

# Extras 261

## Chapter 261 The Ones In The Dark

Trisha's naked body was captivating.

As most danced around so many parts, it glistened in the room that Rey occupied.

Rey found himself gawking at the lewd form of the girl in front of him, unable to stop himself from being flustered by what he was looking at.

As if that wasn't enough...

~DUM~

~DUM~

Knocking sounds echoed from the entrance of his room.

'Damn! How come I couldn't sense that on time?'

Rey reckoned it was due to his lessened Stats and the lower efficiency of his Skill, but he also recognized that it could also easily be the fault of the 'distraction' in front of him.

'Fuck! What have I done!'

More of the mist cleared, finally revealing some explicit aspects of Trisha that he badly wanted to see—even though guilt swallowed him whole instantly.

"Stop! Stop!" He yelled, and the nude girl turned into mist and faded away.

"Haaa... haaa..." He found himself breathing heavily as he stared blankly into the distance.

'How can I even look her in the eye after this?'

The knock on Rey's door woke him from his flustered thoughts, so he was awkwardly jerked back into reality.

"Y-yeah?!" He yelled out.

Of course, his Ralyks tone had returned, though that single stutter made him cringe.

The voice that emerged was that of a lady—a KariBlanc Group employee.

"Lord Ralyks, everyone is prepared and waiting for you."

"Alright. I'll be down now." He responded, collapsing on his bed instantly.

"Understood, sir."

He heard her footsteps as she walked away from his door, and a sigh of relief oozed from his lips.

Rey could only imagine if she had fought him when the naked body of a young lady was still in front of him.

'Ahhh! That would be so embarrassing!' He wanted to scream out, but he controlled himself.

It was time for business, so he couldn't afford to be in such a zone.

"It's Ralyks time."

Once again... Rey cringed.

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Everyone who would be going on the journey was present.

There was Kara Verte, with another man beside her—a KariBlanc Agent.

He would serve as the coachman, so his presence was necessary.

Then, there was Esme—though she couldn't be recognized thanks to her dark mask.

Just like Ralyks, she donned a dark mask—one that appeared more feminine—and she had a dark cloak on.

Her long hair was packed to one side, she had a hood on, and her overall demeanor told of mystery.

The last person to converge with the group was Ralyks, the Dark Adventurer.

As he appeared from his spatial rupture, everyone welcomed him with bows and nods.

Rebal Blanc and Asher even appeared to see the group off, wishing them farewell.

They could only hope for the best.

As they all boarded the carriage and began their journey, smiles were on their faces, and confidence radiated forth.

They were prepared for any dangers that they might encounter. They had Ralyks on their side, after all.

Unknown to all of them, though, the darkness they bled to encounter wouldn't be spotted for the next few days.

Instead, it would converge in another place.

The Eastern Warehouse.

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[Western Continent: A Cave In The East]

When one thought of a cave, they would expect to see grimy rocks and a jagged path that didn't look the slightest bit appealing.

However, this haven was different.

The cavernous dwelling had smooth surfaces all over the walls and ceilings. Tiny balls of light danced in the air, like fireflies, and the place appeared far more pristine than most human dwellings.

Flowers grew in multiple corners of the cave, generating an irresistibly pleasant aroma all around. The fragrance offered fresh air, so despite being surrounded by rocks, no single presence could feel it in the slightest.

The cave walls glimmered with blue hue, and there was something sanctified about the large dwelling within that betrayed the smaller entrance.

There could only be one reason for such a wondrous sight: the presence of Elves.

Two of such beings entered the cave through the entrance, their pointy ears and brightly colored hair stood out the moment they stepped in.

Their hairs were pink and purple respectively, resembling beautiful flowers more than anything else.

Their gem-like eyes also shone in the cave, and their pretty faces exuded a charm that humans could never dream to match.

The duo walked through the passageway and navigated through the labyrinthine corridors within the cave, passing by the entrances to the temporary rooms of their comrades.

Most of them were probably asleep now, considering it was already evening, but the two knew that their leader would still be awake.

The moment they entered the central room at the end of the cave, their thoughts were confirmed.

The entrance to the wide room was merely a curtain made of tender leaves.

Once past them, a field of glowing dandelions would enter one's sight, and the aroma would be more than enough to overwhelm one's senses with pleasure.

For the Elves that walked in, though, they only felt awe and respect for their dear leader.

She was at the very center of the dancing flowers, meditating very solemnly.

Her eyes were closed, and both hands were spread apart to her legs which were folded in her meditative posture.

Her hair shimmered with green, blue and silver light; like the fairest kind of flower one could pluck from the ripest tree.

"Lady Aurora, we have returned." One of the Elves said as both of them clasped their hands, bowing their heads as they greeted her.

Aurora, as she was called, opened her eyes, the moment she was called. Her greenish-blue emerald eyes were on full display as she did so, and her long eyes perked up nearly instantly.

The moment she saw the two girls in front of her, a smile coursed through her pale face and she nodded at them.

"Lali... Lila... you're finally back!" As she said those words, she rose to her feet slowly.

Her expression showed genuine joy.

"You may raise your heads."

The two younger Elves obeyed, so they could see Aurora's gentle smile.

The older Elf invited them closer, and they walked through the field that slowly made a path for them.

Once they got close enough, she embraced the two of them and breathed them in.

They did the same to her—as was the custom among Elves.

"Well done, you two." She patted their backs, slowly pulling away.

Lila and Lali's pained faces showed they wanted to be in her embrace for longer, but it couldn't be helped.

They had to pull away as well.

As Aurora looked at them, she noticed their desires and only smiled even more.

Little ones would always act like that.

"You've been outside all day. I need to hear every detail." She sat in her previous position and urged the girls to do the same.

They obeyed.

"So, tell me everything."

Lila and Lali glanced at each other, not knowing where to start in their analysis.

Aurora nearly giggled at the cute behaviors of her sisters. It seemed she would have to help them once again.

"Why don't we start..." Her tone slowly took on a deeper, darker tone as the smile she had on completely vanished.

"...With the issue of the Dragon."

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## **Chapter 262 Discourse Among Elves**

Earlier that day—very early in the morning—Lila and Lali saw something.

It was a fight between a Dragon and a human.

The Dragon was a three-horned one; a Dragon Commander. As for the human, he was a considerably capable person.

Ultimately, the Dragon prevailed, and the human fled.

This clash was peculiar for multiple reasons, so Lila and Lali knew they had to report it to their leader.

For one; the Dragons were currently raving their land in the Eastern Continent.

As such, they were enemies of the Elves.

However, the reason they didn't come out to assist the human was because humans weren't too far off from Dragons in the eyes of Elves.

Besides, this particular human had the stench of evil shrouding him, making him even more repulsive to the Elves who watched.

The second peculiar thing about the clash was that the Dragon spared the human.

That contradicted the nature of the feral and merciless beasts that the Elves knew.

The third, and perhaps the most important thing about the entire conflict, was what the Dragon did after winning the battle.

It entered the mountains through an entrance, and it also proceeded out of it.

That seemed like an inconsequential detail, but if one considered the fact that the Elves had been stationed in the Eastern Land for about a week now—waiting for the Enchanted Items that they were promised—it made a lot of sense.

The two Elven Scouts had finally found the warehouse of the humans; I.e, the Kariblanc Group.

With the Dragon completely taking over it, and the Elves knowing where the Warehouse was now located, a perfect opportunity had presented itself.

The Elves could take what they wanted... all without paying a dime to the shady humans they had to make a deal with.

This, too, was the world's perfect act of justice.

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"The humans at KariBlanc stopped contacting us for some time now. I still tried reaching them today, but all to no avail."

For Aurora, she could confidently say that she and her comrades weren't the ones at fault in this transaction.

It was the humans.

"We've honored our part. They're the ones who defaulted..."

As she said this, the two ladies in front of her nodded vehemently.

"As expected of the humans."

"So untrustworthy..."

Elves had a strong distaste towards the affinity of evil. They all despised it greatly.

Anything deemed unclean or unnatural was dubbed as evil, and for the Elven Culture, most of every other culture or race could be placed under that category.

"Sister Freya warned me about them, but I thought we could at least obtain a fair bargain if I seduced them with what they fancied most."

Elves weren't lacking in Resources or Minerals. Their land was rich and full of them.

From Mana Crystals to Adamantite, Orichalcum, and several other immensely valuable resources of the highest quality—far higher than what the humans currently possessed.

The problem was that they didn't have any refineries.

Elves weren't a technological species, so they had no way to properly purify their minerals or turn them into actual weapons or crafted items.

As a result, they had to rely on the humans.

"We couldn't try the Dwarves or Giants because they're more difficult to deal with."

Humans were very simple-minded, so they were the perfect pawns to use.

The Elves intended on selling their special resources to the humans in exchange for Items. Of course, the humans had to supply them with Items first before they got paid.

It would be of inferior quality, but Elves were desperate at this point.

Anything Grade 5 above was needed.

Thankfully, the KariBlanc Group delivered.

There were at least thousands of consumable Enchanted Items in stock, according to what they were told, and a couple hundred durable weapons.

'We can finally drive those monsters away from our territory and cut off ties with these humans...'  
Those were Aurora's thoughts when she entered into the agreement.

Unfortunately, the humans failed in keeping their promise.

And now... time was running out.

"We need to return home as soon as possible. Since they've delayed, then we are justified in our actions."

And so, the Elves decided to take matters into their own hands and seek out the Warehouse where the goods were being kept.

In their eyes, the deal was off.

If the humans could not even honor an agreement despite having benefits attached to them, then they weren't even capable of being tame animals akin to livestock.

They were nothing but wild beasts.

"The Dragon was a blessing. It took care of the humans for us, so now all we have to do is take care of the Dragon." Aurora smiled at her sisters.

According to Elven Culture, they were all brothers and sisters.

Those in higher positions had titles, yes, but in the end... everyone was in one big family.

It was a value that they shared; one that no other race possessed.

"A-about the Dragon... we saw no sign of it all day. Maybe it left already?"

"Yes. Maybe it's not returning."

Aurora furrowed her brows once she heard those words.

The Dragons she knew were very greedy and destructive.

They wouldn't just leave so much treasure behind.

"Well, this Dragon was indeed strange... sparing a human like that." She stroked her chin in consideration.

They still had to be careful, all things considered.

'We only brought a dozen of our brethren, so I would like us to be as vigilant as possible.'

It wasn't like a Dragon Commander was too much of an issue for her or anything, but she simply didn't want to take any chances for the sake of her younger ones.

"If we delay, it's possible that the humans could bring reinforcements and things could get messy. I suppose it's better to act quickly..." Aurora murmured.

She didn't want to fight humans—not because she believed them to be of value or anything, but because it would sully her hands.

A wild beast was still a living being.

They couldn't possibly perform perverse acts against nature in such a way.

Elves were naturally pacifists.

'The only reason we kill the Dragons is because the Oracle proclaimed them a scourge upon the world that should be eliminated.'

They were a threat to nature, and Elves were Nature's servants.

At least, according to them.

"We will act tomorrow. Tell the rest of our sisters to prepare for battle." Aurora finally made her decision.

"Battle? But I thought we concluded that the Dragon wasn't around any longer." Lali asked with innocence.

"Yeah. I thought so too." Lila added.

Both of them had child-like eyes on their faces, causing Aurora to smile and pat their heads.

"In life, sometimes the unexpected happens. We must prepare for such moments."

The two girls beamed at their elder's wisdom and bobbed their heads in pure agreement.

"Amazing!"

"So wise!"

Aurora merely giggled at the innocence of her younger sisters. This was how people were supposed to be.

... Uncorrupted by the evils of this world.

"The Dragon might show up again, the humans might come back with reinforcements, or a new threat could arise."

To protect themselves, the Elves had to be prepared.

"For the sake of our family, we must fight."

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## **Chapter 263 Brewing Conflict**

[The Next Day]

"The time has come, my dear sisters."

Aurora stood in front of ten Elves, all of whom were on the zenith of what could be considered a hill.

It was a high ground, with a valley stretched below that led to the cluster of mountains that was their goal. They had made a cave within this hill as their abode, but now they were out in the open.

The ten Elves that stood in front of Aurora had gowns that were seemingly made from patches of plants and flowers.

Their colorful attires radiated warmth and beauty, and the looks on their faces greatly complemented what they wore.

Each Elf was astoundingly beautiful. Their hair color appeared tropical, and their fair skin oozed magnificence.

Of course, their pointy ears also added to this exotic beauty.

Out of all of them, however, Aurora stood at the very top of elegance.

Her greenish blue, coupled with silver hair, flowed with the cool wind while her emerald-like eyes gazed upon her brethren.

Wrapped around her was a cape of leafy green, and her outfit underneath was a mix of blue and white.

The very definition of pristine, according to Elven standards.

"As the plan entails, we will separate ourselves into two major groups."

The ten Elves nodded instantly.

"The first group will consist of those who will explore the Warehouse and search for our Items, and the second group will remain at the entrance to secure the building and fight back any adversary that may show up."

So far, everyone understood the plan. However, she was yet to assign roles to the Elves.

That was the goal of this briefing.

"Due to how big the entire structure is, and how many goods we ordered, a bulk of you will be going in. Ten, to be exact." Aurora began.

"You'll be led by Lila and Lali, who are currently on final patrol, and your mission is to scour every nook and cranny of the place to secure our goods."

As for the remaining two—who she would choose from the ten in front of her—they would be with her at the entrance.

"Should a Dragon or some unknown enemy surface, it would be preferable to have an elder stand guard. As a result, I will take that burden upon myself."

The eyes of the Elves glittered as tears fell from them and they looked at Aurora with such gratitude and awe.

It looked like they were children who were gazing upon their hero; or diehard fans who could finally meet their favorite celebrities.

Words like—

"Lady Aurora is so considerate."

"Lady Aurora... you're too kind!"

"I want to be like Lady Aurora when I grow older."

—Echoed within the open area that they occupied.

Despite her strategy being the obvious choice, and not really one of self-sacrifice, all the Elves considered it to be a selfless act of courage.

It was difficult to tell whether they were incredibly virtuous or just plain stupid.

"Let us depart now. We will rendezvous with Lila and Lali once we get to the entrance."

The Elves all responded affirmatively, and so they left their hilltop and moved towards their goal.

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It didn't take them too long to cover the distance between the hill and the cluster of mountains.

Once they arrived, Lila and Lali were already waiting for them there.

They had slightly troubled expressions on their faces, one which Aurora quickly picked up on and asked what the issue was.

"A small army of humans is on its way here."

"We reckon they'll be here before we are done with our mission."

Aurora narrowed her eyes the moment she heard the news.

'So... the KariBlanc Group decided to return with backup.'

It wasn't like she never considered this to be a possibility, but Aurora didn't want it to be the case.

After all, that would put the Elves in a problematic situation with the humans.

"Lady Aurora, what should we do now?"

As soon as she was asked this question, she snapped out of her thoughts and gave the only reasonable answer she could proffer at this point.

"We continue with the plan. The humans were given their chance, but they failed to meet up with their end of the bargain."

As far as the Elves were concerned, the deal was off.

"Understood."

All the Elves bowed their heads before her, and she nodded in response.

"Lali and Lila, you have the greatest sensory abilities of the group, so you will be leading the group inside."

The two Elves nodded eagerly.

"We won't disappoint you, Lady Aurora!"

"You can count on us, Lady Aurora!"

Like little children, excited when they were sent on errands, they displayed pure joy at the responsibility that was thrust on their shoulders.

"Yera and Yare, you will stay by my side as I 'welcome' the humans."

The two Elves whose name were called forth nodded and moved forward, also affirming their readiness for the role with their words.

With everything set and prepared, there was no need to waste any more time.

"My sisters... let us begin the task."

"YES, LADY AURORA!"

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[Meanwhile]

The wind parted as an army of three hundred raced towards the Clustered Mountains.

Leading them was a man, as well as two others who stood by his side.

These were the Mercenary Gang, and their leader—Fenrir—was at the forefront of the horde.

Closest to him were his two lieutenants—the surviving members of the Deadly Three.

And then, behind them were the strongest men of the Mercenary Gang.

This was the elite squad; at least, a portion of it.

They couldn't mobilize everyone and everything at once, since this was an emergency. However, Fenrir felt like this many was more than enough.

"That spineless coward, Phobio..." Fenrir grunted under his breath as they all advanced with their mounts.

'In the end, he chose to stay back like an imbecile. I suppose the Dragon really dealt great fear to him.'

Fenrir wasn't afraid, though.

He was excited! If they were to meet the Dragon in their territory, he wanted to fight it.

'I'll show you what happens when you cross the Mercenary Gang!' His thoughts flowed as he grinned like a bloodthirsty animal.

This wasn't merely the thoughts of a conceited man.

After all, Fenrir was one who had slain a Dragon Commander all by himself.

... A true beast in the body of a man.

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## **Chapter 264 Light The Dark**

Lila and Lali weren't twins, yet they were very similar in many regards.

Other than their confusingly identical names, they had the same height and weight. Their appearances differed due to the respective colors of their hair and eyes, but they had similar sets of abilities.

When it came to tracking, spying, long-range observation, sensory awareness, etc. they were both highly qualified and also evenly matched.

In essence... they had the Ranger Class.

For Young Elves, they were pretty much geniuses among their peers, which was why Aurora relied on them a lot more than the other Elves.

However, unlike with humans, that didn't make them feel conceited in any sense.

Their power was for the sake of the community.

They simply had to carry on more responsibility for their brothers and sisters.

As for the less talented Elves, there was no need to feel envious of their sisters.

This was because every Elf was told that had value to the community. The mere fact that they were born as Elves gave them worth.

As such, no matter how incapable an Elf was, there was no need to fear or envy another person.

As such, even with Lali and Lila leading the group through the cavernous path before them, no one felt bitter.

They were all just excited to be of use to Lady Aurora—and by extension, their Elven Family.

They simply—

"Halt." Lila and Lali said with a hushed tone, at the exact same time.

The group stopped, and the girls at the forefront narrowed their eyes while observing the area around them.

"We're not alone." Lali whispered.

"There are life forms here. A lot of them..." Lila concurred.

It was strange for the Dragon to have spared the life of that single human, but what if he spared even more people and allowed them to dwell in the Warehouse?

That made no sense whatsoever.

"Ready your defenses. Rather than falling into their trap by advancing, we'll lure them out."

"Let's find an open space first, though."

They were currently in a passageway, and while it wasn't particularly clustered, the Elves possessed no advantage fighting in a limited space.

'This is bad, though. Even with my sensory abilities, I can barely sense their presence.' Lali thought to herself as she looked at Lila.

It seemed the other Elf was also going through the same thing.

'Could it be some kind of cloaking Magic or Skill? Does that mean the Dragon anticipated our action?'

If things ended up taking an awry turn, they still had the flute that they could use to call upon their Lady Aurora, but none of the Elves present desired such an outcome.

They didn't want to burden their Big Sister, especially since she would also be occupied with her own mission.

As a result, they silently prayed to the Goddess of Nature for aid.

'We just have to get to a storage area as soon as possi—'

"GURAOOOAAHHHHH!!!"

A bunch of Monsters suddenly emerged from the layers of darkness, roaring as they approached the Elves with bloodthirsty rage.

Their numbers weren't identifiable in the thick of the moment, but the two Rangers estimated them to be over ten.

Thankfully, since their defenses were active, the shadowy beasts could only claw at a dense layer of protection.

No one was harmed in any way.

"So they blend in with darkness..." Lali whispered.

"In that case... let's remove their advantage." Lila muttered.

Elves naturally had powerful vision. Whether it was day or night, they could see quite vividly.

However, this vision of theirs had a downside which the Elves were now noticing.

'Our sight automatically banishes darkness by ignoring it and ensuring we see light...'

'By blending in with darkness, they were also able to bypass our superior vision until it was nearly too late.'

Lali and Lila wondered if they would have taken any damage if they hadn't erected barriers prior, but there was no way to honestly determine that.

Realizing this, the two ignored their initial line of thought and focused simply on eradicating the prowling creatures.

"[Flare]."

The two of them stretched their hands forward and released a blast of pure light.

Instantly, a bright flare clouded the room, revealing just how many Monsters there were around them.

That was when the Elves opened their eyes in shock.

"W-what is this...?!"

"There are hundreds of them!"

"What in the world?!"

"What should we do now?!"

Monsters of varying kinds and shapes and sizes were occupying the hallway, all of them with starving eyes and salivating mouths.

"We're at a disadvantage here!"

"We need to hurry. Quicken up the pace as we look for an open area!"

Lali and Lila instantly took initiative and commanded their eight sisters.

The girls nodded, ready to follow the instructions they had been given.

"The Monsters are stunned thanks to [Flare], so we just have to continuously use it while we navigate our way past them."

"They've crossed the area, but with our barrier, we can push them aside and advance!"

Elves had special eyes, so unless the [Flare] in question was especially powerful, they weren't going to suffer any adverse effects from it.

As such, using this strategy was the best course of action.

"Let's go!"

The group hurried past the Monsters, carrying out their plans with the utmost kind of precision.

Every Elf assisted in utilizing [Flare], or some other variant in the form of Spells rather than a Skill.

Thankfully, their barriers held up as they kept up this long process.

Until finally... they arrived at a clearing.

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"GURRRUUUUUU..."

"URERUUUUGGHHH..."

"KRUKUUU..."

Monsters swarmed around the Elves, approaching from various pathways that led to the same clearing.

The Elves appeared undeterred, forming a small circle within the clearing as they cautiously watched the creatures approach.

"This is strange. I see different kinds of Monsters..."

"Indeed. They should be attacking each other, but they're working together..."

The Elves found it absurd, especially since they had observed nature for so long and already knew how it operated.

Monsters of differing Races never worked together.

Unless...

"Perhaps it's due to the Dragon's influence."

"It must be controlling them somehow."

They never expected to see Monsters, talkless of a variety of them working together in such huge numbers.

However, this was yet another example of the wise words that Lady Aurora had bestowed upon them.

Lali and Lila looked at each other and nodded warily.

They could see it with their own eyes.

'In life the unexpected happens... and preparations must be made for such moments.'

And now that the moment had come, there was only one thing they could do.

... FIGHT!

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## **Chapter 265 Creeping Fear**

Elves were pacifists.

No matter what happened, they were averse to violence.

And even in the case of necessary violence, they never crossed a line.

... The line of death.

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"We need to disable them somehow!"

"Yeah! Let's utilize the Skills at our disposal. For those who know Spells on restraints, you should utilize them now!"

"If you have the [Sleep] Skill, use that too. A stronger Skill is also preferable!"

"Hurry!"

The Monsters were already closing in on the Elves, so the ladies began to raise their voices a lot more.

This was so their instructions wouldn't be drowned by the countless grunts of the approaching Monsters, and also because they were slightly anxious.

Sure, they had a wider room to operate on, but if they dawdled for too long, the Monsters would fill up the space.

That would be bad for everyone.

Thankfully, the combined barrier that they had was around A-Tier, and none of the Monsters could penetrate it.

At least, not yet.

"On my mark, everyone!" Lila yelled, not willing to wait and find out if their barrier was more durable than the countless attacks they received from the surrounding beasts.

"Prepare to release your Spells and Skills at once!"

As Lali's voice echoed out, determined expressions formed on the faces of the young Elves.

Even though the hundreds of Monsters—most likely C-Tier and some B-Tier—surrounded them, they were certain that their combined mental attacks would be enough to knock them out for good.

That way, they could freely explore the Warehouse without any further interference.

The Monsters got closer, the brimming lights from the eyes and hands of the Elves grew brighter.

And after a second of silence, with everyone holding their breaths—

"Now!"

—The attack erupted.

~VWUUUUUUUSSSSSHHHHH!!!~

A wave of powerful Mana swept through the room, releasing a strong mental wave of Skills such as [Sleep], [Enchant], and [Charm]; as well as Spells of the same caliber.

The goal was to simply render the Monsters invalid or incapable of action for a long period of time.

Afterwards, they could take their time restraining them with Magic, or sealing off the room so they would be trapped in it.

Once that was done, they would be free from all interference.

The only problem was...

"E-eh...?"

"W-what is this...?"

"W-why...?"

"WHY ISN'T IT WORKING?!"

Their eyes slowly began to widen as they noticed that the Monsters weren't stopping.

"B-but they're only C-Tier..."

The combined might of their abilities was easily A-Tier.

So why weren't the Monsters falling down?

"They're getting closer!"

Anxiety began to rise, and some other emotion that the Elves hadn't really felt since the mission began started to creep in.

It

Was

FEAR!

"Eeeek!"

"It's not working! Why isn't it working!"

"Let's try again! AGAIN!"

The Elves did the exact same thing one more time, expecting something different to happen.

... They were disappointed.

The only difference between the current moment and the moment before was that the Elves now had less Mana to work with.

None of their mental abilities were working on the Monsters.

Panic spread among the ten, and the eight weaker Elves began to look up to the two talented ones.

They were the ones who had the most responsibility, so it was only natural for this to happen.

Lila and Lali had to be held accountable.

"C-could it be... an effect of the Dragon?"

"Maybe Mind Control! It's Mind Control that allows them to work together!"

That was the only answer that Lila and Lali could conjure up.

There was no other explanation.

"For it to resist our A-Tier combined mental effects, it means the Dragon's Mins Control Skill must be higher."

No one was surprised to hear that.

Dragons were especially powerful, so one having an S-Tier Skill wasn't particularly uncommon.

In fact, it was a prerequisite for a Three-Horn to have an S-Tier Skill.

'This is bad...!' Lali thought to herself as she watched the Monsters approach.

'None of us have S-Tier Skills. Only Lady Aurora does.'

The most they had were A-Tier Skills.

'Lali and I are not experts in Mental Skills and Magic, so we can't utilize much in that regard. This is really bad...!' A bead of sweat fell from Lila's forehead.

The only option now was to use Binding Magic to somehow render them immobile, but even that option was a bit iffy.

'They're too many of them to capture.' Lali thought to herself.

'And even if we did capture all of them, they could escape from our binds given enough time.' Lila was also thinking along the same lines as her sister.

Ultimately, they were in a difficult situation.

The Elves had to make a choice eventually.

"E-everyone! Let us proceed to bind them!" Lila and Lali shouted at the same time.

They had come up with the most effective strategy for the current moment.

"We'll restrain them and seal off this room. It's going to take a lot of Mana and concentration, but you all have your emergency Potion supply, so we'll use that once we're done!"

There was no guarantee that they wouldn't encounter even more Monsters the deeper they went, but this was the best they could think of for now.

"Once they're sealed here, we'll have limited time to search for the goods and secure them for ourselves."

Spatial Rings were among the Items they paid for, so the Elves were simply going to use the Rings to collect all the Items and then leave the entire Warehouse.

There were certain Items that Spatial Rings could not be used on, so they could always come back for those with Lady Aurora.

With that as their current game plan, the Elves all nodded in agreement and ignored their fears.

"Get ready!" Lali and Lila yelled out, prepared for their next counterattack.

They couldn't help but think of their Big Sis and wonder how she was handling the disgusting and conniving humans.

They already knew she would succeed, just as always.

That meant they couldn't fail either.

'We will do our best here, Lady Aurora! None of us shall fail you!'

\*

## **Chapter 266 The Confrontation**

The air grew increasingly tense as the army of men began to fall within sight.

Aurora stood still, her stoic demeanor unchanging for even the slightest second, as she watched the silhouettes of the humans draw closer.

They were on horses—all of whom were enchanted to move faster than normal while experiencing as little fatigue as possible.

The man at the forefront, while initially nothing but a blur, soon became a clear image for Aurora.

'He must be their leader...!' She thought to herself.

He had a fur coat on—resembling the hide of a white wolf—and he had nothing else on for a shirt, so his entire chest was exposed for all to see.

His baggy trousers firmly stayed at both sides of the mount he wielded, and his long, unruly hair made him look more animalistic than man.

He had glowing orange eyes that belonged to a predator, and his determined gaze had no hint of fear.

There was no doubt in Aurora's mind.

'He's the leader. Those two who are close to him must be his captains.'

One of the men was dressed like a Mage—with a purple hooded cape covering his face, and a somehow elaborate garb that served as his entire attire.

He had jewels decorating his hands and neck, which were clearly Enchanted Items, and stuck behind him—like a spear or sword—was a gnarled staff of some sort.

The man was most likely a user of Magic, according to Aurora's analysis.

As for the second man, he had heavy armor on—from head to toe.

His face wasn't even exposed thanks to the helmet he wore. He only had his visor—meant for seeing—and punctures close to his ears and nose so he could breathe and listen.

The heavy armor he had on was obsidian black, though it had silver designs all around.

Aurora could see no blade with the man, but she knew he had to use some kind of weapon.

'Does he have an ability to conjure weapons? Or maybe he's storing them somewhere. Perhaps a Spatial Ring or something of the sort...'

Aurora knew humans were very innovative with technology, something that Elves had no experience in.

She didn't think it made their race any better than hers, though, considering what they had to do to arrive at such a precipice.

They literally upturned the way of Nature in their selfish bid to grow stronger.

The fur coat that Fenrir wore, for example.

It had to belong to some kind of powerful Monster. By killing the Monster, he had grown stronger.

However, growing stronger also meant they had deprived nature of one of her agents.

The Enchanted Items that they all boasted of was only possible due the sacrifice of countless lives.

It was disgusting.

'But it seems even we have transgressed...'

By requesting for Enchanted Items, they were essentially endorsing the wicked acts of mankind. The only way Aurora could justify what was going on was by giving the excuse:

"They would have done it anyway, even if we didn't desire Enchanted Items."

It was thanks to this mental gymnastics that she could at least remain somewhat noble in her pursuits.

'In any case, the fight draws near. I have already strengthened my resolve to do what needs to be done... for the sake of my people.'

Elves weren't fighters. They had very little to no experience when it came to true combat.

That was yet another thing humans had over them—though it wasn't a compliment to say that man was more violent than the Elves.

It was for this very reason that Aurora had been hesitant to fight humans. Their prowess and endless wickedness could prove to be their greatest strengths when facing her people.

But... the option of peace had long since died.

There could only be war.

'I may have to use sheer violence, and I'm prepared for that. As long as I do not kill them, then my ethics are preserved.'

No matter how vile humans were, they weren't deserving of death.

Not by her hands anyway.

Aurora looked ahead once more and noticed the obvious changes.

The silhouettes were no longer distant, but were now concrete men who were not too far away from Aurora and her sisters.

'About three hundred men. They don't appear particularly threatening, but I can not dismiss their number.'

Aurora closed her eyes and gave a deep sigh.

She opened it slowly and summoned a staff out of nowhere.

It was an ashen staff—almost white—and she tightly gripped it while placing its sole on the ground.

This was a staff only elders could wield, as it came from the Elder Tree of their Elven Village.

The mere fact that Aurora summoned it meant that she had no intention of holding back.

Even the Elves behind her looked shocked at her decision. However, they could not question it.

Lady Aurora's actions were for the benefit of the Elf Family.

'Come, vile humans.' Her thoughts echoed as her bluish-green eyes glowed.

'None of you will get past me!'

\*\*\*\*\*

Fenrir and his army slowed down as they neared the entrance of the KariBlanc Eastern Warehouse.

They had expected to be greeted by the Dragon, but so far there was no enemy in sight.

Until now...

'Who are these chicks? I noticed them from afar off...'

The first thing he noticed was their pointed ears, so he quickly realized they were Elves.

Their beauty was enthralling, and despite their fierce expressions, they looked very delicate.

The woman at the forefront was the most beautiful of the three—no, that didn't do her justice.

'She's the prettiest lady I have ever seen.'

Fenrir and his men stopped about a hundred meters from them, and he dismounted almost as soon as they halted.

He took a few steps forward, his eyes lit with desire.

"You three... I like you." He pointed at the three Elves, his teeth now being completely displayed alongside his brazenness.

He could see the frowns on their faces, but that only made him more excited.

He could even feel a slight bulge in his crotch.

He took a few more steps forward and placed a hand on his hairy, muscular chest.

With a loud voice and an excited tone, Fenrir made his declaration.

"Be my brides, and I shall forgive your defiance!"

\*

## Chapter 267 The Mercenary Gang Leader

"What?!"

Fenrir heard the enraged sound of the two Elfen ladies who stood behind their apparent leader.

They had deeper frowns on their faces, though that didn't take away from their beauty in any way. The two angry women looked even more attractive the more annoyed they were at him.

As for the Elf at the center, she didn't express any such thing as anger.

Instead, she gave Fenrir a condescending look.

"I would have to refuse; on behalf of myself, and my sisters." She responded calmly.

Her soft voice made the bulge in his crotch slightly twitch, and he found himself growing increasingly excited.

There was nothing that turned Fenrir on more than an interesting hunt.

"What can I do, then? I really want you three, you know? Especially you." He pointed at the most mature Elf of the bunch.

Her brows furrowed a little in disapproval, and the two Elves behind her began to yell with anger.

"How dare a mere human...!"

"Don't look at our Lady with your filthy eyes!"

Their reactions made Fenrir chuckle in delight. Elves were rare to find, but finding ones this amusing was impossible.

He knew he had to have them at all costs.

But first...

"We have come here to recover our goods which lay beyond that entrance. I don't suppose you'd let us freely pass."

As he said this with a smirk, his two lieutenants moved closer to him, and his three hundred men began to reach for their weapons.

... They had to take care of business.

"We have taken full custody of the goods within. Per the arrangement made with your KariBlanc Group, those items inside belong to us." The prettiest Elf spoke sternly, gently hitting her staff on the ground.

The moment she uttered those words, Fenrir's eyes widened in shock.

'Those Blanc bastards... so they were dealing with the Elves?!'

A wide smile formed on his face as he appreciated the intel.

The men behind him also looked at one another in both surprise and amusement.

Once again, they were assured of the quality of the items they would soon be getting.

'Based on her response, she seems to think we're the KariBlanc Group. I could just play along, but there's no merit in that.' He smiled, both internally and externally as he stepped forward and flexed his muscles.

"My name is Fenrir, leader of the Mercenary Gang. We are not affiliated with the KariBlanc Group; instead, we have thoroughly crushed them."

The two Elves behind their leader reacted with genuine shock and expressed nothing short of disgust towards Fenrir and his approaching men.

"As a result of our victory, we deem it our right to claim the spoils of war... don't you agree?" He raised his hand, as if requesting for something.

"So step aside and hand over the Warehouse... before things get messy."

His bloodthirsty smile and wide grin made it clear that he was willing to be a ferocious beast if they refused his gentle offer.

Fenrir didn't care much for long talks and negotiations.

If something was his, he would want to have it no matter what—no sharing or haggling involved.

He was strong, therefore he didn't have to learn diplomacy or grovel at the feet of anyone.

Fenrir was simply following the unfair law of the world.

"I believe I already made my position clear." The leader Elf said calmly.

"This place is now under the custody of the Elves led by me, Aurora El Slaviarai."

Fenrir could feel some kind of pressure circle around Aurora as she spoke—like strong winds that only seemed to be growing into a tempest.

"If you know what is good for you and your subordinates, then you should retreat. Now."

Fenrir could detect confidence in the words of the Elf. This wasn't merely defiance... It was a challenge.

Aurora, as she called herself, was strong.

"Hehehe... so that's how it is!" Fenrir grinned widely, cracking his neck as he slowly winded his muscles.

"That's such a shame. I truly didn't want to fight you."

He wasn't particularly averse to hitting women, but he didn't want to damage the faces of the pretty Elves that he would soon make his.

'Well, I can always have them healed, so there's no need to think that way.'

Besides, if he made sure to pummel them well, they would know better than to defy him next time.

The sooner he taught them obedience... the better.

"Why don't we handle this like mature adults? Me versus you."

Fenrir was, of course, referring to Aurora.

Frankly, he wanted to rest out her strength and see how strong she was.

He already knew Elves were very poor at combat, but this particular one seemed fairly confident in her power.

'It would be nice to see her despair once she falls under my superior strength.'

"Fine. Though I do not mind taking you all on right now." Aurora took a step forward.

Her statement amused Fenrir. He couldn't tell if she was speaking this way due to self-assurance or pure stupidity.

"You two, remain here and guard the entrance." She told her two subordinates, who nodded at her every word.

Once she was done, Aurora took a few more steps forward, until she was a considerable distance from her sisters and much closer to Fenrir.

The latter was also moving closer to her.

"You do know that there are multiple entrances, right? My men could always take a different route." Fenrir chuckled in a mocking tone.

"It matters not. I will not allow any of you to step inside."

Aurora's response was curt and straightforward. It was clear that she didn't desire to converse with the human in front of her.

Fenrir only took this as even more motivation to have her as his woman.

"By the way, I heard a Dragon attacked this place. I don't see any traces of one, so... was it you who got rid of it?"

Fenrir narrowed his eyes as he asked the question.

'If she is the one, then I should assume she's a lot stronger than my Deadly Three. I'll probably need to go all-out from the start.'

However, her response to the question was a shrug.

"The Dragon left already, so we took it as our chance to obtain our goods."

Fenrir was chuckling long before realizing it. Based on her statement, he could decipher two things.

'First is the confirmation that they're the true buyers of those Enchanted Items. Secondly... they're not as strong as the Dragon.'

If they were, the Elves wouldn't have waited for it to leave before attacking.

Thus, Fenrir reached his conclusion.

'In essence... I'm definitely stronger!'

He stepped forward with his muscles bulging with every step he took.

'There's no need to go all-out for now, but there's also no need to hold back too much either.' With this line of thought, he activated three out of his five Skills.

'[Greater Fiery Power]. [Greater Pure Boost]. [Greater Iron Fortress].'

~WHUUUUUSSSHHHHH!!!~

A swirling force instantly rushed around him as both his offensive and defensive abilities rose to the max.

Burning aura enveloped his body like flames, and he grew to be at least one foot taller than usual, with his muscles looking a lot bigger as well.

Every aspect of Fenrir had bulked up, and as he stood right in front of the Elf he desired, he licked his lips with utmost delight.

"You're mine!"

\*

## **Chapter 268 Fenrir Vs Aurora [Pt 1]**

Fenrir, Chief of the Mercenary Gang.

He had the Class 'Warlord', a B-Tier Class, and 5 Skills at his disposal.

[Greater Fiery Power]. [Greater Pure Boost]. [Greater Iron Fortress]. [War Cry]. [Beast Mode].

Three of these Skills were B-Tier Skills, while the two others were C-Tier.

He was also Level 145, the strongest man recognized in the Underworld.

Alongside his experience in combat, his Privileges as a Warlord, and the multiple Skills at his disposal, he had one more thing that made him known to be invincible.

The fact that he had killed a Dragon Commander!

All of that culminated into the one known as the Chief of the Mercenary Gang.

—An unstoppable force of VIOLENCE!

\*\*\*\*\*

~WHOOSH!~

In a harsh breath of wind, Fenrir made his first move, rushing towards the still Elf with a powerful fist directed at her face.

Sure, it would disfigure it, but Fenrir was assured that she would survive.

~BOOOOOOMMMM!~

The earth shattered as his fist made impact, causing debris to fly in multiple directions as smoke rose from the Elf's position.

While he didn't hear her screams and groans, he imagined it was drowned by the loud noise of destruction that he caused.

... He was wrong.

"H-huh..." Fenrir thought his eyes were deceiving him as he looked at a standing silhouette within the smoke.

A second later, and the winds carried away all that obstructed his sight so he could see the being who stood upright before him.

It was none other than Aurora.

She maintained her position, and the calm expression on her face had not been altered in the slightest.

While everything around her had suffered from the effects of Fenrir's punch, the platform she stood on was absolutely fine.

And it was all thanks to the near-white translucent barrier that formed a sort of semi-sphere around her.

"Hoh? Nice defense!" Fenrir commented, despite his usual habit of not speaking during fights.

The fact that the Elf kept staring at him with such defiant eyes unnerved him a little.

What was previously amusing for him slowly started to get annoying.

Fenrir wasn't satisfied any longer.

~VWOOOSH!~

Another powerful blow was sent towards Aurora, this time with bursting flames coating Fenrir's entire fist.

The result?

~BOOOOOOM!~

A massive explosion rose from the point of impact, causing heated winds to fly on and about the area. freeweb novel. com

The rest of the Mercenary Gang braced themselves due to the impact, and the Elves behind Aurora did the same.

However...

"Stop. It's useless."

... Aurora and her barrier remained intact.

'H-huh...? What's going on?'

Fenrir had never seen anyone capable of defending against two of his attacks so casually.

Perhaps the Grand Mage of the Kingdom could do so, but she was just one person.

Besides, she would have to cast a Spell for that.

'Hold on! This is an Elf! I can't hold her to the same standards as the others!'

Fenrir shook off the anxiety that was slowly building up within him.

He didn't want to entertain the possibility of losing just yet.

Not when he hadn't fully revealed all the cards on his shoulders.

'What of [War Cry]?'

"URAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!" Fenrir activated his debuff Skill, ensuring his roar filled the entire space where everyone occupied.

[War Cry] had two primary functions.

One was to boost the strength of his allies, and the other was to reduce the power of his enemy.

He could only choose one of the functions, and the cooldown rate was quite long, which was why it remained a C-Tier Skill despite its incredible use.

Once he was done activating the Skill, he sent one more fiery strike towards his adversary, this time putting his back into it.

~BOOOOOOMMM!~

The earth shook, threatening to cave in completely, as the barrier soaked in the impact of his strike.

Fenrir felt as though he broke through the barrier and shattered the woman's jaw, but that could have as well been his imagination.

Still, by utilizing [War Cry], he was assured that Aurora's abilities would have drastically reduced.

It wouldn't be long until—

"Why don't you just stop now? I already told you that it's of no use..." Aurora's disconcerted tone shattered the reality that Fenrir was living in.

Winds scattered the dust and smoke that danced around her, revealing how her barrier was still standing.

"What?!" Fenrir found himself in confusion at this point.

'What Tier is that Barrier? A-Tier?' Was that perhaps why he couldn't make a dent in it?

No... even if it was A-Tier, it shouldn't have survived that long against his strikes.

All the Skills he had used so far already placed him around the level of an A-Tier, especially coupled with his Warlord Privileges

—one of which stated:

~Your power will drastically rise by 50 percent when facing someone with a Tier higher than you.~

He also had several Items on that made it so that he was an unstoppable force of destruction.

Adding all these factors together, he was confident that he could defeat an A-Tier target.

So why wasn't he winning?!

"Tch!" Fenrir clicked his tongue.

He had to admit that Aurora was far stronger than he expected and he still didn't know the depths of her strength.

'Now that it's come to this, I'll just have to go all-out.'

That meant activating his final Skill... [Beast Mode].

~VWUUUUMMM!!~

Misty energy swirled around Fenrir as his body underwent a rapid transformation.

His black hair turned white nearly instantly, and his body began to grow fur at an unbelievable rate.

Fenrir discarded his human appearance and took on the form of something else.

Like a wolf, but not completely one.

He still had human-like muscles, and he was bipedal, however, he now had a wolf tail, wolf limbs, and a wolf head.

He stood at least eight feet tall, and his huge body was beyond threatening.

It was primal.

At this point, his power had long transcended what it used to be.

"ROAAAAARRRRHHHHH!!!" He let out, allowing shockwaves to ripple through the air and crash upon everyone who was within the vicinity.

A powerful pressure was sent down to everyone who watched  
—all thanks to Fenrir's transformation.

Despite it being a mere C-Tier Skill, [Beast Mode] gave Fenrir the ability of a predator; one whose bloodlust was insatiable, and his desires endless.

It boosted his Combat Ability and presence to a magnificent degree of 100%, hence making him a walking calamity.

His additional Items also had their effects improved thanks to his 'Equip Limit' increasing.

His current strength had more to do with compatibility rather than sheer power, but it was effective regardless.

At this moment, Fenrir was truly a beast.

'Now then...' He growled as he looked down on the Elf who had no choice but to look up to him.

'... Time for round two!'

Moving faster than anyone's eyes could possibly perceive, Fenrir rushed towards his target like a wild beast and sent both hands rushing toward her for a claw attack.

His body was still burning red thanks to his [Greater Fiery Power] Skill, so adding the intensity of such a flaming aura to claws that distorted the air itself....

... The result had to be catastrophic!

\*

## **Chapter 269 Fenrir Vs Aurora [Pt 2]**

~FWIIIIISH!~

Twin burning slashes marked themselves into space as they landed upon the barrier.

The force alone caused Fenrir to be pushed back, so he simply recoiled in the air and landed a few meters away from his enemy—right before charging back again.

~WHOOOSH!~

Once again, he did the same, slashing and hacking the barrier with unbelievable speed.

Again...

~SWISH!~

And again...

~VWUUSH!~

... Yet again!

He kept this up, almost as one who had infinite stamina, just waiting for the moment the barrier would wear down.

But... it didn't!

No matter how many strikes he made, or how fast he tore through the air to reach his target, or how badly the area around him was devastated...

... The barrier remained intact.

"Haaa... haaaa..."

After about five minutes of relentless assault, the beast finally slowed down.

He exhaled heavily, standing about ten meters from his target while huffing and puffing.

'Why is the barrier not going down? I've tried practically everything...'

Fenrir already knew the answer, but he had been subconsciously ignoring it all this time. But, with his options all but consummated, he had no other choice but to admit the truth.

'She's stronger than I am. And it's not even close!'

It felt like a strike to his ego—especially since he desired her as a submissive bride.

Now that he knew who was superior, Fenrir felt beyond annoyed.

He felt frustrated.

'Damn it! I do have that one final card, but I can't use that. Not here... and not on her!'

That meant he only had one option.

"Prepare to attack, everyone!" Fenrir yelled out.

The entirety of the Mercenary Gang unsheathed their weapons, and the two members of the Deadly Three instantly appeared next to their leader.

Fenrir was still in his Beast Mode, but he knew it would only last for about three more minutes.

He had to end it within that time frame.

"You don't look too surprised. Still having that calm facade..." Fenrir scoffed at the Elf who remained in her barrier.

"Humans are untrustworthy scum who don't keep to their word. I never had any expectations from you, to begin with, so your actions don't surprise me."

Fenrir frowned a little as soon as he heard Aurora's monotonous response.

"Are you saying you can take on all of us at the same time? You're that confident, huh?"

"I believe I already told you that I didn't mind those odds from the start."

Fenrir felt a rising heat in his chest as he heard her replies.

He initially felt turned on by her words, but now he only wanted to pummel her without any mercy.

He truly desired to kill her.

"We'll see about that." He growled, raising his hand while preparing his men to attack.

"There's nothing to see."

The woman raised her staff from the ground and pointed it towards Fenrir and his crew.

"ATTACK!"

The moment Fenrir's roar echoed in the air, the Mercenary Gang elites marched forward with their weapons drawn and their Skills being activated.

In their horde, they advanced with threatening power and chants of violence.

The very ground shook, and the air around vibrated as tension took over.

Led by Fenrir and his two lieutenants, the army neared Aurora, with bloodlust so palpable one could nearly taste it,

But...

"[Nature Magic: Sleepy Garden]."

... They were all stopped by a single Spell from Aurora.

In an instant, a massive willow tree appeared behind the Elf, and flowers erupted from the ground to form a garden.

Pretty colored flowers of various colors filled the area with sheer beauty. It surrounded Aurora, and it soon covered the grounds that the army trampled upon.

The moment the adversaries took a step forward, their eyes turned white and their faces lost all the violence it once had.

Instead, they became drowsy and collapsed on the ground.

One after the other—without exception—they fell down and completely lost consciousness.

The three-hundred were the first to go, and the two lieutenants didn't last very long either.

Within seconds, everyone was down for the count—except one.

"Y-you..."

Fenrir was kneeling, his body trembling as he fought to resist the drowsiness that was creeping inside his massive body.

"J-just what kind of...?"

Fenrir's vision was already getting blurry, but he knew he couldn't fall unconscious. He couldn't leave himself at the mercy of his adversary.

'Damn it! Damn it all!' If it wasn't for his current state of power, he would have fallen like the rest of his subordinates.

Never before had he experienced such humiliation.

'At least, I could always sense the difference in power between me and whoever was stronger than me.'

Like when he fought the Dragon Commander and won, or when he faced Scylla's bodyguard and instantly knew who was stronger.

He could always tell.

But this... this Elf was completely different.

She appeared so delicate, even when she was trying to be firm.

He truly thought he could take her on.

'I was wrong! She's definitely top-tier! Perhaps even... in the S-Tier?!'

As Fenrir mulled over this issue, he felt footsteps coming his way. His heart raced, but rather than the excitement he would normally feel, there was a hint that this was due to fear.

Finally, the footsteps stopped, as the one who approached him now stood right before his kneeling self.

"I told you there was no use. It seems your limits are B-Tier Skills, and you have no aptitude for Magic." Her words echoed deep in his ears.

"Human hubris knows no bounds indeed."

Aurora's words stung Fenrir to his core.

His wounded pride could no longer allow such insults to go unanswered.

'My trump card... it seems I'll have to use it now!'

There was no way she could survive this ability he was about to utilize.

It was a Privilege from his Warlord Class, and the most powerful tool in his arsenal.

'Get ready, bitch! It's time for payba—!'

Before he could conclude his thoughts, his distorted senses noticed many footsteps coming from the entrance of the Warehouse.

They all belonged to Elves.

'S-she has reinforcements...?!'

\*

## **Chapter 270 Dark Realization**

'As expected... they're unimpressive.'

As Aurora stood in front of the humans she so easily subdued, she heaved a sigh.

She was grateful that they didn't give her any issues whatsoever in the battle.

'The Ashen Staff's barrier was able to deflect all his attacks, so I suppose there was no need to worry about the combat abilities that humans possess.'

Her S-Tier Nature Magic was also pretty useful in subduing all of them without any need for excessive violence.

'I must have overestimated them in a bid for caution.' Aurora nearly smiled to herself.

The only one who was still awake despite her Spell was Fenrir, but he was barely even conscious.

'Even if he chooses to counterattack, he'll barely be able to do anything.'

Right as she was having these thoughts, ten Elves emerged from the entrance of the Warehouse.

'They're back! Finally!' Aurora smiled, glad to finally be done with dealing with humans.

Her relieved expression soon took a dip, however, once she looked in their direction and saw the kind of face they made.

"H-huh...?"

The ten Elves had sad and weary looks practically embedded on their face.

Not even a single one had a twinkle of joy in their eyes.

It puzzled Aurora.

"You're back early. How was it?" She asked, looking at Lila and Lali especially.

They appeared to be the most exhausted of the group.

"We encountered a horde of Monsters, most likely a trap left behind by the Dragon." Lali responded.

"We managed to bind the first batch and block off the room they occupied. We had to hurry, though, since they could break out at any time." Lila spoke next.

Aurora furrowed her brows in confusion.

"Why didn't you just put them to sleep?"

"We tried. It didn't work."

"Must have been the Dragon's control."

Aurora had a few more questions, but they could all wait. The biggest one on her mind was why they weren't carrying anything with them.

"Where... are the Enchanted Items?" She asked, her tone taking a bit of an anxious turn.

The whole reason they had gone through all of this trouble was for the grand prize that would assist their people and their land.

Yet why wasn't she seeing anything with them?

"We found nothing. We searched high and low, through every corner of the Warehouse... but in the end..."

"There was nothing. It's empty—at least, for the most part."

Aurora couldn't believe what Lila and Lali told her.

"A-are you sure you weren't in too much of a hurry?" She knew it was insensitive to ask such a question, especially after her sisters had done their very best.

Lila and Lali were especially diligent, and everyone knew that for a fact.

But... Aurora simply couldn't believe that their prized goods were missing.

"The Dragon must have taken them all. Could it be Spatial Magic?"

Aurora could feel anger getting mixed with frustration as she gritted her teeth at the news.

"Kekeke..." A strained chuckle echoed from the man who knelt before her.

He was in a delirious state, barely conscious. Yet, he gave his all to laugh at the Elves.

"Serves you bitches ri—!"

~FWIP!~

In one swift turn of her staff, Aurora whipped Fenrir, causing him to lose consciousness that very instant.

Afterwards, she took a deep breath and sighed.

"Haa... I guess there's no helping it." As Aurora muttered this, she looked at the human beneath her.

There was no need to resort to violence since he would have passed out a few seconds later anyway. The reason she went so far was due to her frustration.

She was angry!

'That cursed Dragon!' Her mind echoed as she clenched her fist.

Everything was ruined now.

'We can't just go home empty-handed, and there's no telling how things have escalated over there.'

She bit her lip and did her best to hide her immense vexation, knowing fully well that her impressionable sisters would feel even worse seeing her that way.

"Let's retreat for now. It wouldn't be good if the earlier fight attracted unwanted attention."

This was the middle of nowhere, and Aurora doubted that the Dragon would return, but the safe call for the current situation at hand was for a timely retreat.

"What about the humans?" One of the Elves asked.

Aurora felt the question was unnecessary, and she was about to let her thoughts be known.

'But, considering our major loss, this isn't the time for anything of the sort.'

"We'll leave them here. There's no need to worry about them."

"Understood, Lady Aurora!"

The Elves were pretty much done with everything related to the Warehouse, and while Aurora felt the temptation to check things out herself, she decided to trust Lila and Lali.

'I might return to check things out on my own later...'

If indeed all the Enchanted Items were gone, they would have no choice but to leave within the month.

'I only fear what will happen to us afterwards.'

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[Hours Later]

"Urhh..."

Fenrir woke up in a field of wilting flowers, and not long after doing so, he could see his comrades slowly waking as well.

Despite falling unconscious so abruptly, his entire body felt so relaxed and amazing.

He felt a slight sting in his head, but other than that, his tense muscles were in top shape, and all his stiff joints were back now loose and flexible once again.

Still, despite all of these positives, Fenrir could not ignore what had just happened to him and his subordinates.

"So we lost, huh?"

It was a frustrating thing to admit, but Fenrir couldn't deny the power he had felt.

He was always willing to accept it when he was weaker than his opponents—though that didn't mean he liked doing it.

'It also seems like they don't have the Enchanted Items either.' He rubbed his head as he winced.

'The Dragon has it, huh? I don't know which is worse...'

Objectively speaking, the Dragons having their hands on so many assets was the worst situation.

However, Fenrir pretty much despised Elves now thanks to the defeat he suffered.

"Haaa..." He sighed once again as he stood up.

The willow tree that Aurora had summoned was no longer present, and most of the flowers were drying up.

Fenrir had never seen such Magic before, but he knew it had to be very strong.

'Strong, huh? Dragons and Elves... it seems both sides are stronger than we humans.'

He chuckled to himself and shrugged.

Thankfully, his job didn't involve any of them in the slightest.

'Looks like I'll have to inform Scylla about all of this.'

Without their means of compensation, Fenrir wondered what she would offer up next.

'Whatever it is... it had better make me stronger!'

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[A Few Days Later]

Rebal Blanc sat within his office as he opened an envelope and pulled out a letter addressed to his Blanc House.

It was from The Underworld Triumvirate itself.

"N-no..." As he read the contents of the letter, he felt his body tremble slightly.

Just when things were beginning to stabilize, this had to come and disrupt everything.

Once Rebal was done reading the letter he slapped it on his table and groaned softly.

Placing both hands on his face, while exhaling deeply, he murmured words that no one could hear but him.

"The Dark Gathering... is at hand."