

Death Guns 391

Chapter 391: In The Shadows

"Rise." The woman with the butterfly mask, the Queen of Underworld said.

Her subordinates rose, none of them said anything, they waited for their queen order.

"Report the situation." In a cold town, the woman with the butterfly mask ordered.

One of her subordinates, a man in his late thirty stepped forward; he wore glasses, gray hair tied up behind his back, black tuxedo with a glove, however, only one hand was covered. The other one was left uncovered to let the underworld tattoo be seen. This man's appearance looks more like a butler than an underworld member; however, nobody dared to point out, the queen wasn't bothered, she waited for the man to update her on the latest news.

"My queen, recently some of our men are being targeted." the man said and pushed his glasses back.

"Oh? Explain."

"Yes, My queen, seven groups have been destroyed. Even though they are scum among scums going after your policies (no forced prostitution, no illegal slave trading, no kidnapping, no drugs selling), they are still members of the underworld. Killing them without regard to us is completely disrespectful." The man was angry, so were the others, killing their men like they are nothing shouldn't be tolerated any longer, they should retaliate, if weren't for their queen order not to act recklessly, to inform her before acting, they would have killed those behind this.

Feeling her subordinate's bloodlust, the woman with the mask sighed. Everything in this life needs a counterbalance, like when there's a day inadvertently, there will be night, light and dark, the clean society then underworld. When she conquered the underworld, it was in a complex mess with almost no rules, no bottom line; the emperor and officials were getting fed up and were searching for a way to control the underworld, they knew they couldn't erase it because a society without underworld isn't a real society, the underworld is where darkness resides, where dirty things are done; however, it shouldn't be in moderation, and this woman brought it, she quickly developed the underworld to the degree it could almost compete with the imperial family, they have cities under their control, the imperial let them do this because the almost absolute control the woman has over her subordinates, they never started something they shouldn't have, never provoke someone they shouldn't have, it was why she must know against whom she would be going before acting.

"Judging from your reaction, you must know where this group is coming from. I'm listening." The Queen said and began to tap on her throne armrest rhythmically.

"All we know is that it's a group of five, probably young, the base is somewhere around the eighth house, we didn't know the exact location."

The eyes behind the mask widened; the woman immediately understood something she immediately ordered.

"Let's them do what they want."

"But?" The man in a butler suit tried to argue but was cut short.

"Are you questioning my order?"

The queen icily asked.

Her voice was so cold that Hyde felt a chill crawling up his spine, and his face turned ashen; he immediately bowed his head.

"I wouldn't dare. It just that-"

"Sigh! Something I really wonder if you are smart or you try to play smart." The queen cut off Hyde and said. Her comment was like a burning arrow that pierced Hyde's heart.

"Ugh!"

The others lowered their heads, doing their utmost not to laugh.

"You know, what will you do when someone came out and did the job you have planned to do but couldn't at the moment because of other issues?" The queen questioned.

"Obviously, I will gladly make use of this-"

Suddenly, Hyde stopped talking; he had finally understood what his queen was hinting at.

"My queen is sure wise." Hyde tried to bootlick his queen and what he received in return was another arrow in the heart.

"Is more like you're dumb not to have immediately seen the importunity with this group appearance. There are pests we will have to take care of not to let the whole structure rot, so now that we got free workers, why not make use of them? So, as I said, let them continue. Just from time to time, play the rescue role; I mean, fake it, you will come only a few minutes after the massacre occurred." the queen ordered with a smile; her smile was beautiful mesmerizing everyone inside.

"A-As you wish, my queen." Hyde stuttered, his heartbeat accelerated, his face flushed red. However, none had ever seen their queen face from the small visible part and the elegance her body exude; she would be without doubt a beauty, a country toppling beauty at that.

As she said, they understood what should be done; leaving this unknown group takes out the rotten flesh shouldn't be a bad thing; they lost nothing, after all. Instead, they have gained, they didn't have to dirty their hands.

"Tell me about the cities under our control, how things are going?" the queen inquired, and Hyde happily complied.

The queen patiently listened to her subordinates report; she was happy because more money was coming in, she was slowly building her force, they may come in handy when the time will come, thinking about it, her lips curved up, and she mumbled, "It will be fun."

"What? Did you say something, my queen?" Hyde asked with a tilted head; the gesture looked girly, making the queen almost throw up.

"Ugh! Nothing, continue."

The meeting continued.

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At the same time, in an unknown villa located in the noble area, a meeting was currently taking place.

The big shots of the underworld, those from the lawless factions, the one Alex's young shadows were eliminating.

"Damn it."

Crash!

A plump middle-aged violently smashed the glass in his hand on the table, the glass broke, sending glass shards everywhere on the table; however, this didn't stop the woman shaking her hips atop of the man knee naked; she kept moaning with a fearful expression on her face, she wasn't the only one, this scene was everywhere, the other two gang bosses had women on top of them.

"Calm down, Snake eye. We will crush them." Said a bald man with an owl tattoo on his head; he kept slapping the woman, shaking her hips making her move faster.

"Shit, Kuh! I'm pissed off. That woman must be overjoyed right now; she would not help us just because we refused to follow her stupid policies. Underworld with such shitty policies, isn't it Underworld anymore. Shit! Women should only moan under men, nothing else." The third man said he had one eye blinded, blinded by the Queen.

"Calm down, let's elaborate a plan to deal with this unknown group and later with that queen.." The second man said, the other two nodded before smiling wickedly, they were sure that this location wouldn't be revealed because nobody would think that they would hide in the noble area, the only one that knows were present here and that fool, that subordinate that died in tonight massacre, burnt to cinder alongside the house, only if they knew.

Chapter 392 - 385: First Try

Back on Alex's location, Alex could be seen lying on the big bed; however, in reality, he was not sleeping but training; he had decided to at least check what was inside the gigantic tower.

Through the forest, Alex arrived at the plain; from here, the tall tower seemed close. However, Alex had to spend another two hours to reach it, seeing this from close finally it was tall, two gigantic golden doors adorned the tall tower, images of dragons and phoenixes mixed with numerous other beasts were depicted on these doors.

Alex sighed before stepping forward; automatically, the two doors opened themselves, letting him see what was on the other, darkness, absolute dark, and Alex didn't shy away and walked in.

Garin~

The doors automatically closed behind him; then the first floor got illuminated.

Suddenly, a voice echoed in Alex's ears.

"Welcome challenger, welcome to the tower of Self, the Tower of Reflection. Kindly state your name."
The unknown entity stated, probably the tower spirit; it was a girl's voice.

Not wanting to waste time and quickly get over it, Alex introduced himself.

"Alexander Kael Touch."

"Good, I shall call you Alex from now on. Alex Rank 11, owner of the Death Guns, let's us begin." the voice said.

Alex's mouth twitched; he almost asked why to bother asking for his name if she already knew all these things; however, he stopped from doing so.

Suddenly, following the tower's spirit announcement, a magic circle under Alex's feet before shining, Alex vanished afterward.

When Alex, who had closed his eyes during the transfer, opened them again, he appeared inside a forest; somehow, this forest was strangely familiar, he had a sense of déjà vu.

Indeed, the next scene confirmed his guess; a young Alex appeared, not so young, but Alex a few months ago appeared, the Alex who was experiencing his first mission, aimed with nothing but a knife and throwing knives.

The present Alex looked at the Alex from a few months ago and the forest where he killed his first monster; he could more or less understand what this tower's ability is and what the next thing should be.

"So, you're the one I should fight." the Alex from the past declared before Alex found himself restrained; it was quick; however, after Alex felt like something had been put inside his body restraining his level, indeed he levels fell back to Level 1, then the Alex from the past moved.

He kicked off the ground raising a small cloud of dust, and arrived before Alex; he slashed at him with his knife held in reverse position; Alex (the real Alex) dodged to the side, he believes that even with his level suppressed, the experience gaining would be engraved deep inside his body making able to easily dodge the attack of Level 1 ranker, that he could easily clean up this stage; however, he was wrong, badly wrong as that.

The moment Alex from the past saw that Alex was about to dodge his strike, he didn't panic but smile instead before opening his palm; sand flew out of it and entered Alex's eyes, momentarily blinding him.

"What?"

Alex was shocked because his levels were suppressed, even his exceptional physical strength was considerably reduced; even knowing the danger about to come, he couldn't react in time before feeling something pass through his neck, followed by the taste of iron in his mouth

"Puh!"

Alex puked blood and failed to stop the cut on his neck from letting loose a torrent of blood that dyes his clothes and the ground red as he slumped toward the ground, life slowly leaving his body, even though it wasn't an actual death, it was still painful.

In his last moment, Alex saw his past self smiling while the tower's spirit announced.

"Challenger Alex died, six chances remaining. Please retry two days from now on."

Alex was sent away; he appeared outside of the tower; he couldn't help but sigh, to think he would lose to his past self and in that manner, how unsightly.

"Fufufu! I seem that you didn't even get past the first level."

To make matters worse, Silveria appeared with a mysterious smile, and somehow, her smile irked Alex more than anything; Alex quickly massaged his temple to keep his emotions under control as he spun around to see a floating Silveria. She was dressed in a simple silver robe with golden embroidery.

"Yeah, I lost to Level 1, and because of a sand, the bastard blew sand into my eyes, momentarily blinding me before finishing me," Alex grumbled. At the same time, he was angry, irked because of Silveria's smile that implies I knew it; he was angrier at himself, he had taken the situation lightly, judging from the tower's name, he would face his past self in the form of challenge and win. His past self would make use of his ability to the best of their capability more than he had done, they will use wits and tactics to compensate for what they lacked at that time, you might think that it was unnecessary all of this hassle as he was now Rank 11, however, only by surpassing his past self, by learning from them would he truly exhibit his real strength.

His first opponent had played dirty, but only because the situation allowed so; maybe if Alex had done the same thing when he was facing the goblins, he would have leveled up faster and unlock Silveria, maybe Nyx faster. Alex doesn't know, but he can learn from the past to perfect the future.

"I understand," Alex muttered to himself.

Silveria smiled; it's a good thing that Alex could discern some of the tower's real aim so quickly; however, the real show is about to come. If Alex succeeds in completing this tower, the reward will be endless. Silveria believes so.

"Let's head back."

To Silveria's words, Alex nodded as the two disappeared from the Illusionary Battlefield, Alex didn't question Silveria about what was the meaning behind the tower's spirit words when he was leaving, nor he asked for the rules; he knew eventually he would find out, it would be more fun this way.

While Alex was coming back from the Illusionary Battlefield in the adjacent room, Sakuya came back from the rooftop; she was sweating, using the tower around her neck; she wiped away the sweat on her face, she clutched her katana with a sigh. She was trying to recreate the movement used by Kamishiro when he used that technique on the vampire duchess, the result she failed miserably, although, frustrated Sakuya knew that she couldn't rush things, she must let them come naturally because she believed that she would be able to do it, to use that skill one day, she might even surpass him, no she must, Kamishiro had seen something in her. However, he couldn't consider her teacher, Sakuya still thinks of him as one, and she must not disappoint him.

"Hah! Still has a long way to go." Sakuya mumbled before scanning the suit; Lilith just came back.

"Fufufu! You are back. How was your night stroll?" Sakuya inquired with a smile.

Lilith first sat on the bed before answering.

"Not bad, I feel refreshed. Something it's good to walk around aimlessly at night to release some of your worries."

"I couldn't agree less. Next, let have a group walk, it would be more fun, fufufu! What do you think?"

"Hehehe! I think it would be fun." Lilith responded to Sakuya's suggestion with a smile; both smiled.

Sakuya knew Lilith had done more than a simple night stroll, she went somewhere, and Lilith knew Sakuya didn't believe her, however, adults as they are, they know better than anybody that they exist things one must ask even when the obvious is before you, everybody has a secret, some too many, better let the other willingly share it than force her to tell you, they both knew they would learn more about each as they grew closer, spend time together and more importantly successfully building a solid trust between them, so now wasn't the time both knew it.

"Good night Lili."

"Good night, Mio."

They wished each other a good night before sleeping.

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Hours passed quickly, and the bright radiance of the sun had infiltrated the night sky thoroughly.

Night was over, and it was the start of a new day.

After his morning routine, Alex joined the girls, and they ate their breakfast. During this breakfast, Lilith asked Alex to accompany her; Alex didn't find it strange, nor he refused as they have decided to take few days off before continuing.

"No problem. Where do you wish to go?" Alex asked after Sakuya left them; she said she had things to do.

"Well, let's just tour the city," Lilith said after a moment of contemplation.

"Sure." Alex nodded.

The two left the Inn and started to tour the city.. Somehow, this could be considered as a date, their first date; however, none of them think of it as one; they decided to enjoy a day off.

Chapter 393 - 386: The Eight Dukes

Outside, the skies were clear, giving off a pleasant vibe. Alex and Artemia looked at the city in awe, tall buildings with numerous man-made waterfalls. The duo moved; they visited famous spots such as an aquarium, the attraction park before ending in a restaurant.

The two ordered a salad and ate; after they finished, Lilith stared at Alex for a moment.

"What is it?"

Alex couldn't help but ask; it wasn't like he disliked being stared at, however when you stare too much, even for him, it becomes uncomfortable.

Finally, Lilith opened her mouth and said.

"Thank you for going along with my selfishness."

Waving his hands, Alex responded, "Don't worry, I have much fun. It's good to accompany a friend."

"Friends? Huh! I'm happy that you think of me like that." Lilith responded with a smile; it was a beautiful smile, a genuine one coming from the heart.

Alex smiled back before his expression turned serious as he said.

"We have our fun; however, I believe that you asked me out for some reason. What is this reason?"

Lilith smiled; this time, because of how acute Alex is when it comes to some subjects, this made things easier.

"Well, you're not wrong. I have asked you out for a purpose in mind. I want you to tell about the demon continent; you might have a brief knowledge on the demon gained through books, but directly hearing it from the princess of the demon race should help you more." Lilith declared this declaration couldn't make Alex more happier; although they are still far from the demon's continent, it never hurts to learn more about your enemy; only by knowing more could you perfectly prepare as the saying goes, knowledge is power.

"I'm listening." Alex declared and made himself comfortable.

"Great," Lilith said before taking a deep breath.

"You know the demon's continent, also known as the Dark Continent. Unlike you humans or Elves and beastkin, we do not have kingdoms systems."

'I thought so, from what I have read, there was no mention of the kingdom, only one empire ruling the whole continent.' Alex mumbled.

Lilith continued. "Although we do not have kingdoms system, the continent is to be ruled only by the imperial family, so we come up with a solution. How is the easiest way of governing a large continent without losing your hegemony? The answer is simple, divide the continent into nine; the central part should naturally be ruled by the strongest, meaning the Royal family with royal bloodline, while the other eight parts should be under the supervision of your subordinates, Eight Dukes. They will have the authority of overseeing the territory in your stead; they will be like a king but with limited authority.

Lilith then suddenly stopped talking and looked at Alex before raising a question.

"Do you know the difference between a Duke ruling a large piece of land almost equal to a kingdom and an actual king ruling over a kingdom?"

To which Alex didn't bat an eyelid before answering.

"It is simple, a king of a kingdom affiliated to a super puissance might one day want to become independent while the Duke will never become independent as they didn't hold any decision, they are just overseers nothing more. The final decision is in the hands of the royal family."

"Smart. It's like you have said. Although the eight dukes are powerful, they are no real kings, only figureheads. The demon's continent is divided into nine parts; these are ruled by the royal family located in the center of the dark Land, while eight of their subordinates oversee the remaining eight parts. You have seen one of eight dukes."

"You are talking about that vampire, don't you?"

Alex inquired as he remembered the vampire's strength; the duke, Silver, faced and couldn't do anything about it; only the arrival of Kamishiro had made the vampire duchess retire.

Lilith nodded, Priscilla may not have recognized her, but she, on the contrary, did remember her.

"Yeah, the vampire duchess, head of the vampire race, the ruler of the west. As you know, a demon's race is composed of numerous races, such as a winged demon, succubus, vampire, undead."

Lilith continued after letting Alex digest this information.

"Eight Dukes:

Duchess Priscilla: Vampire race, territory West.

Duchess Milla: Succubus queen or Arachne's Queen, she is the mix of Arachne and succubus."

"What a dangerous combination." Alex couldn't help but comment when he remembered that Arachne he fought inside the forest on the second level of the Illusionary Battlefield.

Ignoring Alex's comment, Lilith continued.

"Duchess Milla rule the southern territory.

Duke Gregor: High-level undead, ruler of the land of death, shout west, an underground kingdom also known as fake underworld.

Duke Trafford: Winged race, this race could be considered a version of the beastmen but different, the golden demon winged eagle, northern territory.

Duke Goliath: Demonic ogre, his territory is adjacent to Duke Trafford territory; this race possessed the second strongest strength after the Lesser devil.

Duke Belphégor: Lesser devil, the lesser demonic dragon should be more accurate, this race is highly lustful, have pair of incurved horns, golden slit pupils, they possessed the strongest physical, often fight barehanded or transform into a dragon, extremely few in number. Share territory with the succubus queen.

Duke Baal: the greed race, possessor of enormous physical, never full, they greed know bound, extremely good at commerce because where the money lay, without a doubt there will be someone from the greed race, they are in charge of the commerce, their territory is no far from the central area, nobody likes to have the one responsible for your money to stay far from you.

And lastly, Duke Vidaal, leader of the Lycanthropes (a mix between a demonic wolf and vampire), the natural vampire enemy; however, under the tight supervision of the royal family, no more blood were shredded, these two races fought for a century, some said it was because of their discord the demon lost in the war."

Alex chuckled, hearing the last part of Lilith's explanation, no matter what race, people will always find a scapegoat for their failure.

Shaking his head, Alex asked a question.

"Between the eight Dukes, we are entered from which territory?"

"Through Duke Millia's territory, it will be easier this way," Lilith explained, and Alex nodded, and the two continued to discuss at the same time.

Chapter 394 - 387: An Emergency Quest

Near the edge of the Sia Kingdom, Alex and others were not too far from this kingdom; it could be said this Kingdom was under the supervision of the Drexia Empire.

Currently, a city that was closer to the frontier than the central lands was approaching destruction. About 35% of the city's residents were down with a feverish illness. The remaining residents were desperately nursing them. But unfortunately, that only served to spread the illness further. Yes, the illness that was spreading through the city initially wouldn't occur in the area. This place was usually hot all year round, but illness would usually only occur with the addition of higher humidity. However, many people in the town started falling ill for some reason.

Some people knew about the illness, and about 10 hours ago, it had become clear it shouldn't be possible for it to appear in this area. They asked the pharmacists and alchemists about the medicinal cure for it...but it turned out that they didn't have enough stock of a herb to make the medication.

In situations like this, pharmacists and alchemists were usually the ones at fault. But they could be blamed as no one in that city expected that the illness, commonly known as Magic Fever, would occur here. The clerics couldn't heal everybody as they are not so many clerics, to begin with.

"So what are the material we are short of?"

Ludic, the deputy governor of the city of Xeen, bitterly asked the elderly man in front of him.

The elderly man was Mathias Schocker; he was the acting guild master at Xeen's city border Adventurer guild branch. At the same time, the man was a highly skilled mage and a long-time friend of Ludic.

"It's called Aurora grass powder, its a powder made from the dried grass that can be found growing in regions with high magic power (near high-level dungeon). It's the main ingredient for making medication to suppress Magic Fever." Mathias explained.

"The grass only grows in regions with high magic power, you say? Where would that be specifically?" Ludic asked, eyes full of urgency; his people were suffering; like a good Lord, he must quickly relieve them of their suffering, especially when elections are coming.

"That's right. The closest place from here would probably be the city of Blue Ivy, near the Drexia Empire." Mathias answered; it was also unknown for most people, but Blue Ivy had a high-level dungeon underwater.

"Blue Ivy? ..If I'm not mistaken, there is a method for guild masters to contact each other, right?"

"Yes! It's possible to communicate with the guild master of Blue Ivy." Mathias replied.

"Don't hesitate to get in touch with them, I know the tense situation inside the Sia kingdom with one faction wanting to support the Third princess while the other is supporting the Second princess, we all know that the Third princess isn't interested in politics, but people are stubborn, thinking maybe with enough support she might give in, especially after learning she is getting engaged to the Eighth, said to be the most talented of the otherworlders, people take this as a divine sign. Ah! I just want to save my people.

"Okay, I understand, my friend. I will contact the guild master on the other side, but.."

Ludic knew what his good friend wanted to say. Although Xeenoo and Blue Ivy were both on the frontier, the distance between them was vast. If a merchant caravan had a smooth journey, it would take half a month. Even if a seasoned adventurer drove their horse to its limits, it would still take ten days; by Magic carriage, it would take seven days.

It was possible to use an item in the guild to notify them of the city's current situation. But if you considered the time it would take to collect the Aurora grass powder and then transport it to this city.

"Sigh It would be good if 40% of the residents can survive." Ludic briefly said that with a bitter expression of regret.

"It can't be helped. It's a situation of life and death. I will contact the guild branch in Blue Ivy immediately. I don't know how much we will owe them for this, though." Mathias responded.

"Haa~, such a debt, if we can salvage this situation, I'll pay back as much as can."

Giving a depressed sigh, Ludic spoke with a smile. He had aged since the start of this disease. However, he wished to be reelected; sometimes, he wished to let go of everything. Still, he couldn't do that, firstly because power is like drugs. Once an addict is always addict, it's almost impossible to be clean again. Secondly, because he must prepare a stable environment for his children and family and lastly because of his people, he couldn't let them go, they still need him, so he persuades himself.

"That's true; right now, we are helpless in this situation. I'll take my leave." Mathias said as he stood up.

"Ah. I've used my authority as deputy governor to shut the city gates not to spread the illness any further. I can't afford to spread it to other cities. Regarding food, I'll figure something out with our reserves." Ludic announced, it was a tough decision, but he didn't really have the choice.

Mathias gave a slight nod at those words and deftly left the office with movements unlike that of a mage in his sixties.

After Mathias left his friend, he contacted the guild master in Blue Ivy as he promised his friend, the situation is dire, having hit the limit as an adventurer, and because of the lack of talented adventurers on this side, Mathias couldn't only ask for assistance. Usually, they should investigate the cause of the

current illness; however, they couldn't because the adventurers stationed here are fighting against monsters; the arrival of the magic fever brought along a lot of problems, high contagion, and monsters wave. So, he had no choice other than to ask for assistance.

And like that, the Adventurer guild branch in Blue Ivy was contacted, and their guild master immediately asked for the highest-ranked group to carry this mission.

Chapter 395 - 388: Dark Elf

Suddenly, Alex and Lilith, who were in the middle of a discussion, saw their conversation getting interrupted.

"My excuse, dear customers it's against a policy to interrupt a customer during lunch, but the situation is urgent. You got a call from Blue Ivy adventurer guild master; it's extremely urgent, so they say, Mr. Sam." The waitress gave a light bow after she was done talking.

Alex and Lilith exchange glances. Despite not knowing what the guild master wanted with him, Alex decided to first the other party; the situation must be pretty urgent for them to come to disturb him here; Sakuya must have judged the situation to be urgent for her to tell the guild staff where they are.

"Sigh! I will head over now." Alex said and stood up after helping Lilith up.

The two left with Lilith going to the Inn while Alex made his way to the guild as he had promised. However, the guild seemed to have an unusual atmosphere compared to normal. To be exact, a large number of people were entering and leaving the guild. This was even though most adventurers would be out on their requests during this time.

The moment Alex set foot in the guild, he was met with a scene.

"How much Aurora grass powder has we collected!?"

"I bought as much as I could from all the miscellaneous shops, alchemists, and pharmacists in the city."

"Wait. In case anything happens here, we have to leave some behind. We should send them 70%."

"But Lina, the city over there-"

"It will be okay. Counting the number of residents there, 70% of the stocks from Blue Ivy should be sufficient for all the people in Xeenno."

"We'll keep collecting Aurora grass, for now; send me a few adventurer parties later.."

"I understand. Put out an urgent request as soon as possible for all the available adventurers."

Guild staff and adventurers were all in haste as if they were possessed by something.

"I wonder what is going?"

Alex thought as he walked toward one of the counters.

〔It's probably a pandemic judging from the amount of magic grass being collected.〕 Silveria's voice echoed inside Alex's head.

'I see, maybe it's a magic fever.'

Alex had heard about it; however, he didn't know the details. Well, he was going to learn what happened after he met with the guild master.

Looking at the current chaotic situation inside the guild, Alex couldn't help but think when he had seen a situation like this, it went back to what happened in Celesta, the monster wave, and the demon's infiltration.

"Welcome, Mr. Sam, over here."

One of the receptionists, even though busy, called Alex the moment she saw him.

Several adventurers and guild staff turned to look at Alex when they heard that but soon returned to their work as if they had no time for it.

"Please come over here. I'll take you to the guild master's office immediately. I'm Leonora, by the way."

Leonora introduced herself and pulled Alex behind the counter.

"At least can I know what going on?" Alex inquired; however, Leonora shook her head.

"Please ask the guild master about that. However, something out of the ordinary has definitely happened."

Replying to Alex's question, she went up a set of stairs behind the counter. At the top was a door.

Knock! Knock!

Alex watched Leonora knock on the door.

"Guild master, it's Leonora. I've brought Mr. Sam."

"Yes, I've been expecting you. Please come in."

Alex reacted with a twitch when he heard the voice from inside.

Not because the voice was clear as a bell, but because it belonged to women, half of the guild masters he encountered were women except in Eria and Celesta; this raises a question, why the ratio of women in charge when it comes to guild matter is high? Only the Mercenary guild has a man as the guild head.

Shaking his head, Alex discards these thoughts.

"Pardon me."

Leonora opened the door and prompted Alex to enter.

Alex was met with a brown-skinned woman when he entered. However, she wasn't a human woman as both her ears were much more pointed compared to ordinary humans.

"Dark Elf."

Alex's words echoed through the small, silent office of the guild master, where the noise from the first floor couldn't be heard. It was his first encounter with a Dark Elf.

"Fufu~, apologies for calling you over so suddenly. I wanted to borrow your strength for something."

Seeing her gracious smile, Alex was breathless for a moment.

Pointed ears and brown skin. Her silver hair flowed down her back. She was wearing something like an evening dress that you would wear to a party. Because she seemed to be working on some documents on the desk, she was lower than Alex. The deep valley created by her large breasts accentuated itself greatly. Her smooth brown skin and seemingly soft twin hills would draw the gazes of men like insects to honey. Because she was a Dark Elf, he couldn't tell her exact age; comparing her appearance to a human's; she looked like a woman in her mid-twenties.

"Enjoying what you see?" The Dark Elf asked in a teasing tone, and who is Alex?

"Greatly," Alex replied as he took the seat across from the woman.

The Dark Elf was momentarily surprised; most men, in this case, would shy away because they embarrassed being caught red-handed, or the bravest one would only lightly cough to divert the subject elsewhere. However, Alex did none of that; on the contrary, he admitted to having enjoyed the view; this left the woman surprised; no, she wasn't the only one; Leonora was surprised by how bold Alex was. One should know that Alex was in the presence of the guild master whose status isn't any less than a city; sometimes it went past that, so no wonder Leonora got surprised seeing Alex's both answers.

'He acts like he had seen more people of high standing than her.' Leonora couldn't help but conclude this.. If only she knew the truth.

Chapter 396 - 389: Nominated Request

The Dark Elf smiled; she decided to give this interesting man another glance; it was when she received her second shock.

One should know that Elves be Normal Elves, Wind Elf, Dark Elf, or the mighty High Elf, they got one thing in common, high affinity and high sensibility to mana, so although Alex had sealed most of his power, he couldn't completely hide the tremendous amount of mana inside his body.

So, the Dark Elf woman held a surprised expression for a moment after sensing Alex's mighty magic power but disappeared as she spoke with a smile.

"How do you do. I've heard various things about you from your reputation; you and your group have accomplished quite a feat. I am the guild master of Blue Ivy's adventurers' guild, Celesta Lilac. As you have noticed, I'm a Dark Elf. Nice to meet you."

Celesta's face was well proportioned, and Alex could feel a sense of deep wisdom from her eyes, which was a characteristic of Elves and also because this one should be pretty old.

Dark Elves. The ancestors of the Dark Elves and Elves were initially the same. However, the Dark Elves specialized more in combat. As a result, it was said that they lost the blessing from their spirits, and skin and hair changed to brown and silver, compared to Elves who had whiter skin and green hair. By the way, the ancestor of Elves is the High Elves.

Although the relationship between Dark Elves and Elves wasn't completely harmonious, it wasn't to the point where they constantly fought; at least they were on friendly terms the last hundreds of years.

"I'm Sam, Leader of the Sky Wolf Group, a C Rank group. So, to get to the point, what business do you have with me?"

The moment she heard Alex's words, the smile that was on Celesta's lips disappeared, and she turned to Leonora.

"Leonora, thanks for bringing him here. Downstairs will be busy in a lot of ways, for now; please take care of that."

"I understand. Then, excuse me."

Leonora gave a small nod at Celesta's words before heading back down. When the door closed, Celesta directed her dark green eyes towards Alex before speaking.

"Yes, I heard about this in Celesta," Alex responded.

Celesta had a strange expression when Celesta's city was mentioned; it couldn't be helped; she shared the same name as the human city. The history behind Celesta's city name is quite funny; the City got named after a woman. The lovesick city Lord at that time names the city after his unrequited love, an Elf, quite ironic if you think about it.

Shaking her head, Celesta stared at Alex and said.

"In that case, I can skip forward. Actually, we received an aid request from the guild of another city. It's an urgent request."

"Oh? I finally understood why the first floor was so crowded. Is this City closer to Blue Ivy?" Alex asked.

However, at Alex's question, Celesta shook her head slightly.

"No, it's far away. Even if a seasoned adventurer rushed to travel the distance, it would still take ten days to get there."

"Well, I'm curious about why a city so far would ask aid from here. I believe there another place they could ask help from." Alex stated.

"Well, you see." Celesta smiled bitterly before she began to explain.

The story goes like this; they could have asked help in the Sia kingdom, in one of the cities closed to them; however, help couldn't quickly come as this city is supporting Katherina in the race for the throne, Xeenon's city being faithful to Artemia, it will be hard, it why they have turned to Blue Ivy who was in the neutral faction.

Alex's face twitched when he finally understood the reason behind Xeenon turning over here for help.

"What is exactly happening?" Alex inquired.

While looking at Alex, Celesta took out a small bottle about 5cm tall. There was some sort of powder inside it.

"This is?" Alex inquired as he observed the small bottle.

[[Probably, that Aurora grass thingy.]] Silveria immediately made the connection.

Alex inwardly nodded and waited for Celesta's explanation.

"It's a powder made from a medicinal herb called Aurora grass. It's an ingredient used in medicine for some infectious illnesses, but it has a characteristic of only growing in places high in magic power such as here."

"Because of the Underwater dungeon, huh?!" Alex finished what Celesta wanted to say. Blue Ivy being a coastal city, had an underwater dungeon, a pretty high-level one; if not because of lack of time, Alex would have loved diving into this underwater dungeon; he wondered what type of monsters were there in this dungeon.

"Exactly, as I was saying, this Aurora grass is used to treat infectious diseases such as Magic fever. Xeeno is experiencing high Magic fever at the moment, an extremely contagious disease that normally shouldn't appear in Xeeno but only occur in warm and humid areas where you would never have to wear long-sleeved clothes.

"Please enlighten me; I'm clueless when it comes to stuff like that," Alex admitted his lack of knowledge on this matter; Celesta smiled before giving Alex a brief summary.

Magic Fever, it is a so-called feverish illness, an illness that would affect people below a certain level of magic power. Conversely, if the person had a certain amount of magic power, they wouldn't need to worry about it.

However, the level of magic power needed to ignore it varied depending on the surrounding environment. Even if it was safe in one area, it could potentially be highly infectious in others. It was basically an illness that was only seen in tropical areas.

There was a medicinal cure for it that could be made using a medicinal herb called Aurora grass. If the medicine were used, patients would recover in a night. The incubation period of the illness was about one week. If no symptoms showed after that period of time, it meant that the magic power of the patient had been able to suppress it.

"So, their stocks of Aurora grass have run out hence their turn over to Blue Ivy which possess a lot of Aurora grass."

To Alex's words, Celesta nodded.

"Normally, Xeeno shouldn't have this illness; there must be a reason. However, first I want to know why I'm called here, surely not because you wish to tell me these things." Alex looked at Celesta, urging her to go straight to the point.

Celesta's face turned serious as she said.

"I want to borrow your strength, as I had said when you walked in. Would you please lend us your help? I want you to bring aurora grass to Xeeno using gryphon. There are three reasons for you to be nominated for this quest:

First: You possessed a high-level Space ring; you didn't hide it.

Second: We need the strongest adventurer currently available, and you fit the criteria, and lastly, not the least, I want you to investigate what happened on the other side; you're the only one capable."

Alex nodded. Although he understood the reasoning behind him getting nominated for this emergency request, he wouldn't accept it if the benefits weren't to his liking, not enticing enough. So, he asked.

"What benefits do I get?"

Celesta smiled before whispering something into Alex's ears; the latter smiled.

Chapter 397 - 390: The Reward

Alex hummed softly as he returned to the Inn, there Sakuya and Lilith were waiting for him; upon sensing his arrival, Sakuya smiled.

"How was it?" Sakuya inquired, Lilith seemed interested, judging from her reaction, Sakuya must have told her what happened, how she had a brief talk with the Guild master before telling her where Alex was, if not for her, Celesta might have to wait until dawn when the two returned from their date.

Taking a seat across from the girls, by the way they were using Alex's room, Alex roughly explained the situation to them.

"So, the reward for this mission is to be able to board the ferry to pass through the kingdoms, principalities and arrive at the other side?" Lilith asked; she wanted to be sure if she heard right.

Alex nodded to indicate that she hadn't heard wrong. There was a reason for Alex and the girls to come to this particular city; it's because Blue Ivy was connected to a part of the endless sea, a sea said to traverse through all the continents.

The trio wants to board the ferry to traverse to the other side of the human continent; by doing this, they would considerably reduce the distance to the Demon's continent. They could have chosen to continue by land by it would take too much time, although the endless sea was a bit dangerous this time of the year, with fewer ferry willing to sail on it, they still believe that they could take a ferry to traverse, however, reality had proven to be cruel as the group couldn't find a ferry to board, not in a short time, it would take one month to one month and a half before they could be able to traverse. This left the group to be depressed. Therefore they decided to take a break to consider further options. This nominated quest arrived; its timely arrival couldn't be more welcomed; the reward was so enticing that Alex would be a fool; if he ever refused, after completing this mission, he and his group would immediately board a special ferry prepared by Celesta. Hearing the reward, Alex accepted the nominated quest; it is only Aurora grass delivery and some investigation; it shall be done in no time, so he believes.

"I understand, you will be leaving immediately; in the meantime, what shall Sakuya and I do?" Lilith inquired with a smile that wasn't really a smile; the fact not to be able to go with him somehow left a sour aftertaste in Lilith's mouth; she could not understand why she was feeling like this.

"Ayi! Don't worry, stay here; you may try to dive in the underwater dungeon in my absence or else spar with each. It won't take long; the tamed griffon wouldn't be able to take more than two persons, it is still pretty young after all. Don't worry; if I need help, I will contact you, and you will sneak out and carry Sakuya with you. Well, girls, I shall depart at once." Alex said as he stood up, giving the girls a beautiful smile he left.

Sakuya and Lilith exchanged glances before chuckling; they have decided to spar with each other; a smile couldn't help but blossom on Sakuya's face at the prospect of fighting against a strong opponent.

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At the same time as Alex mounted the griffon and left the city, in the Adventurer guild in Blue Ivy. Inside the guild master room, Celesta could be seen staring at a magic crystal, a higher level of communication stone.

Pouring mana into this magic crystal, an image was projected.

It was the face of a man in his Sixties. He had a long beard, wore a robe, and had a sense of profound wisdom in his eyes. He was a mage who had been in the same party as Celesta several decades ago, Mathias. Their former party leader Ludic, was the acting lord of the city of Xeen, while Mathias, like Celesta, was serving as a guild master.

"Celesta, my friend, Are you contacting us this time about the Aurora grass?"

Her former party member, who usually kept a calm expression, had a grave look. From that along, Celesta could easily imagine the crisis that Xeen is currently in. However, nothing would change even if she had a severe expression, so Celesta nodded with a smile.

"Yes, we gathered a large amount of Aurora grass powder, and the carrier left the city a short time ago."

"I see. It will take seven days to arrive at the earliest with the fastest magic carriage. I hope the patients with Magic Fever will be able to last until the carrier arrives."

"Don't worry, the one I have sent would take so much time. Certainly, it will take one week even with the fastest magic carriage, but only if it is by land."

Celesta's words made Mathias widened his eyes; hope began bubbling inside his chest; he had forgotten about the crazy things these former party members of his were able to accomplish.

"Fufufu! Recently, I have just tamed a young griffon, and I have a talented adventurer mount it to bring the Aurora grass powder over to your side." Celesta calmly explained.

Mathias was beyond surprised; he sighed when suddenly, he remembered something.

"Wait, this Adventurer of yours couldn't happen to have a magic storage, doesn't he?"

Facing this question, Celesta smiled; the answer couldn't be more obvious. Indeed Alex does possess a space ring.

"I see, that is a piece of great news. We just have to wait for this man to show up quickly." Mathias said with a smile; he felt like some of his loads had been taken off. The future wasn't looking bleak as it was anymore.

Suddenly, Mathias, who was feeling relieved from the current situation, heard Celesta's serious voice.

"Old D, tell me honestly what is happening? How can a magic fever start of the blue? Not even Blue Ivy has seen a Magic fever for decades, considering our proximity to the sea. There must be something else going on, and I know you must know something."

Facing his old friend's serious tone, Mathias sighed, his shoulders slumped.

"Celes, Although I don't know what is the real cause behind this magic fever as we didn't get the opportunity to fully investigate before more than half of the city got contaminated. Few days prior, the purple fog started appearing from the Forest of Monsters at the east of the city, we sent time to investigate, but some came back while some simply disappeared. As you know, we lack adventurers over here due to the lack of dungeons and monsters, powerful monsters. I want to investigate personally, but as you can see, I can't, not before completely curing the sick. It would be great if I had a talented adventurer on my side to investigate, sigh! I'm getting older. I should retire. My old bones couldn't take so much pressure."

Celesta chuckled before saying, "Don't worry, the one I sent his Rank 7 on par with Rank 8."

This news made Mathias happier; he couldn't wait to see Alex and what he could do.

Chapter 398 - 391: Xeen and The Birth Of A Dungeon

After some casual chat with her former party members, Celesta cut off the communication, she sighed.

Unlike how she had faced Mathias earlier, Celesta had a grim expression as she gently played with the crystal with her fingers. If she does remember correctly, the appearance of a purple fog means the birth of a new dungeon, the apparition of a new dungeon if you want. She knew this because of how long she lived; one of the elders back in her hometown had assisted at the birth of a dungeon. The birth of a dungeon can be a blessing or a curse but considering the current situation in Xeen, instead of saying it was a blessing calling this a curse should be more accurate.

"Sigh! I must make some preparations and maybe send over some assistance." Celesta heaved another sigh before staring at the ceiling; she started thinking about various things.

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In a desolate world where the only thing visible was an endless sea, this sea seemed to be entirely made of blood; when one looks closely, numerous bodies filled this endless sea of blood.

And standing in the middle of this sea was a person, a woman to be accurate, judged from the long silver hair, hourglass figure, because this woman had her back facing the other side it was impossible to see her features.

Drip! Drip!

From the woman's arms, blood constantly kept dripping, falling into the crimson sea.

"Where am I? What am I?"

The woman kept muttering these words like a broken record; no matter how much she waited, nothing changed, the same scene kept playing again and again, sometimes there were fragments mixed in, a discussion, a beginning, a war, then nothing.

"Who am I? What am I? Haaahhhhhhhhh!"

The woman in crimson dress bellowed the endless sea got parted in two; crimson lightning descended from the sky as if to try to strike the woman before vanishing, then the woman snapped her eyes open, before closing them again, no something forced her to close it, however, during that short period,

change appeared, the moment that crimson eyes opened, the endless sea disappeared, it got replaced by endless desert.

Somewhere, inside a forest, the purple fog covering this forest increased, bringing more harm to the nearest city.

In a dark dimension, a man snapped his eyes open and stared into a certain direction; his purple eyes with black spiral in them seemed to be able to pierce through space in the search for something. However, he couldn't pinpoint the exact location, just the rough location; however, this was more than enough; he had subordinates there, the man smirked and sent some instructions.

In the deepest part of a dungeon, a black dragon shuddered before opening his big slit-like eye.

"Search for it." The dragon ordered, and a man with a mask moved.

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Unaware of what was happening, Alex was enjoying the view from the back of the small griffon; at first, it was hard to control this monster; however, after letting out a bit of killing intent and his MP, the monster had become docile.

Alex enjoyed the scenery as the griffon flew faster; suddenly, his expression changed, and Alex snorted.

"Tch! It's why I hate to fly; I'm in a hurry."

Alex threw a Silver Bettie at the incoming bee; the silver knife cut through the air before bisecting the 30 cm bee in two. Alex recalled the knife through Link before throwing it at another bee.

Sword Bees. As its name suggested, the original needle-like stinger of a bee was now closer to a long sword. It was an E-rank monster; it wasn't powerful on its own. However, because of its habit of persistently pursuing its prey, it was a monster hated by adventurers. And right now, nearly twenty Sword Bees were flying around Alex and the griffon as they flew through the sky.

Throwing the twelve silver Betties, Alex killed twelve Sword bees before he patted the griffon back.

"Do it, Chucky."

Although he pretty much dislikes this name, there's nothing the poor griffon could do about it; he only wishes to end this travel as fast as possible before returning to his mother's embrace, even that silver-haired wasn't this hateful.

Because Chucky doesn't want to give this cruel human another chance to abuse him, he takes a deep breath before spitting out a fire breath.

Roar!

"Shaar!"

The instant it was wrapped in flames, a Sword Bee's wings burned up and plummeted to the ground, still burning; the roasted smell reached Alex's nose, he couldn't help but frown. Chucky swept his head while spitting out flames. Naturally, Fire Breath also swept across, wrapping several Sword Bees in flames just like the first as they plummeted toward the ground.

Swoosh! Puh!

Throwing a silver Bettie's at the Sword bee's King trying to flee as soon he saw what Chucky could do, was split in two as a silver light passed through its body. Although it is called King, its height wasn't different from an average Sword bee except for its purple color.

Ignoring the materials falling to the ground, Alex urged Chucky to fly faster. The latter flapped his wings in the sky, flying as if cutting through the air; its speed dramatically increased as if he pushed the Nitro button.

Alex riding on the griffon's back traversed numerous villages, sometimes even cities; however, these cities' sizes were small.

Seven hours passed in a flash, and Alex approached his destination; Xeeno was just past this village, the fork village; it's shaped like a fork, thus the name.

After flying past the Fork village, Alex arrived at Xeeno. The city was beautiful seen from afar. Tall walls surrounded the city. At the East of the city was a gigantic forest stretching as far the eye could see; however, this forest was currently shrouded in purple fog; Alex got an ominous feeling the more he stared at that fog.

[[A dungeon is about to be born.]] Suddenly, Silveria's voice echoed inside Alex's mind, followed by Nyx's voice.

[[A pretty dangerous one, an unusual dungeon. Let's investigate.]]

Shaking his head, Alex decided first to descend and deliver what he came to do, investigating come after delivering the Aurora grass.

The birth of this dungeon should be behind the apparition of this unusual Magic fever.

Chapter 399 - 392: The Soldier's Tears

Alex stopped Chucky a few meters above the ground as he jumped from Chucky and landed elegantly on the ground. He immediately introduced himself as he could feel the vigilance in the soldiers' eyes; no one couldn't blame them, not everyone among was informed of Alex's arrival.

"I'm Sam, an Adventurer; I came from Blue Ivy. I have brought the Aurora grass needed to cure the Magic fever. Can you let me in or inform the guild master?"

Alex's voice echoed into the surroundings.

However, although the soldiers showed a transient expression of joy at Alex's words because his appearance meant the sick would be saved. They noticed he was empty-handed even though he had said that he had brought Aurora grass powder. They exchanged confused looks with each other.

One man came forward from the soldiers and approached Alex. The man looked to be in his early thirties but was strangely calm. He stopped about 3 m from Alex and spoke up.

"I'm Brutus. I lead the soldiers over there. I want to ask; you said you'd brought Aurora grass powder, but where is it. You seemed to be empty-handed when I looked over. No, of course, we will be

very grateful if you have even a little of it. But, since you said you've come all the way from Blue Ivy, you would have brought a reasonable amount, right?"

Brutus inquired, and Alex nodded before he took a small wooden crate from his Item box.

When the wooden crate suddenly appeared from nowhere, Brutus reached for the sword at his waist on reflex. However, he immediately realized that the crate wasn't anything that could harm him, and he looked over it again.

Inside the wooden crate, there was a large number of small bottles about 5 cm tall. And inside each one, there seemed to be some sort of powder.

"I see, thank you. Indeed you have the Aurora grass powder needed to cure the Magic fever," Brutus said with a happy smile on his face; he was surprised seeing so much Aurora grass powder; this man must own a space ring. Shaking his head, Brutus looked at the blonde young man in front of him; thanks to his arrival, many people would be saved, his sister included; he couldn't help but be gratified.

"Now that you're sure that I really have the Aurora grass powder, can you let me in?" Alex said as he believed that these soldiers stopped him from immediately entering to do a test; something must have happened in the past.

"Sorry. It was just a test. Actually, the guild master from the city's guild, rather, I heard that an adventurer dispatched from Blue Ivy would come here. However, as you know, Magic Fever isn't supposed to occur around here had spread explosively around Xeeno. Wherever they heard it from, some researchers who were interested in it came over here. Naturally, Lord Ludic rejected their attempts because letting them into the city could put people at risk."

Brutus apologized and explained the situation.

"Why? Wouldn't researchers possibly be able to determine the cause of the outbreak?" Alex inquired.

"Yes, if that really were their purpose, then it wouldn't matter," Brutus answered with a serious expression.

Hearing those words, Alex realized that there were some complicated circumstances. He decided that it was time to head into the city.

Alex, who started walking forward stop when he saw Brutus fidgeting.

"What is it?" He asked.

"I want to know if this Griffon will attack people on sight?" Brutus asked; the fear inside his eyes couldn't be hidden; he wasn't the only one, though.

'What that man you're letting in is more than dangerous than the poor me!' Chucky complained as he tilted his head. But as expected, fearing the existence that was the Griffon he had just met, Brutus took a step back.

If only Alex knew what was going on inside Chucky's head, the latter would have been skinned alive, Alex wouldn't be stroking him.

"If you don't mess with him, he will not do anything," Alex responded and stroked Chucky for a few more seconds before stopping. Brutus and the other soldiers were relieved. They become even more relieved after Alex handed over the Necklace of Obedience Celesta gave him; this necklace is used to control the monster if they get out of control.

Alex also handed over his guild card, as per procedures to enter the city.

"Open the gate!"

Following Brutus's instructions, the soldiers opened the gate that had blockaded the Xeenos City.

(If I had entered from the sky, I wouldn't have to go through something so troublesome. Well, in that case, though, I would probably be treated as an intruder.)

"Captain. I will go ahead to the guild first."

"Ahh. The Guild master will definitely be pleased to know this. I'll leave it to you."

A soldier gave a slight nod at Brutus's words and entered the city ahead of Alex.

"You will see the guild if you just head straight along the main street. Because of the effect of Magic Fever, the number of people out in the city is getting smaller; head to the guild as quickly as you can. Last but not least, thank you again for coming to this city and welcome to Xeenos, the quiet city."

Saying that Brutus gave a deep bow. The soldiers he led followed suit and also gave a deep bow.

Many of them had family, friends, or lovers who had fallen ill with Magic Fever. Tears fell from several soldiers who had lowered their heads. It was evident that they weren't tears of sadness but tears of hope from the help that had arrived. They kept their emotions in check, however seeing that Alex was about to enter the city, that their loved one would be rescued, most of them couldn't hold anymore. Seeing the people you love suffer why you're powerless isn't a good feeling; they thought it would take time for help to arrive, a few days, maybe among those that might die, someone closer to them could be included. So, Alex showing now couldn't make them happier; they were so happy that they started to cry.

Alex understood how those soldiers felt, sighing as he entered the city.

Chapter 400 - 393: Mathias Shocker

"He was right; the number of people around it is meager."

Alex murmured as he looked over the streets of Xeenos from the main street. Fortunately, it wasn't like a ghost town where everyone had disappeared. But the number of people around was still a lot less than in Blue Ivy. The main reason for this was the spread of Magic Fever, but that said, the number of residents in the city was still lower than in Blue Ivy. Although Blue Ivy was a coastal city, because of the monster materials that could be acquired from the underwater dungeon, people like adventurers, merchants, and blacksmiths naturally gathered there. Compared to that, this was only a small city in the countryside; it wasn't unreasonable that there would be fewer people even though this city had a Forest of Monsters, only beginners Rank monsters, and some weak, medium Rank are inside it.

〔I sense the remnant of the purple fog still lingering around.〕 Silveria's voice echoed inside Alex's mind.

'I see.' Alex mumbled before activating his Eye of Truth; his left green eye turned crimson; Alex was able to see faint purple fog mixed in the mana in the air; it appeared chaotic, almost making Alex's head spin; he quickly switched it off; he continued to advance until he reached the Adventurer guild.

Alex opened the guild door and went inside.

"I see. It was to be expected."

Those were the first words Alex said. Normally, guild staff would be working busily. But even though this was the time adventurers would usually be eating at the bar, there were almost no people in the guild. There was just one receptionist counter, who appeared to be slightly older than Leonora, and several guild staff behind her.

There was no one that could be considered an adventurer around. However, it couldn't be helped that no one was eating or drinking at the bar if the city was blockaded and food was under a rationing system. Still, as expected of a guild staff and the receptionist, they smiled and gave a polite nod when Alex entered the guild.

"I'm Sam. I've brought Aurora grass powder and other relief supplies from Blue Ivy." Alex said the same words he said at the entrance of the city.

Surprised, the receptionist froze at Alex's words. At the same time, the other guild staff behind the counter were the same.

"C-Could you pass me your guild card just to make sure?"

Alex nodded at the receptionist, who spoke in a trembling voice, and took out his guild card from his Item box; because he still wore that fake ring, people mistakenly thought he possessed a space ring; well, it was convenient.

"Ohh!?"

The guild staff cheered when they saw him use his item box, which showed that the story they had heard was true.

While watching the situation, Alex handed his guild card to the receptionist, thinking their reaction was reasonable if you considered the situation with Magic Fever.

"C-Certainly, you are Sam, leader of the C Rank Sky Wolf group. Current city: Blue Ivy. I have verified it."

Alex spoke again after storing his guild card, which had been handed back with trembling hands, into his Item box.

"So, mind tell me where do I place the relief supplies I've brought? Because it's a decent amount, I think a slightly larger space would be good."

"Please wait for a moment. I will call the guild master over right away."

After the receptionist said that, the guild staff headed further back in a hurry but was stopped by Alex.

"Please wait. I would like you to hand this over to the guild master. It's a letter addressed to the guild master of Xeenos city from the guild master of Blue Ivy." While saying so, Alex handed over the letter he took out from his Item box. The guild staff who received it nodded and ran behind the counter.

'If it has the same structure as the guild in Blue Ivy, then the guild master's office should be further back.' Thinking to himself as he looked inside, Alex turned to another receptionist to get a bit more information about the city, precisely that forest covered in purple fog.

As expected of a receptionist, her appearance was better than average. What was different from Blue Ivy was that there seemed to be two receptionists. Was that due to magic fever?, he didn't know.

"Magic Fever, was it? I heard that 40% of the residents were ill with it when it was talked about in Blue. I wonder how far it's spread now?" Alex inquired.

Knowing that question would come, the receptionist shook their head before speaking.

"People showing signs of onset in Xeenos is now approaching 60% of the residents."

"So many?" Alex was speechless that in just a few hours, the number of sick people increased to such an extent.

"Yes, unfortunately. I think you would know since you've delivered the Aurora grass powder here, but Magic Fever will develop if the person doesn't have a certain level of magic power."

The receptionist sighed, but someone continued from her words.

"In other words, the threshold for Magic Fever, in this case, was considerably high." Along with those words, an older man in his sixties appeared from behind the counter. Alex could easily guess who he was from the timing of his appearance. His expectations were proved correct from the receptionist's words.

"Guild master."

The person wore a cloak and had a long cane in his hand; he appeared to be a mage. He gave off the atmosphere of a veteran mage. From Rei's glance, he appeared to be in his mid-sixties, and a long beard extended from his chin.

Wrinkles covered his face but were well matched to his aura of a strong mage. He was a mage worthy of being called one.

That was Alex's first impression of Mathias Shocker, Xeenos's guild master, who currently stood before him.

Also, seeing Alex's appearance, Mathias was shocked in his mind.

(This magic power, is he really a human?)

Standing in front of him, Alex looked like an above-average adventurer boy at first glance. However, the amount of mana his body hid was enormous.

(Interesting, no wonder Celes think highly of him.)

Unconsciously, Mathias's lips curled up to form a smile as he said.

"Please follow me."