blood-red antlers could be seen forming in the sky.

The shadow was gigantic and completely made of a black haze.

The huge dark shadow charged towards the interlaced magic cast by dozens of adventurers and fiercely rammed into it with a BOOM.

RUMBLE... the black haze and the interlaced magic met each other and generated a huge shockwave that sent all the parties dozens of meters back.

The huge energies in the sky kept on clashing before the black shadow started gaining more and more advantage before completely breaking through the opposing attack.

Puff... Many of the adventurers spew out a few mouthfuls of blood after seeing that their attack was broken through as the recoil from their magic being destroyed hit them. But before they could even reel in pain, the residual black haze hit them.

Dark circles started forming near their eyes, and black smoke started coming out of their bodies. Clearly, they were inflicted by the corrosive effect of the dark magic, one of the four rare forms of mana.

After the black haze settled, a demonic warhorse that bore resemblance to the huge black shadow came into view. It had a huge frame that was burning in crimson flames, wearing an ancient armour

and a huge pair of draconic wings. Flames came out of its nostril whenever it neighed and with a stomp of its flaming hooves, the whole ground trembled.

“W-What is that?” with dread and fear in their eyes after they suffered a huge setback, the adventurers asked pointing at the Bloodthorn demonic Warhorse.

Laris who was also pushed back quite a few distances away by the shockwave gazed at the warhorse with shock apparent in his eyes. He didn’t even feel the presence of the warhorse before it showed up not to mention its powerful might that was even able to overpower the collective of attacks conjured by his team.

After the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse appeared, it swiftly landed near Simon and stared menacingly at his enemies. After it levelled up continuously, the warhorse became quite powerful and its stats were so great that even Simon felt jealous.

Its power was so great that it was easily able to overpower the combined might of these human adventurers and make them cower with just its appearance.

When the warhorse nudged his hand as if trying to say ‘How did I do?’, Simon swiftly patted its head in affection.

“You did an amazing job, the adventurers seemed to be more afraid of you than me”.

The warhorse neighed and stomped its flaming hooves on the ground once again as if expressing its irritation over the human adventurers for underestimating its master.

As he patted the warhorse, he said “Alright, listen you take on these adventurers behind that guy, and I will take on the person in front”.

Simon didn’t keep his volume down so the adventurers clearly heard what Simon said as they stared at him with enraged eyes.

Laris who was at the front of the group got irritated by how the demon was looking down and unsheathed his [C] tier Twin Blades. This sword had been with him for a long time and had gone thick and thin with him. Not to mention the huge buffs it provided to his stats.

As lightning erupted from the sword and arced his body, Laris felt his body becoming lighter and lighter before eventually becoming completely weightless.

The last time he clashed with the demon, he was only able to injure him only when the demon had let its guard down, and utilizing that opportunity, he dished out a powerful attack. But that wasn't enough to keep the demon down for a while as it seemed that its defence was quite high and if Laris wanted to injure him, he had to use attacks powerful enough to penetrate through his defence.

'But so what, I didn't use any skills the last time. When I use skills, it's going to be a totally different story from back then' Laris thought inwardly as he reinvigorated his spirits before dashing towards the demon with lightning speed.

When Laris unsheathed his Twin Blades, Simon couldn't help but comment after analysing the sword 'That's quite a good blade'. The last time Simon didn't pay much attention to the blade and ended up getting his defence penetrated by those very blades in return.

However, now that he observed it carefully, he immediately knew that the blade was a [C] tier weapon using Analysis, and not only that but the blade was a cut above among the other [C] tier weapons.

Though the weapon was quite powerful among the [C] tier, as Analysis displayed it was still at refinement level 1.

The last time when they clashed, Simon didn't expect to have a dungeon notification pop up in front of him which made him let his guard down for a second. Utilising that slight opening, Laris was able to connect an attack that had enough power to injure him.

But now that he didn't have to worry about the dungeon, he can give all his attention to the battle. After all, you don't often get to fight a level 311 adventurer who had gone through numerous battles.

Simon was clearly aware of his weakness and that was he lacked combat experience. Unlike the adventurer he was facing, Simon did not have a rich battle experience and even on earth, he had lived a peaceful life never associating in any physical fights.

However, combat experience can be accumulated and Simon was not going to miss this opportunity to improve himself. Suddenly, the beautiful and alluring figure of Irene came into his mind. He

wanted to catch after this person who seemed to be in a whole different realm than him, he wanted to bridge that huge gap in their status and someday reach the same height that she was in.

To do that, he needed to surpass this opponent here and at the same time make the enemy pay for all the transgression he had committed against his little sister. With those thoughts in mind, Simon steeled his resolve and bared his fangs.

Chapter 129: Clash (3)

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Laris engulfed in lightning came charging towards Simon in an instant and hacked towards him in a wide vertical swing. "Swift Lightning Slash" he cried out as the lightning came slashing down.

However, the slash swiftly passed through the demon and smashed on the ground. RUMBLE... the force of the attack smashing onto the ground was so great that it immediately created spiderweb-like cracks and the lightning scorched the ground black.

The attack hit nothing but Simon's afterimage. Looking high up in the sky, Laris spotted the demon with his wings spread wide open. Clicking his tongue in annoyance, he swiftly dished out one lightning slash after another that came flew towards Simon.

Each of these was a culmination of his skill [Dual Slice] bestowed by his class [Dual Wielder] and the Lightning Magic Mastery provided by his Twin Blades.

As Simon had the advantage on the sky, he swiftly utilised his skill [High-Speed Flight] and nimbly dodge all the attacks that came targeting. He didn't dare to tank these slashes as he felt a sharp

piercing intent from all these attacks and even he with his high defence would be injured if any of these attacks connected.

Dodging all of the attacks that came flying towards him with a flap of his wide bat-like wings. He conjured his [Flame Magic- Flame Spears] and shot them towards Laris.

As expected of lightning magic the intermediate form of electro magic, completely engulfed in it Laris easily avoided all of his attacks.

Lightning magic not only held destructive properties but also was the quickest among all the five basic forms of mana. Even though Laris couldn't fly, in terms of speed, he was no less fast than Simon who could fly.

RUMBLE... RUMBLE... one flame spear after another rained down like a storm, each containing an unimaginable might. Wherever the flame spear landed, the landed in a few meters area would be burned and scorched black.

Crimson spears of flames dropped down from the sky carrying an unimaginable heat and bombarded the ground, the scene was the very picture of a doomsday. However, the target of the attack swiftly avoided all of the spears and it couldn't even touch the edges of his clothes.

Laris dodged all of the flame spears cast by the demon and countered with his own strikes. But just like before, using the advantage of its flight, the demon nimble dodged all of the lightning attacks he sent towards him.

Clicking his tongue in irritation, Laris cursed "This is going nowhere, I must get close to him to deal any real damage". Right after saying that, Laris charged straight towards the airborne demon.

No matter how many flame spears Simon threw at Laris, all of them were swiftly avoided by him as the lightning magic gave him quite the boost in terms of speed.

"Damn this slippery loach... none of my attacks are connecting. There is only one way to make sure that my attacks hit him".

Seeing that Laris was similarly becoming impatient, he knew that the one that shows any signs of opening will be the one getting up injured.

From how Laris moved and carried himself, Simon knew that the man had a rich combat experience and battle sense. He dodged all of his attacks with minimal movements and countered at the very moment that Simon showed any opening during his attacks.

It was very difficult for him to match Laris in terms of skills however when it comes to pure stats, he had a huge advantage. Simon was after all a Demon Viscount a nobility amongst the demon. Thus his stats was much higher than an ordinary human.

Both of them clashed once again in midair, Laris engulfed in his lightning magic brandishing his twin blades and Simon covered in his wild crimson flames threw down flaming spears.

Flames and lightning intertwined around each other, suppressing the other and fighting for supremacy.

BANG... with a loud bang both the magic destroyed the other and disappeared, but this time it was Laris who was pushed back. The force of the two magic clashing was so great that the resulting shockwave sent him flying back towards the ground.

Just when his body was about to hit the ground, he forcefully turned his body and effortlessly landed on his feet.

Simon used this opportunity to connect another attack and punched at Laris with all his might. Seemingly as if he felt the incoming attack, Laris instinctively dodged towards the side just in time to barely avoid the all-out punch from Simon.

The moment he saw that his attack failed to connect with its target, with a flap of his wings Simon swiftly jumped up dodging the following attacks that came from his sides. As soon as he moved away, two blades arced in lightning came slashing down at the place that he was just moments before.

BANG...

Lightning ran rampant and blasted the very ground apart. However, the attacks didn't stop there, immediately after follow up attacks came flying towards Simon forcing him dozens of meters back.

Just as he stabilised himself, he saw a lightning flash from the corner of his eyes and immediately crossed his hands to shield himself. Seeing the smirk on Laris's lips, he immediately realised that he made a mistake.

The lightning attack made an arc and targeted him from the side. RUMBLE... with a rumbling sound along with an intense pain, the attack squarely hit him and blew him far back.

BOOOM... a long ditch was created as Simon's body skidded and rolled across the ground for the second time in their fight. Without missing a beat, Laris sped on and dished another round of attacks that came flying towards the fallen demon.

Simon jumped right back after being sent crashing into the ground and utilised his [High-Speed Flight] skills to swiftly dodge all of the incoming attacks. Cursing himself for falling for that trap, he increased the speed of his attacks by a notch.

BOOM...BOOM...BOOM... flames and lightning constantly clashed against each other and destroyed everything that was in their way.

Land gauged out for miles, trees burned into cinders and even the mana in the surrounding was starting to distort. That was how fierce of a clash both parties were engaged in.

The adventurers from the Seven Swords guild who were watching the battle from the distance, hurriedly tried use their own skills and magic to disturb the demon. However, just as they were about to throw their skills towards Simon, a warhorse covered in crimson flames stood between them.

The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse neighed and stood in front of the adventurers who were trying to get in the way of his master. Its flaming hooves stomped on the ground and immediately the flames started encircling the place around the adventurers.

A circle of flames was created with the adventurers and Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse in between. The warhorse stood mightily amidst the flames making the adventurers cower whenever they gazed upon it.

The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was very loyal and since its master told it to keep these adventurers busy, he wouldn't allow any of them to get in the way of his master.

With a loud roar, it charged straight towards the adventurers who now had their eyes locked on him. The warriors with their shields raised, stood in front of the mages casting magic from the backlines.

However, it was not a threat to the warhorse as it directly rammed towards the adventurers who were trying to stop its charge with their shield.

BANG... with a heavy dull sound, the adventurers were sent flying as they continuously spat out blood.

Chapter 130: Might of the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse

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The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was a race that didn't belong to this world. It was a prized steed from one of the popular games on earth and was extremely rare to even get one.

It was due to the [Main Menu] that transmigrated alongside Simon that the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was able to incarnate and gallop the lands of Althaea.

The inhabitants of this world were in the unknown, they had never seen such a race and that was why they weren't aware of its fierceness which made it coveted by all the players back on earth.

When the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse begins its charge, even those of much higher ranks and level wouldn't dare to stand in its way much less take the brunt head-on. It only spelt certain doom for those that did.

With four powerful forelegs and two hindlegs supporting its powerful body compact with muscles, it was like the most powerful engine. Not to mention the momentum and speed it rams its target with can easily topple even a mountain.

It was nothing short of madness to stand on its path while it charged. As can be seen from the condition of the adventurers that were brave enough to take the full brunt of its charge. Their shields were broken, armours shattered and bodies seeping with blood as they silently lay on the ground.

Nobody could tell if they were dead or alive as they didn't even twitch after getting rammed by the warhorse. The charge of the warhorse in front of them was so fast that even before their brain could comprehend what had happened, some of their teammates were already down for the count.

All they could see were the flaming hoof prints imprinted on the ground after its charge. Evidence that everything that happened was reality and no illusion.

Seeing its might, the other warriors that were trying to stop its charge, gulped in dread as their bodies continuously trembled and sweat-soaked their clothes wet.

"What kind of monster is that?" one of the adventurers, a [Wizard] asked with a pale face. His eyes were clearly saying that he couldn't even see the charge of the warhorse before it appeared so close to them.

"I don't know, I have never seen something like this in my life" replied another [wizard] that was near him.

"There are no records of any beast such as this even in history" due to nervousness and fear, the adventurers started arguing among themselves.

"How can that be? A beast of such characteristic and might would be over a disaster class, how can it elude the records".

"I don't know... I don't know, there is no point in asking me" one of the adventurers with a weak heart, knelt on the ground while clutching his head with both hands.

It was not only him but most of the adventurers had their spirit broken when they saw those warriors with their high defence dying instantly. How could they not?

Each of those warriors was around level 230-250 and were either [Sword Knight] or [Swordmaster]. The [Sword Knight] and [Sword Master] class were two of the warriors class boasting a high defence. Their stats were mostly focused on Strength, Defence and Endurance which made them the ideal class to hold the frontlines.

Compared to the [Wizard] class which didn't provide much in defence and instead gave a marginal stat boost in magic, warrior classes mostly had high defence and all-round stats to make up for the little agility and magic they provide.

Despite that, these warriors who had the highest defence among them, were unable to block the charge of the demonic warhorse for even a second and instead ended up dying by the battering force. Scattering and falling just like dominoes.

If these sturdy warriors couldn't hold the demonic warhorse down, how could they [wizards] with their paper-thin defence cast their magic without being worried?

The nearby warriors could still vividly recall the dull sounds of bones and armours breaking before their teammates were sent flying and whenever they recalled it, their blood would run cold. They who took pride in their defence and armours that made them as sturdy as a boulder didn't want to stand in the frontlines, not against the warhorse staring out at them.

The warriors that were remaining didn't want to experience the force behind the charge of the demonic warhorse in front of them. And the mage class who had a low defence to begin with, didn't want to cast their magic without the warriors lining in front of them.

Since they knew that the warhorse would charge towards the mage that casts the magic first, nobody wanted to stand in front of the path of the warhorse. Just by standing there, it had made the adventurers cower into submission.

Seeing the wavering will of the adventurers and that nobody wanted to make a move first, the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse gave a low neigh before charging towards them once again.

It was quite intelligent and was ranked as [B] by the Analysis. Even its stats were much higher than the current Simon. Hence one could imagine the might it held within its powerful body that gave chills to anyone looking at it.

The demonic warhorse was designed so that it could follow the players in wars and battles therefore its battle instinct was quite sharp even though similar to Simon it had no prior battle experience.

Following its sharp instincts, it could see the dread and fear in the eyes of the adventures, even the rhythm of their wildly pounding hearts, didn't go unnoticed by it. It could clearly feel that the adventurers are disorganised and were currently in a state where they were nothing but easy prey.

Thus it charged towards them once again. But his time far from blocking its charge, the adventurers were fleeing away from it like headless chickens.

Nobody wanted to tangle with this herald of death who could squash them easily with its flaming hooves and instead chose the much easier option and that was to run away from it.

Their formation was completely in a mess and if anybody saw it, nobody would recognise them much less believe that they were first-rate adventurers from the Seven Swords guild looking at their pathetic display.

they ran and dispersed everywhere, but how could their speed be compared to its charge? The warhorse instantly caught up to the fleeing adventurers and used the crimson horn-like antlers to impale them with it.

Those adventurers that were unlucky enough to get stabbed by the bloodhorn, screamed in pain while their bodies were still strung on the antlers as the warhorse kept on charging forward.

One of the adventurers that was about to get impaled by that dreadful horn, swiftly sidestepped to dodge the horn and just when he sighed in relief as if avoiding a calamity, the bloodhorn mysteriously curved like a whip and stabbed him from behind.

“Ahhhhhhh... save me, someone save meeeee” after getting pierced, his body was strung on the antlers similar to the other adventurers and was carried all over the place as the warhorse kept on charging towards the fleeing others.

No matter how they struggled, they couldn't find the strength to break free from the antlers and slowly felt like all of their strength was seeping away from them.

The ones strung on its antlers roared in agony and didn't even have a moment to pay any mind to the other adventures suffering a similar fate as the horn that had impaled them, started glowing bright red.

An unimaginable amount of pain kept assaulting the adventurers from the area that got stabbed by the horn and peculiar markings started appearing on their skin. It wasn't just that, after the pain their mind stated getting hazier while insanity and madness started getting hold of them. They quickly put off any resistance they were trying to muster and wished to experience more of the pain.

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Ranks given to monsters by the Guild

level Class

100 Normal

200 Strong

300 Elite

400 Super

500 Disaster

600 Calamity

700 Catastrophe

800+ ???