

## Death Guns 311

### Chapter 311 - 304: Gracier's Capture 2

While Sera was rushing at fast speed toward the girls, the latter were fighting a bitter battle.

Surrounded by hundreds of monsters, Maria, Gracier, Luna, and Sakuya kept fighting non-stop; Maria, Sakuya, and Gracier got injured. However, thanks to Luna's help they got cured.

"Seriously, I think whoever going after us has gone all out now. To think that can even control a dungeon. Hah!"

Sakuya said after killing a poison toad. She was acting as the vanguard like Maria; Luna was midguard, Gracier at the rear.

"You are right. I wonder what it's their goal; we must quickly clean up these monsters. I believe the real mastermind or at least someone stronger we will show up soon."

Maria, before stepping on the side to dodge a green orc sword, using her free hand she punched the monster's torso, where the heart was located; just before her fist reached the monster chest, ice manifested out of thin air and got wrapped around her fist to form a little ice spike, it was this ice spike that pierced through the monster's chest, instantly freezing its heart before the rest of its body.

Maria didn't wait to see the result before moving toward her next target.

[Hundred Arrows]

At the same time at the rear, Gracier switched her Gift from scythe form to the bow form and aimed it at their left before unleashing a single arrow in the sky, this arrow while falling multiplied into hundred flame arrows that struck a lot of monsters, incinerating the weakest while the strongest although not killed they got momentarily incapacitated.

As if she was waiting for this occasion, the S queen moved, displaying beautiful sword moves; she eliminated those incapacitated monsters before joining Maria to clean up the monsters on her side.

Quickly, the group managed to eliminate the monsters surrounding them. To their utter surprise, another batch of monsters filled the empty place left by the previous ones; however, the current monsters, no skeletons wearing armors, stood in an orderly fashion, the bowmen came forward and aimed their bows at the trio, ready to pull the trigger at any moment. There were also few ghouls mixed

"Girls, fall back. Time for this lady to shine."

Luna's face changed when she saw the undead creatures; her gentle side was gone leaving place to the wild Luna, the battle maniac Luna. It was as if all these killing since they got entrapped on this floor didn't wear her out like the others.

Maria, Sakuya stopped what they were doing and joined Gracier at the back. It was at that moment the skeleton bowmen released their arrows. Mixed among them were some ghouls bowmen.

The sky turned darker due to the numerous arrows flying in the air.

Facing the incoming arrows smeared with a lethal poison that could seal one's fate. Just a scratch from them would be enough to paralyze the body, if not kill. But it was a pity that they were dealing with a rock-hard enemy right now.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

In a string of crisp rasps, the invisible barrier negated all threats mercilessly.

None of the launched arrows managed to pierce Luna's barrier; after the deluge of arrows passed, Luna grinned like a naughty girl that was about to break things.

"Sing for me."

Luna bellowed at the top of her lungs. She raised and spread her arms to the side. Along with this action, innumerable flaring lights erupted around the transparent barrier, dispersing in all directions and ramming into the skeletons. Even though the skeletons wore armors, some were magical armors that were highly resistant to ordinary magical spells; it was a pity that Luna was a healer. Not only that but as a representative of 'holy light,' Luna's attacks were also blessed by holy attributes, which made it a perfect match against these wicked creatures such as undead ones. As soon as the light beams slammed onto the skeletons and ghouls, they would feel as though red branding irons were pressed against their skin at once (especially the ghouls). As blood-curdling screeches filled the air, the encirclement of the skeletons and ghouls disintegrated entirely like a broken eggshell. More attacks followed, completely erasing the undead monsters.

And again soon, another batch of monsters appeared to fill the gap left by the previous monsters. The girls kept fighting. This floor was unusual; no matter how many monsters the girls slew, they seemed there was no end; the most frustrating thing was the mist surrounding them. The current floor was shaped like a forest surrounded by mountains, since the monsters started to attack, since their first attack, the area where the girls are, became covered by mist, they couldn't go back, nor they could find the exit.

Unknown to them, at the moment not too far from them was a group of men fighting against some monsters. Unlike in the girl's case, where the monsters would aggressively charge at them after showing up, the monsters currently fighting against this group didn't look that aggressive, almost as if the monsters have been set not to cause too much trouble for this group.

Naturally, this group was none other than Damien and Leonardo's group.

While fighting against two orcs, Leonardo inquired.

"How is it? I meant on the other side. Did they catch that girl already?"

"Don't be hasty; it is not going to be easy, knowing the girls they will be desperately fighting. I know what you want to do; you want to play the prince who showed up to save the damsels in distress after Gracier got abducted. Am I wrong?"

Effortlessly dispatching monster after monster, Damien mocked.

"Ugh!"

Having his thoughts seen through made Leonardo let out an unpleasant grunt.

'This man is too simple-minded. It's a good thing! I will use you and get rid of you later. You're just a disposable pawn.' Damien inwardly thought before leading his men elsewhere other than the location where was Maria and others.

While Damien was thinking how easy it was to use Leonardo, the latter was grinning inside, already thinking about a method to take care of Damien; truth be told, Leonardo wished to keep all women; Luna was included.

They said cooperation; however, in the dark both were scheming against each other even though they have yet to acquire what they seek.

While they were busy scheming against each other on the lower floor, a big battle was about to occur.

Chapter 312 - 305: Gracier's Capture 3

On the floor before Maria and Damien's floor, the man with golden eyes had caught off with Sera, and he was currently blocking her way.

Looking at the man standing before the doors that led to the next floor, probably where the girls are, judging by the man's reaction, Sera's face was ice cold.

"Move aside.!"

Usually, Sera shouldn't be saying this; she would have attacked; however, this man was tricky to deal with; more importantly, after performing that spirit possession earlier, Sera was mentally exhausted; no recovery potion can recover mental strength in an instant. Sera was secretly recovering her mental strength before launching her strongest attack on the man.

Sera was well aware that Alice would catch soon, even though seriously injured, and having lost an arm, this was not going to stop her.

"Hehehe! Why are you so hasty? Miss Zero, let talk a little bit. There is-"

"Not interested."

Swoosh!

Finally, having recovered enough, Sera attacked the man before the latter could finish his words. The man with golden eyes jumped back to dodge Sera's deadly sword strike.

"Tsk! Tsk! As expected of the one claimed as the strongest assassin, even your sword skills are sure remarkable even though you're supposed to be proficient in daggers."

"Ops! Gotta be careful." the man added before black energy wrapped around his fingers, then he used to deflect the incoming sword strikes.

Suddenly, Sera switched stance; she went on the defensive, she blocked Alice's sneak attack.

Clangs

Swoosh!

Clangs

At the same time that she blocked Alice's sneak attack, the man with golden eyes attacked her; unexpectedly, Sera summoned another sword; however, this time, it was an ordinary sword (A/N: I mean not a Gift), a plain black sword whose only one feature was that it could increase its weight, usually Sera didn't like to use this sword, however, as the saying goes desperate time call for a desperate measure.

Taking on two people without using this sword would be equivalent to committing suicide. Somehow, Alice had perfectly recovered; her missing arm was now back.

"Oh? I never heard that Miss Zero was the wielder of a dual sword. Well, it doesn't matter. We won't be having you interfere up there. Stay obediently here." the man with golden eyes declared; however, what he got in response was Sera's attack.

Sera arrived had flashed next to the man intending to strike him. However, how could Alice allow that? Definitely, not.

Using a thousand steps she had copied from Sera, she disappeared to reappear in front of her master, using her sword to block Sera's strike.

However, just as Sera's sword was about to clash against Alice's sword, something astonishing happened, the plain black sword switched place Sera's Gift.

"No good!" Shouted the man with golden eyes; he finally understood Sera's aim; however, by the time she noticed that, it was already too late.

Kaboom!

Alice, alongside her master, was blasted back by the powerful force being Sera's sword strike (she increased the plain black sword weight around five hundred kg before she swung it.)

Sera wanted to use this opportunity to go on the next floor to rescue Gracier's and the others; however, just before she could go through the door leading to the next floor, she was sent flying after bumping into something that suddenly appeared from the other side.

It was a gigantic monster; this monster had six arms, three heads; most of the monster's arms held sword while another one held a staff.

Sera quickly rolled on the ground to dodge a water bullet shot at her by the hand holding the magic staff.

"Hehehe! Admire another one of our masterpieces. Although initially, they were failures, we couldn't bear to discard them, such we thought why not combine them? So, we did that, and this is the result. By the way, they are the comrade of our proudest accomplishment, 007's comrade."

Like a child that couldn't wait to showcase his new toy, the man with golden eyes declared with his arms wide open, Alice was standing beside him with dead eyes.

Wiping away the blood on her lips, Sera did not say anything; she pointed her two swords at the three any while inwardly asking for Alex's forgiveness for not being able to protect his loved ones; however, she was strong, it was impossible for her to singlehandedly take care of the three monsters in front of her; Alice and the man with golden eyes are stronger as her, let's not forget the unknown variable that just popped up, and judging from their early clash, this three-headed abomination was almost stronger as Sera.

For the first time in a long time, Sera felt suffocated; she wished that Alpha was here; with her help, she could have a chance fighting equally against the three in front of her. Unfortunately, Alpha was not present; while sighing, Sera decided to go all out.

Seeing the burning flame inside Sera's eyes, the desire to still fight even while the odds are against her, the man with golden eyes couldn't help but admire Sera. Unfortunately, he couldn't let anybody go down; if not, what they have painstakingly planned would be wasted. He could never tolerate it; the success of this mission mean that he would be one step closer to his ultimate goal, his worth would increase.

"Alice, Death Golem, let's attack together. No need to restrain your strength; go all out." the man ordered.

As always, Alice only nodded her head while the three-headed monster could only emit some growl.

Sera's expression remained cold even after the man with golden eyes announced that; she launched her Gift high into the air; she was ready to go all out, ready to activate her domain; however, unexpectedly, something happened.

Boom!

The door of the previous floor got suddenly destroyed, and from the other side someone came out, a beastman, lion beastman, golden eyes, golden hair, golden lightning mixed with red flame was dancing around the palm of the man that appeared.

Sauntering toward the dumbfounded Sera and the man with golden eyes, Leon declared.

"Such a nice gathering, and I was not invited? So, I broke my way in. I want to join the fun. You won't mind, right?"

At the end of his sentence, Leon flashed them a smile. Leon finally made an entrance.

Chapter 313 - 306: Gracier's Capture 4

Leon's apparition was out of the man with golden eyes expectation. From all their arrangements, nobody should have been able to appear on this floor, nobody except for Sera, Leonardo's group that got deliberately sent ahead.

"How the hell do you come here-"

Before the man with golden eyes could finish his words, Leon cut him off and said.

"That is not the real question. The real question should be, how can you bypass everything I set up and appear here? Well, too bad I'm not going to answer that."

"You-"

The man with golden eyes almost exploded, if not for the fact that he couldn't bear the consequences of killing Leon as he knew the latter might have a way to find out who's the one killed his soon, and hell would descend upon him.

Too focused on Leon, the man had momentarily forgotten about Sera, which was a pretty bad move.

[Night's Empress of Thousand Deaths!]

Using the opportunity created by Leon's apparition, Sera activated her ultimate ability, a combination of her domain and spirit possession. The brown hair under her cap got elongated, becoming long black hair; her eyes were like the night itself.

"Oh! No-"

Finally aware of the grave mistake he had just committed, the man with golden eyes hesitate no more, with a single command Alice and the abomination tried to block the entrance to the next floor, unfortunately, before they could everything turned dark, the dungeon's light vanished, the fake sun in the sky vanished.

Alice had trouble moving forward; the same goes for the three-headed monster; it was like something got wrapped around their feet, making it impossible for them to advance even the single step.

"Courting death."

The man with golden eyes bellowed before forming a gigantic golden spear flame of twelve meters sent toward where the man believes Sera should be.

Unfortunately, before the golden spear could pierce that location, numerous black hands sprung from the ground and caught the spear before crushing it. The man became momentarily dazed; a dark silhouette had flashed next to him, a dagger coming straight from a tricky angle to claim his life.

The man with golden eyes was not your average character; even though horrified by this Sera, he could still block the blow; he blocked with a golden bow.

At that moment, the forgotten Leon moved; lightning and fire got wrapped around his feet to increase his speed. His destination was obvious, use the chance that everybody was focused on the fight to go down, to rescue Gracier.

Sera had explained a little bit of what happened to him after combining both domain and spirit possession. After using that power to trap Alice and the three-headed monster, Sera used her shadow's skill to appear in Leon's shadow and gave him a brief explanation, what he needed to do.

"Hang on, girls. I'm almost there."

Leon kept praying as he dashed to the entrance of the next floor; when he was almost there, the man and Alice happened to see him.

"Alice, this an absolute order, don't let him pass." the man with golden eyes bellowed; he tried to go there; however, how could Sera allow him? The two became engaged in a heated battle.

Even though, still unable to move, Alice opens her mouth, and from within, a white sword shot at Leon; the speed of this sword was too fast; simultaneously, one of the three-headed monsters able elongated, going straight toward Leon.

Being attacked from two sides, even for Leon, it would be difficult to dodge, not to get injured. Fortunately, Sera was prepared; from Leon's shadow, another Sera appeared; it was her clone.

"What?"

Three persons exclaimed, using her body, the shadow clone took the blows while at the same time pushing Leon into the door, the strength behind the push was extremely strong, even Leon with his big body was sent flying down the stairs, and before he vanished from the floor, Leon saw the real spurting blood. Leon inferred that even though the shadow clone that saved him was not Sera, the damage the latter took seemed to be transferred to Sera.

Having seen the sacrifice made by Sera, Leon vowed to save Gracier at all cost while at the same time advising Alex never to mistreat this woman, whatever their relationship might be.

Back on the Sera's floor, the man with golden eyes became furious when he saw that Leon managed to slip away under their noses, even with all their countermeasures.

"Damn it!" He roared; a golden flame appeared around him; he knew no matter how emotional he became, he must never use a power that might give away his identity, a clue that could lead to finding them after this operation.

The battle became chaotic; even though overwhelmed, Sera still fought, all of this to give Leon the chance to perform a miracle; sometimes, a well-planned plan can fall apart because of an unexpected variable, Leon was this variable.

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On the other side, Leon appeared on the next floor; he appeared inside a forest with a thick fog; not too far was the sound of a blade clashing against a blade. Without hesitation, he dashed toward that location.

After running for ten minutes, Leon was close to where the sound was coming from; however, he sensed an unusual chill just as he was about to arrive there. His sixth sense was warning him; trusting this sense, Leon slowed down and silently walked forward, using the trees as cover; Leon hide his presence and observed what was happening on the other side, then he saw them.

Damien, Leonardo, sitting not too far from his hiding location, the rest of their group was the ones fighting against the monsters.

Looking in a particular direction, Leonardo smiled and said.

"By now, that bastard's sister should have been caught. Hehehe! I wonder how is he going to react learning this?"

"Well, he will be furious. Fortunately, nobody except them and we are on this floor, if not we will be in deep trouble if someone knew that we are involved, that we don't give any help."

Damien was the one to say this. The two were unaware that at the moment, someone was hidden and heard everything they say.

Leon's fury almost reached the top, ready to explode; however, he knew that now wasn't the time to blow up; he had a more urgent thing to accomplish.

Quietly as he could, Leon spun around, and after putting some distance between him and Damien's group, he dashed toward the location Leonardo previously stared at.

Chapter 314 - 307: Gracier's Capture 5

Just after Leon left, Damien looked in his direction; his gesture didn't go unnoticed by Leonardo, the latter inquired.

"What? Why are you staring so intensely in that direction? Have you noticed something?"

Damien did not immediately answer Leonardo's question. After observing the exact location for five minutes, Damien sighed.

"Maybe I was overthinking. For a moment, I thought that someone was over there, spying on us."

"What?"

Leonardo abruptly stood up; using his presence detection, he swept the location Damien pointed at; unfortunately, he found nothing. Therefore he heaved a sigh of relief and sat down.

"Maybe, it is your imagination after all."

"I sincerely do hope it was the case. If not, we will be in deep trouble." Damien said while leaning into his chair.

Leonardo chuckled; he did not believe that somebody was there, at least without them noticing. Although they appeared busy talking, their senses were on alert, so if somebody dares to come close to their location, whoever this person is, they would have noticed it. Having not sensed anything, not even after scanning around them, Leonardo believes that Damien was a little bit paranoid. For Leonardo, nobody was here; his detection sense couldn't lie; he was more preoccupied with another thing.

"Well, I guess it's time to-"

Before Leonardo could finish what he wanted to say, Damien glared at him.

"I say, Leonardo, were you born retard? Or it's only when it comes to women, especially Maria, that you turn into a retard who can't think nothing but his lower body?"

"You- you"

Leonardo turned red with fury.



"You, you what? If you are not a retard? Why would you keep suggesting that we see the girls? Now of all time, I won't take a genius to connect the group and us responsible for the kidnapping if we were to show up immediately. We may be strong but, Leon's group was stronger; how come they are not here? We are here simply to put runes around the dungeon's entrance, simply to put runes all over the forest to activate the fog. If not, we won't be here. Do you think Maria, Luna, and Sakuya will thank us if we go now?"

Leonardo stayed silent. Damien sighed.

"If you think like that then, it means you are not fit for leading. I know what your goal is. You want to become the emperor; you should change the way you think. If not, even you successfully managed to accomplish your goal, you will only be a puppet as you only think with your lower body." Damien advised.

"Shut up."

As expected, Leonardo didn't take Damien's advice well; he glared at him and spat.

"You talk as if you're any different. Weren't you thinking with your lower body? Weren't you doing all of this because you want to bang Luna? To enjoy her? So, scram, do not act all mighty before me. You and I are not that different."

"It's where you are wrong. I'm doing all of this for the greater cause. All of this because it's the goddess-"

Damien abruptly stopped before spilling more than he should. His impression of Leonardo changed; if previously he thinks of him as retard, now it was different; Leonardo is an intelligent asshole; he deliberately provoked him to let things slip under the effect of anger. From now on, the way Damien looks at Leonardo changed; the latter seemed not to mind.

'It's why I hate religion fanatic. They are crazy but smart. If not, how can they con people to join them, to adopt their doctrines? Well, it's going to be troublesome from now on.'

Leonardo couldn't help but inwardly lament.

Suddenly, there was a big explosion in the distance.

Boom!

Damien and Leonardo stared at each other. However, neither of them moved; to them, the battle must have reached its conclusion. Half of their plan has been reached; the other half will fall into place soon.

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Let's rewind time to few minutes.

After Leon left Damien and Leonardo's location, he sprints toward the direction he believes Gracier and the others will be.

Ignoring the thick fog blocking his view so much that he couldn't even see his feet, Leon relied on his instinct to move inside the forest, dodging monsters, killing those he could avoid until he reached the girls, there he saw something that left his mind go blank.

Thousand monster's corpses littered the ground; however, it wasn't what shocked Leon, was shocked him was another thing. On the left, Maria lay powerlessly against a broken tree; she seemed to have passed out, her clothes were drenched in blood, tattered here and there.

Further from Maria was Sakuya; she was also lying against a broken tree. Her condition was worse than that of Maria; Sakuya's right arm was bent into an unnatural angle, she must have lost consciousness due to the intense pain.

Half kneeling in the middle of a crater was Luna; she was blankly staring in a certain direction, something pierced her stomach from the front, Leon didn't know what it was, but that thing looks like a rusted sword.

Following the direction the unconscious Luna was looking at, Leon was someone slowly walking toward Gracier; the latter was shivering; her expression was blank as if she was experiencing a nightmare.

"Stop right there."

Leon shouted before dashing toward the woman walking toward Gracier.

At that moment, the woman walking toward Gracier stopped, spun around, and looked at the incoming Leon; the latter froze on the spot; immense fear assaulted him. Unconsciously, he started shivering.

It was the first time in his life, Leon had felt such intense fear; even his father, his ancestor who had participated in that war, the war where they slew the demon king didn't give Leon such fear. His brain refused to listen to his command; at the moment, he couldn't only think of one thing 'flee,' however, stubborn as he is, Leon refused to follow his brain, his instinct's command, he couldn't fail his best friend, he had promised, people had made a sacrifice for him to be here and now he would cower so close to the goal? Never, if he were to flee leaving the girls like this, he would be unworthy of Alex's friendship; he could never look at him in the eyes, never walk beside him. For Leon, this would be worse than death; therefore, he moved.

'Move!' Leon ordered.

Boom!

Golden lightning and crimson flame exploded around his body that launched his body forward toward 007; even though his body was screaming, was bleeding, Leon didn't stop.

007's black eyes (mixed with green) widened before she thrusts her fist forward, meeting Leon's body.

Boom! Bang!

Unfortunately, in this exchange, Leon lost, numerous organs inside his body ruptured. He spurt mouthful of blood before passing out, the armor he wore got pierced, something shining could be seen piercing his stomach.

Giving one last glance at the fallen Leon and the girls, 007 mumbled,

"A..."

It was one word, 007 slowly approached Gracier, the latter had recovered enough to move, she tried to move by to her utter surprise she couldn't move, she had spectated the entire fight, she knew how scary this woman was, at the same time she was puzzled by her previous action. Before Gracier could further dwell into what happened, she received a chop on the neck. She started to close her eyes slowly.

"Big brother, p- please save me."

For the first time in a while, Gracier tried using the sibling's unique ability; whether this message reached Alex or not, at least she tried.

Carrying Gracier inside her arms, 007 put a black bracelet around her wrist; it was because of this bracelet, Ignia couldn't move nor intervened in the fight. After putting the black bracelet around Gracier's wrist, 007 took the air; she hovered above the forest for a while before disappearing.

Unknown to her, Gracier had not fallen unconscious; her golden eye scanned the forest, imprinting one last image inside her brain before she lost consciousness.

Chapter 315 - 308: I Have A Plan

Back to Alex's location.

Artemia and Isabella dashed toward the fallen Alex and checked his condition; his body was scorching, his heartbeat was beating at fast speed.

Ba-dump! Ba-dump! Ba-dump!

"What's going on, your highness?"

Isabella couldn't help but inquire after seeing Alex in this state.

"It is probably has something to do with his sister. Something bad must have happened. Although-"

Before Artemia could finish answering Isabella's question, she got interrupted.

"Gracier, don't go, Gracier, Alexandra!!! Wait!!!"

As if he was having a nightmare, Alex shouted as his body started thrashing.

With Isabella's help, Artemia managed to calm Alex before he further rampages to hurt himself. Isabella used a water skill to cool Alex's temperature; the latter fell asleep just after this.

Artemia and Isabella waited for Alex to wake up before going back; they couldn't live with a sleeping Alex. However, even after one day, Alex showed no sign of waking up. The girls decided to wait a little bit to see; maybe he was exhausted; unfortunately, even on the second day, Alex was still unconscious, even Silveria didn't show up.

Artemia and Isabella became worried as Alex showed no sign of waking up after two days. However, they could do nothing except wait; in these two days, they kept feeding Alex a High-grade Healing

potion; they even mixed in Mana recovery potion and yet still no response. Facing Alex's situation, they were helpless.

In the outside world, the capital was thrown into turmoil after Maria, Sakuya, Luna, and Leon returned injured, announcing the kidnapping of Alex's sister, Elseria went berserk, she sent her forces to go search for Gracier, she even asked the Mercenary Guild for help, Sera was seriously injured, even so, she tried to go search for Gracier, it was thanks to Elseria harsh words she stopped and decided to recuperate enough to be able to complete the search mission.

All the students sent into dungeons have returned, except for Alex's group; these students were being kept in the academy dormitory for observation to check if there was nothing unusual about them.

Another two passed, still no sign of Alex's group. People started wondering if Alex's group didn't encounter any mishaps.

However, on the evening of the same day, Alex's group came back.

Alex could be seen sauntering toward the academy; there was no expression on his face, only coldness. Artemia, who was walking on his right, couldn't help but sigh; she didn't know how many she sighed like this; Alex woke up this morning, and since then, he was always like this; he didn't talk too much, only respond with few words. As Artemia expected, Gracier got kidnapped by someone, Maria and others seriously injured; as for how Alex knew this, Artemia didn't dare to ask as she could feel Alex's anger.

Isabella stayed silent as well; however, from time to time, she would sneak peek at Alex to see if there was a change; unfortunately, his face was still expressionless as they come closer to the academy. The passerby wanted to shout to welcome Artemia's arrival; however, the atmosphere around her didn't permit such action, so they could only close their mouths.

Finally, Alex's group entered the academy; Chris was waiting for their arrival; he didn't say a word; he leads Alex's group toward where the others are.

For the first time since waking up, Alex's expression softened when he saw Luna, Maria, Sakuya, Leon, and others.

"How are you?"

"Fine, it's good to see you back."

Maria, Luna, and Sakuya said in unison before giving Alex a group hug.

"My friend, thank you for what you have done. I'll remember it."

Still hugging the girls, Alex turned his head in Leon's direction.

Leon smiled helplessly and said, "No need for thank between us. I should be apologizing instead as I couldn't keep up my promise-"

"Say no more; you have done your best. Let's me take it from now on." Alex interrupted Leon and said.

"Sorry, Alex, we couldn't help. If you need anything, say it, we will help you find her. I have already instructed some people to search for her."

The Wolfgang's twin and Kuina said.

"Thank you. I will be relying on you."

Seeing Alex responding to his friends, Artemia and Isabella heaved a sigh of relief. However, their expressions suddenly changed when they saw a group approaching them; this group was not present when Alex's group entered.

It was Leonardo's group, putting on a concerned expression, Leonardo who was in the lead said, his voice was loud, loud enough for everyone to hear it.

"Welcome back, Alexander; I'm sorry for what-"

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

Before Leonardo could finish whatever he planned to say, the world in front of him blurred for a split second before returning to normal, and a horrible explosion shook the whole building. Soon another explosion followed.

People became dumbfounded; Leon's eyes widened as he was the one to understand what was going; he wondered how Alex knew those were involved, then he remembered Alex's words, he talked as if he saw what happened; everything makes sense now.

Chris, who just came after leaving to bring Freya, was shocked to see Leonardo and Damien embedded in the opposite wall; the sturdy wall was cracked; Freya stopped Chris when he wanted to lash out at Alex for suddenly attacking his classmates.

"Wait, there must be a reason for the boy to act like that."

Chris could only sigh as he didn't have the choice.

While ignoring the incredulous looks of the people around him, Alex slowly walked toward Leonardo, aiming Silveria at Damien; he disabled him with one bullet in each limb.

"Guh! Pfff!"

After spurting blood, Damien passed out.

Someone suddenly appeared before Alex forcing him to stop; it was Camilla.

"Please, Alex, stop, please stop, I beg-"

"Move"

Only one word, and Camilla fell on his knees shivering, Alex's glare, his voice was too frightening, it was as if she was sent to the abyss of death as if she was facing the King of hell, going against his order would result in death. Neither Kevin nor Dodolus could move after being glared at by Alex.

Alex continued to walk toward Leonardo, who was puking blood nonstop; he stopped few steps away, heterochromia eyes locked into him, Leonardo didn't know from where the immense feeling of absolute fear came from, but he couldn't look at Alex in the face.

However, when he remembered where they are, the people around them, Leonardo ground his teeth.

"What are you planning to do? Wh what is the meaning-"

Bang!

"Gaha!"

A solid punch landed in Leonardo's stomach; his armor cracked, he almost lost consciousness.

Lifting him, Alex took the air. This action surprised many; even Freya, who usually remains calm facing any situation, couldn't help but be surprised.

"Rank 10?"

Most of the people present couldn't believe that Alex became Rank 10 in less than a month; one should know that the gap between Rank 7 to 10 was huge, one needs a tremendous amount of XP to level up, not only that one needs time as well, lot of time, so when they saw Alex jumping from Rank 7 to 10 in less than one month, people were beyond surprised. They wished to learn what happened; unfortunately, now wasn't the time.

Maria, Luna, Sakuya, Kuina, Eris, Ferris, and Leon couldn't help but lament, most of them are currently Rank 8, with a few closer to Rank 9; however, Alex outclassed them.

"Sigh! What a freak!"

Leon said the others couldn't help but agree.

In the sky, Alex held the struggling Leonardo by the neck; he coldly stared into the latter eyes. No words, only brutal moves.

Crack!

"Gah!"

Crack!

"Ahhhhhh~"

Under the crowd of astonished eyes, Alex broke Leonardo's arms; he bent them to an unnatural angle.

"Wai wait, it wasn't me. It was Damien's idea. I don't know anything; I don't know where they sent your sister-"

BANG! Fwoosh!

"Giaaaaahhh!"

Without hesitation, Alex fired a Fire into Leonardo's left leg; it was set ablaze; Alex extinguished the flame with an ice bullet. The pain was unbearable, so Leonardo lost consciousness. However, he was brought back by a few slaps.

On the ground, people couldn't believe what they just heard, to think Damien and Leonardo were responsible for Gracier's kidnapping.

"Take Damien to the dungeon. And contact the pope."

Freya ordered before flying toward Alex, once on the same level as him, she suggested.

"Boy, let him go. You have vented enough. Let's us take it from now on."

Alex didn't say anything; he threw Leonardo toward the ground; like a meteor; Leonardo crashed against the hard floor, leaving a deep crater there.

"I will come back."

Alex said before descending toward Maria and others.

"Alex, can I have a word with you?"

The moment Alex descended on the ground, Leon asked; Alex's expression softened.

"Sure."

The two went somewhere secluded before Leon recounted what happened, what he saw inside his injury, its piece of black metal.

After studying the piece of black metal, Alex found nothing; he decided to store it away.

〔This piece can help us find where they took Gracier. I'm more curious about what is the goal of that woman. She didn't kill the girls; she even let a hint behind, almost as if she wished to be found. Who is this girl?〕

To Silveria's question, Alex stayed silent; he would like to have the answer as well.

When he was unconscious, he saw Gracier's last memories, how the black-skinned woman singlehandedly take care of them after killing her subordinates. It was thanks to these memories that Alex learned that Damien and Leonardo were present; they did nothing; it didn't take a genius to connect the dots and know what this means.

"I don't know what the group behind Gracier's kidnapping want but with the woman's unusual behavior, we can speculate that Gracier won't be killed; with the clue left behind, we can find her."

"I will depart tomorrow. I must find my sister soon. She must be afraid. If only I were there."

"Stop blaming yourself. The only thing to do now is to find her make her stronger, put some stronger people around her for this type of situation never to happen again." Leon slapped Alex's shoulder seeing depressed.

"As for those two. I will make them regret what they have done." Leon added when he remembered Damien and Leonardo.

"Don't worry, I have my plan. I don't want a complete fallout with the Crux empire yet, but Leonardo, I have use for him. I know what to do." Alex said to his friend. He remembered the talk he had with Silveria after learning what happened.

"That is good. You should leave to get some sleep; you need it."

Leon said while pushing his friend to leave. Alex sighed; after exchanging few words with the others, he left with Luna, Maria, and Sakuya. Artemia promised to visit him tomorrow.

## Chapter 316 - 309: The Departure

Late in the night, Blue Haven villa, Alex could see staring at the stars in the sky; he was lost in thoughts; he didn't even notice Maria's arrival.

Maria stood silently beside Alex and observed the stars as well.

After observing the stars for ten minutes, she finally talked.

"You can't sleep either?"

"Yeah. I wonder where she is? What are they doing to her? I swear if any harm were to happen to her, I would slaughter everyone one of them." 1 10 i

While saying this, Alex released a thick killing intent that almost twisted reality; Maria gulped.

"Don't worry, we will help you find her and teach them not to mess with the Touch family." Maria declared.

Hearing Maria emphasized the word family, going to the extent of saying the Touch family brought a little bit of warmth to Alex's chaotic heart, unconsciously he smiled.

"Fufufu! At least you have finally smiled. I don't like to see you as you currently are. I love the cheerful Alex more than the cold one; we all do. I know that even if we were to find her, everything wouldn't go back as the way they were, but at least I don't want to see you lose your smile." Maria stared into Alex's eyes as she said this.

"Don't worry, I will never lose my smile no matter what will happen, I can at least promise you that." Alex made a promise. He then added.

"You know what I lack?"

Facing Alex's question, Maria contemplated for a moment before answering.

"A personal force under your command, that can carry task you can do such collecting information and protecting your loved ones from shadow."

Maria's answer was perfect. Alex smiled.

"As expected of El Diablo's daughter. It's exactly as you have said. I was planning to form a team specialized in collecting information; however, now I must have another force responsible for our protection in the dark. I can't always be beside; I'm bound to travel alone, go somewhere where you can't go, meaning I can't protect you. It will be easy if I have someone to protect while I'm gone. Having my force, I can be at ease when I'm gone."

Alex took a deep breath before continuing.

"You know previously I had the misconception that having my private you would end up dragging me into politics, something I don't want; however, this thinking is wrong. I must own private force."



"I also think it's a good thing. Say, what did you do when you went to see Leonardo earlier?" Maria inquired when she remembered that Alex went to visit the imprisoned Leonardo.

There was a cruel smirk on Alex's face as he said.

"You will know in the future."

Maria did not pursue the matter any longer as she understood that Alex did not wish to talk about what he did.

"That black-skinned woman is strange; she killed her comrades before injuring us. While she could have killed us if she wished to, she didn't do such a thing; she could have seriously injured us, leaving us to be bedridden for a month, and yet we did not receive a life-threatening injury. I don't know why she did such a thing, but I have the feeling that you will find out once you encounter her."

"Maybe," Alex said before adding.

"Tomorrow, I will leave with Luna and Sakuya. You will stay behind and look after the Golden spoon as we need many funds to finance our private force. Artemia will assist you."

Maria nodded her head; even though there was something she wished to ask, she didn't dare to voice it as she was well aware that it was not the time. As a woman, she noticed the subtle change in how Artemia looks at Alex after their return; the others also noticed this. Something must have happened; however, due to the current situation, none of them raised a question.

"I'm curious why you didn't seriously injure Damien as he was the mastermind behind what happened; Leonardo was just a pawn."

Maria inquired as she remembered Alex not giving Damien a hard time.

"It is not that I don't wish to do anything but that Damien's status is pretty sensible. I must carefully think before acting." Alex explained why he didn't act more than he should have.

However, if he did act, would that not ignite a war? Would that not evoke a calamity upon his head?

Was he passive? Was he a coward? Others might think so, but he considered himself intelligent and far-seeing. Acting without a modicum of certainty in his self-preservation was a fool's gamble and often led to a foolish fate. He would punish Damien for what he had done; however, Damien was working on someone else's order; his interest may have gotten mixed along the way, however, initially going after Luna was not Damien's wish, someone must have ordered it, someone of high standing, as for why this person is after Luna it's yet to be found, so dealing with Damien without dealing with this person would not resolve the problem, someone else might target her.

"I see. To deal with Damien, more accurately, the person behind him might take some time. I believe that Damien was sent to Freya's academy, especially for Luna; his goal went beyond a simple feeling of love. As I have observed the way he looked at Luna, there was love, but there was also a little bit of reverence as if he was looking at a Goddess, which is strange, Luna is a simple mortal; one day, perhaps she can become a Goddess, but not at the moment. Maybe Luna looks like one of the gods they worship."

"What did you just say?" Alex interrupted Maria and asked; his voice was loud, startling Maria, who took a step back.

"Sorry, I don't mean to shout; I was just surprised. Can you repeat that last words you said?" Alex apologized.

"Don't worry, I was just surprised, that's all," Maria said with a smile.

"Well, I was saying maybe Luna resembled one of the gods the Holy Crux empire worship, maybe they went her to become their next goddess." Maria speculated.

"I doubt it's the case. If I guess correctly, Luna would be like a vessel. It's typical of fantasy story on Earth." Alex shattered Maria's speculation.

〔It does make sense now why Damien is so obsessed with Luna, why he was sent here. Seriously, are they tired of living?〕 Silveria couldn't help but get angry knowing what those fanatics from the Holy Crux empire were planning.

"Calm down. It's just some speculations; however, if this happens to be true, then, hehehehe! I won't be polite. They dare to covet my woman; they must be tired of living. It's a good thing that I'm leaving with her; who knows what they may do, what a desperate Damien might do?"

"We must be careful from now on. Now that Damien has screwed up, they would try a different approach. Let's stop talking about this topic; the more urgent thing to do for now is to find Gracier." Maria said.

"Yeah, you are right. We will deal with Luna's problem later. Let's go back to sleep; I will need it. Tomorrow, I'll be leaving early." Alex said before leaving, Maria followed him, she gave one last glance at the shimmering stars in the night sky, they would have looked more beautiful if Gracier was present, she loves stars.

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The next day, Alex woke up pretty early.

After taking a light breakfast with the others, he left with Luna and Sakuya.

En route, they encountered Artemia, Isabella, and Lilith, who had come to see them off.

The three girls accompanied Alex's group until the adventurer guild before leaving.

"Alex, take care. Don't die, don't forget our next mission."

It was Lilith who said this. Alex smiled.

"Don't worry. Once I come back, we will start."

Lilith smiled, pleased with this response. She would have loved to accompany Alex, but many people were waiting for her to step out of Avalon and catch her. Therefore, she could only wait until someone stirs a storm to use this chance to slip away, and she believes Alex's group soon would accomplish this goal; they are about to shake the whole continent looking for his sister.

Alex, Luna, and Sakuya entered the guild; they were immediately brought to the seventh floor, waiting for Elseria.

Alex was not surprised to see Sera present; she was dressed as Zero.

"Welcome, Alex and you ladies. I will not waste time; we have identified where this piece of black metal originated from. This type of iron could be found in three places, three cities (two large cities and one medium), both have dungeons. Here is the map of the three cities; you should pick the one west of Avalon. In the other two cities, my subordinates are already there. Zero will go with you."

"Understood. Let's leave." Alex didn't wait; he stood up and leave with the girls.

Alone, Elseria sighed before her eyes turned cold; she crushed a stone inside her hands.

"Pray that nothing happened to her if not, I will erase that Holy citadel you are so proud of."

It was unknown how but a voice responded to Elseria threat; it was a sigh.

"Hmph!"

Elseria harrumphed before closing her eyes.

On the other side, Alex's group had already left the floating capital, direction, El-Reech, the coastal city.

Chapter 317 - 310: El-Reech

At the same time, somewhere, in a room, a young girl was being held captive. It was Gracier; she was handcuffed, she wore a simple white robe.

More than five days that she was being held here, nothing was done to her; in the morning and evening, someone would come to give her food; today was the same as well.

"Eat, soon it will be your turn."

The man that brought Gracier's food told her. Gracier showed no response; her eyes seemed dead. Although nothing was done to her except being imprisoned and having her blood taken, it could be said that it was peaceful. However, this didn't stop Gracier from blaming herself; they have come for her; if not because of her, Maria, Luna, Sakuya, and Leon wouldn't have been injured; back then, it was because of her that two-headed ogre attacked them, she knew it. It was as if calamity follow her wherever she goes.

While Gracier was lost in thoughts, the man that brought her food added before leaving.

"By the way, your brother has moved, to search for you, hehehehe! It's going to be fun."

A little bit of light returned to Gracier's eyes; she was happy to hear that her brother was coming for her; she almost smiled for the first time since her capture; however, this smile disappeared before it could appear because she thought of a certain possibility, a dreadful possibly which is, they are also targeting Alex.

What if all of this was a part of their plan to draw Alex to them? What if it was him they really want? Was she just the bait?

If this is true, then everything makes sense. Why, after catching her, nothing had been done to her.

Ba-dump! Ba-dump! Ba-dump!

Gracier's heartbeat quickened, she started to have trouble breathing, she tried to break free from her restraints to end up failing, she knew she must warn him, warn him not to come, that this is a trap.

"Big brother, don't come. It's a trap." Gracier sent a message to her brother, hoping that this message reaches him; she forgot about her rescue; all she currently want was her brother's safety.

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In another room more spacious and comfier were Maddog and the man with golden eyes.

"So, he has departed?"

It was Maddog that asked this question. The man with golden eyes nodded.

"Yeah! It seems that their first destination will be El-Reech. Zero is accompanying them."

"I see; when do we start the extraction of the girl's eye?"

Maddog asked before adding.

"You know, it won't be long before the vice leader connects the dots and come after us. Sorry, I want to live a little bit longer, so we must finish things asap."

"Tch!"

The man with golden eyes clicked his tongue in annoyance when his father was brought out.

"We will start the operation in few days. And also, what is the result of the analysis? Did you find anything after checking the girl's blood?"

"There is High Elf blood mixed with another blood I can't identify. I need more blood to identify which type of blood it is and its origin." Maddog explained, there was a dangerous glint inside his eyes when he was talking about needing more blood.

The man with golden eyes sighed and said.

"I understand what you want but do not touch her before I get what I want. When I'm done, you may do whatever you want with her. Also, start to prepare for our guests, even though I doubt they will be able to locate us, we must prepare to secure the eighth. Alice needs to be ready; how is her condition?"

"Pretty well, I believe in five more days she would have recuperated. Ah! To think Zero would be this powerful, she killed that failure, almost killed Alice, and even injuring you. Elseria's blades must not be underestimated." Maddog responded while recalling the state Alice came back in, she had her legs and one arm cut off, while the man with golden eyes was seriously injured.

"Good, I shall take my leave then."

The man with golden eyes declared and left.

Alone, Maddog smiled wicked.

"Huehuehue! Soon I will get my hand on another good specimen. What you don't is that I believe the second blood mixed in Gracier's blood is the same with the eighth blood, the legendary blood. When I have him in my hands, I will completely drain his blood to use on myself. Hehehe! After that, I will become more perfect, live long to continue with my research, and one day create a being surpassing the Gods. Hehehehe!"

Maddog laughed while envisioning his bright future where he and his creations dominate the world.

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On the west side of Avalon was El-Reech, the coastal city. The city was built on the banks of a delicate natural harbor and was indeed a gorgeous marvel.

Alex's group entered the city. They were not in the mood to enjoy; the city was said to be only second to Avalon in terms of beauty. Buildings here high, the tallest ones, have a backdrop of cascading waterfalls.

For the group to travel a thousand kilometers in few hours was because they used teleportation devices; although costly, it was faster and more secure.

"Let's go book rooms first." Alex proposed before taking the lead to go to the best Inn in the city.

Reech's Inn was the best in the city; the mayor of El-Reech city owned it. Alex booked two rooms, one for him and the other one was for the girls.

After visiting his room, Alex, Luna, and Sakuya left for the adventurer guild branch here.

Like the other adventurer guilds, the El-Reech guild branch was packed; adventurers could be seen taking quests, some came back and decided to celebrate their success. Dungeons existed in El-Reech as well, as well black Iron mines.

The moment Alex's group entered, they gathered all attention.

"Wow! Today is a blessed day. For us to see two beautiful women, this doesn't happen every day. Should I try my luck?"

One of the drinking adventurers declared, his voice was pretty loud; the adventurers staying at the same table as the man laughed hard, they didn't bother to hide their lust.

Sakuya's eyes turned cold before she started smiling; from the onlookers' point of view, it was like she was seducing them, their lust skyrocketed, some started to stand up to approach Alex's group; however, before they could take their second step, they froze in place because Alex glared at them, it then became aware that Alex wasn't just some pretty flower, some pretty boy, he had the ability, his strength was above them, nobody tried to mess with Alex's group.

Alex ignored the look of awe he was receiving after intimidating the lecherous adventurers and went to update their cards; the receptionist was surprised to see that Alex's group was C Rank adventurers.

(A/N: Their rank got updated as part of the rewards for completing the dungeon's trial.)

"Mr. Alexander, how long are you planning to stay here?"

The receptionist inquired, and Alex responded,

"I don't know; I will depend on what we have come to do. They said you might have some information for me?"

"Yeah! Here is what we managed to find. There is almost nothing. Nothing unusual happened in the mines, nothing in the area surrounding the mines, everything is peaceful." the receptionist explained. At the same time, she hands over a paper that contains the information they have gathered. It was Elseria who ordered the guild to collect some information.

"I see, thank you. This will be enough; as for the rest, I will take care of it myself."

Alex said and left the guild with the girls; Sera didn't come with them as she had her plan.

When they left the guild, the sky had turned dark, announcing the arrival of the night.

"Lex, what do you plan to do from now on?"

Luna, who held Alex's hand, asked; Sakuya was curious as well. Therefore she paid attention to Alex's following words.

"Huh?! Let's see, I will visit the bar, I believe it's where you can collect more information, so you two should head back and rest. Tomorrow we will start the search." Alex explained what he intended to them.

"Okay, understand. Try not to act recklessly. We will be waiting." Sakuya said before kissing Alex on the cheek; Luna also did the same.

Looking at the leaving girl's back, Alex sighed, he usually would have taken advantage of them, tease them when they kissed him, but currently, he can't because he was thinking about how to find his sister.

"Sigh! Let's go. I know you have already come back and protecting me from the shadow. Come out, let's go."

Alex said, if there were a passerby at the moment, people would have thought that he was crazy for talking as if there was someone beside him; however, nobody was there.

"Fufufu! It seems that becoming Rank 10 made your senses sharper, usually you couldn't detect my presence even when I was close to you."

Sera dressed in black appeared; Alex didn't respond to her; he only said.

"Let's go."

Chapter 318 - 311: Information Gathering

Alex and Sera entered the bar; Sera had changed into something more casual, a simple evening dress.

As the two entered, they draw all attention; however, nobody tried to hit on Sera, nor was there any vulgar comment; people only admired Sera's beauty and Alex's face before resuming what they were doing.

Alex went straight toward the bartender and sat; Sera sat on his left.

"Tonight's recommendation, please!"

The bartender's eyes widened before he smiled before preparing two cups of strong liquor.

Alex finished the cup in one gulp; Sera also did the same thing.

"Another one!" Alex ordered.

After their third cup, Alex started playing a Gold coin.

"Is there any recent unusualness?"

"Like what?"

Faster than the light, the bartender snatched the gold from Alex's fingers; how can he not understand what Alex and Sera's goal is? From the moment they entered, and after they ordered tonight's specialty, the bartender knew what they want. Truth be told, he had been waiting for their arrival.

Alex did not seem offended, having his gold coin snatched; on the contrary, he brought another two and inquired.

"Like monsters rampage, disappearance, unusual phenomenon."

At Alex's question, the bartender stayed silent for a moment, as if he was reorganizing his thoughts. Finally, the bartender said,

"Recently, there was no unusual phenomenon that appeared, at least not around here. However, fifteen kilometers from El-Reech they exist a village, in this village, people started disappearing, young people, especially young girl and there is a rumor."

The bartender stopped talking, Alex almost cursed his shamelessness. However, he came tonight to get information, no matter how costly it was going to be. Therefore, Alex brought out gold coins; this time, instead of two, it was three; the bartender's eyes shined gold, he put on a beautiful smile and became talkative.

"There was a rumor saying a new black mine having been found. It was hidden deep in the middle of a mountain at the east of the village; not many are aware of this new, a drunken traveler told me."

Alex and Sera both rolled their eyes at the bartender; he must have gotten the man drunk to force him to spill everything he knows.

"I see; how this village is called?"

This time it was Sera who asked instead of Alex; the bartender was not surprised, Sera was not your typical girl, there was something different about her, it was why the bartender was more respectful of her, he never looked at Sera twice; she was giving a dangerous aura, someone that works in the shadow.

"Lorr. Here is the map of the village, where is the red mark, it was where they spotted the new mine."

Alex smiled; his smile was cold, suddenly he brought out Razor and used it to stab it between the bartender's fingers.

Tak!

Everyone turned their head in Alex's direction; however, before they could get a clear picture of what happened, they were forced to resume their activities because Sera glared at them; she released a bit of her aura.

Back to Alex and the bartender, the latter started sweating because he realized that his intentions have been seen through, that Alex was more dangerous than he had previously thought.

"You see, you are lucky. I don't like to be used. Do you think I won't know what you are trying to do? You are pushing toward that mine, I don't know how you suppress the information that a new mine appeared, but I'm not too fond of such a petty move. Tell me exactly what is going in Lorr, where the missing children are sent, who is behind it."

Alex's request leave no room for a debate; the bartender sighed before starting to explain.

"My apologies, I mean no offense, just that I found you two to be reliable. You know we are the dark guild, we can ask assistance at the Adventurer Guild, not when we will be losing a huge amount of money, although this new mine is not big, we can earn a lot of money from it, it why we sealed the news. However, one of our men betrayed and joined hand with an unknown group, and mighty group, this group now occupied the mines, our men who we sent were slaughtered. We are just a branch, the headquarter is busy and can only send assistance in one month, by then the group would have excavated everything. As for the disappearance of the young children, especially girls, this is true; the reason why the Adventurer guild have not been alerted is that this village is ours, under our control, it is how men who are there can hold up for a while. Please, I beg you, please help us. You might find some answer over there; we will pay."

"50%" Alex cut the bartender off and stated his condition.

"I beg your pardon."

The bartender had trouble believing what he had just heard.

"I said I want 50% of the mine. If you accept, I will go tomorrow and look into it." Alex said.

"This is, can you please lower-"

"No reduction, 50%. Let's quickly sign an agreement. Let's make it quick; who knows what I might say when I see the guild master tomorrow, he wants to see that old geezer, sigh!" Alex declared while playing with his cup.

The bartender's expression turned grim; if previously Alex had thought of him as shameless, it was now the bartender's turn to think of Alex as shameless. Alex was threatening him, a naked threat.

Sera couldn't contain herself any longer; she chuckled. If not because of where they are, she would have laughed hard.

"30%"



The bartender proposed after a long moment of consideration.

"40%, and I won't go any lower. Let us not waste each other time. You are asking me to put my life on the line, so better propose some that can appease me." Alex gave his last condition.

The bartender held his throbbing temple and finally conceded defeat, accepting Alex's condition.

"40% it's then. We will establish the contract in three years. Is that good with you, Mr. Alexander?"

Surprisingly the bartender knew Alex's name; Alex showed no sign of surprise when negotiating never show any weakness, especially at the end; the bartender calling his name at the end is a way to tell him that they were aware of his identity, to gain some advantage as they lost big in this transaction.

"Yeah, it's okay with me, Mr. Allen, nickname Silent step," Alex responded with a smile.

Chapter 319 - 312: The Deal

"Yeah, it's okay with me, Mr. Allen, nickname Silent step," Alex responded with a smile; it was a mocking smile that says you are not the only one with a trick under his sleeve.

Allen almost dropped the glass he was clearing; he was amazed; one should know that most powerful have artifacts on them to block the curious eyes from prying into their secret; Allen wasn't an exception; he had an artifact on him to help him conceal his status, so imagine when he heard Alex mentioning his real name and even his nickname. It was a complete defeat.

"Hehehe! Mr. Alexander is exceptional, as rumor says. I admit my defeat. It was a complete defeat."

"Never trust rumors. Quickly bring the contract. You know I'm busy." Alex said and urged Allen to bring the contract of their deal.

Allen nodded before disappearing behind a hidden door that was just behind him; after fifteen minutes, he came out with a paper, the ink was still fresh. After perusing the contract, again and again, Alex signed and put a drop of his blood on it, the contract flashed red, Allen also did the same, from this it could be inferred that Allen's status within the organization, the dark guild is by no means low, this is not a trivial decision, so the higher up must have a lot of faith in him to let him make this decision.

After Allen put his signature and blood on the contract, the latter firstly shined red before being separated into two; Alex picked up one contract and stored it inside his item box; he then stood up ready to leave; however, he stopped and stared at Allen, the latter was puzzled.

"Is there anything I can do for you, Mr. Alexander?" Allen asked.

However, instead of answering Allen's question with words, Alex extended his hand toward Allen; the meaning behind his action was obvious, I want my money back.

Allen's mouth twitched; if it weren't because he was no match for Alex and because that person, their leader, said not to offend Alex, Allen would have cursed Alex's eighth-generation.

However, he couldn't do that, even though the others clients present tonight didn't know what Alex's group and Allen have talked about; one thing was sure, Allen suffered a considerable blow; they have never seen him make that kind of face.

Reluctantly Allen hand over the gold coins to Alex, the latter smiled before taking his leave, accompanied by Sera.

"What a petty man." Allen cursed before disappearing behind the hidden door behind him.

Allen appeared inside a simple room; this room had a simple chair and a table. There were many papers stacked on top of the table; at the right of the table was a medium-size mirror; the surface of this mirror was rippling like the surface of the water.

Allen went and stood before this mirror and said.

"Guild leader, everything has been done in your accordance. However, permit to be impolite? Is that worth it? I meant letting Mr. Alexander own 40% of the new mine, although it was not gigantic mine, it is rich, richer than normal big mine."

There was a silence after Allen voiced his thoughts before a voice talked; surprisingly, it was a woman's voice.

"I understand what you mean Allen, however, I believe in the saying that one should suffer a loss and gain a lot later. This investment, to build a good relationship with Mr. Alexander now he was not famous, better to have as an ally than an enemy. You didn't have the foresaw that I have. Establishing a good relationship with him was my goal, and I have achieved it. Smart people like him do not like to be used; it was why I have proposed to use that tactic, and it worked; however, what I have not foreseen was that he would be this greedy. Well, it doesn't matter; you should know never to let your guard down when dealing with that man; he is cunning and petty. To retrieve the money he spent for information was a way to slap us, to say he would not spend even the penny as we tried to use him. What interesting man. Allen, go, keep an eye on what is going on. Let's see how long their group can take to accomplish this mission."

After bowing down to the figure on the other side, Allen excused himself.

The woman whose features couldn't be seen except her long red heel sighed and asked.

"Still did not find anything?"

A voice coming from the darkness answered, "No, mistress. We shall keep searching."

"Um! Please do so." the woman said before muttering.

"Whoever you are, don't think that he wouldn't do anything. Wai,t maybe this is all part of their plan? If it's true, then it's fearsome. Well, smart as he is, he must have thought of such a possibility, and yet he continued, this means he has decided. How lucky that girl is to have a big brother like that. If only mine was like that, sigh! Let's forget about it."

The woman's voice disappeared afterward, the ripple on the mirror's surface disappeared as well, the mirror regained its original appearance.

Outside of the bar, Alex and Sera could be seen strolling toward their Inn.

"Fufufu! You are sure something. To think you would use this occasion to acquire something, that man thought he could use you. Too bad you outsmart him."

Sera said she was not against the idea of Alex using every opportunity he got, especially when what he had just done was for him and his loved ones; more money means more capability to create his private force, you will need money to create, to form and to maintain a private force, you will need to pay them, pay their equipment. To do all these things, money is essential; having only a Golden spoon would not suffice. Therefore Alex jumped on this occasion as soon he smelled it.

"Well, the truth is that Allen is not the one to develop that plan; there is someone behind him, maybe their leader; this person is smart," Alex explained while locking his hands behind his head.

"I see, nobody knows the dark guild master real identity; all we know is that it's a woman. As for her face, her origin, we couldn't find anything. It was frustrating." Sera told Alex what they have on the dark guild.

"I see, a woman, huh? Let's go." Alex urged Sera before sprinting forward.

"Wait, tell me about how you know that man nickname, even me. I couldn't break past his concealment. So, tell me." Sera, who caught up with Alex, raised this question, and Alex's answer was,

"It's a secret."

He would not tell her that it was thanks to Silveria that he knew Allen's nickname.

Sera clicked her tongue before following Alex as they returned to the Inn to sleep.

### Chapter 320 - 313: Their First Clash

The next day, Alex's group left for Lorr early in the morning. They hired a coach to make the travel faster.

Inside the carriage, the girls were having a little chat.

"So, Big sister, how did you and Alex get to know each other?"

Luna was the ask this question; Sakuya was looking at Sera with interest, the girls knew she was the most influential person in their group.

The reason why Luna raised this question was simply because of the woman's intuition, the way Sera, even though disguised talk with Alex, indicates that the two had some past together.

Sera inwardly sighed, she could have brushed this question aside, but she chose not to.

"Well, our first meeting happened in Eria's city," Sera responded. She did not go into detail.

Even so, Sakuya was able to connect the dots to a certain girl.

"So, you're the famous Sera." Sakuya probed.

Sera was a little surprised, not that she didn't expect them to make the connection, however, not this soon, more importantly not Sakuya as she appeared, well, the brute type, not the intelligent type, however, it seems that her evaluation of Sakuya was a bit flawed. She is just your typical girl.

'As expected of the girls he chooses, none of them are weak; they all have a strong personality. One is cold yet smart, another one is gentle, but underneath this gentleness lie a ferocious beast, like a mother tiger ready to do everything to defend its cubs. Lastly, there is the one that wants everyone to see a facade of her; the real her is too fearsome. Better know how to deal with them, I may be stronger than them, but these three are united; if I wish to have a good life, I must befriend them, not go against them. That Maria's girl is the one in the lead, she has a firm grasp of the other two, even on Alex to some extent. There is no need to lie to myself; while I may not know what I'm feeling right now about him, I'm sure of one thing, which is I do not wish to be separated from him, I want to stay beside him, to see what he can accomplish. And I'm sure I will come to love him in the future; the seed has been planted, so why not start some preparations, try to find my place early beside him.'

While Sera was busy thinking about what to do from now, Luna and Sakuya had been observing her reaction; seeing her not answering Sakuya's question, they became a little bit annoyed. Before they could say a word, Sera finally spoke. Almost as she could read the atmosphere, and she knew their mood.

"My bad, I was lost in thoughts, sorry about that. Yeah! I'm that girl; while I do not know what I did to be famous, I'm indeed Sera. Nice to meet you."

Luna and Sakuya were surprised that Sera could readily admit that she was Sera, it was not the only thing that surprised them after she admitted that she was Sera, she ripped off her disguise; therefore, her natural face appeared, and the girls must admit even though as girls, they got charmed.

Naturally, women don't like admitting these kinds of things; however, Luna and Sakuya must admit that the mature Sera was above them; she was gorgeous, especially that mole near her mouth, no wonder Alex choose to go after her; she was worth it.

"Nice to meet you too; I'm Luna, Alex's fiancée."

Luna introduced herself; she didn't forget to clarify that she was ahead of them; it was like she was saying, I'm the first, know your place.

Sera chuckled; Sakuya rolled her eyes at her best friend and sister. She then introduced herself.

"I'm Sakuya. Alex's girlfriend and soon-to-be fiancée. Nice to meet you, as your Big sister, I shall guide you, feel free to ask me anything you want." Sakuya's introduction was a little bit aggressive; like Luna, she wanted to make sure Sera know her place, where she stood.

And who is Sera? Would she just let herself get trampled twice? No, time for some payback.

"Ah, okay, I understand. It's good now that Big sister said that there's something I wish to talk about; I mean, I wish to ask. A favor, it would be great this favor can be granted." Sera said with a humble smile.

However, to Luna, Sera's smile looks evil; she was sure that whatever Sera was going to say, Sakuya was bound to lose; she had already lost this round. It this good to be aggressive, but there should be a limit; you can bully but not too much.

"Fufufu! What do you want to ask? This Big sister is here to help you, tell me." Sakuya said with a smile; she wanted to see what Sera would do; depending on her answer, she will know where to class her, what level of threat she represented.

And as Luna expected, Sera did not disappoint her.

"I see, that is good. It's nothing complicated; I wish that Big sister can become my sparring partner. I have just acquired, I wish to have a mock battle to further perfect this skill. By the way, it's a wind-related skill, and who but Big sister can be more perfect for helping me? Reason why I am asking you to help me. Can you?"

Sera said with a perfect smile; Sakuya's smile disappeared as fast as the wind; she knew she had lost, accepting to help Sera was like accepting to receive a good beating as there was no way in hell she could win even if Sera were to suppress her level to the same level as her. Even though they will be on the same level, their experiences aren't the same. Therefore, Sera would win.

Sakuya sighed before smiling again; Luna smiled; she knew her best friend was the best; Sakuya is the type to admit defeat to go back to further prepare for next time.

"Fine, you win."

Sera smiled; she must admit as she thought, Sakuya was not but, Luna was fearsome, she was the one that started all of this, yet she stays silent and plays the spectator.

"You are not bad; I'll be waiting for the rematch," Sera declared. Sera's first words were for Luna, while her second one was for Sakuya.

Sakuya smiled in response; the atmosphere turned silent as the carriage continued to advance toward Lorr.