

D. of Pride 96

Chapter 96:- Chaos (2)

“If there is nothing else then I’ll take my leave,” the man in assassins garb said as he prepared to leave. His body was starting to distort and blend with the surroundings when an underling of Laris ran up to the house and hastily said while huffing “S-Sir Laris...huff huff... sir Laris are you there?”.

The tone of the newcomer was hurried and sounded urgent. “I’m there, come in,” Laris said as he ordered his subordinate to enter. The subordinate hastily entered as soon as he was ordered and found Laris standing near the couch.

Just when he was about to say something, he noticed that other than him, there was another man present inside the room covered in a black assassin’s robe from head to toe opposite Laris.

The underling looked at the man and deliberated whether it is the opportune time to relay the message or not. “What is it? if you have something to report then hurry up and report or else get lost” Laris was already frustrated therefore he barked out at his underling.

The underling on the other hand was perspiring a lot as he kept on looking at the assassin, he knew that he couldn’t dillydally as he could see the irritation on Laris’ face. The underling reported “Sir Laris it’s about the task you told us about...”.

Catching onto the hint, Laris immediately understood what the content of the report was about. He turned towards the man in assassin’s garb and said “If you don’t have anything more to relay from the guild master then you can take your leave”.

Seeing that the assassin simply nodding and silently leaving the room, Laris was silent for a while before he searched every corner of the room trying to find any presence trying to snoop in their conversation.

After he found that there was no presence hidden in the room, Laris finally sighed in relief and told his subordinate to go on. The reason behind him chasing away his big brother’s subordinate was very simple, he didn’t want the man to know about the existence of Forest Spring Royal Spirit as it was the only hope for him to raise his ranking within the guild.

Returning back with a royal spirit orb, was his only chance to prove his guild wrong especially now when they have decided to send another team for backup.

What Laris didn't know was that the man other than giving him the message from guild master, was sent here by his big brother to look after him. The man used [Stealth] and appeared outside the house and silently eavesdropped on them from the rooftop.

[Stealth] was a skill exclusive to assassin' class, and the more proficient the use is with this skill, the better they can hide their presence from the people nearby. The higher the class of the assassin the more effective the skill.

Inside the bamboo house, the subordinate reported after he saw that it was only the two of them left in the house. "Sir Laris the remaining Forest Spring Spirits succeeded in escaping towards the depths of the territory of the Ancient Treants. We tried to give chase but ten of them got injured and five of them are dead. Fearing that we might suffer more casualties, we didn't delve any deeper."

The subordinate said with fear and trepidation still lingering on his face. Listening to the report, Laris's face became uglier and contorted severely. He was just thinking about raising his rank in the guild by earning merit from this operation only to see it almost fail right in front of him.

Suddenly as if remembering something, he asked "what happened to the group that was after the Royal Spirit?".

It was at this moment that the man who was eavesdropping from the rooftop had his eyes wide open when the name Royal Spirit came up. Although he was not very well informed, he still heard about the rumours regarding a supreme treasure.

Even if he did not know all the heaven-defying abilities that the royal spirit orb can grant, but he still knew that it was an absolutely precious treasure incomparable to any treasures he had ever seen.

The underling of Laris who was asked the question seemed to lower his head at this moment and hesitated for a while. Realizing that something had gone wrong, Laris further pressured "what happened tell me? Did the Royal Spirit self-destructed?". He couldn't help but think of the worst-case scenario but even Laris couldn't have imagined the answer that he would get.

The subordinate finally replied with a pale face from the pressure emitting from Laris. “The ones who went after the Royal spirit were all killed. Their bodies are so badly damaged that it is impossible to discern who is who anymore... gugh”.

However, before the subordinate could even complete his sentence, he was kicked in the stomach as his body made an arch and smashed on the wall made of bamboo breaking it in the process. BANG... a loud noise of something being smashed sounded out.

After kicking his subordinate, Laris furiously roared “I don’t give a shit about discerning who is who from their bodies. What I want to know is the location of the Royal spirit and whether it is alive or not dammit”.

“Ugh” clenching his stomach, the subordinate said while crawling “subordinate is incapable, we do not whether the Royal Spirit is alive or not”.

BANG... another loud noise echoed out as the table placed near the couch was smashed into bits by Laris.

Right now, he was so angry that he wanted to kill the underling of his right here but he controlled his anger and restrained himself from doing anything rash. Laris cursed “Useless, useless all of you”, right after cursing he ordered immediately “Call all the teams back I want to know what happened back there. Do you understand? Call them right now”.

The subordinate immediately got up while clenching his stomach and ran while saying “Subordinate understands, I’ll immediately call them back”. Although they were all members of the Seven Swords guild, Laris was much higher up on the ladder and the likes of them were just ordinary members. Even if some of them died, it wouldn’t affect their guild in the slightest as their numbers could easily be filled.

While this was going on, there were two people secretly eavesdropping on their conversation without being spotted by Laris.

One of them was the man on the roof dressed in assassin’s garb, Ted. While the other was Miser who was quietly snooping on them from the corner of the house. The place he was hiding was just outside the reach of Laris and couldn’t be spotted that easily.

Miser was a shrewd man and always looked for opportunities to exploit. If not for his debt, he wouldn't have disclosed the location of the Forest Spring Spirits to the Seven Swords guild and would have instead looked for an opportunity to hoard it all by himself.

Even now he was making schemes of his own knowing that the situation of the Seven Swords guild didn't look good and there might arise an opportunity that he could exploit from all this turmoil.

Chapter 97: Chaos (3)

Ted was the direct subordinate of Boris one of the Seven Swords. He had always carried out the shadier task that the guild cannot do upfront.

Killing, kidnapping, coercing was just like a daily job for him. His ranking in the guild was by no means low and there were only Seven Swords above him. That is to say, there are only seven people that he considers are above him in terms of strength and position.

Ted was considered a rather powerful entity in the guild, after all, being a level 379 [Killer Assassin], there were only a few people in the guild who could match him.

This time he was assigned with a mission to look and monitor the actions of Laris who was given a task that was considered extremely important for the guild. If not for the fact that sending a team of experts consisting of Seven Swords inside the Ghastly Winding Forest would attract the attention of all the guilds in the neighbouring cities, they wouldn't have only assigned Laris for the job.

Unfortunately, their city of Morgress had many spies and prying eyes placed by the guilds to monitor their actions. Ted even believed that there were some moles among the outer members of their guild. However, since they have no way of identifying them, they can only send those that have been deeply tied with their guild and whose lives are in the guild's control for the mission.

On top of the rooftop of the bamboo house, Ted silently observed the conversation between Laris and his subordinate and couldn't help but knit his brows.

That was because, from the report he could tell that even before he had arrived, the plan set up by Laris had started going awry. The mission this time was extremely crucial for their guild as its success meant taking a giant leap and ruling the continent as one of its hegemons.

All the Seven Swords had placed enough importance on it. Failing at this point was not an option.

Ted sighed at Laris' inadequateness and thought 'Why can't the little brother be like his elder brother. If he had even one-tenth of the talent of his elder brother, it would make my job a lot easier.'

Anyways his master Sir Boris and also the elder brother of Laris had strictly told him not to interfere with the task and only help out when it is absolutely necessary.

That is why he only planned to observe the situation for now as for providing his help, he didn't think it was necessary after all Laris wasn't a weakling. Even among the guild, Laris would be ranked amongst the top twenty.

In the far south inside the Ghastly Winding Forest, a group of ten people silently marched forth as they cut down any monsters that attacked them on their way. On the lead was a muscular man, who was a head taller than any of the people around him and whose body shined with a bronze lustre. The man had a bald head and was carrying a broadsword on his back. Unlike the warriors near him, he wasn't wearing any armour and used the broadsword on his back to quickly finish off a Windwolf that sprang onto him.

Splash... Awoooo....

A cutting noise was heard and the Windwolf was cleanly bisected into two. After cutting the Windwolf, the man looked at the people behind which consisted of four [Sword Knight], two [Silent Assassins], three [Wizards], and him a [Berserker] for a total of ten people.

As the group after finishing the Windwolves stopped for some rest, one of the four sword knights decked in a heavy warrior outfit asked the man leading the group "Sir Dale what are your orders,".

The name of the man was Dale and one could see the insignia of Seven Swords carved in his belt. Dale deliberated on the question for a while before issuing the order "We are gonna camp here for the time being. We cannot miss the expedition party sent by the Sea God's Trident guild if we stay on this side of the forest.

"Also send someone to tell Laris that we are here" the sword knight nodded and quickly executed his orders. Dale had a revolted face, in all honesty, he did not want to stay at the same place where Laris was as he didn't want to take orders from someone he saw as his equal in the guild.

He was here on the strict orders of the guild master who conveyed that the success of this mission assigned to Laris was quite important for the guild and they absolutely cannot mess it up. Hence he was sent here for backup.

Dale's job was to misdirect the expedition party sent by the Sea God's Trident to find the cause for the mass outbreak of monsters from the forest. "It seems that despite the orders from the guild master to not make any conspicuous move, Laris had done exactly the same and now I was sent here to clean up after his mess... tch" He clicked his tongue and got more annoyed the more he thought

Dale was one of the high ranking members of the Seven Swords guild. He was aware of some of the finer details of the task and that is why he was assigned for this mission. Fortunately for their guild, they have a perfect scapegoat to put the blame on for all the disturbance and that was none other than that newly formed dungeon.

His task was very simple and that was to lure the Sea God's guild towards the dungeon. Make them delay for as long as possible until Laris's team finish their task and moves out of the forest. It can be said that he was quite jealous of Laris because he knew that the task this time was kept very secretive and was very important. If Laris completed the mission successfully, his contributions and ranking in the guild was sure to skyrocket in the future.

However, there was nothing Dale could do to stop Laris from hoarding all the merit since his big brother was one of the Seven Swords. The name seven swords weren't just for show, they are the top seven members of the guild who held enough power that their position couldn't be shaken inside the guild.

Having one of such people backing you up, Dale naturally felt jealous of that. In his view, Laris was just riding on the tailcoat of his elder brother. No matter in terms of levels, power, or achievement, he wasn't behind Laris.

Inside the hidden village of the Forest Spring Spirit clan, a group of people was currently gathered at the large bamboo house located at the centre of the village. They were all donned in different clothes. But one thing that they had in common was the insignia of the seven swords which was hidden inside their armours and robes.

They were the members of the Seven Swords guild and currently they all had a nervous and apprehensive face. Laris looked at his team members of which only thirty remained. Their initial number of forty was brought down to thirty after ten of them died, while the remaining had small while others had severe injuries.

He couldn't believe that they were so severely injured while hunting the Forest Spring Spirits who couldn't even be compared to a direwolf in terms of pure strength.

Laris thundered "Are you guys so weak that you can't even capture Forest Spring Spirits who are even weaker than direwolves. Did I bring you guys just to make fun of myself? What is with this pathetic side of yours? I have never seen our numbers being cut down like this before. I don't want to hear any excuses, tell me exactly what happened back there in the forest".

A man with his left hand missing and injured from head to toe, came up and reported " Sir Laris we tied our best but the Forest Spirits were determined to self-destruct their spirit orbs to allow the remaining ones to escape. Though we couldn't stop the ones self-destructing their spirit orbs, we still went after the ones that escaped deep inside the forest. But the territory they escaped into was the area of the Ancient Treants. A single Ancient Treant was so powerful that even the ten of us were no match for it".

Chapter 98: Scheme

According to the underling, their group have suffered heavy losses as soon as they entered the Ancient Treant territory and were nearly wiped out if not for deciding to retreat immediately. The situation could have been worse had they delved any deeper.

Laris observed the condition of the man and couldn't help but curse out internally. Even for him, a level 311 [Dual Wielder] it was asking too much to handle a single Ancient Treant by himself. All he could do was stall it by dodging its attack, forget about dealing any damage much less defeating it.

An Ancient Treant was the next evolution of the Elder Treant which had lived for more than a thousand years and had accumulated a rich amount of mana from the mystical veins inside the earth.

A single Ancient Treant was so strong that it could evenly match with any one of the seven swords from their guild. The strongest entities in their guild. That is to say that a single Ancient Treant was as powerful as the top seven members of their guild.

Even their entire guild would be wiped out if they delved deeper into the Ancient Treant territory, forget about the lots of them.

If the remaining Forest Spring Spirits have escaped inside the territory of the Ancient Treants, he had no other choice but to give up on them. He wasn't going to take the risk of delving into their territory knowing their strength full well.

No matter how unwilling he was or even if his heart bled from the loss, he could only give up. But his main concern wasn't the normal Forest Spirits but rather the Forest Spring Royal Spirit that Miser told him about. A single royal spirit orb was incomparable to any number of spirit orbs.

That royal spirit was his only hope that could make up for this blunder. The Forest Spring Spirit village was brimming with more than two hundred spirits, but he was only able to accumulate less than a hundred spirit orbs. The rest either self-destructed their spirit orbs, got killed in the process or managed to escape inside the Ancient Treants territory. If he wanted to redeem himself, the royal spirit was his only choice.

Laris asked impatiently "what about that Little girl? What happened to the team that went after that girl?". He didn't want to reveal the identity of the little girl, that is why he asked in a roundabout manner.

There was no answer from his team members and just when he was starting to get annoyed, the underling that gave him the report earlier stepped out. "Sir Gelgar the team that went after that little girl are all dead. We went to check the area where we found their bodies and discovered that they didn't die from the treants but from a large-scale explosion that occurred in that area".

Laris was stunned, he didn't expect to hear such an answer. "Hmm? a large-scale explosion! What do you mean?" Laris immediately became concerned and asked immediately.

The subordinate gave him the full details seeing how grave the expression of Laris was. "It was like this....". After listening to the report, he became aware that the group that was after the royal spirit died near the place where a fight had occurred recently. Laris believed that the team that was after the royal spirit girl, most likely died after getting swept up in the range of the explosion that had erupted from a fight.

He couldn't help but make an ugly face when he thought about the cause of their death. "Those fools" he cursed.

But thanks to them, he was at least now aware that there was a big fight that happened near the territory of the treants not so long ago. It seemed that other than them, there was somebody else deep inside the Ghatly winding Forest who had also infiltrated the territory of the treants.

“If that is true, then it is bad” Laris thought. If the actions of their guild was revealed, his head was sure to roll. Even if his big brother was one of the Seven Swords he would be able to do anything to change that.

Although the sight of the explosion was the only clue he had, he couldn’t miss it. Laris immediately ordered, “Thoroughly search the place where the fight had occurred. I want somebody to be there as a lookout all the time”.

After giving his orders, he sighed and fell inside his thoughts ‘Was it Dale’s team who intruded the treants territory?. If it’s them then it’s natural that they would be attacked by the treants and in that case, he might know about the little girl. If the girl wandered into Dale’s team then the situation can still be salvaged. I must make contact with Dale’. Thinking so, he immediately went inside the house.

Laris was quite close but even he couldn’t have imagined that it was Simon’s magic that had wiped out his team members. Even the person himself wasn’t aware that he had accidentally wiped out the team that was after Cecilia with his magic while focusing on the Elder Treants.

Speaking of Simon, he was currently inside his dungeon making preparations to rescue the Forest Spring Spirits that had been enslaved by Laris. He looked at the participants- Irene, Cecilia, Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse before asking “Are you guys ready?”.

Cecilia looked at Simon with amazement and her small mouth made an ‘O’ shape. Right now, Simon looked exactly like her, and even she couldn’t spot any difference. If it wasn’t for his voice still remaining the same, he would appear just like another version of her.

Simon had used the Elixir of Metamorphosis that he bought from the [Shop] to morph into Cecilia. Elixir of Metamorphosis was one of the items he listed in the shop in his previous life. Fortunately, even after the merger between the [Main menu] and dungeon menu, most of the items listed in the [Shop] such as the Elixir of Sacred Sanctum were still there along with the items from the dungeon menu’s [Shop].

The Elixir of Morphosis just like its name, allows one to freely morph into anyone they want to change into. As long as they had seen them before, the user can morph into that person and take their appearance. Of course, there were some drawbacks such as the voice which couldn't be changed. However, it wasn't an issue this time.

To initiate their plan, he needed to morph into Cecilia because only this way he would be able to lure them out of Cecilia's village and rescue the enslaved Forest Spring Spirits in the meantime.

Simon who now looked exactly like Cecilia patted the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse and said "Look after her alright". He pointed at Cecilia.

The warhorse neighed loudly and thumped its forelegs into the ground as if saying 'leave it to me'.

Simon was a little worried about Cecilia who had no combat abilities and had no means to protect herself. He had to make sure that no harm comes to her during the process. Even while having Irene nearby, he still felt that it was better for the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse to accompany Cecilia. That way she would have additional insurance. Irene who was quietly looking from the side had an aura as peaceful as a frozen lake. But her eyes weren't calm whenever they looked at Simon.

For the past few days, she had been amazed by him again and again, and even now when he morphed into Cecilia. She looked at Simon, although he looked a little comical in Cecilia's appearance and with that voice of his.

But she was amazed by his resourcefulness and his determination to not put Cecilia into any danger and instead becoming the bait himself.

In the past few days, she came to understand the temperament and nature of Simon quite a bit. He was the kind of guy who did things that others couldn't even imagine nonchalantly and would write it off as something inconsequential.

Stubborn to the extreme, easy-going and had an unfettered will that wasn't bound to anything. He was the type of guy who would confront all his troubles without running away and when he puts his mind into something, he would never back away from it.

At this time even Irene didn't realise that she had unknowingly started paying more attention to Simon.

Chapter 99: Scheme (2)

On top of a small hill inside the southern region of the Ghastly Winding Forest, a group of ten people could be seen camping. They all had the insignia of the seven swords and belonged to the same guild.

They were precisely the team led by Dale. Currently, inside one of the tents, Dale was sitting cross-legged on the ground. He had a pensive look on his face as he said “What are you trying to say? Are you implying that I’m deliberately hiding that girl from you? Don’t joke with me. I have never seen any little girl you speak of. My answer shall remain the same no matter how many times you ask Laris”.

Though there was no one inside the tent, Dale was talking with someone. He had a small white conch on his hand that transmitted his voice to the receiver and vice versa.

The thing on his hand was called the transmission shell. It is marked with a small magic rune that allows the user to transmit their message and location to the other party holding a transmission shell with a similar pattern.

The higher the quality and complexity of the rune, the higher the distance one can transmit their message through. A transmission shell had varying costs depending on the quality of the rune inlaid. But even the cheapest one wasn’t something an ordinary individual could afford. The transmission shell on Dale’s hand was one of the cheapest ones available on the market and couldn’t transmit messages if the distance is more than three thousand kilometres.

Saying that he had nothing else to say anymore, Dale cut the transmission.

A man dressed in ash grey robe, holding a wooden staff with a gem as big as a marble inlaid in between, came up to him and bowed. He was one of the three [Wizards] of his team and was quite a capable man.

The [Wizard] said, “Why is sir Laris putting so much emphasis on that little girl? Could it be that there is something special on that little girl he talks about?”.

Dale squinted his eyes before saying “There is definitely something that he is hiding from all of us. It makes me curious but unfortunately, I cannot get involved in all of that”.

He cleared his thoughts and asked, “Did the exploration team dispatched by the Sea God’s guild arrive yet?”. The [Wizard] immediately replied, “They are at the borders and will soon be entering the forest”.

“I see” Dale nodded before asking another question “are our preparations ready?”. His task was to lure the team sent by the Sea God’s guild towards the newly formed dungeon located at the east side of the forest.

The Sea God’s guild was one of the top five in the entire Ellesmere Kingdom, therefore he cannot go on with his mission with half-assed preparations.

The [Wizard] pointed at a steel cage more than ten meters big and said “Sir Dale rest assured, the three beasts inside are fully in our control and can be let out anytime with your orders”.

Dale looked at the wide cage from which continuous roars and snarls came out. Three pairs of crimson eyes stared at others as if they would leap at them any moment.

“Alright, after they enter halfway through the forest, send these three chimaeras after them. Make sure that they follow orders and properly lead the Sea God’s guildmembers towards the dungeon”. He stared at the three mix-match of beasts that were so hideous to look at that even he couldn’t help but look away.

“It will be done as per your orders. This subordinate shall take his leave now” the [Wizard] said and immediately left to carry out his orders.

Now left all alone, Dale gazed at the further end of the southern region of the Ghastly Winding Forest and clenched his hands. He cannot fail his task. The success of this whole mission depended on whether he could successfully distract the Sea God’s guild long enough to allow Laris’s team to move out of the forest.

As for the demon living inside the dungeon, he did not pay any attention to it, after all, he believed that the newly formed dungeon would be taken down by the Sea God’ guild quite easily and when the dungeon dies so will the demon living inside with it.

There was no need for Dale to pay attention to something that was about to be destroyed. It was common knowledge in this world that a newly formed dungeon is very weak and should be placed in an area that makes it difficult for others to find it easily.

There might be some exceptions but a newly formed dungeon is always ranked at [E], which made it quite easy to conquer.

Dale did not pay much attention to the dungeon, but he was a little concerned whether the dungeon would be able to stall the Sea God's Guild long enough for their guild to get out of the forest.

From the reports he got before coming here, he was aware that it hadn't been long before the dungeon had emerged inside the forest, and to top it off the dungeon master did not even bother to hide it from others.

From the report, he could infer that either the demon thought that it was strong enough to push back any intruders or was foolish enough to not know about the consequences of not hiding a newly formed dungeon.

Dale believed that the demon belonged to the latter category and was foolish enough to not know about the common sense of this world.

"Well, it doesn't matter. If you can at least delay them for a while, it would be plenty enough. You should be thankful that even a demon as foolish as you can be of use to our guild. Knowing that you were useful to our Seven Swords guild, you can at least die without regrets hahaha" Dale laughed out loud.

Chapter 100: Scheme (3)

Chuck was the head of the Sea God's guild branch located in the city of Mountmend. Though their branch was not very renowned within the Sea God's guild they were still a branch of one of the top five guilds across the whole kingdom of Ellesmere.

Hence they still had quite a few skilled adventures even in this backwater place. A month ago, the main guild informed them of the arrival of Godwin and Raven, the two legendary figures of their guild and the talk of their everyday conversation. After all, those two were just too famous and being from the same guild; of course, they all felt proud.

At that time, Chuck was quite excited by the news, thinking that he would be able to meet with the figures that their entire guild held in high regard and possibly even get to exchange some pointers with them. An opportunity to cross swords with them wasn't something you come across every day.

Although he didn't want to brag but he was pretty skilled with the sword and given the chance, he would be able to raise his skills through their exchange. Chuck knew that if he could glimpse at their superior techniques, he would have benefitted tremendously.

However, his hopes didn't come to fruition. The monsters started breaking out of the forest towards the city of Mountmend. Monsters breaking out of the Ghastly Winding Forest was nothing new for the city of Mountmend, but this time it was reported by the soldiers stationed near the borders that the movement of the monsters coming out of the forest was rather unusual.

Seizing the opportunity when Godwin and Raven arrived at the city of Mountmend, the city lord Alfred immediately requested a meeting. The request was to explore the Ghastly Winding Forest and investigate the reason behind the mass outbreak of monsters.

The main guild sent Godwin and Raven to the city of Mountmend for another reason, therefore it became Chuck's responsibility to carry out the request. Although he was quite annoyed by how sudden the request was, he was in no position to reject it.

Chuck couldn't help but sigh when he thought about missing the opportunity of duking it out with Godwin and Raven to sharpen his skills. It is rumoured that their skill has reached a point where even the top brass of their main guild were no match for them.

"Cheer up captain. The circumstances were so that it couldn't be helped, there is no point dwelling on it" said a beautiful girl twenty or so years in age. She was wearing a white dress that augmented her lithe figure and had a beautiful face that could captivate hundreds of thousands of men.

Pink lips and bright eyes made her seem to be quite cheerful. Her name was Lina, she was the vice leader of this party and a level 325 [Sage].

[Sage] is the higher class of [Wizard] and only those who can raise their levels and skill high enough, can achieve this class.

Chuck couldn't help but laugh helplessly and cheer up with her energetic voice. "Yeah, you are right I cannot get distracted at this moment". Currently, he was leading a team of twenty-five people into exploring the Ghastly Winding Forest.

Although he said he can't get distracted, he was already familiar with this part of the forest and knew the topography very well as well as where all the powerful monsters resided. It wasn't his first time delving into the forest.

After all, every adventurer residing in the City of Mountmend, relies on hunting monsters in the Ghastly Winding Forest to earn money for their living. Every part of a monster is useful, be it their

meat, hide, fangs or claws, each has its own uses. Some are used in forging and enhancing weapons, while others are used in alchemy or could be sold to the merchants for a good price.

The mission to hunt down monsters help in culling down their numbers and keep the city safe and at the same time earns them a good amount of money.

For Chuck and his teammates, it was just business like any other day. Their goal was to investigate any strange happening inside the forest and report it back to the guild. Although the mission sounds easy, its grade was unknown.

Adventurers use grades to identify the difficulty of the mission. Various factors affect the difficulty of the mission such as the political, economical condition of the area or the danger level of the monsters residing in the area.

The grades start from [F] and go all the way to [S+]. An F grade mission was the easiest and in the same manner, the S+ was the hardest. That being said, in a backwater place such as their city of Mountemend which was at the corner of the central continent and borders the demon continent, [B] was the highest grade.

If there is an adventurer or team of adventurers that could handle a grade more than [B], they would mostly choose to operate near the central area or the capital city of the kingdom. The commission that they could there, was many times more compared to the remote and border regions.

An [Unknown] grade mission was only assigned when the grade of the mission is not known or could vary depending on the situation inside. Though their current mission was an [Unknown] grade, the fact that the unusual occurrence was happening inside the Ghastly Winding Forest was enough to warrant it a high-grade mission.

Even after searching the eastern part of the forest for a while, they did not find anything unusual. They had come to hunt in this forest many times before but they never chose to delve deeper towards the west side of the forest as they were all aware of strong monsters residing inside.

Those adventurers that let greed get into their heads and delve deeper into the forest never came back alive. The Ghastly Winding Forest is located in the demon continent and borders the central continent, therefore not only strong monsters but even demons could rarely be seen sometimes roaming the forest.

Just when Chuck's party was preparing to delve deeper into the forest, Chuck who was leading in front, raised his hand and stopped their march. All the team members were veteran adventurers and immediately became alert, searching the surroundings while covering each others back.

Grrrrrrr....Kriiieeeeekkk...Grooowwwl.

A ferocious aura came from inside the forest and three pairs of crimson eyes stared at them with bloodlust. Chuck immediately commanded, "Get in formation. Do not allow any monsters to slip into the backlines. Warriors raise your shield we will mow them down".

The warriors immediately took out their shields and took their stance defending the backlines.

SHHHAAAAA...

Before the monsters even reached them, a bloodthirsty and frenzied aura filled with killing intent hit the entire group.

Some of them gulped anxiously and raised their weapon trying to fight off the aura that was pressuring them. "Mere tricks will not work on us. Let the light shine upon all of you [Lions Heart]"

Lina shouted before casting her Light magic. A curtain of white light fell on all of the twenty-five people from the sky above and removed the effect of the bloodthirsty aura that hit them earlier. Light Magic, a novice tier magic and one of the four rare forms of mana alongside Time, Space, and dark.

The monsters that were releasing a ferocious aura finally revealed themselves. Looking at their forms, the team was dumbstruck while Chuck knitted his brows.

There was no need to use analysis on the monsters as he already knew what they were. Chimaeras, they are a type of monster that has features of other monsters in their body.

They are generally insentient and are ruled by their instinct or by the orders of their controller. Chuck did not expect to see a chimera here, much less three of them at once. The guild generally identifies them as Strong class monsters but some of them even have the potential to reach Elite, Super, or even the Disaster class.

Race:- Dark Marrow Tiger-python.

Level:- 289

Skills:- Dark Magic Mastery, Berserk, Blood Miasma, Enhanced Claws, Strong Jaws, Blunt Damage Resistance, Cut Resistance, Regeneration, Intimidation, Pain Resistance

Race:- Falcon Wing Bull-Ox

Level:- 281

Skills:- Wind Magic Mastery, Earth Magic Mastry, Berserk, Head Charge, Enhanced Defence, Blunt damage Resistance, Cut resistance, Regeneration, Intimidation, Pain Resistance.

Race:- Elephant Snout Wild Boar

Level:- 290

Skills:- Fire Magic Mastery, Fire Charge, Roar, Berserk, Enhanced Agility, Blunt Damage resistance, Cut Resistance, Regeneration, intimidation, Pain resistance.