

# **Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate**

## **- Chapter 321 - 352**

### **It Will Take More Than Killing Me To Kill Me |**

## **Chapter 321: It Will Take More Than Killing Me To Kill Me**

Diablo's sword swept the battlefield, killing those who were unlucky enough to stand in his path.

Ishtar, Pazuzu, and Orion, were also busy dealing with the remaining survivors, but they were visibly having a harder time compared to the Death Knight, whose might had reached staggering levels.

"Have you found him?" Diablo asked Ishtar who had appeared beside him.

"No," Ishtar replied. "I will check the North West. I'll notify you right away once I find them."

Without another word, the Nightstalker melded with the shadows. She, along with Diablo, were the most mobile among Lux's named creatures, so it was mostly up to them to find the commanding general of the Ammarian Army in order to end his life.

The explosions were starting to fade away because most of the people within the vicinity were dead.

Out of the four hundred thousand people that had climbed up the mountains, only around thirty thousand were left, and all of them were scattered all over the place, looking for a safe place to hide.

Malcolm and Moriarty still had around five thousand soldiers with them, making them a sizable force.

These soldiers had created temporary trenches using magical spells, allowing them to survive the explosions that were happening around them.

When everything started to quiet down, Moriarty stood up from his hiding place and scanned the surroundings.

"Everyone, prepare to descend the mountain." Moriarty ordered. "No matter what happens, pay close attention to your surroundings. Do not go near any of the corpses at all costs. We don't want a repeat of what just happened."

His voice wasn't too loud, but it was loud enough for everyone to hear. No one was talking because they were hoping that the explosions around them would start to die down, so they were able to hear their General's orders clearly.

"Form Ranks." Moriarty raised his hand, making the soldiers take a battle formation with him at its center.

Time was crucial, and he knew that he needed to return to their Main Camp as soon as possible before their enemy could regroup and launch a counterattack while they were still in the mountains.

His worries were on point because one of Lux's Skeletons raised a red flag at the top of the mountain, telling the Yelan Army that all was clear.

"The flag is raised, what now?" Watson asked Sherlock who was mounted on top of a mountain goat.

"Elementary, my Dear Watson," Sherlock said as he loaded a metallic ball into his flintlock. "Raise our banner and order the men to go for the kill!"

Watson immediately hoisted the banner while riding on his own Mountain Goat.

"You heard the Man, I mean, Gnome!" Watson roared. "Everyone, charge! Avenge our brothers!"

""Kill!""

-----

Moriarty and Malcolm heard the war cries that sounded in the distance and knew that they didn't have much time to spare.

"Everyone, hasten your pace!" Moriarty ordered. "We mustn't let them catch us!"

With their general urging them to hurry, the soldiers started to increase their pace. They had already been jogging down the mountain path, but now, they were almost running.

Moriarty, along with his officers and elite protectors were mounted on War Horses.

Malcolm and his comrades had also summoned their Forest Wolves, and were moving at the right side of the General.

They had two mission goals. One was to defeat the Yelan Army, and the other was to protect Moriarty's life. Due to the heavy security that guarded the General, Malcolm and his comrades were able to focus their attention to finding ways to weaken the Yelan Army.

However, they, including their target of protection, were currently in a precarious situation. In order to succeed in their mission, they prioritized escorting the General back to the Main Camp and ensuring that he wouldn't be killed along the way.

Suddenly, a loud whistle spread in the surroundings, making all the soldiers at the front of the formation take a defensive stance.

A moment later, everyone felt a powerful presence approaching their position from the right side, making everyone face in that direction.

A Death Knight, mounted on a Nightmare, was charging in their direction. Flying beside him was a chubby knight, whose whole body was covered in armor.

"Protect the General!" Malcolm shouted as he, as well as his comrades, positioned themselves in front of Moriarty, with their weapons drawn.

"Archers and Mages, fire at will!" Moriarty ordered.

Immediately, a rain of arrows and spells headed towards the charging Death Knight, but the latter didn't slow its advance. Instead, it even increased, making the glowing embers in Diablo's eyes grow brightly.

"Shield Wall!" Pazuzu flew in front of Diablo and activated his strongest defensive ability.

Immediately a six-meter-tall, blue Tower Shield appeared in front of him, deflecting the arrows and absorbing the spells that were aimed in his direction.

Pazuzu knew that his shield wouldn't hold for long, so he once again activated his other skill, Madlad Rush, and bulldozed his way forward.

"Block him!" Moriarty ordered. "Phalanx Formation!"

Following their General's orders, the soldiers in front of their formation all raised their shields, and pointed the tip of their spears forward to intercept the Fortress Defender whose blue tower shield was filled with cracks.

A moment later, the blue tower shield shattered, revealing the charging juggernaut, who was now relying on his own Silver Shield, as well as its armor, to block the attacks aimed in his direction.

When Pazuzu was only a dozen of meters away from the soldiers of the Ammarian Kingdom, he roared and activated one of his skills with the intention of smashing the defenders that were blocking his way.

"Shield Bash!"

Just like a bowling ball hitting a set of bowling pins, everyone in front of the formation was blown away by Pazuzu's last hurrah.

Less than ten seconds later, Pazuzu's health got depleted due to the combined attacks that were aimed in his direction, and he turned into particles of light.

However, as soon as the particles of light disappeared, the image of a Death Knight took its place.

"Whirlwind Slash!"

Right after Diablo entered the gap that Pazuzu had created for him, the bodies of the soldiers around him were split in half, sending blood flying in every direction.

This gruesome scene made Malcolm, who was right in front of Moriarty, subconsciously shudder. At that moment, he knew that the moment the Death

Knight reached their location, there was nothing that could stop it from killing Moriarty.

"Turn Undead!"

The Oracle, who was part of Malcolm's army, pointed the golden staff with a skull on its tip towards the Death Knight who was swinging its weapon like the God of Death, reaping the lives of the soldiers as if he was just cutting grass.

When the spell hit Diablo, the Death Knight was momentarily pushed back, but the spell wasn't enough to instantly kill it.

"What are you waiting for?!" the Oracle shouted. "Kill the Wandering Field Boss! Kill him now!"

The Oracle's shout broke the soldiers around Diablo out of their daze, and they once again swarmed the Undead with their weapons drawn high.

"Futile," Diablo replied as he swung his sword, killing dozens of men in a single swing. "It will take more than killing me to kill me."

The health that he had lost after he was hit by the Turn Undead skill was instantly restored due to the Life Steal ability of his weapon, Blood Moon.

The Oracle clicked his tongue in annoyance when he saw that his spell didn't work the way he wanted. This skill had a small chance of instantly killing a High-Ranking Undead as long as they were not Boss Monsters.

Although the Oracle had labeled Diablo as the Wandering Field Boss they were looking for, he still decided to give it a try, just in case a miracle happened.

Little did the Oracle know that this one spell of his could've ended Diablo's life, had he been lucky enough to trigger the spell's One-Hit-KO probability against the Undead.

If he had only used this skill two to three more times, perhaps the Death Knight would have died due to that small probability.

Sadly, he didn't use it again, which allowed Diablo to break their formation and continue to advance towards the Great General, whose death would spell the end of Malcolm's mission.

"Kill it," Moriarty ordered his elite guards who were all of the Initiate Rank.  
"Make it quick."

Immediately, a dozen soldiers wearing red capes on their backs charged at the Death Knight, who created a trail of blood behind him.

When the Initiates neared him, Diablo did the unthinkable, making Moriarty and Malcolm open their eyes wide.

The Death Knight jumped on its mount's back in order to gain a foothold and used its Leap Attack, aiming towards Moriarty's location.

"Hellfire Annihilation Slash!"

That was the last thing that Malcolm and his comrades heard before the flames of hell descended upon them, and burned their bodies into particles of light.

## **Chapter 322.1: Shut Up, Uncle! Just Go Die Already! [Part 1]**

Malcolm's entire group, with the exception of the Oracle, were instantly killed by Diablo's AOE attack.

The Oracle only managed to escape because he had used a blink ability, taking him out of harm's way and teleporting him behind the Death Knight whose skill had annihilated everyone that was in front of him.

Surprisingly, Moriarty hadn't died from Diablo's attack, and no damage whatsoever could be seen on his body. Only his War Horse, which he had been riding earlier, had died from the Death Knight's attack.

-----

< One of the Opposing General's Protective Charms was destroyed. >

< Remaining Protective Charms ( 2 / 3 ) >

-----

When Lux heard this notification inside his head, he couldn't help getting surprised. He thought that the battle would already be over with Diablo's attack, but it seemed that his mission wasn't as easy as he originally thought it would be.

'Still, we have the upperhand. Diablo, finish him!' Lux ordered as he directed all of his summoned creatures to help the Death Knight land the finishing blows on the General, who was one of his primary objectives.

Diablo once again slashed at Moriarty, not giving the General time to recover, but the latter raised his bastard sword to parry the Death Knight's blow and even counterattacked.

The blow was strong, causing Diablo to skid across the ground for a few meters before coming to a halt.

Moriarty was a Pseudo-Ranker, so he was quite strong. Although Diablo's damage reached over a million, as long as he doesn't land a hit, it would be useless.

Time and time again, the two clashed, but Moriarty seemed to be an expert in parrying. In fact, Diablo had the Expert Parry Skill, and yet, he was unable to land a hit on the General and, in turn, couldn't break the two remaining Protective Charms that protected him.

'Maybe he has Extreme Parry or God-like Parry,' Lux thought as he observed the battle from Diablo's perspective. 'Well, no one said that it has to be a one-on-one battle.'

Suddenly, a dark arrow shot from nowhere and flew towards Moriarty's back.

However, before the arrow could even land on its target, Moriarty did a backswing, using the flat of his blade as a shield to block the incoming threat from behind.

"Protect the General!" one of the soldiers broke out of his daze and shouted. "Men! Protect the general!"

Immediately, several magic spells landed on Diablo's body, pushing him away from his opponent.

While this was happening, Ishtar appeared a few meters away from Moriarty and used twin blades to attack him at close range. However, as if already expecting an attack from behind, the General calmly side-stepped, allowing Ishtar's blow to pass harmlessly by his side.

Losing her balance, the Nightstalker wasn't able to block the follow up kick that Moriarty had aimed from behind her, which sent her crashing towards a tree several meters away.

"Jackhammer!"

Orion's thunderous roar spread in the surroundings as the Jade Golem smashed his fist towards the General, who didn't even flinch at the sight of a four-meter-tall Jade Golem, whose terrifying fist was descending in his direction.

"Perfect Counter," Moriarty muttered as he blocked the Golem's attack with his sword, preventing any damage to his body.

Orion was about to exert more strength to his fist in order to smash the General to the ground, but before he could do that, something unbelievable happened.

The four-meter-tall golem was sent flying by Moriarty, destroying the trees that blocked his way.

At that exact moment, the corpses around Moriarty exploded at the same time, dealing sharp shrapnels, as well as a cloud of necrotic damage towards the General.

A moment later, a notification sound was heard inside Lux's head, making him clench his fist tightly.

-----

< One of the Opposing General's Protective Charms was destroyed. >

< Remaining Protective Charms ( 1 / 3 ) >

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"Yes!" Lux was unable to stop himself from shouting and doing a fist pump.  
"Just one more!"

Lux was so focused on observing the battle through Diablo's eyes that he didn't notice the spell that was about to hit his body from his left side.

"Flame Strike!"

The Half-Elf's body instantly combusted into flames, destroying the robe and mask that he was wearing.

Fortunately, after his body constitution was upgraded to Immortal Dragon Conqueror's Legacy, Lux's body had become immune to fire.

Also, he was wearing armor underneath his robes, so only the robes and the ordinary mask he received from Sherlock were destroyed.

After blinking away from Diablo, the Oracle knew that he couldn't stay on the mountains and decided to use his blink ability to descend the mountain. While he was going down, he noticed two suspicious robed figures with their hands raised in the air as if performing a long-distance spell.

After landing his hit, the Oracle cast the tracing spell that he had used to find the "Wandering Field Boss" because his instincts were screaming at him to do it.

To his surprise, the purple beam of light landed on the person that was currently being bathed by blazing flames.

"It's you!" the Oracle shouted after seeing Lux's face that was no longer disguised by a mask. "What are you doing here?! Are you the Necromancer controlling that Death Knight?!"

Lux didn't answer. Instead, he stomped his right foot on the ground and turned into a streak of lightning, heading towards the Oracle.

Now that his secret was blown, there was only one thing left to do and that was to kill his enemy, and get it over with.

The Oracle was about to blink away and almost succeeded. But to his dismay, instead of getting away from his enemy, he was now standing two meters away from the Half-Elf whose hands had already transformed into dragon claws.

"Stop!" the Oracle shouted while looking at the Half-Elf whose eyes had turned purple.

"Dragon Claw!" Lux ignored the Oracle's plea and slashed his chest using his claws.

"Ack!" the Oracle shouted as the power of Lux's passive ability, Touch of the Abyss, rioted inside his body, making him writhe in pain.

Giving his enemy no mercy, the Half-Elf used his free hand to use another Dragon Claw. this time it was aimed at his opponent's face, sending blood flying in the air.

"Dragon Rend!"

Both of Lux's claws were covered in dragon flames, making the Oracle shout in fear and desperation.

Without holding back, Lux's right hand slashed down on the Oracle's hand, which was holding a golden staff, and cut it completely from his body.

Lux's left hand, pierced through the Oracle's body, making him combust from within, and turn into particles of light.

## **Chapter 323.2: Shut Up, Uncle! Just Go Die Already! [Part 2]**

The faces of Malcolm and the High-Ranking officials of the Skystead Alliance, who were observing the battle from the projection on the wall, were all contorted in anger. They had gotten a clear view of the Half-Elf's face when he was about to kill the Oracle, making them cry out in anger.

The image on the wall disappeared as soon as the last surviving member of Malcolm's team was killed, which also signified that their mission to conquer the Gate of Conquest had ended in failure.

"Just what is going on here?!" the Ambassador of the Vahan Empire shouted as he pointed his finger at the members of the Xynnar War Pact. "Is this part of your ploy?! You dare scheme against us?!"

"Preposterous!" one of the High Ranking Nobles of the Six Kingdoms shouted back. "We have no idea what you are talking about! Also, I don't see anything wrong with what happened. Your kids are fighting against our kids and lost. Or are you saying that you bastards can't accept a loss, huh?!"

"What did you say, you bastard?!"

"Hah! Are you deaf?! I'm saying that your kids are weaklings! What? Do you have a problem? Come and bite me!"

Tension started to spread outside the gates of the Domain of the Fallen as both parties unsheathed their weapons. Clearly, all it needed was one more push before a scuffle started.

"Everyone, sheathe your weapons!" Xander's Father, Hector, shouted to calm everyone down. "We still have no idea what is happening, so it will be best if we wait until Lux and his comrades come out of the dungeon. Once they are out, we can all ask them what happened."

"Ask them?" the Ambassador of the Vahan Empire sneered. "Why is there a need to ask them? We're not blind. Clearly, they are sabotaging our empire's representatives even after we paid the price to gain the slots to enter the Sacred Dungeon!"

"That's right! You double crossers!"

"How dare you cheat us?! Do you think we are soft persimmons?!"

"Do you really think that we will take this lying down? If you want to fight, let's fight!"

Hector crossed his arms over his chests and emitted a Lion's Roar, which drowned out the complaints of the Skystead Alliance.

"I'm telling you to wait!" Hector shouted. "This needs to be investigated properly. The Sacred Dungeon is an Instance Dungeon. It is unusual for two parties to exist on the same plane! We have entered other Dungeons of the same kind for several years already, and this has never happened before. We must know what triggered it to prevent something similar from happening in the future!"

Hector didn't want to fight because he knew that if he made his move, the Rankers of the Skystead Alliance would also make their move.

If Rankers started to fight each other, a bloodbath would ensue, which would cause the loss of many lives. Although the Skystead Alliance was their rival, they weren't their enemy, at least not yet.

In order to prevent the worse case scenario, he needed to use the voice of reason in order to calm everyone down.

Fortunately, he succeeded, making the members of the Skystead Alliance question their counterparts if such a thing really hadn't happened in the past.

"It's true, this is the first time this has happened," one of the Rankers from Barbatos Academy commented. "Just like Hector said, the Sacred Dungeon is an Instance Dungeon. It is impossible for two teams to be present in the same Dungeon at the same time. This has never happened before!"

There were Dungeons in Elysium which they referred to as Open World Dungeons and Boss Raid Dungeons.

These Dungeons allowed many people to challenge it all at the same time, and everyone would be fighting on the same plane of existence. It was different from Instance Dungeons which would separate the challengers into different copies of the Dungeon, and allow them to challenge it on a team by team basis.

Malcolm and his comrades were forced to rein in their anger because this matter was simply unheard of. Also, they had fought against Lux's team and lost. If they whined about it, they would simply become the laughing stock of everyone.

Losing in a Dungeon Raid simply meant that they didn't have the skills to win, or luck wasn't on their side.

Malcolm and the other representatives of the younger generation didn't want to make it look like they couldn't take a loss. However, that didn't mean that they weren't angry about it.

'Bastards, let's see how you face the wrath of our Emperor when you come out of that dungeon!' Malcolm cursed internally.

He knew that Emperor Andreas was someone who carried a grudge. The price the Skystead Alliance had to pay to obtain the fifteen slots from Lux wasn't really a big deal.

The problem was that they had "paid" for the entrance to the Sacred Dungeon, but the one who received their payment was the same person that killed them inside it.

It's like paying a Bandit Leader for protection money to allow them to pass, but after receiving the payment, the Bandit Leader still decided to kill them, making them feel aggrieved.

While the tension outside of the Domain of the Fallen had somewhat gotten under control, Lux and his skeleton soldiers were going all out to try and deal the last blow to Moriarty, who was defending perfectly against all of their attacks.

Suddenly, the ground trembled as the warriors of the Yelan Empire appeared with Watson leading the charge.

"Hah! Moriarty we finally meet!" Watson shouted as he made a beeline towards the General of the opposing army. "Your head is mine!"

It was not only Watson whose eyes had turned Bloodshot. All of the soldiers of the Yelan Army shouted as they urged their mounts to strike the General who was fighting a desperate battle on his own.

"Watson, do you dare to fight me in a duel?!" Moriarty shouted. "Or are you telling me that the General of the Yelan Kingdom is a cowardly dog who only knows how to hide behind his army's back?!"

"Desperate cries from a desperate person!" Watson replied. "But sure, I will humor you! Men, do not interfere!"

Jumping down from his mount, Watson held a great sword in his hands and engaged Moriarty in a duel.

As if watching a cut-scene from a game, Lux watched as the two repeatedly clashed their weapons against each other without backing away.

Moriarty looked exhausted, which was probably because of the battle he'd had with Lux's forces. But the determination in his eyes gave him strength and allowed him to stand up against Watson, who was at the peak of his prime.

Blow after blow, the ground under their feet crumbled as their attacks, which carried the might of their respective armies, clashed against each other.

Then it happened.

Moriarty saw an opportunity and managed to successfully trick Watson with his feint, allowing him to stab his bastard sword on his opponent's shoulder, breaking his form.

"Die Watson!" Moriarty's frenzied gaze was filled with killing intent as he pulled his sword from Watson's shoulder to deliver a killing blow to the Yelan General's neck, to chop it off completely from Watson's body.

But before his blade could land on his target, a mighty, and deafening roar reached his ears.

"I'm Charging!"

Caught off guard, Moriarty wasn't able to dodge the deadly tusks that pierced through his armor.

—

< The Opposing General's protective charms are all completely destroyed. You may now directly attack his body and deal damage! >

----

Cai, who had also heard the notification, was currently slamming Moriarty's body into the trees that were blocking its way. Its tusks were firmly embedded on the General's body, making the latter unable to break free from it.

"I'M CHAAAAAAAARGING!"

Cai, who only knew how to charge, did what it did best and simply dragged the General on a ride of non-stop suffering.

The Boar smashed the aggrieved General into everything available—trees, boulders, trees, boulders, across the ground, more trees, more boulders, and

anything else that it could use to inflict pain on the enemy, whose bloody lips were repeatedly releasing curses.

"Filthy coward!" Moriarty spat a mouthful of blood on Cai's face. "How dare you get in the way of a duel?!"

"Shut up, Uncle!" Cai shook its head side to side, and slammed Moriarty's body on the ground repeatedly. "Just go die already!"

Finally, after a couple agonizing minutes, a notification sound reached Lux, as well as his comrades' ears, signaling that the Great General of the Ammarian Kingdom, Moriarty, finally died in Cai's hands.

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< Congratulations! You have finished the mission: The Warring Kingdoms! >

Mission Rating: S

< Quest Objective >

– Kill the General of the opposing army.

< Subquest Objective >

– Capture the Main Flag of the opposing army.

– Kill the Mercenaries that have been hired by the opposing party.

– Quest Duration: 1 week

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Suddenly, rows of text appeared in front of everyone, stating that the mission was only partially completed.

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< Important Notice! >

Although the Mission has reached its Main Objective, the Subquest, Capture the Main Flag of The Opposing Army, is still unfinished. If you wish to get the maximum reward for this mission, you must finish all the quest objectives.

< Would you like to continue the Quest, The Warring Kingdoms? >

( Yes / No )

If you choose No, the mission will be graded on the respective contributions of each Party member.

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Contribution Ranking List

Lux Von Kaiser

Cai...

Einar Mordosk

Vallaki Meitar

Keane...

Xander...

-----

Einar, and the others who saw the rankings almost spat blood after seeing that Cai was listed as the second. The Boar did nothing but simply "Kill Steal" the Army's general, yet it was second in the rankings from that mere contribution.

"Let's charge at the main camp and capture the flag!" Einar shouted! "Vall, let's go!

This time, Vall didn't hesitate and transformed into a giant spider. However, instead of allowing the Barbarian to jump on its back, it spat a mouthful of sticky net on Einar's body, pinning the barbarian on a tree.

A moment later the Alpha-Ranked Elegant Golden Jumping Spider descended the mountain in a mad rush. Clearly, its aim was to capture the enemy's flag in order to gain some merit points and get higher in the rankings.

"Vall you traitor!" Einar roared in anger. "I'll get you for thisssssssssss!"

Cai, who saw this scene, simply snorted and raised its chin arrogantly.

"Peasants fighting for a few coins," Cai said, making the Barbarian glare at it in anger. "Bitter much? Better luck next time, Brah."

Keane and Xander glanced at each other and just shook their heads helplessly. Although they didn't contribute much to the mission's completion, they were still satisfied that it was finally over.

In truth, the chances of the Yelan Army losing was quite high. If Lux wasn't a Necromancer, their loss would have already been assured.

"Corpse Explosion... such a frightening thing," Xander muttered. "I can never look at a corpse the same way ever again."

Keane nodded his head in agreement. If Lux truly had used this ability without care for morals, then the outcome would be truly devastating.

Both teenagers didn't dare to think about what would happen if Lux decided to use this ability outside of a dungeon.

Once again, the two teenagers felt relieved that Lux was on their side.

If he was their opponent, then they would have to seriously consider eliminating him first, given the high level of threat that he could bring on the battlefield.

Fortunately, they were good friends, so they didn't have to worry about this. Even Einar, who had treated Lux as his rival, decided to not be on bad terms with the Necromancer, whose abilities had far exceeded his expectations.

These teenagers were not aware that the moment they left the Gate of War, a new kind of War would be waiting for them in the real world.

A war that would not be fought with weapons, or words, but a cold war, that would make the Half-Elf the center of everyone's attention.

## **Chapter 324.1: Mission Rewards [Part 1]**

< Congratulations! You have finished the Main Quest and Subquest of the mission: The Warring Kingdoms! >

Contribution Ranking List

Lux Von Kaiser

Cai...

Vallaki Meitar

Einar Mordosk

Keane...

Xander....

< Calculating Rewards. Please, standby! >

-----

"Mwahahahaha! Easy win!" Cai laughed with its snout raised up to the heavens. "Is this Hell Mode? More like Easy Mode! I can do this all day!"

Lux, Keane, Einar, and Xander ignored the shameless Boar's laugh which sounded like it had won the lottery.

The notification of the mission being completed showed up as soon as Vall arrived at the Main Camp of the Ammar Kingdom and captured their Main Flag.

The giant spider ignored all the defenders and just focused on grabbing the flag with its superior speed and agility. This allowed him to get third place in the rankings, leaving Einar behind by one Rank.

As for Keane and Xander, they were just happy that the mission was over, even though they didn't do much to help clear it.

< Rewards calculated! Please check your inventories! >

Rows upon rows of words appeared in front of Lux as he checked the rewards that were given to him.

-----  
< Rewards >

1,000,000 Gold Coins

15,000 Body Constitution Points

1,000 Free Stat Points

+10 to all Summon Skeleton Skills

+ 2 to all Summon Golem Skills

– All Skeleton Summon Ratings will be upgraded to S-Rating. This upgrade doesn't include Named Creatures.

– All Summon Golem Ratings will be upgraded to S-Rating. This upgrade doesn't include Named Creatures.

– Key to the Legendary Kingdom of Espoir Frieden

+100 Reputation Points with the Kingdom of Espoir Frieden

-----  
Before Lux could even jump in joy from seeing the rewards he received from his quest, another round of notifications appeared in front of him.

-----  
< Your Skeleton Fighters have reached the S-Rating and are ready to be upgraded to their next profession! Please, choose one among the three choices for their next upgrade! >

Skeleton Rider – A mobile warrior who specializes in mounted combat. Able to tame creatures to be used as mounts.

< Job Profession Bonuses >

Passive Skill: Union of Man and Beast, Cavalry Charge, Light, Medium, and Heavy Armor Proficiency.

Gains 100% increase to attack, and defense when mounted.

– Each Skeleton Rider will be summoned riding their own Skeleton Horse Mounts.

+5,000 Health

+100 Attack

Note: It's not about what you Ride, It's about HOW you Ride. I am Speed!

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Skeleton Swashbuckler – A swaggering Warrior who can battle on land and on the sea. Often mistaken for Pirates because of their unruly behavior, these Warriors excel in single combat, and can fight with two weapons, or with a shield, while safely darting away, or parrying the attacks of their opponent.

They may not be knights in shining armor, but their undying attitude makes up for it.

< Job Profession Bonuses >

Passive Skill: Fancy Footwork, Master Duelist

Gains 100% increase to attack, and defense when fighting in sea.

Gains 200% increase to attack, and defense, when fighting alongside a beautiful lady.

+5,000 Health

+200 Attack

Note: My tremendous intuitive sense of the female creature informs me that you are troubled. What a coincidence! I am DYING to help you!

-----

Skeleton Gang Banger– The first requirement to becoming a Skeleton Gang Banger is to... well, be a skeleton. Once you meet this requirement, you will be able to use this unbelievable profession that would even make Pazuzu blush in shame.

If the Skeleton Shield Warriors are the Masochists of the Skeletal Race, the Skeleton Gang Banger holds second place! These fearsome warriors don't use any shields to block their enemy's attacks.

Using their strong and sturdy bodies, they exchange blows against their opponents without backing away, making them one of the most terrifying Madlads on the battlefield.

Although they could fight one-on-one battles with their enemies, their specialty is targeting a single enemy and grouping up to beat it up until it dies. Sometimes, this single-mindedness of theirs could turn the situation around because they would not stop until they got the job done.

< Job Profession Bonuses >

Passive Skill: Vengeful Berserker, Retaliate Expert, United In Death, Gang Bang Expert

– Gains 5% increase in attack when an ally Skeleton Gang Banger dies on the battlefield. This ability can stack up to 500%. Bonus damage will disappear once the Skeleton Berserker is killed.

+20,000 Health

+300 Attack

Note: Peace is never an option! Prepare to get Gang Banged!

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Reading the description of the upgrade options for his Skeleton Fighters, Lux felt as if there was an itch in his back that he couldn't scratch.

All of the choices were good. Even the Skeleton Gang Banger, which made the Half-Elf chuckle after reading its information, was a very tempting option for him. However, in the end, Lux decided to choose the most optimum choice for the Skeleton Fighter's next upgrade.

After the war they had just experienced, the red-headed teenager knew that he needed to choose the most optimum job class for his Summons, so that they would be able to play the role that he needed them to.

< You have chosen Skeleton Gang Banger as the next upgrade for your Skeleton Fighters. Are you sure about this? >

( Yes / No )

-----

Lux firmly clicked Yes in order to upgrade his Skeleton Fighters to their next profession. Originally, he wanted to choose the Skeleton Rider Job Class. However, there were places where mounted combat wouldn't work.

Indoor battles, Siege battles, as well as other instances where mounts would not play a role would greatly limit the Skeleton Rider's effectiveness.

He already had Pazuzu, Orion, and the Rock Golems to act as defensive units if he had to. What he needed right now was an explosive force that would wreak havoc the moment they were summoned to the battlefield.

"Hmm... the Skeleton Grand Archers need to be upgraded to the SS Rating before they can get their next profession," Lux rubbed his chin as he looked at the ratings needed to upgrade his skeleton summons.

"The Rock Golem and the Skeleton Mages need to be upgraded to the SSS Rating in order to gain their Job Professions. Hah... it sure takes a lot of resources to fully upgrade all of them."

The Half-Elf scratched his head, knowing that this was the fate of any profession that could summon Creatures or Beast Companions as their main fighting force.

It simply ate up too many resources, making it hard to even upgrade their own stats in order to advance.

Fortunately, Lux didn't have this problem. The Quest Rewards from completing his missions allowed him to gain Free Stats and upgrade his Body Constitution for free!

## Chapter 325.2: Mission Rewards [Part 2]

Lux's special body constitution, the Immortal Dragon Conqueror's Legacy, also received an upgrade. This upgrade of his might not have many rewards, but he instead gained something better that he didn't expect, and that was... Dragon Wings!

"Three times a day, I can conjure Dragon Wings on my back to allow me to fly," Lux muttered as he read the information in his Soul Book. "The wings last for an hour, which means I can use them for a total of 3 hours. Not bad."

Aside from that, Lux's ability to use Dragon's Breath increased to six times a day from the usual three. He also gained an additional 20,000 points to his Health, making him sturdier.

-----

Name: Lux Von Kaizer

Age: 16

Race: Half-Elf

Rank: Grade A Apostle

Health: 113,000 / 113,000

Mana: 32,500 / 32,500

Strength: 450

Intelligence: 450

Vitality: 460

Agility: 400

Dexterity: 400

----

In order to break through the Initiate Rank, one must have 5,000 combined stat points.

Lux was almost halfway there because of the rewards he gained from clearing the mission. However, instead of prioritizing a single stat, the Half-Elf decided to spread them out because he was more of an All-Rounder.

He was not a pure Necromancer, but a fighter as well. Because of this, he needed to add stats to his other attributes, allowing him to fend for himself, if ever there were threats that managed to break past his Summoned Creatures.

After looking at his Soul Book, he then glanced at the information on the Key he had obtained from the mission.

When he cleared the Gate of Death, he received the Key to Agartha.

Now, he received another key, and the Half-Elf was very curious on what this key was capable of doing.

-----

< Key of Espoir Frieden >

– Legendary Item

– Once a week, you will be able to instantly teleport to the Kingdom of Espoir Frieden by using the Key.

– You may return to where you came from anytime by using the Key a second time.

– This Item is Soulbound to Lux Von Kaizer

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< Kingdom of Espoir Frieden >

Kingdom Rank: SSS

– The Kingdom of Espoir Frieden is the legendary kingdom of the High Elves, who stood alongside Agartha when the world was created. They were an ancient race of Elves believed to have been born from the seeds of the very first World Tree that has long since perished.

– The other Elven races, that was born after that era, treat them with great respect, and often ask them for counsel and mediation whenever there are

conflicts between the other Elven Clans, such as the Moon Elves, Sun Elves, Wood Elves, and the other Elven races that are currently in Elysium.

– Any other races, aside from the Elves, are not allowed to enter the Elven Kingdom. However, its first founder made an exception and created a single key that would allow any race to enter their Kingdom if Fate willed it.

– The Key of Espoir Frieden can only be activated when you become a Ranker.

-----

"Hiss..."

Lux couldn't help but draw in a deep breath after reading the information of the key that he gained from his Quest.

'First it was the Kingdom of Agarthia, now it's the Kingdom of the High Elves,' Lux thought. 'Just what exactly is this place to have so many keys that lead to SSS-Ranked Kingdoms?'

The Domain of the Fallen was still a mystery, even to the Six Kingdoms who had first discovered it. They didn't know what kind of place it was, and merely thought that it was another one of those hidden dungeons that could be found anywhere.

However, they were wrong.

It was a very dangerous place where the members of the Young Generations could die at the whims of the monsters that lived in it. The journey to the Sacred Dungeon was filled with dangers and, usually, the price of death must be paid by many in order for the others to reach their destination.

Also, only five hundred people could enter the Domain of the Fallen at a time. Because of this, the slots allocated inside the Domain were quite limited.

These already limited slots had decreased by more than half, now that they had to split the slots between the Six Kingdoms, the Skystead Alliance, as well as the Xynnar War Pact.

According to the negotiations, the Skystead Alliance would gain 200 Slots, while the Six Kingdoms and the Xynnar War Pact gained 150 each.

The good news was that Lux's and his comrades' bonus slots were not counted in the 500 Limit number, which allowed them to bring in thirty more people without any problems.

Although thirty additional slots seemed like a very small number, every slot counted, making these limited slots all the more valuable in the eyes of many people.

"Ah, there you are, Lux," Sherlock said as he walked towards the Half-Elf who seemed to be deep in thought.

"Lord Sherlock, congratulations on your victory," Lux replied with a smile.

The Gnome fixed the glasses on his face before giving Lux a nod of satisfaction.

"We only won because of the great efforts you and your comrades have made for us," Sherlock stated. "We might have won this war, but this is just the beginning. As long as the Ammarian Kingdom covets our lands, this war would never end, but let's not talk about that. Here, take this."

The Gnome threw Lux a golden bracer, and the latter caught it by reflex.

"That Bracer is called the Warrior's Might," Sherlock said. "It is the latest invention of the Gnome Race. Unfortunately, we were only able to craft six of them. Now, these six bracers belong to you and your friends. May they help you in your future endeavors."

-----

< Warrior's Might >

Rating: Pseudo-Legendary

– Increase Attack, Defense, Health Regeneration, Mana Regeneration, and Mobility by 100% for five minutes.

– This artifact is Soulbound to Lux Von Kaizer

-----

"Thank you very much for your gift, Lord Sherlock." Lux bowed his head. "I will treasure it."

Sherlock smiled as he glanced towards the camp of the Ammar Kingdom which was now burning in the distance.

"Lux, I have a feeling that this will not be our last meeting," Sherlock stated. "Until then, I look forward to the next time we will meet on the battlefield. I just hope that when we do, we will still be on the same side, and not fighting against each other as enemies."

The Half-Elf's eyes widened in shock after hearing the Gnomes' words.

"Lord Sherlock, please, don't raise a flag."

"Flag? What flag? We have many flags raised already. What are you talking about?"

The red-headed teenager could only smile bitterly because the Gnomes' words were like a prophecy about what was going to happen in the future.

"Well then, Lux, I'll be going now," Sherlock said as he turned around to walk in the direction of the Command Center of the Yelan Kingdom. "Let's meet again under better circumstances."

The Gnome no longer looked back and continued to walk away, leaving Lux behind to ponder his words.

"My Daddy, are you ready to go?" Cai, who had also just finished sorting out its rewards, walked towards the Half-Elf with a smile. "Vall is back, so we can leave anytime."

As if waiting for that cue, Einar, Vall, Keane, and Xander all appeared and gathered around the Half-Elf, whom they had treated as their temporary leader inside the Gate of War.

"Okay, let's go," Lux said before accepting the completion of the quest in his Soul Book. "Let's go back to Elysium."

-----

< Field Announcement! >

< The Gate of War (Hell Mode) Has been Conquered! >

< Two of the Gates have been successfully Conquered! >

< The Conquerors will be allowed to freely enter the Domain of the Fallen for two years at any given time. This is their reward for conquering the Two Gates of the Apocalypse! >

< Announcing the names of the Conquerors of the Sacred Dungeon in no particular order! >

< Cai... >

< Keane... >

< Xander... >

< Einar Mordosk >

< Vallaki Meitar >

< Lux Von Kaizer >

-----

Lux's as well as his comrades' names were engraved on the Gate of War, which was now glowing brightly after it was cleared.

The Field Announcement was also heard by the people outside of the Domain of the Fallen which surprised them as well.

"They cleared the Gate of War and not the Gate of Conquest?" asked the Ambassador of the Vahan Empire to the Ranker that was standing next to his side who served as his protector. "Did I hear that correctly?"

"Yes," the Ranker replied. "The announcement said that the Gate of War has been cleared and not the Gate of Conquest."

Malcolm, who was standing not far from the ambassador, frowned after hearing the announcement.

All of them thought that Lux had also entered the Gate of Conquest and somehow ended up in the same Instance Dungeon as them. However, according to the announcement, they had entered a different Gate, which made the members of the Skystead Alliance speechless.

"See?" Hector, Xander's father sneered. "All of you are too quick to judge. Now that the misunderstanding has been cleared up, do you still believe that our side purposely sabotaged your representatives?"

The Ambassador snorted, but he couldn't refute Hector's words. On the main gate of the Domain of the Fallen, several golden letters appeared with the label, Conquerors of the Gate of War.

A moment later, Lux's names, as well as his comrades' appeared on it. This was the blatant proof that none of them had misheard the announcement, and their earlier assumption of Lux purposely sabotaging their mission was proven to be false.

Even so, they still felt bitter about it.

Suddenly, a flash of light appeared beside the gate.

Lux, Cai, Keane, Einar, Vall, and Xander, who had just exited the Sacred Dungeon, gathered the attention of everyone in the cavern.

No claps, cheers, or shouts of admiration could be heard in the surroundings. Instead, what they were welcomed with was awkward silence from the people who had wrongly accused them, and were currently thinking about how to deal with them after the incident that happened inside the Sacred Dungeon.

## Chapter 326: A Very Thorny Road To Take

"You did well, High Priestess—I mean, Cai," Hector coughed lightly. "You too, Xander. Great job."

"Hahaha! Hector, my man, you should have seen how awesome I was! What Pseudo-Initiates? PITUI! I spit on them! " Cai gloated, making Malcolm as well as his comrades feel irritated. "I was the one who killed General Moriarty. I'm the MVP!"

"No you're not," Keane jabbed the side of the Boar, causing the latter to squeal in pain. "You just kill stealed. Your skin is as thick as usual."

Hector and Xander who saw Keane jabbing Cai with his shoulder almost couldn't stop themselves from slapping the skinny swordsman silly.

Fortunately, the two of them had great self control and just watched as the Boar started to nag at the skinny swordsman for being bitter.

"Hmph! It's not my fault that I'm good, Little Swordy," Cai pressed its forehead against the skinny swordsman. "If I didn't do what I did, Moriarty might have killed Watson! That is what you call reacting in time before it's too late. This is why you lost to me, Little Swordy. You're not resourceful enough!"

Keane was itching to rebuke the Boar, but after spending some time with Cai, he knew well how stubborn it was. Since that was the case, he just snorted and walked away, leaving the Boar to continue bragging about its latest accomplishment in the Gate of War.

While Cai was telling Hector everything that happened while tweaking the story a little to make sure it sounded good, Einar and Vall were also busy talking to the adults from their respective factions about what happened in the Gate of War.

Lux, who was the center of attention, was also giving Alicia a report of what happened. The Ambassador of the Vahan Empire was there to better understand how he appeared in the same Instance Dungeon as Malcolm and the others.

As the one who personally gave Lux the resources for the bid they made to obtain the slots to enter the Domain of the Fallen, he demanded that he be briefed of what happened as well.

"So there's a chance that two parties that enter different gates can end up on the same plane as the other," Alicia commented. "If this is true, then we must test it a few times to understand what the determining factor triggers the merging of two dungeon instances."

The Ambassador didn't say anything from start to finish, but he didn't look pleased about the outcome of the mission that was entrusted to him.

"I understand that it is not entirely your fault that the merging of the Dungeon Instances happened," the Ambassador said after Lux finished his explanation. "But this doesn't change the fact that you got in the way of our representatives being able to clear their missions."

"You and your friends can enter the Dungeon anytime you want. However, we must bid for the next opportunity to claim the spots that you and your friends possessed.

"Isn't this extortion? We have paid a good amount of resources for this mission, but what happened? The person who brought our representatives inside the Dungeon was also the one responsible for killing them."

The Ambassador was indeed an Ambassador. He had a way with words, which made Lux unable to refute. Truth be told, even Lux would be annoyed if the same thing happened to him, so he could understand where the man was coming from.

However, what was done was done. There was nothing he could do about it. Also, the resources they paid for his, Cai's, and Keane's slot was only a one time thing. They had agreed that their slots would always be put on auction, so that they could earn by selling the slots in their possessions.

"Um, I can't speak for Cai and Keane, but I'm willing to let you guys have my slots for free the next time you want to enter the Domain of the Fallen," Lux decided that it would be better to pacify the Ambassador, since he didn't want to get blacklisted again.

He could only create a guild in the territory of the Skystead Alliance because the Xynnar War Pact still hadn't lifted the ban on his, Cai's, and Keane's names.

This meant that their field of operation would center in the Skystead Alliance for some time. Angering the Kings of the Kingdoms they were supposed to get missions from would be a very bad thing.

"At least you have morals," the Ambassador replied. "However, His Majesty will still be disheartened by what happened today. You better make up for it next time!"

Without another word, the Ambassador of the Vahan Empire left with a disgruntled expression on his face.

Alicia could only smile wryly at the attitude of the man, but there was nothing she could do about it.

Politics was a very complicated thing. To prevent war and large scale conflicts from happening, compromises must be made for the greater good.

"So what are your plans?" Alicia asked. "Will you return to Wildgarde Stronghold or would you rather stay in Barbatos Academy?"

Lux shook his head. "I still need to create a guild because the Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold gave this mission to me. If I don't complete it, they might exile me."

Alicia was very tempted to say, "So let them exile you. We will adopt you in Barbatos Academy!" but she couldn't say that.

Lux owed Wildgarde Stronghold a lot for raising him with love and care, alongside his Grandma. He couldn't possibly allow himself to get exiled before he could even repay them for what they had done for him from when he was young.

"Okay, so you will be going to the Vahan Empire to complete your Guild Creation quest first?" Alicia inquired.

Lux nodded before whispering in Alicia's ear. "Yes. After that, I will rest for a bit to wait for Grandma and Eiko to revive."

Alicia smiled because she was also hoping to see the old lady, who was very supportive of her pursuing her son, Alexander, alive again.

As for Eiko, Alicia was also very fond of the baby Slime, whom Iris treated as her and Lux's daughter.

"Just be careful, okay?" Alicia said as he patted Lux's shoulders. "Emperor Andreas is a schemer. He might nod and forgive you on the surface, but deep inside, he will bear a grudge. Make sure you are always on your toes when you visit the Vahan Empire for your Guild Quest."

"Thank you, Alicia," Lux replied. "I will be careful."

Lux then glanced in the direction of the representatives of the Skystead Alliance who were all glaring at him.

From their faces alone, he could already tell that his trip to the Vahan Empire would be a very thorny one, filled with hidden dangers that would be waiting for him to step on.

'Well, I just hope they don't make things too difficult for me,' Lux sighed in his heart.

Even though it would be awkward, he was planning to travel with the representatives of the Vahan Empire on their return trip back home.

This was also the first time he would be going to the lands that were off limits to the members of the Xynnar War Pact. Although Lux didn't want to admit it, he was also feeling very excited inside.

He was looking forward to the new adventures he would go on in the Empire that was hailed as the Empire of the Sun.

## **Chapter 327.1: The Guildmaster's Quest [Part 1]**

Royal Palace of the Vahan Empire...

"Such a thing happened?" Emperor Andreas asked while his brush glided on the canvas. "Talk about bad luck. Still, I didn't expect our elite kids to lose to that Half-Elf brat. Did Malcolm fail as a leader? I expected good things from him."

"With all due respect, Your Majesty, it was not Malcolm's fault," the Ambassador commented. "His leadership was good, and the tactics he used was outstanding. If he knew that he was dealing with a Necromancer who can cause corpse explosions, he might have..."

A clattering sound could be heard as Emperor Andreas dropped the brush in his hand on top of the table.

"There is no IF," Emperor Andreas said coldly. "IF doesn't write history. Only the winners do. Since Malcolm lost, it means that he still has many things to learn. Tell him that, on the next mission, he will be the Vice Leader. Someone else will lead our representatives in the dungeon."

"U-Understood, Your Majesty," the Ambassador replied.

He could feel cold sweat starting to trickle down his face from Emperor Andreas' look that made him feel like the Grimreaper of Death was standing right behind him with its scythe resting against his neck.

"Where is the Half-Elf?" Emperor Andreas inquired. "I believe he wanted to create a guild, right?"

"The Half-Elf was seen entering Brookwest Town," the Ambassador replied. "According to my estimate, he would visit the three towns leading towards our capital city. Since the Trial of Leadership is hosted here, he will arrive here within a week or two."

The corner of Emperor Andreas' lips curled up. The Ambassador who saw this smirk instantly knew that his Emperor was scheming something.

He had long known that Emperor Andreas was someone who didn't like being taken advantage of. This made the Ambassador pity the Half-Elf because the young man would get a taste of what it was like to be on the Emperor's bad side.

"Call Murray," Emperor Andreas ordered. "It's about time for the two of us to have a talk."

"Yes, Your Majesty." The Ambassador bowed respectfully before leaving the room.

After walking down the hallway for a few minutes, the Ambassador took a handkerchief from his pocket and started to wipe the sweat on his forehead. Being alone with Emperor Andreas, especially when he was in a bad mood, was enough to give him an anxiety attack.

Fortunately, the Emperor didn't make things difficult for him and sent him away to call the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild in the Capital City of the Vahan Empire.

-----

Brookwest Town...

"Ah, so you are the one who is asking for the Recommendation Letter in order to complete the Trial of Leadership," the Guildmaster of the Adventurers Guild of Brookwest Town, Cobie, said. "Understood. But you already know that you

must still perform a quest to prove that you have the ability to get the recommendation letter, right?"

Lux nodded. "I am willing to take the test in order to acquire the Recommendation Letter."

The Half-Elf looked up at the two-meter-tall man, who closely resembled a gorilla in terms of body and face. However, since he didn't want to hurt the feelings of others, he made sure to not comment on his looks and simply stated what he came for.

"Good. I like people who get to the point." Cobie smiled. "Then, your quest will be very simple. You see, there is a lady I like and I want to marry her. Your quest will be to help me convince her to marry me."

"..."

Lux was astounded. The quest was so random that he didn't know how to reply. Also, the thought of any girl marrying Cobie made the Half-Elf shudder.

Seeing his reaction, Cobie laughed and patted the Half-Elf's shoulder. He thought that the red-headed teenager was awed by his overflowing awesomeness, so he decided to lower the tension inside the room.

"Just joking," Cobie stated. "It's not like I am in love with the lady named Diana, who works in Starfleet Tavern as a waitress. Trust me, I don't like her. Um, maybe I like her a little, but not that much, okay?"

"...Okay?" Lux didn't want to deal with this business, so he just nodded and allowed Cobie to state the real quest he wanted.

"In Maplewood Forest, there is this herb called Passion Blossom," Cobie said. "It is a very powerful aphrodisiac—err medicine to help ladies during their menstrual periods. I want you to retrieve this flower for me."

"Once you accomplish this mission, I will give you the Recommendation Letter. Just make sure that you pass the flower to me discreetly. Make sure that no one comes to know about our transaction or you'll be sorry. Do you understand?"

Lux nodded his head like a hen pecking rice. Cobie's grip on his arm was getting stronger, so he decided to just nod his head to get this over with.

"Great!" Cobie stated. "If only everyone is like you, then this world will be a better place to live in. Here is the portrait of the flower. It's usually guarded by Rank 4 Alpha Monsters or Rank 4 Field Bosses. Anyway, since you are here, that must mean that you already have members for your guild, right? Work with them to get this flower and we can all part on good terms. Bye bye, and have a good day!"

The door slammed right in front of Lux's face, causing the Half-Elf to subconsciously take a step back.

"I feel like I've become an accomplice to a crime that is about to happen," Lux muttered as he left the branch of the Adventurers Guild in Brookwest Town. "Still, I can't afford to fail. I need those three recommendation letters. I only have two weeks before time is up."

Gerald and Rainer had given Lux an ultimatum of one month to finish his Guild Creation. If he failed, he would either let himself be exiled or join Nero's Guild, the Storm Dragons, as the outcome of his quest.

Neither was an option he liked, so he had resolved himself to do his best to finish the Recommendation Letter quests as well as the Trial of Leadership as soon as possible.

That was the only way for him to remain in Wildgarde Stronghold and have the Guardians of the Fortress accept his wish to become independent with the intention of helping the Stronghold gather resources in Elysium.

'One step at a time,' Lux thought as he walked in the direction of Maplewood Forest. 'I'll finish this mission no matter what.'

## **Chapter 328.2: The Guildmaster's Quest [Part 2]**

Maple Forest...

Lux went deeper inside the forest to look for the Passion Blossom, which the Guildmaster asked him to look for as his quest in order to be granted a recommendation letter.

For the one hour Lux had spent inside the forest, he noticed that, although there were many people along the outskirts, very few could be seen in the place where he was heading to.

Out of curiosity, he stopped one of the teenagers he came across to ask him a few questions.

"Uhh... the Guildmaster is at it again?" The teenager, who seemed to be in his late teens, had a disgusted look on his face after he heard the reason why Lux came inside Maple Forest.

"Again?" Lux asked back in confusion.

The teenager nodded. "The Guildmaster's Recommendation Quest has become the biggest joke of Brookwest Town. Everytime someone asks for a recommendation letter, he will always ask the person to find the Passion Blossom, which he would use to make an aphrodisiac to make Diana go into heat. Seriously, the Guildmaster has a few screws loose in his head, but I guess everyone has their kinks.

"But whatever. He is the reason why people go to other towns for Recommendation Letters if they are planning to create a guild. It's not just because the intention behind the quest is bonkers, but also because the Field Boss guarding the Passion Blossom is simply too broken for a Recommendation Letter Quest."

"Simply too broken?"

"You'll understand when you see it. No one will risk their life fighting such a beast for a silly quest like getting the Passion Blossom."

The teenager was kind enough to point Lux to the right direction, and even told him a little bit about the Guardian that guarded the flower.

Half an hour later, Lux finally arrived at his destination and finally understood why the teenager said that the Monster he had to face was broken.

-----

< Crimson Wanderer Living Armor >

– Living Armor

– Rank 4 Field Boss

Health: 2,400,000 / 2,400,000

Mana: 40,000 / 40,000

Strength: 1,500

Intelligence: 100

Vitality: 1,500

Agility: 450

Dexterity: 450

Special Ability: Invincible Body

-----

< Invincible Body >

– Only attacks that deal the right Elemental Damage can deal damage to this monster.

-----

"...This Field Boss is indeed broken," Lux muttered as he stared at the three-meter tall Crimson Knight with burning yellow eyes in its sockets.

The reason why the Crimson Wanderer Living Armor was famous in Brookwest Town was because, to this day, no one knew what element was its weakness.

Vera had once told him that there were special monsters in Elysium that possessed Special Abilities. Some of these abilities gave these monsters an advantage in battle, and some were so broken that people just stayed away from them as much as they possibly could.

These special abilities weren't too rare. According to Vera, one out of every hundred monsters would possess a special ability, but very few people had the skill, Monster Appraisal, to know whether the monster they were fighting had any special abilities or not.

Vera added that Boss Monsters above Rank 4 usually had Special Abilities, so Lux must be very careful when dealing with them.

Fortunately for Lux, he had the Elysium Compendium which had the information he needed.

"Let's see... Crimson Wanderer Living Armor," Lux muttered as he searched for the Monster's name in his Bestiary Compendium, which was another feature of the Elysium Compendium.

It didn't take him long to find the Monster's weakness, but to his surprise, he finally understood why no one had been able to figure out the Monster's elemental weakness till now.

"Necrotic Elemental Damage, Divine Magic."

Divine Magic was an ability used by high level High Priests, Battle Clerics, Oracles. Only Paladins were able to use this magic at the very beginning, but the Paladin Profession was a rare profession that could only be obtained through a trial made by their Order.

In short, unless one knew any of the Paladin Organizations, it would be almost impossible to gain this profession at the beginning. Most Elysians, as well as Solaians, would only get the basic Job Classes at the beginning like Swordsman, Fighter, Mage, Cleric, Archer, Thief, Monk, Spearman, Priest, etc.

Of course, even if there was someone in the team that could deal Divine Magic to the Living Armor, it would take at least a dozen Paladins, or other classes with Divine Abilities to beat the Crimson Wanderer Living Armor.

As for Lux, he could only deal direct Necrotic Damage to his enemies using Corpse Explosion.

Diablo and Asmodeus both had the Death Coil skill, which was capable of dealing Necrotic Damage, but aside from that, they had no other ways to damage the Field Boss Monster.

'Even Abyss Touch is useless against this one huh...' Lux scratched his head. 'I guess I have no choice but to chip away at its health little by little.'

There was simply no other way to defeat the Monster, so Lux prepared himself for a drawn-out battle. After making up his mind, he immediately summoned his Named Creatures and discussed the information about the enemy they were about to face.

As Lux was about to summon his Skeleton Minions, Asmodeus stopped him and looked at the Living Armor as if it was looking at a new toy to play with.

"Master, let me get this straight. You said you need to defeat that Monster in order to get the herb it is guarding, correct?" Asmodeus asked as he pointed at the Monster in the distance.

"Yes." Lux nodded.

"... Then, why fight it when we can tame it instead?"

"Eh?"

Lux blinked once then twice before he finally understood what the Archlich was talking about.

Asmodeus chuckled. "Master, you forgot that Living Armors are also Undead Creatures. Relax, I got this."

The Archlich casually strolled towards the Living Armor while humming. When they entered the Sacred Dungeon for the first time, they faced several Undead Skeletons that had merged together to form the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King, which was a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster.

Unfortunately, the Skeleton King died in the battle against the Death Tyrants when it used its body to block the Ray Attacks that were aimed at the fleeing teenagers. Lux had been saddened after losing such a strong Monster as an ally, but there was nothing he could do about it.

Tamed Creatures were not Summoned Creatures.

Although they could be summoned anytime Asmodeus pleased, once they died, they were dead for good, unless Lux decided to pay a ridiculous high amount of Beast Cores to revive them.

(A/N: In order to revive a Tamed Creature, Lux must pay ten times the price of their original cores. For example, the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King was a

Rank 5 Field Boss Monster. It meant that in order to revive it, Lux must pay 10 Rank 5 Field Boss Monster Cores.)

Right now, he was short of high-level cores, so he couldn't give any of them to the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King at the moment.

As if sensing the approaching enemy, the Living Armor let out an unholy roar before summoning several spinning blades around its body. However, before it could even attack, Asmodeus pointed his bony finger at it and shouted...

"Tame Undead!"

As if hit by an invisible attack, the Crimson Knight paused in its charge and its body started to shake.

"Oh? Are you resisting me?" Asmodeus narrowed his eyes. "Good. This just proves that taming you is worth it."

As if to shrug off the attempt to tame it, the Living Armor continued its charge towards the Archlich who was waiting for its skill to cool down.

"Shield Bash!"

Pazuzu suddenly appeared out of nowhere and slammed his shield towards the Crimson Knight, causing it to take three steps back from the collision.

"How long is the skill cooldown?" Lux asked the Archlich as he summoned his Skeleton Soldiers to help stall the Field Boss, who had resisted Asmodeus' Tame Undead Skill.

"Master, this skill has a fifteen minute cooldown," Asmodeus replied apologetically.

The red-headed teenager felt the trace of embarrassment in his Archlich's voice for failing with his first attempt to tame the Living Armor.

"It's fine," Lux said. "We will try again once your skill's cooldown is over. For the time being, everyone, attack!"

Lux summoned all of his Skeleton Soldiers and Golems to fight against the Crimson Armor, but it took no damage from their combined attacks.

Even True Damage didn't work, which proved how broken the Armor really was. This also made it more precious in Lux's and Asmodeus' eyes, making them use everything in their arsenal to buy some time for the Archlich's skill to finish its cooldown.

## Chapter 329.1: Even The Dead Have Someone To Protect [Part 1]

An hour later...

"..."

"..."

Lux and Asmodeus didn't know if they should laugh, or cry, because all of their attempts to tame the Living Armor had failed.

Suddenly, Ishtar appeared beside Lux, telling him that the battle had attracted the few adventurer parties that were doing their quest deep inside Maple Forest.

Because of the heated battle that was taking place in front of him, The Half-Elf had asked Ishtar to scout the surroundings and report to him if people were headed in their direction. He didn't want others to know the full extent of his abilities, so he had decided to retreat if people were headed in his direction.

"It can't be helped," Lux sighed before summoning Jed to run away from the scene.

A moment later, he unsummoned all of his minions, leaving only the Crimson Wanderer Living Armor behind.

After getting to a safe area, he once again summoned his Named Creatures to discuss the next stage of their plan.

"Ishtar, when we were fighting, you didn't see the Passion Blossom anywhere?" Lux asked. "It should be around the area where the Field Boss Monster is."

Ishtar shook her head. "I searched everywhere, Master, but I didn't see it. Maybe it was already taken by someone before we arrived?"

Lux scratched his head because he couldn't rule out this possibility. There might be others desperate enough to get Cobie's Recommendation Letter, and decided to take the flower while the Living Armor was distracted.

"Master, we should get the Living Armor before we leave," Asmodeus insisted. "It is a very rare specimen, and I believe that it will serve us well in the future."

Lux nodded. He understood how precious the Living Armor was. If they were to fight against strong monsters in the future, its presence in the battlefield would be priceless since it couldn't be damaged by any kind of attacks except for Necrotic and Divine Elemental Magic.

"Too bad it isn't a Rank 5 Field Monster like the Skeleton King," Lux muttered. "If we succeed in capturing it, we will have to spend a lot of cores to upgrade it to its next Rank."

The Half-Elf started to feel depressed. He had too many creatures to upgrade, and so little resources to do so. If not for the fact that the Gate of War had allowed him to get free upgrades for his Skeleton Fighters, he would have had to hoard lots of Beast Cores to upgrade all of them to the next level.

Asmodeus chuckled. "The payoff will be worth it in the future, Master. Although it will be troublesome at the beginning, once we reach a certain threshold, everything will be smooth sailing."

Lux only smiled at Asmodeus' words. He remembered when Iris was first raising her Four Guardian Beasts.

With a Saint as her backer, the resources she needed to raise their Ranks were readily available to her. Naturally, Alexander didn't spoil her too much because he knew that if all of her guardians reached the S-Rating, Iris would have a false sense of security, making her unable to experience hardships while exploring Elysium.

This would be detrimental to her training, so Alexander only raised them up to the C-Rank, and left Iris to handle the rest.

Now, all of Iris' Guardian Beasts' Ratings had stepped into the A-Rank, making them as strong as Rank 4 Monsters.

Lux's Skeletons had a lower rating. Although their Ratings were now S-Ranked, their strength was only at the early stages of Rank 3 Monsters.

Undeads were relatively weaker by one grade compared to their living counterparts. The only advantage that the Undead had was that they could be summoned again and again, and they wouldn't get exhausted nor get hurt because they were already dead.

The Skeleton Gang Bangers were Rank 3 Monsters at the Early Stages.

The Skeleton Grand Archers were Rank 2 Monsters at the Early Stages.

The Skeleton Mages were Rank 2 Monsters at the Early Stages

The Rock Golems were Rank 3 Monsters, and Lux could only summon six of them at their current rank.

Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, Orion, and Asmodeus, were Rank 4 Monsters in their own right, and were Lux's main attack force.

"Ishtar, take a look to see if those people have left already," Lux ordered. "We will change our strategy and only engage the Living Armor whenever Asmodeus' Tame Undead skill is active again. If he fails to tame it, we will explore this area and look for the Passion Blossom. If possible, do not let other people see any of you."

Lux's Named Creatures nodded their heads in agreement. Ishtar then disappeared from where she stood, melding with the shadows.

After getting the signal from his Nightstalker, Lux and Asmodeus returned to the place where the Crimson Knight was standing, and tried to tame it.

Alas, their attempt once again failed, forcing them to retreat and look for the whereabouts of the flower for the time being.

It was at that moment when he heard a scream in the distance. A loud roar followed, causing the entire forest to tremble.

Lux was confident that the scream didn't come from a Monster, but from a person.

Because of this, the Half-Elf hurried towards the place where the voice came from, and was surprised to see the Crimson Knight fighting against another

Monster, while protecting a little girl, who seemed to be no older than ten years old and was carrying a basket of herbs in her hands.

"Sh\*t!" Lux cursed loudly after seeing the monster that the Crimson Knight was fighting against in order to protect the little girl behind it.

-----

< Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus >

- Dinosaur Monster
- Rank 5 World Boss

Health: 10,000,000

Mana: 250,000 / 250,000

Strength: 3,000

Intelligence: 500

Vitality: 2,000

Agility: 1,500

Dexterity: 1,000

Special Ability: Steel Body

-----

< Steel Body >

- This monster's body is as hard as steel.

-----

The difference in Ranks was quite obvious, and the Living Armor was only able to stand up against its enemy because the latter didn't have any Elemental Attacks that could deal the Living Armor any damage.

However, that didn't stop the World Boss from sending the Living Armor flying after it used its barbed tail to lash against its body, sending it crashing towards the trees in a straight line.

After temporarily dealing with the annoyance in front of it, the World Boss glanced down at the trembling girl in front of it and opened its mouth to eat the girl, along with the basket filled with precious herbs that had nourishing properties that could further strengthen its body.

## **Chapter 330.2: Even The Dead Have Someone To Protect [Part 2]**

The little girl screamed as the gaping jaw of the monster drew closer, about to eat her whole.

Suddenly, Ishtar appeared beside the child and threw her in the direction of the Nightstalker's Master, turning the prey into herself. When the Tyrannosaurus bit the Nightstalker's body with its razor sharp teeth, she instantly snapped into half.

The Half-Elf hurriedly caught the girl with his arms, while his Skeleton Army and Rock Golems confronted the Monster to buy them both of them time to escape.

Lux could have fought the World Boss if he really wanted to, but he carried the little girl away, prioritizing the girl's safety.

"Jed!" Lux shouted and the Thunder Warg King appeared to allow his Master to ride on his back.

Without looking behind, Jed sprinted away. The entire forest was filled with the echoes of the World Boss' roars, making those who heard it also run away in fear. Truly terrified of the Monster that had almost eaten her, the girl in Lux's arms kept on crying.

Although the Half-Elf didn't know how a girl like her could casually take a stroll deep inside the forest alone and pick herbs, this was not the right time to ask her questions. He put his focus on retaining vigilance at everything that was in front of him and urging Jed to run as fast as it could.

Half an hour later, they were finally able to leave the forest due to Jed's full sprint towards the exit. Only when Lux was sure that they were safe did he ask his mount to stop.

"Don't worry, we're safe now," Lux said to the crying girl in his arms. "What's your name?"

The girl looked up and wiped the tears in her eyes. "Heidi... \*hic\*."

"What a cute name," Lux commented as he wiped away her tears using his handkerchief. "Where do you live? I'll escort you back. Your parents must be worried about you."

Instead of answering Lux's question, Heidi looked in the direction of the forest with an anxious look on her face.

"Will Uncle Knight be okay?" Heidi asked. "That is a very big monster. He might get eaten by it."

"Uncle Knight?" Lux blinked in confusion. "Are you talking about that Living Armo— I mean, that Crimson Knight in the forest?"

Heidi nodded her head. "Uncle Knight always helps me look for herbs in the forest, so I can sell them to the Adventurer's Guild. Mother is sick and I need to buy medicine for her. Uncle Knight is a very good person."

"...Yes. He is a good person. Your Uncle Knight is a good person."

"Un!"

After Heidi gave him directions, Lux arrived at a small hut that was still a good distance away from the outskirts of Brookwest Town.

The Half-Elf was also worried about the condition of Heidi's mother, so he decided to see if he could help her in any way.

"Mama! I'm back!" Heidi shouted before pushing the door. "Big Brother, please come in. I can give you some water."

"Thank you," Lux replied and entered the house.

In the right corner of the room was a bed that was big enough for two people to lay side by side. Sleeping on top of it was a woman who looked very pale and seemed to be suffering from a fever.

Lux knew a little bit about medicine because Vera had taught him the basics in preparation for his journey in Elysium.

After checking the vital signs of Heidi's Mama, the Half-Elf was relieved. Although she was suffering from a fever, her life wasn't in danger.

"I'll mix some medicines for your Mama," Lux said. "Are you hungry? I have some apple pies with me."

"I love apple pie!" Heidi exclaimed. "But aren't apple pies expensive? I don't have any money with me."

"It's fine. I'll give it to you for free."

"Mama said that I should be wary of strangers who give me food for free. She said that they can't be trusted, but I'll believe you, Big Brother. I trust you!"

Lux smiled, infected by Heidi's liveliness. He watched as the girl happily took a bite of the apple pie he gave her. Seeing the look of satisfaction on her face as she ate like a little hamster, Lux took out more food from his storage ring, which was supposed to be his snacks on his journey.

"Eat up, I still have a lot of food, Heidi."

"Wow! Big Brother, you are the best!"

"I know, right?"

Lux chuckled and gave the little girl a pat on the head before he started mixing fever medicine for her mother.

Since the herbs in his storage ring were already prepared and only needed to be mixed together, the medicine was finished within ten minutes.

'I guess I'll cook something first,' Lux thought. 'This medicine is a bit strong and cannot be taken in an empty stomach.'

Lux left the house for a bit and summoned Ishtar.

"I know I shouldn't ask this but, did it hurt when the Monster bit down on you?" Lux asked out of curiosity.

"A bit," Ishtar replied. "Why have you summoned me, Master?"

"Can you hunt some fowl in the forest for me? Two will be fine."

"Understood"

But before Ishtar could even carry out her task, she and Lux felt a powerful presence hiding behind a tree that was only dozens of meters away from the small hut where Heidi and her sick Mama stayed.

"Who's there?!" Ishtar shouted as she took out twin blades and stood in front of Lux in a defensive stance.

As if waiting for that cue, a tall figure emerged from behind the tree and looked at Lux and the Nightstalker with its glowing yellow eyes. In its hands were three pheasants that looked very plump.

Lux didn't feel any hostility coming from the Living Armor, so he didn't summon any of his minions and simply stared back at it.

The two stared at each other for a full minute before the Crimson Knight placed the three plump pheasants on the ground. It then took something out of its armor and placed it on the ground beside the pheasants before turning away.

Lux watched as the Crimson Knight headed towards the forest and disappeared from view.

Clearly, it only came to deliver the pheasants to Heidi and, perhaps, also a gift for Lux, who had rescued the little girl from the jaws of death.

"Go take it, Ishtar," Lux ordered.

The Nightstalker turned into black mist and reappeared beside the pheasants, which had been cleanly killed with one strike. However, Ishtar's eyes widened in shock after seeing the item that the Living Armor had placed beside the pheasants.

Ishtar hurriedly picked up the pheasants and the item that was left by the Living Armor and returned to her Master's side.

"Master, is this the flower we are looking for?" Ishtar asked as she handed the flower to Lux.

Lux nodded as he held the flower with great care.

"This is indeed the Passion Blossom that we are looking for," Lux replied.  
"Just... why?"

Lux was still in doubt about why the Crimson Knight cared for the little girl, Heidi, and why it would even bother to give him a thank you gift for saving her.

For the time being, he set these thoughts aside and entered the house again to cook food for the mother and daughter pair.

Several hours later...

"Thank you for taking care of my daughter," Heidi's Mama, Lilia, said with gratitude. "Heidi likes to pick herbs on the outskirts of the forest because there are no dangerous animals there.

"Even though I tried to stop her many times, she still goes there on her own, and when she returns home, she will always have a basket filled with herbs. By any chance, did you meet her in the outskirts of the forest earlier?"

Lux was about to say that he met Heidi deep in the forest and was almost eaten by a Rank 4 World Boss, but the words he was about to say were stuck in his mouth when he saw the little girl, who was standing behind her mother, pressed her hands together in a pleading gesture.

Her teary-eyed expression was enough to make Lux understand that her mother, Lilia, would be angry and get worried sick if she knew what her child had done in order to get some medicine for her.

"Yes," Lux replied. "I saw her looking for herbs along the outskirts and decided to bring her back home because it is too dangerous for a little girl to stroll around the forest alone."

Lilia nodded her head. "I'm sorry for the inconvenience she caused you. Heidi, please thank Sir Lux for helping you. He is even kind enough to cook for us and give me medicine."

Heidi heaved a sigh of relief and gave Lux a sweet smile because the Half-Elf didn't expose her near-death-experience to her mother.

"Thank you, Big Brother," Heidi said as she gave Lux a polite bow. "I promise not to go deep in the forest again."

"Again?" Lilia glanced at her daughter with a confused expression. "Did you go deep in the forest?"

"No! I mean, I promise I won't go deep inside the forest. I didn't say I went inside the forest."

"Good."

Lilia nodded her head in understanding. It didn't cross her mind that her daughter had gone to the depths of the forest on her own because that would be akin to inviting the wild beasts inside it to a free meal.

When Lilia went back to sleep in order to recover from her fever, Lux took Heidi to the Adventurers Guild to help her sell the herbs that she had collected.

After everything that happened, Lux was very reluctant to let the little girl wander alone on her own.

Because of this he decided to tag along, and ensure that no monsters, not even a common one, would hurt the little girl, who braved the dangers of the forest in order to save her mother's life.

## **Chapter 331.3: Even The Dead Have Someone To Protect [Part 3]**

On the way to the Adventurer's Guild, Lux asked Heidi more about her Uncle Knight, who seemed to have taken a liking to her.

"Uncle Knight is a good person. That is why he helps me gather herbs," Heidi said with a smile. "He rarely talks, but whenever he does, he would always tell me that I should listen to my Mama and not venture deep inside the forest."

"I meet him everyday in the outskirts, and we look for herbs together. Although there were some monsters from time to time, Uncle Knight makes sure to protect me every time."

Lux held Heidi's basket in his hand and listened to her story.

According to her, the first time she met her Uncle Knight was when her mother went to town to buy some food.

Heidi was just playing outside of the house when the Crimson Knight appeared and left a traveler's bag right in front of their doorstep.

Little girls were filled with curiosity, so instead of running away, she approached the Knight and started to ask him questions.

The Crimson Knight didn't answer any of them and simply crouched down in front of her to pat her head.

After that incident, Heidi would often spot the Crimson Knight observing her and her Mama from a distance. Whenever the little girl told her Mama about her Uncle Knight, Lilia would think that her daughter had made up an imaginary friend due to loneliness.

How could Lilia possibly believe that a Knight wearing crimson armor with glowing yellow eyes would play hide and seek with a little girl from a poor family?

Knights didn't have that much free time!

Lilia knew this for a fact because her husband was almost always away from home as a Knight of the Vahan Kingdom.

However, due to his righteousness, he had made many enemies. So in order to escape their line of sight, he took Lilia and his daughter, Heidi, to the outskirts of Brookwest Town, far away from the Northern Regions of the Vahan Empire, where the people who had a beef with him ruled.

Once a month, her husband would send her letters, telling her that he was fine. However, she hadn't received a letter from him for more than two years already.

Lilia knew that something might have happened to him, but since she had no other place to go, she and her daughter remained in the small hut that her husband had built for their family.

"Uncle Knight also gives me many fruits!" Heidi said as she hopped along the road. "When I told him that I wanted to go look for rare herbs in the forest to buy medicine because Mama was sick, he agreed to help me. And then... that big bad monster appeared. After that, I met Big Brother!"

Lux smiled. "Your Uncle Knight is really a good person. It's nice to know that he is looking after you and your Mother."

Heidi returned Lux's smile with a big smile of her own and nodded her head.

Clearly, this was the very smile that the Living Armor, who was being controlled by the spirit of the dead, strived hard to protect.

After they arrived at the Adventurer's Guild, Lux made sure that the little girl would get a fair price for the herbs that she had collected, especially after almost dying inside the forest.

Fortunately, the clerks of the guild didn't try to short-change the girl, which made Heidi very happy. It was a lot for her, especially since she no longer needed to buy her Mama medicine because her Big Brother had already made it for her.

With money in hand, the little girl went to the Baker to buy two loaves of bread.

Heidi said that because they didn't have much money, her Mama would only buy her bread when there was a special occasion.

Because of this, Lux bought the little girl some Jelly Tarts, which made Heidi jump in joy.

That night, after tucking the little girl on the bed with her Mama, Lux went outside of the house. In the distance, he could see two glowing yellow orbs of light, watching him from a distance.

Lux was only surprised for a brief moment, but he still walked in the direction of the lights. When he was only dozens of meters away from Heidi's "Uncle

Knight," the Living Armor made a gesture for him to follow him inside the forest.

The two walked without talking to each other until they arrived at a clearing. There was no moon in the sky, and only the stars illuminated the night.

Even so, the Half-Elf could see as clearly as if it was day due to his Dark Vision, which he had inherited from his Elven Ancestry.

"I... have a favor... to ask," the Living Armor said. "Earlier... you tried... to make me your... subordinate. If... you do this... favor. I... will... serve you."

"It's about Heidi and her Mama, right?" Lux asked. "You are her..."

The Living Armor turned around and slashed his sword towards the Half-Elf without any warning.

Lux didn't have his guard up because the Living Armor didn't have any hostility directed at him. That was why when the other party made a move, he had been unable to react in time, allowing the sword that the Living Armor held to rest at the side of his neck.

"Do... not... mention it... again," the Living Armor was three-meters tall and its glowing eyes burned brightly within the socket of its armor. "Are... you going to... do me a... favor or not?"

Lux transformed his right hand into the claws of a dragon and pushed away the sword that rested against his neck.

The Crimson Knight didn't make things difficult for him and pulled the blade away from his neck.

"I'll hear it first," Lux replied. "I'll decide if I am capable of doing this favor of yours or not."

The Living Armor nodded its head. As an Undead, it felt a very strong connection to those who could wield the power of Necromancy.

For two whole years, he had traveled from the Northern Regions of the Vahan Empire to return to Brookwest Town. Only his strong resolve to return to the place where the important people in his life were waiting for him, kept him going.

The battles he fought weren't easy, and he had fought many monsters along the way. From a Rank E Living Armor, he slowly made his way up, consuming the Beast Cores of the Monsters that blocked his path home.

In those two years, he managed to become a Rank 4 Wandering Field Boss due to the curse that had been placed upon him before he drew his last breath.

He never killed any Humans and only injured them enough to prevent them from following him. The only creatures he killed were Beasts, so he could consume their cores and have the chance to see Lilia and Heidi again.

But he was reaching his limit.

His memories of the past were getting hazy, and he knew that it wouldn't take long before the sword that protected the little girl from harm might one day take her life.

It scared him, making him want to leave, but he felt very reluctant to do so.

How could he possibly go when Lilia and Heidi were fending for themselves, just the two of them with no one else to support them?

After hearing the Living Armor's request, Lux didn't answer right away. It was not because he didn't want to help, but because he didn't know how to help. Aside from that, he was still working on his quest to create a guild.

After pondering for a few minutes, Lux gazed at the Crimson Knight in front of him and raised his two fingers.

"Two weeks," Lux stated. "I will return here in two weeks. By then, my mission will be finished. I will help you then."

The Living Armor made a long and hoarse sigh. Lux didn't know if it was due to disappointment or relief. Perhaps, it was even both.

Even so, the Living Armor nodded his head in understanding.

"Very well... I will wait... for you," the Living Armor said. "Two weeks... keep your word... Half-Elf."

The Crimson Knight then turned around to walk towards the forest.

Lux watched as the Living Armor disappeared from his sight before sighing.

"Even in death you still have things to protect," Lux said softly. "I would love to have someone like you as my comrade."

This was the first time that an Undead Creature had purposely asked him for a favor in exchange for becoming his servant.

Lux was touched by the Living Armor's determination to keep Lilia and Heidi safe, even safeguarding them from a distance...

Like he had always done when he was still alive and living by their side.

## **Chapter 332: Bro, You Are My Bro From This Day Onwards**

"Big Brother, you'll visit us again, right?"

"Of course, I will. The next time we meet, I'll bring apple pies for you."

"Yay!"

A day after Lux talked with the Living Armor, Lilia's fever went down, and her complexion looked a lot better than before. The Half-Elf had bought them enough food supplies from Brookwest Town that would last them a week, so Lilia could take it easy until she was fully recovered.

"Lux, I can't take this money," said Lilia in rejection to the small pouch containing 50 gold coins Lux offered to her. "We are already indebted to you for helping us out, so you don't have to do this."

"It's fine, Aunty Lilia," Lux replied. "This much is at most pocket change for me. Just use this to buy some new sets of clothes for Heidi, as well as more food to put on the table."

The Half-Elf wasn't lying when he said that 50 gold coins were just like change for him. He had over two million gold coins in his possession, which he earned from his quests, in addition to the reward for winning the Lionheart Tournament.

Lilia was persuaded when the red-headed teenager mentioned that she could use it to buy clothes for her daughter, whose clothes were already worn out from constant washing.

"Thank you, Lux." Lilia looked at the Half-Elf with gratitude. "Please, have a safe trip to the capital."

Lux smiled and nodded his head. Although he had been delayed from his mission by a day for taking care of Lilia and Heidi, he never thought that what he did was a waste of time. If he wasn't pressed for time, he would have stayed for a few more days. After bidding his farewells, he once again returned to Brookwest Town.

Instead of heading straight towards the Adventurers Guild to hand the Passion Blossom to the Guildmaster, Cobie, he first visited the Starfleet Tavern where the waitress, Diana, was working.

He was pretty sure that Cobie would use the Passion Flower as an ingredient for an aphrodisiac to do XXX and XXX to the waitress, so he decided to see her first and find out if he would feel guilty about handing the flower to Cobie.

"Welcome to Starfleet Cavern!" As soon as Lux entered the shop, Lux was greeted by a pretty blonde waitress. "Will you be dining today, Sir?"

"Yes," Lux replied.

"Please follow me. I will take you to your table."

"Thank you."

As the waitress led Lux towards the table at the very back of the tavern, the Half-Elf scanned the surroundings and noticed that all the waitresses were quite pretty. Any of them would definitely be wanted by any able-bodied man, so he kind of understood why Cobie wanted to marry one of them.

After taking his order, the blonde waitress left with a smile before heading towards the kitchen.

Ten minutes later, Lux's food arrived, and he was surprised at how delicious it was. While the Half-Elf was enjoying his meal, a two-meter tall man who resembled a gorilla entered the tavern.

"Hello Patricia. You're looking more beautiful than you looked yesterday," Cobie, the Guildmaster of the Adventurers Guild praised the blonde waitress that had greeted Lux earlier.

"Thank you Guildmaster," Patricia answered in a professional manner, but if one looked closely enough, one would notice the corner of her lips rise by a fraction after seeing Cobie enter their establishment.

Lux ate his sandwich while staring at the Guildmaster who was led to a table not far from him to order some food.

"What will your order for today be?" Patricia asked.

"The usual," Cobie replied.

"Okay," Patricia smirked before heading towards the Kitchen. "Guildmaster Cobie is here, and he ordered the usual!"

As soon as everyone in the tavern heard Patricia's words, they all started laughing and cheering for Cobie, who seemed to be in a very good mood.

'It seems like he is well liked by everyone here,' Lux mused.

As the Guildmaster of the branch of the Adventurers Guild in Brookwest Town, Cobie was definitely not as simple as he looked.

No one would be able to attain such a position with just luck since all the candidates were screened and tested to check if they were at least capable of leading one of the branches of the Adventurers Guild.

Lux had just finished his meal and was drinking his tea when someone emerged from the kitchen.

She swayed her hips from side to side, while holding a tray in her hands. The waitress walked towards the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild with such grace, making the latter smile from ear to ear.

The moment she appeared, everyone in the tavern started whistling and cheering.

"You brute, just go eat your food and leave," the two-meter-tall woman said. "Aren't you tired of causing a commotion day in and day out? Why don't you give up already?"

"Others may give up, but that others isn't me," Cobie said with confidence. "The one who will XXX you will be me, Diana."

Lux spat the tea he was drinking because he didn't expect that Cobie had this kind of kink. The waitress named Diana was none other than a two-meter-tall Gorilla-Kin.

She was one of the Beastkin Races that could be found both in Solais and Elysium. Although Lux had seen Cat-Kins in Barbatos Academy, this was the first time he was seeing a Gorilla-kin, so it clearly made an impression on him.

Diana gave Cobie a slap after hearing the man's bold words. It sounded loud, but the force applied to it wasn't that strong. Clearly, the waitress, Diana, didn't want to hurt Cobie too much.

"You brute, just give it up," Diana replied. "Looking at you doesn't make me go in heat. It's impossible."

"Impossible is just another word for possible," Cobie said with the "never surrender" attitude. "You'll be marrying me soon enough, and we will create a bunch of kids that look just like us."

The corner of Lux's lips twitched because he couldn't find the right words to describe his feeling right now.

A Gorilla-looking-man wooing a Gorilla-Kin was like a match made in heaven. It was quite clear that Cobie was serious about Diana, and the waitress seemed to be fond of the Guildmaster as well.

Because of this, Lux stood up from his seat and approached Cobie's table.

Sensing his gaze, Cobie glanced in his direction and immediately stood up from his chair. He then moved between Lux and Diana, glaring at the handsome Half-Elf as if looking at a mortal enemy.

"Your name is Lux, right?" Cobie stated. "I guess you came here to find out what Diana looks like after I gave you that quest for your Recommendation Letter. But sorry, I'm not handing her to any good-looking men like you. She's too good for a Half-Elf, so give it up, kid. There are many fishes in the sea, but Diana is the only one for me."

Lux was very tempted to spit on the Guildmaster's face for even saying such a thing. He already had a beautiful and loveable fiancée, whom he would be marrying in two years. Why would he even bother to XXX a Gorilla?

"Boys, please, don't fight over me," Diana said. "You shouldn't disturb the other customers. Cobie, go back to your seat."

"No! I will not. Every man has something to protect, and I am here to protect your smile, Diana."

"Are you going to sit, or should I have you blacklisted from entering this tavern again?"

Without another word, Cobie obediently sat while glaring daggers at the Half-Elf, who was already regretting coming to the Starfleet Cavern because he was concerned for the waitress that Cobie was in love with.

Sighing inside his heart, Lux walked towards Cobie's table and took out a storage ring from his pocket. He then passed it to the Guildmaster, who took it with a doubtful look on his face.

However, as soon as he saw what was inside the storage ring, a look of surprise and shock appeared on his face, before it was replaced with a dazzling smile that would make the toothpaste models on earth cover their faces in shame.

"Bro. You are my bro from this day onwards," Cobie said before giving Lux a bearhug that almost broke his bones.

"Sorry, I'll pass on being your bro," Lux replied as he tapped the Gorilla-like man's arm to tell him to release him.

Cobie released Lux and laughed so loud that everyone in the tavern thought he had gone mad.

"Everyone, drink up!" Cobie shouted. "The tab is on me! We're getting drunk today!"

Although no one knew what happened, all of them raised their mugs and cheered. Free drinks was something they wouldn't turn down, so they cheered for Cobie's generosity.

"Here is the Recommendation Letter," Cobie handed a scroll with his seal attached to it. "You have earned it. When I marry Diana and have kids, I'll make you their Godfather!"

"...I'll think about it." Lux was starting to sweat buckets seeing Cobie look at him as if he was his lord and savior.

After a round of drinking, Lux was finally able to leave the Starfleet Tavern.

"Let's go, Jed," Lux said as he summoned his Thunder Warg King. "Let's head to our next destination."

Jed gave a growl of agreement before sprinting to the North Entrance of Brookwest Town.

"There are really so many kinds of people in the world," Lux muttered with a helpless smile. "I guess love has many forms as well."

The Half-Elf fondly remembered the scene in the tavern where Cobie started to dance with Diana after getting the Passion Blossom from Lux.

Perhaps, unable to turn Cobie down, who was brimming with happiness, the waitress agreed to dance with him, while the customers who had musical instruments with them played music for them. The tavern immediately had a festive atmosphere, making the Half-Elf momentarily forget his worries about getting his Recommendation Letters, as well as passing the Trial of Leadership.

Jed left the town in a steady sprint with its Master looking forward to the next adventure that he would face.

It was just past noon, and the sun was still at its zenith. However, Lux had a feeling that when night came, Cobie would finally be able to make his wish a reality, and tumble on the bed with the woman of his dreams.

## **Chapter 333: You're Going To Bradford Town Next, Right?**

After traveling non-stop for a day, Lux finally reached Aeston Town, where he would attempt to get his second Recommendation Letter from its local Adventurers Guildmaster.

Although tired from his journey, the Half-Elf still headed straight to the Adventurer's Guild and asked for an audience with its Guildmaster.

It took several minutes before the Guild Receptionist brought Lux to the Headmaster's office, where its Guildmaster, Guthram, waited for him.

"You must be Lux," said Guthram as soon as the Half-Elf took a seat in front of his table. "I've heard many things about you."

"I pray that they were all good things," Lux replied with a smile.

"Hahaha. Well, it's mixed, so there are good things and bad things. Even so, I'm glad I was finally able to see the Half-Elf who has been making a lot of trouble for the Vahan Empire."

Guthram was a middle-aged man, who wore a monocle over his right eye. He had this calm presence in him that made others feel at ease around him.

But this was why Lux raised his guard to its fullest. Vera had warned him that this kind of people was the hardest to deal with because one never knew if they were scheming something behind your back.

"Good," Guthram commented after sensing that Lux was being wary of him. "Only those who have passed a certain threshold in life experience would be cautious around me. It seems like you have your fair share of life and death battles."

Lux didn't comment, since Vera had also warned him that these sly foxes would flatter people as well in order to make them lower their guard.

"Sir Guthram, I am here for a Recommendation Letter," Lux stated.

Guthram nodded his head and opened the drawer at the side of his table. He then took out a scroll with a seal attached in it and passed it over to Lux.

"Here is the Recommendation Letter," Guthram said.

Lux blinked in confusion because he didn't expect that the recommendation letter would be handed to him in such a casual manner.

He thought that he would be given a quest, just like what Cobie had given him before he received the recommendation letter with the Guildmaster's seal in it.

"What's wrong?" Guthram asked. "You don't want it?"

"Of course I want it," Lux said as he carefully took the scroll from Guthram's hand.

Guthram smiled as he eyed the Half-Elf who carefully stored his letter of recommendation inside his storage ring. He found the red-headed teenager's reaction quite funny, making him want to tease him.

"The Skystead Alliance and the Xynnar War Pact has always been at odds with each other," Guthram stated. "However, the Adventurer's Guild is a neutral party, which allows us to have branches all over the world.

"But, this is what only the common folks believe. In truth, even an organization as big as ours isn't free from corruption. We still need to protect our own interests, so if we have to blacklist a handful of people in order to continue serving millions of them, this choice is one that we will easily take.

"You are a good example of this improper procedure. In order to create a guild, you have no choice but to travel to the rival empire of your faction just to secure Recommendation Letters and take the Trial of Leadership. Do you know why this happened?"

Lux nodded. "To prevent a war from taking place."

Guthram smiled. "You're only half right. It's all about politics and keeping the interest of each kingdom. No one wants to see a war start, or at least, most of the rulers don't. But, Emperor Andreas is an exception.

"What puzzles me is that he didn't use what happened in the Domain of the Fallen, as well as the attack on the Ashina Kingdom, as a righteous cause to declare war on the Xynnar War Pact."

Lux offered his own opinion on the matter. "Isn't it just because the Xynnar War Pact has two more Saints on their side, making Emperor Andreas reconsider declaring war?"

Guthram smirked. "While Saints are indeed beings that have a deterrence effect, you have to understand that Emperor Andreas also has aces up his

sleeve. It has been five years since the Emperor, who likes to expand his territory, stopped sending his army across his Empire's borders to wage war on his neighbors. The only reason I can think of is that he is busy with other things."

Lux frowned because this talk about conspiracy theories was something he wasn't fond of. For him, they were just conjectures, and worrying about something that had no solid evidence backing it up was just a waste of time.

"Oh, forgive me, it seems like my tale has bored you," Guthram chuckled. "Well then, since your purpose for coming here is over, you will head to Bradford Town next, right?"

"Actually, I haven't decided where to go yet," Lux replied. "There are a couple of other towns that I can visit before going to a major city to use their teleportation gate to reach the Capital City of Dainsleif."

Guthram pressed his hands together and eyed the Half-Elf with a solemn expression on his face.

"You're going to Bradford Town next, right?"

"I still haven't decided..."

"Understood. You're going to Bradford Town. Since that is the case, can you pass this letter to my colleague there?" Guthram stuffed a letter into Lux's hands without even asking for his opinion. "Since you will be visiting Bradford Town to get a Recommendation Letter, you might as well deliver this letter to my friend, who also happens to be the Branch Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild. His name is Boris and we go way back."

"...Okay." Lux could only accept the letter from Guthram because the latter was insisting that he go to Bradford Town next.

"Excellent. I knew that you were an amazing person the moment you walked through the door. Now, if you will excuse me, I still have many things to do," Guthram stood from his chair and shook hands with Lux, before firmly escorting him outside of his office. "Safe travels and may you arrive in Bradford Town before it is too late."

Without another word, the Guildmaster closed the door leaving a dumbstruck Half-Elf who still couldn't understand what just happened.

'I guess I'll know when I arrive in Bradford Town.' Lux scratched his head as he looked at the letter in his hands. 'Also, what did he mean when he said before it's too late?'

The Half-Elf had a feeling that this matter wasn't so simple, so he decided to rest for a few hours. When the clock struck midnight, he would then travel to Bradford Town.

## **Chapter 334: You Got The Short End Of The Stick, Boy**

After resting for a few hours, Lux traveled to the Town of Bradford in the middle of the night.

It didn't really matter whether he traveled during the day or night, because either way, he could clearly see everything.

However, after getting some proper rest, the Half-Elf pondered why Guthram insisted that he traveled to the Town of Bradford. He had expected that he would be given some kind of quest in order to get a Recommendation Letter, but the Guildmaster gave him none.

But in return, the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild made sure that Lux would only choose the Town of Bradford as his next destination.

'Is there something going on in Bradford Town?' Lux mused.

Using the Elysium Compendium, the Half-Elf mapped out the shortest route to reach his destination. Due to Jed's enhanced movement speed after becoming a Thunder Warg King, Lux arrived at the outskirts of Bradford Town just before sunrise.

Upon arrival, instead of being happy, a grim expression formed on the Half-Elf's face. The outskirts were littered with the dead bodies of Rat Monsters, as well as Humans.

A single glance was enough to tell him that something was terribly wrong, so he immediately summoned Diablo to prepare for any unexpected surprises.

"These bodies haven't been dead for long, Master," Diablo commented. "At most, they have been dead for two to three hours."

The Death Knight, whose strength had increased after absorbing the power of the dead, paid close attention to the surroundings, just in case a monster appeared out of nowhere and attacked the Half-Elf who was riding by his side.

"Diablo, wear this cloak," Lux ordered as he tossed a cloak to his Named Creature. "Also, dismount from Airon. I want you to ride one of the Wargs for the time being. I don't know what's going on, but it will be best if you're not seen as a monster. The Humans we'll encounter along the way might take you for an enemy, and we don't want to be attacked by them.."

(A/N: Airon is the name of Diablo's Nightmare Horse.)

Diablo obeyed and donned the cloak on his body, covering his face completely.

The stench of blood was getting thicker, which caused the frown on Lux's face to deepen. After ten minutes, they finally reached the entrance of Bradford Town, which was shut tightly.

"Halt!" A man holding a crossbow on top of the town's walls aimed his weapon towards the Half-Elf. "What are you doing here in Bradford? State your business!"

There were other men holding crossbows in their hands, and all of them were pointing it at him and Diablo with bloodshot eyes.

Lux raised both of his hands to show that he meant no harm in order to pacify the anxious looking guards who were aiming at them with their crossbows. His gesture reduced the tension in the air, preventing the guards from accidentally shooting him due to their nerves being stretched to the limit.

"My name is Lux, and I have come to Bradford Town to pass a letter that came from the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild in Aeston Town, Sir Guthram. He said that I should personally hand the letter to his friend, Sir Boris, who is the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild in this town."

The men lowered the crossbows in their hand, but they were still giving Lux suspicious glances.

"Someone tell the Guildmaster that someone is looking for him," the man who seemed to be the captain of the defenders ordered one of his subordinates.

The subordinate left in a hurry, causing Lux to heave a sigh of relief.

Just by looking at the defenders on the walls, he could tell that he came at a very bad time. But after careful consideration, he realized that he might have been sent here by Guthram on purpose precisely because it was a very bad time, which made the Half-Elf silently curse the sly fox who set him up.

'Isn't this the same as giving me a quest?' Lux scratched his head. 'Why must he make things complicated?'

Several minutes later, a man with sharp features, who seemed to be in his early forties, appeared on top of the town walls and gazed down on the Half-Elf with a frown.

"I am Boris," Boris stated. "You said that you have been sent by Guthram to deliver a letter to me?"

Lux nodded. "Yes. Sir Guthram told me to bring the letter here after I asked him for a Recommendation Letter in order to create a Guild."

The Half-Elf decided to state his real purpose for coming in order to make Boris understand that he wasn't an enemy. He thought by doing so, the Guildmaster would lower his guard and tell everyone to let him go inside the city.

"A Recommendation Letter?" Guthram crossed his arms over his chest. "Are you just making an excuse so we will let you enter the town? Boy, I didn't become the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild because I am stupid. Do you really think that we will allow you to enter with that Monster beside you?"

The guards gasped before shifting their gaze towards the robed figure that was mounted on the Warg beside Lux. All of them once again raised their crossbows and aimed their bolts in Diablo's direction.

"Wait! Don't shoot!" Lux shouted. "He is my Summon. I am a Necromancer! I saw several dead bodies along the way and decided to summon my servant to be my escort on the journey."

"Necromancer? So young and already playing with the dead," one of the men holding a crossbow in his hand commented.

"Do you think he is in cahoots with those monsters that are attacking our town?"

"It's possible. Maybe he wanted to destroy our defenses from within so we will be overwhelmed on their next attack."

"Hiss... these dark practitioners cannot be trusted. He may have already raised an army of the dead and is waiting for the right moment to strike us!"

Boris eyed Lux with a serious expression, while the guards around him debated whether they should shoot the robed figure or not.

"If you don't want me to enter the town, that's fine," Lux shouted at the guards who were inching their fingers at the trigger of their crossbows. "It's not like I came here to help you guys defend this town or anything. Don't get the wrong idea, okay?"

The Half-Elf then shifted his gaze towards Boris who still hadn't said anything since he declared his purpose for coming.

"Here is Sir Guthram's letter," Lux said. "Will someone take it, or should I just leave it on the ground?"

All the guards glanced at Boris, waiting for his instructions.

"Fine, let him in," Boris ordered. "But don't make any stupid moves. If you summon Undead Monsters inside the town, we will treat you as our enemy."

Lux nodded his head and unsummoned Diablo. Since a compromise had been reached, he decided that he should just recall his Death Knight. This way, the trigger-happy guards would have no reason to shoot him with their crossbows.

As soon as the red-headed teenager entered the town, the gate behind him closed with a heavy thud.

'This is worse than I thought,' Lux mused as he gazed at the town that looked like it had barely survived a bandit attack.

Many houses were destroyed or burnt, and the ground had several dark stains, which the Half-Elf believed to be blood that had already dried up.

While Lux was assessing the situation around him, Boris had come down from the town walls and walked in his direction. He was followed by four more adventurers and, judging by their posture, Lux knew that all of them were at least of the Initiate Rank.

"The letter?" Boris asked.

Lux didn't even bother to reply and simply handed the sealed scroll to the Guildmaster, whose sharp features reminded him of a bird of prey.

Boris broke the seal and read the contents of the letter with a calm expression on his face. When he was done, he glanced at Lux and gave him a pitiful gaze.

"You got the short end of the stick, Boy," Boris said. "Sorry for doubting you earlier."

The Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild handed the letter back to Lux and told him to read it.

Boris had known Guthram for a long time, and understood that his friend would not hesitate to lend his help to him. Since he had sent someone to deliver a letter to him and didn't come in person, it just meant that the situation in Aeston Town, where Guthram was stationed, was slowly starting to deteriorate as well.

Curious about the contents of the letter, the red-headed teenager read it carefully to ensure that he wouldn't miss anything.

-----

Dear Boris,

I have received your letter asking for aid, but I am unable to leave Aeston Town at this time. We have also received reports that the Goblins in our area are behaving erratically, and it is quite possible that we could be facing the same problem you are facing right now.

But don't worry. There will always be someone trying to gain favors from me. If I meet such an individual, I will send him to you right away. Treat it as my way of helping you.

Hoping to see you again, your dear colleague, Guthram.

P.S

Before you die, can you pay the two thousand gold coins you owe me? I'd hate it if I have to collect your loan from your family members.

-----

The Half-Elf scratched his head after reading the letter.

"I already had a feeling that this was the case," Lux commented. "So Sir Boris, can you tell me what is going on here? Maybe I can offer you some assistance."

Since he was already there, then he might as well see what was going on. Perhaps by helping Boris a bit, he would get a Letter of Recommendation which would bring him one step closer to his goal to take the Trial of Leadership.

## Chapter 335: Skeleton Make [EX]

"A Monster Outbreak?"

"Yes. A Monster Outbreak, but not a natural one. This one is clearly premeditated, and the strength of the Monsters far surpassed their normal strength."

Boris took Lux to his Guild office to explain to him the current problem they were facing.

"It all started a week ago," Boris explained. "At first, the adventurers had sighted Stone Clawed Rats more than usual roaming around the forests from the North. We didn't think much of this back then because the Northern Forest was their natural habitat. However, four days ago, things changed.

"On the night of the New Moon, the Rat Monsters attacked us, which caught us completely by surprise. They only numbered around three hundred at most, but all of them had the strength of Rank 4 Monsters, which was completely unheard of.

"At most, Stone Clawed Rats are only rank 2 Monsters, so they aren't much of a threat to adventurers. But the ones we faced were of a different breed. Glowing red veins covered their entire bodies, giving them strength that far surpassed their normal strength.

"We didn't have that many Grade A Apostles in town, but we did have ten Initiates, including myself, so we managed to fend them off. After we killed all the Monsters, we thought that it was the last of them. Unfortunately, we were wrong.

"Everyday, we were attacked by Stone Clawed Rats, and with every wave, their numbers have grown. Two of our Initiates died a day ago, and two more were injured. I am afraid that if those Monster Rats attack us tonight... Bradford Town is finished."

After hearing his tale, Lux now understood why Boris gave him a pitiful gaze after reading Guthram's letter. Clearly, the Half-Elf had indeed gotten the short end of the stick, and was involved in a very big problem that he didn't ask for.

"So, what's the plan?" Lux asked.

He had traveled all through the night, and frankly, he was still exhausted from his journey. However, after hearing that he might be facing thousands of Rank 4 Rat Monsters, who could easily scale the town's wall due to their exceptional agility and dexterity, his desire to rest disappeared completely.

"It is impossible to defeat them," Boris replied. "So, we have decided to evacuate everyone, and head to Aeston Town. The sun has just risen, so it is a good time to travel.

"However, traveling with over ten thousand people will be a great challenge. I'm afraid that we won't reach our destination before sunset. Although the Rat Monsters have been attacking us an hour after sunset, that is not a guarantee that they will not attack during the day."

Lux nodded his head in understanding, but he and Boris both knew that there was nothing that could be done except to flee from Bradford Town and seek help from Aeston Town.

"We will be leaving in an hour," Boris stated. "I know that you came here for a Letter of Recommendation, so let's do it this way. Help us evacuate the people to Aeston, and I will give you the letter you want. Do we have a deal?"

"Okay," Lux replied.

The Half-Elf understood that he wouldn't be getting his Recommendation Letter for free, so he decided to just help with the evacuation.

Exactly an hour later, the gates of Bradford Town opened. Thousands of people started their march, carrying their belongings on their backs, in their carts, and on their mounts.

There were many old people, as well as little children, who were lagging behind on the march, but there was nothing that anyone could do about it. There were not enough carts in the town to carry them all, so they had no choice but to travel on foot.

Lux felt pity for these people, so he decided to use the skill that he had received after he defeated the Death Tyrant in the Gate of Death.

He didn't have the chance to use it until now because this skill was quite unique. A single use of this skill required a whopping 8,000 Mana Points, and Lux could only use it three times with full mana.

But since he usually spent a great deal of his Mana Pool in summoning his Skeleton minions, he could only use this skill once in battle, making it the most draining skill he currently possessed.

This skill was none other than his Skeleton Make [EX], which he hadn't used until today.

< Skeleton Make [EX] >

- Summon 200 Skeletons to form anything the user wants to make.
- This skill can only form physical objects.

- Caster must have a clear picture of what he wants to form in his mind to make this skill work properly.
- This skill will automatically upgrade after the caster raises his current rank.
- Aside from the 200 Skeletons that will be summoned by this skill, the user can also use the other summoned Skeletons under his command, to merge with this skill, and further empower it.
- Each Skeleton that is summoned by this skill will consume 40 Mana Points.
- Summoned Skeletons using this skill will last for approximately twelve hours, or until they are destroyed.
- There can only be three active Skeleton Make creations at a time.
- More active creations will be unlocked once the Caster's rank increases.
- Skeleton Make in use (0/3)

Lux took a deep breath as he raised both of his hands.

"Skeleton Make..." Lux shouted as hundreds of skeletons appeared in front of him, waiting for the form that they would take.

"Bone Wagon!"

The Half-Elf immediately felt the great drain in his Mana, which made his legs almost turn to jelly. However, he endured it and his summoned Skeletons formed the Bone Wagon in his mind.

Several children screamed after seeing the horrifying Bone Wagon that was at least 15 meters long, while some of them ran to their mothers crying because they were so afraid of the weird object that appeared out of nowhere, and made up of bones.

It took Lux nearly half an hour to coax everyone that the Bone Wagon was safe, and it wouldn't hurt them.

In the beginning, no one wanted to ride it, so Lux thought of a plan to make them less afraid of the Bone Wagon he had created.

What the Half-Elf did was to ask everyone, especially the elderly to drop their luggage on the Bone Wagon, so they didn't have to carry them on their backs, allowing them to feel less burdened in their journey.

Although they were quite reluctant to do it, a few old people who really couldn't carry their possessions for the long trip accepted Lux's offer, and placed their luggage on the Bone Wagon, which followed behind the exodus of people headed towards the Town of Aeston.

His plan worked perfectly, and almost everyone that was at the very end of the procession had placed their belongings on the Bone Wagon, giving them the freedom to travel lightly.

The kids then became curious, and some of the braver ones decided to climb on it. Finally, two hours later, the Bone Wagon was filled to the brim with children and their mothers, who seemed to enjoy the free ride.

After seeing that everyone had warmed up to the idea of riding on the Bone Wagon, Lux created two more before chugging down a bottle of Mana Potion.

Asmodeus, who was also able to use all of Lux's skills, summoned three more Bone Wagons, allowing more of the women, children, and the old people to ride in them.

"Master, this skill is quite amazing," Asmodeus commented as he rode on top of a Warg that Lux had summoned for him. "How about we try merging our Skeleton Summons to make these Bone Wagons longer?"

Lux pondered for a bit before nodding his head. "Okay. Let's do that."

In truth, the Half-Elf was curious about what would happen if his Skeleton Soldiers merged with the Skeleton Make Skeletons.

The outcome was just like Lux envisioned. The 15 meter long wagons all became 20 meters long, and even gained a roof, made up of bones. This protected the people riding in the wagons from the sun, allowing them to have a more comfortable ride towards their destination.

"It's a pity that we can only use it three times," Asmodeus commented. "Master, I look forward to how you will be able to use this ability in battle."

Lux only smiled, and didn't comment. In truth, he was also thinking about how to use the Skeleton Make Skill in battle.

He already had several ideas in mind, and was itching to try them, to see what would work and what would not.

When it was almost noon time, Lux received a message from Ishtar, whom he had left in Bradford Town to monitor the surroundings.

"Master, there is a dust cloud coming from the North West," Ishtar reported. "I'm afraid that these are the Rat Monsters that should only be attacking Bradford during the night."

After hearing Ishtar's report, Lux closed his eyes and used his connection to his Named Creature to see what she was seeing.

Half a minute later, Lux saw the dust cloud in the distance, that was headed in the direction of Bradford Town. The Half-Elf's expression became grim when he saw the number of Monsters that were headed in their direction.

"This can already be called a Pseudo-Beast Tide," Lux said through gritted teeth before cutting off his connection with the Night Stalker.

He needed to tell Boris that the Guildmaster's worst fears had become a reality.

Over three thousand Rank 4 Rat Monsters were headed towards Bradford Town, and if the Monsters found out that not a single soul was inside it, they might track them down, which would spell doom to the people who were fleeing their hometown in search of a safe place to hide from the Monsters that were about to reach the town that they called home.

## **Chapter 336: A Little Rat Managed To Escape**

In a conference room, several black-robed figures sat and were currently discussing the latest breakthrough in their research.

"How is the plan coming along?"

"Very good, if I say so myself. The experiment on strengthening weak monsters and controlling them from a distance is showing desirable results."

"Excellent. Have you sent the latest batch to Bradford?"

"They are already on their way."

"How about the Goblins targeting Aeston?"

"We're still working on that part, but we have gained sufficient data from the Rat Monsters to take control of the Goblins as well."

"The Guildmaster of the Adventurers Guild, Guthram, is quite an intuitive fellow. He dispatched elite Adventurers to go and wipe out entire Goblin Encampments and Nests before we were able to gather a sizable force to attack Aeston Town."

"Well, it doesn't matter. We have already succeeded if we look at the grand scheme of things."

"Who is in charge of the attack in Bradford Town?"

"It's the Pied Piper."

"Ah... that guy. Well, I guess news of an entire town being destroyed will spread throughout the entire Empire when morning comes."

"Congratulations, everyone. We are now one step closer to our goals."

"All Hail Twilight Dynasty!"

""All Hail Twilight Dynasty!""

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Somewhere between Bradford Town and Aeston Town...

Lux was no stranger to Monster Outbreaks, and had even participated in the defense against a Beast Tide in Whitebridge City back in the Kingdom of Gweliven.

If he was fighting alone, he was confident that he would be able to escape unscathed.

Unfortunately, he wasn't alone, and was helping the Guildmaster, Boris, evacuate over ten thousand people to the town of Aeston before the Rat Monsters overtook them along the way.

"How credible is this information?" Boris' face immediately became grim upon hearing Lux's report about the approaching danger from the rear.

Although they had made good progress in their travels, it was highly possible that the Monsters would run after them if they discovered that no one was inside Bradford Town.

"I left one of my subordinates there to inform me if Rat Monsters appeared," Lux replied. "It won't be long before the Monsters arrive in Bradford Town."

"Do you think they will follow us?" Boris asked.

Lux shook his head. "I don't know, but the possibility exists. If they don't follow us, that would be for the best."

"But what if they follow us?"

"You already know the answer to that question, Sir."

Boris sighed, knowing that Lux was correct. If the Monsters did follow them, it was possible for them to catch up in just two to three hours. Although they had made good progress, the Monsters' speed was far greater than their own.

They couldn't possibly outrun them unless they were willing to leave some people behind.

"Right now, we only have a little over two hundred Apostles and eight Initiates," Boris stated. "The majority of those Apostles are Grade D and C. They will be unable to block thousands of Rank 4 Monsters even if we were able to double that number."

"Then what's the plan?" Lux inquired. Right now, only Boris and he knew of the approaching danger from behind, so the march was still proceeding steadily.

If anyone were to tell them that monsters were headed in their direction, the people might start to panic, which would be bad for everyone.

"We will tell everyone to hasten the pace," Boris answered. "Is it possible for you to conjure more of those Bone Wagons?"

Lux shook his head. "I am already at my limit. I can't add more than what we currently have."

If Lux could have his way, he would certainly summon more Bone Wagons, but his skill, Skeleton Make [EX], had a limit.

There were still many old people and children who required assistance, but there was simply nothing he could do about it. All the space in the Bone Wagons was already taken, and there was no more room for more people inside it.

"Let's just do what we can," Boris finally answered after a few minutes of silence. "Remember this, Lux, we can't save everyone. If there comes a time when you have to escape to save yourself, don't think twice and just do it."

Boris then took out a sealed letter from his storage ring, and gave it to Lux.

"I planned to give this to you once we reach Aeston Town," Boris said after handing his Letter of Recommendation to Lux. "But I can't, in good conscience, allow you to risk your life to do more, especially when you have already done a lot for us."

"I hate to say this, but my life is also important. I will not die here as a hero, nor will I act as a martyr. I have responsibilities, so if I think that there is nothing that can be done, I will flee by myself and head to Aeston Town. I will tell the other Defenders about this news, but I won't tell anyone else. We don't want people trampling over the other in their panic to escape with their lives."

Boris patted Lux's shoulder before he turned around to leave.

Gazing at his steady pace, Lux understood that although Boris would feel bad about leaving the people behind to save his life, he would not change his decision.

This was a decision of a man who had lived through many battlefields and became a Branch Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild.

Lux glanced behind him, in the direction of Bradford Town, where Ishtar was left to monitor the current situation.

'I hope that the Monsters just remain in the town,' Lux thought. 'May the Gods have mercy on these people.'

Unfortunately, no Gods heard Lux's prayer.

When the Monsters arrived in Bradford Town, they easily scaled over the town's wall and swarmed the town like a plague of locusts.

After seeing that there were no humans around the vicinity, the Rat Monsters wandered around the town, entering houses to make sure that no Humans were hiding anywhere. After completing their rounds of every nook and cranny of the town, the sound of a flute spread in the surroundings, alerting all of the Rat Monsters of their new orders.

Ishtar, who was hiding in the shadows, heard the flute and glanced in the direction that it was coming from. Lux already had some suspicions that someone was controlling the Monsters and giving them orders, but this had just been a hunch.

Now that the ringleader had appeared, the Nighstalker decided to scout their target, and learn more about them.

But, before she could even see the flute player, her hiding place was attacked by over a dozen Rat Monsters, forcing her to flee and escape into the shadows.

"A little rat managed to escape," a blackrobed man said after he finished playing his flute. "No matter. This will not change the outcome of this mission. Everyone, follow the tracks of the townspeople. Leave no one alive!"

""Squeak!""

Thousands of Rat Monsters obeyed their Master's call and followed the tracks that were left by the people that had decided to leave their hometown.

Ishtar, who had just escaped from the enemy's pursuit, relayed the bad news to Lux, informing him of the approaching danger from behind.

## **Chapter 337: Master, You're Too Kind For A Necromancer**

The pace of the march had increased, which allowed the townspeople of Bradford to have a three hour lead ahead of their pursuers.

Unfortunately, they still needed to travel fifteen more hours to reach their destination. No matter how Lux and Boris looked at it, the monsters would be upon them before they even arrived anywhere near the Town of Aeston.

Lux had already informed Boris of the worst case scenario, making the Guildmaster sigh.

"It is now clear that there is someone controlling the Monsters' actions," Boris said. "Now, we have two choices. Tell everyone of the approaching danger, and have those with the capacity to escape to run for their lives, or we tell everyone, and work together in order to find a solution to this problem."

Lux gazed straight into Boris' eyes and shared his opinion.

"We should tell the people about the Monsters running after us," Lux said. "Although it will cause them great worry, and some might even panic, that is still better than leaving them behind as we run for our lives."

Boris nodded. "You're right. I will gather my staff and have them spread the news of the Monster Army's arrival. Do you have anything to add that might make them less anxious about our impending doom?"

Lux thought for a while before nodding his head. "Ask them if they know of a place where we can hide, or at least, give the old people, women, and children a chance of survival. The rest can escape if they are confident in their abilities.

"Also, if you have a way to contact the Adventurer's Guild in Aeston, please do it. Even if there is no hope to ask for reinforcements, doing nothing will just be waiting for our deaths."

Boris smiled after hearing Lux's words. "Okay. I'll inform everyone. I just hope that we will be able to weather this storm."

Lux nodded before urging Jed to run towards the rear of the formation.

After arriving at his destination, the Half-Elf ventured farther until he reached a high vantage point to scan the surrounding area, looking for anything that might help him delay the monster army.

Asmodeus, who had followed behind Lux, stood behind his back, and waited for the Half-Elf to make a decision.

"Asmodeus, what do you think we should do?" Lux asked after pondering things through.

"Master, you're too kind for a Necromancer. If I was in your shoes, I would have said good riddance to these people and made my escape already," Asmodeus replied. "But, then again, I don't mind serving a kind Master like you."

"Um, thank you?"

"Hahaha."

Lux didn't expect that he would be given a pep talk by the Archlich whom he believed was the best strategist among his Named Creatures. He watched as Asmodeus rubbed his chin with his bony hands, as the glowing embers in his eyes danced with amusement.

"Right now, we have less than three hours headstart from our enemy," Asmodeus stated. "If we want to delay them, there is only one way and that is by using Guerilla Tactics. I propose that you leave a golem behind here, so you can travel back using the Boots of Teleportation in case you get cornered by the enemy. Although we would do our best to protect you, having insurance is better than having none."

Lux nodded in agreement. By doing this, he would be able to escape safely due to the Boots of Teleportation that he received from Keoza.

"Master, just know that if we are going to do this, you are not allowed to use the Dragon Token," Asmodeus said in a serious tone. "That is a life saving artifact and you can only use it two more times. Using it in this situation would be a waste."

"We do not owe these people anything, and using the token for their sake will not sit well with me. I'm sorry for being blunt, but it will truly be a waste to use it to save complete strangers. Um, have I said how wasteful it is to use the Dragon Token? Truly it is a waste. It will be best if you use it when you find yourself facing a situation similar to what happened in the past, when your fiance and grandmother got injured. "

The Archlich said the word waste several times to ensure that Lux wouldn't use the Dragon Token in this situation no matter what. Fortunately, the Half-Elf understood what his Strategist was trying to say, and nodded his head in agreement.

"Well then, since everything is settled, here is the plan," Asmodeus smiled. "First, we need to take back our Skeleton Summons, including all of our Bone Wagons. The Skeleton Make skill is quite profound, and I believe we will be able to use it effectively in the battlefield as well."

"Okay," Lux readily agreed with Asmodeus' suggestion.

In his mind, it didn't matter if the refugees were to suffer some difficulties when the Bone Wagons were gone for a chance of survival. No matter how comfortable they were on their journey while riding the Bone Wagons, they wouldn't enjoy it for long once the Monster Army overtook their march.

"Now, here comes the fun part," Asmodeus gave Lux a devilish smile, which made the Half-Elf wonder what the Archlich was cooking up. "Here is what we are going to do, Master."

The Archlich whispered something in Lux's ears, making the Half-Elf shudder. He had never thought of this method of fighting before, and it made him realize that there were indeed many things that he still needed to learn when it came to large scale battles.

"Good," Lux replied before urging Jed to run in the direction of Bradford Town. "Let's go, Asmodeus. Time to kill some Rats."

The Archlich chuckled before following behind his Master. Clearly, his plan made the red-headed teenager find hope amidst the desperate situation.

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"Um, Little Swordy, are you sure My Daddy went over to that town called Bradford?" Cai asked as it walked beside the Skinny Swordsman that was mounted on top of a Warg.

Lux had given Keane a mount of his own after the battle in the Gate of War because the swordsman had realized that traveling on foot was a very tiresome thing to do.

"Yes," Keane replied. "Sir Guthram said that it is so."

"Hmm... for some reason, I am having a bad premonition about the direction we are headed."

"Really?"

Cai nodded. "I can't explain it. It's like my animal instincts are telling me that following this road is a bad idea. Are you sure this is where My Daddy went?"

"You've asked me this question a dozen times already in different variations," Keane replied with a fed up gaze. "If you don't stop talking, I'll leave you behind."

"... Fine. I just really feel really apprehensive for some reason," Cai commented. "I just hope I'm overthinking things."

Cai had a very keen sense of danger. She had felt these several times when they were inside the Sacred Dungeon, but strangely enough, she didn't feel worried whenever she was with Lux.

Perhaps, as someone that had been defeated by him, Cai had recognized the red-headed teenager's strength, and felt much more secure around him. One could even call this a sense of deep rooted trust after everything they had been through.

As the two followed the path that would lead them to reunite with the Half-Elf, they were not aware that the person they were looking for was on his way to fight a large Monster Army with his own Undead Army, not only for his own survival, but for those from Bradford who wanted to survive as well.

## **Chapter 338.1: Just Who Is Getting In My Way?!**

### **[Part 1]**

"Did they really think that they could escape from death?" A man wearing a black robe on top of a Giant Rat Monster chuckled. "Well, this is at most a prey's struggle for life before the hunter takes its life. This is also a form of entertainment."

After finding out that the entire town of Bradford had been abandoned, the man didn't even bother ordering the monsters to loot whatever that was left. Instead, he ordered them to pursue the townspeople to the closest town possible.

What he came here to do was cause a massacre. He needed to do it to spread fear and anxiety to the surrounding towns and villages in the Southern Regions of the Empire.

Judging by the scent that still lingered by the roadside, he could tell that the people had left not too long ago. Traveling with plenty of people would greatly slow down the pace of the journey, so the black-robed man was confident that he would be able to overtake them in just a few hours.

It had been an hour since his Monster Army left Bradford Town. They traveled with a steady pace, with the black-robed man riding a mile behind his minions.

Their Organization's plan was to make the village's annihilation look like a Monster Outbreak, so his identity couldn't be discovered no matter what.

His ability allowed him to control Rat Type Monsters to a certain extent, which had earned him the title of "Pied Piper".

"Still, the Organization's growth serum did wonders," the Pied Piper muttered. "Who would have thought that Rank 2 Monsters could turn berserk permanently, and increase their strength to Rank 4? Unfortunately, they could only live for a week at most, so raising an army to conquer the empire's lands is still impossible. It also takes a lot of manpower to capture these Monsters."

The Pied Piper sighed as he glanced at his formidable army that was more than enough to raze villages and towns.

The main cities of the Empire were heavily guarded, so the Organization's experiments could only be conducted in the countryside, allowing them to try out their Monster Armies on the villages and towns with weaker defenses.

'I can't wait to see the look of despair on the townspeople's faces when they see my army behind them,' the Pied Piper mused. 'Boris, you had this one coming. I still haven't settled my scores with you yet!'

The Pied Piper sneered at the thought of personally cutting off the head of the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild, who had gotten in the way of his

promotion in the past. In order to seek vengeance, he joined the guild Twilight Dynasty to bring down the Guildmaster, as well as those who had ridiculed him in the past.

While the Pied Piper was relishing his upcoming victory, he heard a loud explosion somewhere in the distance.

A moment later, another explosion occurred, and shrieks of pain from his Monster Army reverberated in the surroundings.

The Pied Piper was downhill when the first explosion happened, so he wasn't able to see clearly what happened. However, the moment he reached the top of the hill, his eyes widened in shock. When he got there, he witnessed a scene that he never expected to see.

His Monster Army had started to disperse, and dozens of the Rat Monsters, who had collapsed on the ground, were writhing in pain as various parts of their body were missing. Although none of the Monsters had died, the ones that were injured were close to dying, so it didn't really matter whether they were still alive or not.

They had stopped running and were looking around their surroundings for the hidden enemies that had come to ambush them.

"What in the world happened—"

The Pied Piper wasn't able to finish his sentence because he was silenced by another incredible scene that he was seeing for the first time.

A three-meter-tall Flaming Skull that left a blazing trail in the sky was about to descend on his Monster Army

"Scatter!" the Pied Piper ordered.

The Monsters did as they were told, but some were unable to escape in time.

The Fiery Skull descended on a dense cluster of monsters and exploded. Fiery bony shrapnel flew in different directions, injuring hundreds of Rat Monsters, making them shriek in pain.

Before the Pied Piper could even react to the devastation that happened, another Flaming Skull descended upon the Monster army, and this time, it

killed the seriously injured monsters who barely survived the first two bombardments.

Over two hundred Rat Monsters had died after the three Flaming Skulls crashed into them.

The rest of the Monsters had safely escaped and had backed away a considerable distance from the place where the Fiery Skulls had previously landed, all of which were still covered in black smoke.

The Pied Piper ordered the Rat Army retreat while trying to understand what just happened.

While the ringleader of the Monster Attack was trying to assess the damage his army had taken, Lux was crouching on all fours and panting for breath.

"How do you feel, Master?" Asmodeus asked as he crouched down beside the Half-Elf, whose drool was already spilling from his mouth due to exhaustion.

"I feel like dying," Lux replied as he tried to catch his breath. "Did we get them?"

Asmodeus nodded. "Congratulations, Master. It is a success. This new skill of yours is truly wonderful. The only downside is that whenever you use it, it drains almost all of your Mana, leaving you exhausted."

Lux wiped the drool from his mouth and took out a mana potion. He then chugged it all down, and only then did he feel a bit better from the aftermath of his and Asmodeus' experiment.

"Let's go, Master," Asmodeus said as he extended his hand to help Lux stand up. "At most, we bought ourselves a few minutes. We need to head to the next location."

"Uhhh..."

Lux felt nauseated because his head was hurting so badly. This was the first time he experienced Mana Deprivation, and he didn't like it.

Not one bit.

Seeing that Lux was unable to stand by himself, Asmodeus supported his Master's body and helped him mount Jed's back, so that they could go to their next destination.

Since the Half-Elf and the Archlich knew that someone was commanding the Rat Army, they were confident that the latter would hesitate to continue the pursuit after experiencing an unexpected attack that killed over two hundred of his Rat Monsters.

'It's a shame that the monsters scattered and moved away from the corpses,' Asmodeus thought as he mounted the Warg that was assigned to him by Lux. 'If they hadn't, I could have killed more using Corpse Explosion. What a pity.'

The Archlich's mana had also taken a beating, but since his mana was higher than Lux's and he was an Undead, he didn't suffer too much of a backlash after using the skill, Skeleton Make, to attack their enemy from great distances.

As Lux and Asmodeus made their hasty retreat, the Pied Piper was still wary about letting his Army advance. Since there were unknown enemies hiding around them, he dispatched dozens of Rat Monsters to scout the surroundings.

Although he still had many Monsters under his command, he didn't want a repeat of what just happened earlier.

This gave Lux and Asmodeus precious time to reach their destination and prepare for another round of bombardment.

## **Chapter 339.2: Just Who Is Getting In My Way?! [Part 2]**

Even from far away, the loud explosions that were caused by Lux's and Asmodeus' attempt to stop the Monster Army were heard by the refugees, who were making their way toward Aeston Town.

Boris glanced at the smoke rising in the distance and frowned.

When Lux had told him that he would try to delay the approaching monsters, Boris wasn't informed of the methods that the Half-Elf would use to do it.

Judging from the loud explosions earlier, he at least assumed that the Half-Elf had succeeded in his mission.

What they needed right now was an opportunity to increase the distance between them, and thanks to Lux's interference, the Monster Army had momentarily stopped their pursuit.

"Guthram, you sent me one hell of a helper," Boris muttered.

When he saw Lux for the first time, he didn't think much of the teenager. However, right now, it was the Half-Elf who was doing the job that he should have been doing--ensuring the safety of the people that had entrusted their lives to him.

The Rat Monsters came back from their scouting trip and found no enemies in the surroundings.

Because of this, the Pied Piper decided to send dozens of scouts ahead of the army, in order to detect hidden dangers.

Just to be on the safe side, the Pied Piper also changed the formation of the Rat Army so that there were only a hundred Monsters per group. Each group would travel several dozens of meters apart from each other, so that he could order them to escape if he saw another Flaming Skull descending from the sky.

At the beginning, the Monster's Army's pace was slower than before because the Pied Piper was being cautious. However, after an hour of not encountering any incidents, he ordered the Monsters to increase their pace once again.

The Pied Piper was a local of the Southern Regions of the Vahan Empire. Because of this, he was highly familiar with the topography, so he decided to take a shortcut by getting off the main road and traveling through the forest in order to recover the time he had lost earlier.

The Rat Monsters dexterously traveled the forest as they followed the command of their master.

The other beasts that dwelled in the forest were either massacred by the Rat Army, or had escaped the moment they sensed that a great danger was approaching. Even the Rank 5 and Pseudo-Deimos Ranked Monsters were

not a match to over a thousand Rank 4 Monsters, so they chose to make their escape before the Monster Army arrived near their location.

While this was happening, Ishtar, who was perched on top of a tree, observed the approaching army with a sneer on her face.

'Master, they have come within range,' Ishtar reported.

'Thank you, Ishtar. You can return to my side now,' Lux ordered before taking a deep breath. All members of his Skeleton Army, as well as his Named Creatures, were gathered around him.

"Diablo, carry me later like a sack of rice if you have to," Lux said. "I don't think I'll still be able to ride properly this time."

Diablo nodded with a hint of amusement on his deathly face. "Understood, Master."

Lux took another deep breath before raising his right hand to start to use his latest skill once again.

"Skeleton Make!"

Hundreds of Skeletons merged together behind the Half-Elf forming a thirteen-meter-long cannon with a barrel that was four-meters-wide.

Asmodeus didn't stand idly and did the same, forming a cannon of the similar size as Lux's and aimed it at the forest that was right in front of them.

"Grand Cannon!" Lux roared.

Immediately, the two cannons unleashed two three-meter-tall Flaming Skulls that was headed towards the center of the forest.

A loud explosion ensued, creating a fiery blaze that started to burn the trees in the surrounding areas.

The Vanguard of the Monster Army was caught in the explosion and, although they were moving in groups, the trees around them that had been hit by magical flames started to burn, which spread like wildfire.

Two more explosions were heard in the distance as Lux and Asmodeus once again fired another round of bombardment. However, this time, it was aimed

hundreds of meters in front of the Giant Rats, who had broken through the blazing flames only to find themselves facing two more Flaming Skulls of destruction.

"Fire!"

Lux ordered, and a third round of bombardement ensued, which landed in the center of the Monster formation.

After testing the cannon's maximum range earlier, they found out that it could hit targets three miles away.

Because of this, Lux was able to attack their enemy at great distances, making it so they were unable to launch a counterattack against him in a short period of time.

The Pied Piper gnashed his teeth in anger as he ordered his Army to retreat. Monsters were inherently afraid of fire, and even though he was forcefully controlling them using his ability, their animal instinct was kicking in, subconsciously causing them to flee even without his orders.

"Dammit!" the Pied Piper cursed. "Actually setting an entire forest ablaze just so that I can't pursue them. Just who is getting in my way?!"

The Pied Piper couldn't see beyond the sea of flames and smoke that had spread in the surroundings.

Lux was currently riding with Diablo on top of the Nightmare, as they made their escape from the scene of carnage.

Only Orion, Ishtar, and Pazuzu, were left behind to deal with any stragglers that managed to escape the blazing forest that had been around for hundreds of years.

Hundreds of Monsters fled from their homes and charged towards the Rat Army like crazed Beasts. In their minds, the Rat Monsters were the ones that had started the fire, so all the Monsters ganged up to fight against them, making the Pied Piper gnash his teeth in anger.

"Master, make sure to put the blame on our pursuer for the destruction of the Forest," Asmodeus teased as he rode beside Diablo.

"Huff... right... it's their fault... Hup," Lux replied through heavy breaths, as dark smoke rose up from the sky that could be seen for miles on end.

He had a feeling that once the local Nobles, who owned the lands between the territories of Bradford Town and Aeston Town, found out that their favorite hunting ground was set on fire, they would immediately put a bounty on Lux's head, and ask Mercenaries and Bounty Hunters to hunt him down and feed his remains to the fishes.

## **Chapter 340.1: It's Gang Bang Time! [Part 1]**

The Pied Piper gritted his teeth as he looked at the sea of flames that burned brightly in front of him.

Some of the Monsters in his army had completely lost their senses and broke free from his control due to their primal fear of fire. Because of this, the Rat Monsters under his control now numbered less than two thousand, which made the black-robed man curse internally.

'I might get punished because of this later,' the Pied Piper hatefully thought as he watched the forest burn without any signs of dying.

The reason they built their base in the countryside in the first place was due to the fact that they could hunt Monsters in the wild to use for experiments. However, if the Monsters' home was destroyed, it would be hard to capture them without alerting the authorities that managed the lands of the nobles.

But that was the least of his worries. The black smoke that rose from the forest fire was so eye-catching that it would be impossible for anyone to not see it unless they were blind. He knew that mounted knights would be sent to investigate the cause of the blaze, including those with flying mounts.

When that happens, he would be discovered by them and possibly get tracked down, making it hard for him to escape later on.

Right now, the Pied Piper was left with two choices. Go back in shame and face the wrath of his superiors, or order his Monsters to circle back to the original route to continue their pursuit of the townspeople while he reported back to their headquarters.

Although he wouldn't be there to command the Rat Army, giving them two simple orders was enough for them to get the job done.

'They won't be able to live past a week anyway, so retreating with them is a waste of resources,' the Pied Piper thought.

With no other alternative, the Pied Piper ordered his Rat Army to return to the main road and continue their pursuit of the townspeople, while he made his escape.

Whatever would happen from now on was up to Fate, but at least his identity and their organization's identity wouldn't be discovered.

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Lux felt better after an hour of riding.

Although he still felt nauseous, he was at least able to ride on his own without Diablo's support.

According to Ishtar's report, the Rat Army initially retreated, but they ended up returning to the original route to continue their pursuit.

"They are still over a thousand strong, Master," Ishtar reported. "Although we managed to increase the distance between them and the townspeople, they will catch up to them in about five hours."

Five hours.

It might sound like a lot of time, but in truth, it was not. After Lux had taken the Bone Wagons back, the speed of the march dropped considerably, and based on Boris' calculation, they still needed twelve hours to reach their destination.

When Lux traveled towards Bradford Town, he passed along a canyon along the way. The path was only wide enough for three wagons to travel side by side. If the Half-Elf was to choose one last opportunity to deal damage to their enemies, this was the most ideal place to lay out an ambush.

The refugees still hadn't reached the canyon, but according to his rough estimate, the Rat Monsters would catch up to them when the townspeople were halfway through the narrow canyon.

"I guess we have no choice but to stake everything in that one chance," Lux muttered.

The Half-Elf knew that Boris was right. He couldn't save everybody.

When Iris almost got captured, he was unable to save her.

When Eiko tried to protect her, she died, and Lux had been unable to do anything then as well.

The Half-Elf knew that there was no way that he could save every person that he saw. But that didn't mean that it would stop him from doing what he thought was right.

"Master, you're too kind for a Necromancer."

This was what Asmodeus had told him. The thing was, Lux wasn't only a Necromancer. He was raised as a warrior by Vera, and he only become a Necromancer recently. His experiences in Elysium, and the friends he met along the way, helped shape him to what he was now.

'I'm glad that Leaf Village became my starting point,' Lux thought as he rode Jed in order to reach the canyon and set up the last line of defense to at least slow down the Monsters that had resumed their pursuit.

If he had started in the Human villages, he might not have experienced what it was like to be truly accepted by people whose race was very different from him.

A Half-Elf was a race shunned by Elves because their blood wasn't pure.

On the contrary, they might be a race that fascinated Humans because of their aesthetic beauty, but was still not accepted as one of their own. For Humans, Half-Elves were only good because of their looks due to their Elven Heritage. The nobles thought of them as stud horses, broodmares, or slaves that only served to heighten their own influence for owning such aesthetic creatures.

In Leaf Village, Lux gained recognition due to his efforts, and even became its Eternal Guardian.

His statue, which was erected at the center of the Village, was proof that everyone there treated him as their hero, and spread his tale far and wide within the Kingdom of Gweliven.

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Just as the Pied Piper had predicted, the thick and dense black smoke that rose up in the air could be seen for miles, alerting the nobles of the area that was near Bradford and Aestown Towns.

Sending their Elite Forces to investigate, hundreds of mounted Knights traveled in haste to see what caused such a large forest fire, which was happening for the first time.

Guthram gazed at the smoke rising up in the air with his arms crossed over his chest.

'While it is near Bradford Town, the distance isn't quite right,' Guthram mused. 'I guess it is best if I go there personally to investigate.'

Guthram had already met with the Mayor of Aeston Town and gained his approval to close the gates and mobilize all the guards and adventurers, so they were ready for any kind of invasion.

After talking with the Captain of the Guards, who was responsible for the defense of the city, Guthram mounted his Hippogriff and took off towards the sky.

Although he didn't want to leave the Aeston Town behind, his gut feeling was telling him that he needed to go no matter what.

"Boris, just make sure you are still alive when I get there," Guthram muttered as he urged his flying mount to increase its speed and head in the direction where the thick, black smoke was rising up in the air.

## **Chapter 341.2: It's Gang Bang Time! [Part 2]**

Four and a half hours later...

Lux stood on top of the canyon and watched the procession of the refugees from above.

He then shifted his attention to the dust cloud that could be seen in the distance and knew that they had less than an hour before the Rat Army caught up with the townspeople, who had also discovered the Monster Army that was behind their back.

However, thanks to Boris, the Guards, as well as the Adventurers, a stampede caused by panic was averted.

They had all assured the townspeople that they had everything under control, and that none of them would be harmed.

Even Boris, who told Lux that he would run away when he felt that his life was in danger, stayed and became the pillar that supported everyone.

"Those Monsters will not be able to get past our defenses," Boris shouted. "All of you should just increase your pace and pass through this canyon as fast as possible. We have laid a trap for the Monsters, and we will stop their advance here. Do not be afraid! We will prevail!"

Boris' speech boosted everyone's spirit and made them strive to increase their speed as they traveled the narrow pathway.

In truth, the Guildmaster had a one-time use artifact that would allow him to instantly teleport to one of the major cities of the Vahan Empire. This was one of his life saving trump cards that he wasn't supposed to use.

However, Lux's bravery had inspired him to try a little harder and remain until the bitter end.

'I can't believe I am competing with a teenager at my age,' Boris thought as he glanced at the dust cloud that was getting close with each passing second. 'I just hope that his plan works, or else, I'm out of here.'

Boris didn't plan on dying anytime soon. It was just that he changed his plan a bit, so he would only leave when he deemed that it was impossible to win.

The Guildmaster looked up at the top of the canyon where the Half-Elf was looking at the approaching Monster Army with a fearless gaze. His Named Creatures stood by his side, like Generals waiting for their King's orders.

"Get ready, everyone," Lux said. "Let's do this."

As soon as he gave the order, the Skeleton Gangbangers, who were standing at the rear of the procession of the refugees, all took a fighting stance, blocking the only path that led to the townspeople who were fleeing for their lives.

The Skeleton Mages and Skeleton Grand Archers lined up along the ridge of the canyon and took aim.

All of Lux's Skeleton Summons combined with Asmodeus' own summons numbered above 350.

This reminded him of the movie he watched back on Earth where a bunch of Spartans held back an army numbering in the hundreds of thousands with only 300 people.

Even though Lux was only facing a Monster Army that was less than two thousand strong, all of them were Rank 4 Monsters and were being led by a Rank 5 Field Boss that was called the Vicious Horned Flame Rat.

This Rat Monster was four-meters tall and its paws blazed as if they were on fire. Its body had crimson streaks on it and looked very intimidating.

If the Field Monster that was leading an army of Rank 4 Monsters had been the one that attacked Leaf Village in the past, the chances of the Village being completely destroyed was quite high.

Although it was far weaker than the Mutated Thunder Wolf King, the army under its command was of higher quality, and it was more than enough to raze any of the villages and smaller towns to the ground.

A few minutes later, the ground started to tremble as thousands of rats neared the canyon. It sounded similar to a raging avalanche that was about to swallow everything in its path, which made the townspeople who were at the very rear of the procession cry out in fear.

"Don't panic!" Boris shouted. "Just walk in an organized manner! We're here to protect your backs. You will be safe!"

Boris' timely shout calmed the people and prevented them from running in panic, which would have crushed those who were in front of them.

Even though the Guildmaster looked calm on the surface, he was already holding a blue crystal in his hand, ready to break it at a moment's notice.

When the Vanguard of the Rat Army entered the canyon, they noticed that several Monster carcasses littered the ground. Most of them were common Monsters like horned rabbits, beetles, monkeys, and other Monsters that were native within the Southern Regions of the Vahan Empire.

The Rat Monster ignored these dead animals since their true target was the people whom their Master ordered them to kill.

When over a hundred monsters had run past the dead bodies on the ground, Asmodeus pointed his finger on the dead bodies and shouted.

"Corpse Explosion!"

Immediately, hundreds of Rat Monsters were thrown up in the air as powerful explosions sent dirt and rocks flying.

Monstrous shrieks of pain and anger reverberated within the canyon as hundreds of Rats got injured from the sudden explosion that happened under their feet.

Lux had ordered his Skeleton Army to hunt any Monsters they could find in order to use them as fuel for the Corpse Explosion skill that he would use within the cramped space of the canyon.

With great effort, Lux's Skeleton Army still managed to hunt a few hundred during the limited time they had. It was not enough to instantly kill Rank 4 Monsters, but it was sufficient to deal serious injuries, lowering their health past the halfway point.

"Skeleton Make Boulder!"

Hundreds of Skeletons merged together, forming a giant boulder made up of bones which floated in front of Lux.

The Half-Elf then jumped in the air and transformed his legs to that of a dragon and kicked the bone boulder with all of his might like it was a soccer ball, aiming for the horde of monsters that were advancing at the narrow canyon.

"Power Shot!" Lux roared as he kicked the ball that flew towards his target like a giant cannonball of death.

< Power Shot >

- Increase Skill accuracy by 30% and damage by 30%
- Has a 5% chance to deal critical damage when using Power Shot Skill.

The attack was not only infused by the Abyss Touch Skill that ignored all defenses, but also by the passive skill, Tempest Fury, which coated the bone boulder with the power of the Wind Element, increasing its speed and striking power.

Just like a bowling ball hitting bowling pins, the giant boulder rammed into the vanguard of the Rat Army and sent them flying. However, it didn't end there. Due to the force behind the attack, the Monsters which were already injured by the corpse explosion also died, which made Asmodeus's eyes blaze with excitement.

"Corpse Explosion!"

A chain reaction similar to fireworks being lit together ensued, devastating the Monsters that were caught in the explosion. Due to the narrow space, the Monster Army had no choice but to suffer through the explosions that dealt necrotic damage to them, giving them all fatal injuries.

"Squeaaaaaaaaaaaaak!"

The Vicious Horned Flame Rat screeched, and the Rat Monsters started to climb up the side of the rock canyons, heading towards Lux, who was responsible for killing their comrades.

The Half-Elf knew that Rats were good climbers, so he had already expected this to happen.

"Orion! Bury them alive!" Lux ordered.

The Jade Golem, as well as the other Rock Golems all smashed their fists against the ground in front of them.

Earlier, Lux had ordered them to loosen up the rocks by punching it repeatedly, in preparation for the attack that would bury their foes in the ground.

With one final punch, which came from Orion, the side of the canyon gave way, falling down on the climbing rats that didn't expect their footholds to crumble under their feet.

An avalanche occurred, crushing the hundreds of Monsters that had climbed up the side of the canyon in order to deal with Lux.

Unfortunately, the Vicious Horned Flame Rat was quite agile, so it managed to jump off its foothold to the other side of the canyon, allowing it to survive the calamity that befell its subordinates.

"Corpse Explosion!"

"Corpse Explosion!"

"Hahaha! Corpse Explosion!"

Asmodeus laughed as he detonated all the Rat Monsters that had died, killing a few more in the process.

"It's Gangbang Time!"

One of the Skeleton Gang Bangers shouted, which was like a spark that made its brethren charge at the injured Rat Monsters like crazed Beasts that were injected with chicken blood.

The moment these Madlads reached their injured targets, a one-sided gangbanging session began, which made the Rats who were at death's door spit out mouthfuls of blood, mainly because of the Skeleton Gang Bangers skewering their backsides with their long, and thick, bastard swords.

The other Rat Monsters, including the Vicious Horned Flame Rat Field Boss, who saw their brethren's fate, couldn't help but shudder.

Although they were far stronger than the Skeleton Gang Bangers, they couldn't help but feel fear in their hearts because their animal instincts were telling them that they, too, were about to get gangbanged as well.

## Chapter 342.1: Tipping Point [Part 1]

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"...As expected of Master. You deliberately chose to upgrade the Skeleton Fighters to Skeleton Gang Bangers to get this effect. I daresay that although this... gang bang team is a bit crude, it does the job perfectly!"

Lux, Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, and Orion, were quite speechless upon seeing how the Skeleton Gang Bangers attacked their foes like berserked homies that had just taken 5000 mg of Viagra. Their might was so profound that even Monsters far stronger than them felt intimidated.

Only Asmodeus was able to comment on their effectiveness, and surprisingly, no one was able to refute him.

This was the first time that Lux had used the Skeleton Gang Bangers in battle. Despite their questionable fighting style, the most important thing was they were able to get the job done with flying colors.

But this was not enough to tip the battle completely in their favor. Lux might have been able to kill hundreds of their enemies, but the Rat Army still numbered around a thousand strong.

A thousand Rank 4 Monsters with a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster was still a force that could easily destroy a village or a small town with ease.

With that said, Lux didn't put his guard down and used the momentum that the Skeleton Gang Bangers had provided to push their enemy back, preventing them from attacking the townspeople, who were still traversing the canyon.

"Orion, Diablo, Pazuzu, help the Skeleton Gang Bangers and block the pathway of the canyon," Lux ordered. "Asmodeus, bring out Morpheus, and let him be our bodyguard for the time being."

"As you command, Master," Asmodeus replied and summoned the Death Tyrant, who let out a bone-chilling chuckle the moment it was summoned to the battlefield.

Although the Death Tyrant was similar to the Rank 4 Rat Monsters, it was far stronger than them.

From the top of the canyon, Morpheus fired colorful rays at the Rat Monsters on the ground, alongside the Skeleton Grand Archers and Skeleton Mages.

The Vicious Horned Flame Rat had managed to rally the rest of its subordinates and ordered them to break past the Skeletons in order to accomplish their mission.

Due to their huge number, several Rat Monsters were able to break through the blockade by climbing up the sides of the canyon, completely ignoring Lux's Army.

"Sh\*t!" Lux cursed as he used his Doppelganger ability to summon his clones.

""Dragon's Breath!""

Three Dragon's Breaths were unleashed at the same time, hitting the Monsters, and in turn, the ground around them, causing the sides of the canyon to collapse. While some of the Rat Monsters were buried under the rubble, dozens of them were still able to continue their advance despite their injuries.

Just as these dozens of monsters neared the townspeople, a screech could be heard coming from the sky.

"Fireball!"

A large fireball blasted the lead monster that was heading towards the townspeople.

Guthram, who had decided to check the cause of the flames, had noticed the battle from the sky and decided to help.

He was an Initiate, similar to Boris, and his might was more than enough to deal with a few Rank 4 Monsters who were already injured from Lux's earlier attack.

Seeing his friend, Boris laughed out loud as he raised his sword to rally the Adventurers under his command.

"Kill!" Boris shouted before charging towards the Rat Monsters with his subordinates right behind him.

Now that those that had broken past their defenses were being dealt with, Lux and his clones focused on dealing with the Field Monster that was leading the horde.

"Diablo, Pazuzu, Orion, attack the Boss!" Lux ordered. "Ishtar, provide backup!"

Lux's four Named Creatures followed their Master's command and engaged the Boss to prevent it from issuing any more commands to the Rat Army.

A very chaotic battle took place as each of Lux's clone summoned their own minions, boosting the numbers of the Half-Elf's Army.

The red-headed teenager and Asmodeus could no longer use the Corpse Explosion skill despite the fact that there were now many dead monsters in the battlefield. They didn't want to cause friendly fire and break the current state of the battle.

Although Skeleton Gang Bangers and Rock Golems were dying left and right, Lux, his clones, and Asmodeus, had no problems re-summoning them.

"We're finally seeing it, right, Master?" Asmodeus asked.

"Yes," Lux replied.

The Skeleton Gang Banger was similar to Diablo in a way that, when their fellow Skeleton Gang Banger died, they would get a significant boost in their attacks, which made them stronger.

-----

– Gains 5% increase in attack when an ally Skeleton Gang Banger dies on the battlefield. This ability can stack up to 500%. Bonus damage will disappear once the Skeleton Berserker is killed.

-----

Some of these Skeletons had even reached the 500% Damage Increase Mark, and were able to fight against a Rat Monster in a one-on-one battle.

"We need one more push," Lux muttered. "We need something to completely overwhelm them."

Asmodeus nodded.

Despite the fact that Guthram had arrived, and Boris had started to participate in the battle, it had only ended in a stalemate. None of the Monsters were able to break past their defenses, but they were also having a hard time pushing them back completely.

Lux had been chugging one Mana Bottle after the other because he was summoning Skeletons and Rock Golems to hold the line.

It had now become a battle of attrition, and the side that weakened first would lose the battle.

Because everyone was fighting at close range, the attacks from the Skeleton Grand Archers and Skeleton Mages ceased because they were afraid that they might hit the Adventurers who had arrived at the front lines.

Just as Lux was thinking of ways to tilt the momentum to their favor, a loud, and familiar roar was heard from the other side of the canyon.

"I'm charging!"

Cai, who had taken its Hildivisni Form, appeared with Keane standing on its back. The duo that had come to look for Lux in the Vahan Empire had hastened their pace after seeing the dense black smoke in the distance.

They had met with one of the adventurer's that was rushing towards Aeston Town to ask for reinforcements. When they asked about the current situation, they found out that Lux was among the people who were escorting the townspeople to safety, so they decided to help.

The Boar was running across the top of the canyon in order to gain momentum before jumping into the densely packed monsters, crushing them under its feet.

The adventurers cheered after seeing the arrival of another formidable ally, who even crushed a few of their enemies into meat paste after falling from such a height.

Cai raised its snout arrogantly towards the heavens. It looked so imposing, so majestic, and so cool, that it boosted everyone's morale, allowing them to push their enemies back with renewed vigor.

The battlefield had become so chaotic that no one noticed the single tear that streamed down the side of the Boar's face as it continued to stand in the middle of the battlefield postured like a Boss.

'... It hurts!' Cai weeped internally. 'I think I broke my legs. Wuwuwu. It hurts!'

Even Keane didn't know that Cai was suffering from its stupid attempt to look cool because he had jumped off its back the moment it landed, and started to slice the limbs off of the Monsters, who were around them.

Lux, who saw his two friends appear on the battlefield, was overjoyed. Not only was the stalemate finally broken, the fight was also tilted in their favor.

## **Chapter 343.2: Tipping Point [Part 2]**

"...Next time, don't try to act cool, okay?" Lux nagged at the Boar, who was currently unable to move due to its broken legs.

He noticed that something was wrong with Cai because it stopped moving after it jumped off the canyon to join the battle. When he asked what was wrong with it, the latter replied that it broke its legs, making Lux want to slap it silly for doing something stupid.

A minute later, the Half-Elf busied himself with pouring healing potions on the Boar's legs, helping it recover faster from its injuries. Although Cai was a bit pitiful, its appearance had helped them greatly, so it was the least he could do.

Lux's clones had also descended into the canyon, fighting side by side with the defenders to keep the upper hand they had gained. Momentum was important in battles, so he didn't want to waste the opportunity that Cai and Keane had presented to them.

When only a few hundred monsters were left, the Vicious Horned Flame Rat thought that enough was enough and ordered a retreat.

Unfortunately for it, Lux had no intention of letting it go.

Why would he let a Rank 5 Field Monster leave? Wouldn't it be a shame if he didn't harvest its Beast Core?

After hearing their leader's order, the Rat Monsters pulled back in haste.

Lux had waited for the opportune moment before ordering Pazuzu to use his Duel [EX] Skill to force the Boss Monster to return.

The Vicious Horned Flame Rat shrieked in frustration as its body moved on its own to attack the Chubby Fortress Defender, who was surrounded by Hundreds of Skeleton Gang Bangers, who were eyeing the Field Monster with excitement.

"Gang Bang Time!" Pazuzu shouted, making the Skeletons charge at the approaching boss like mad men out for slaughter.

Lux, Diablo, Ishtar, Orion, and Asmodeus meaningfully stared at the Fortress Defender, whose face was as thick as the armor he was wearing.

"I just wanted to say it once," Pazuzu tried to explain himself after getting weird stares from his Master and comrades at arms.

Surprisingly, everyone nodded their heads in understanding. Deep inside, they wanted to say it too, but they thought it was too embarrassing to shout such thing in front of everyone.

When the boss was only dozens of meters away from Pazuzu, Orion ran forward with its arm pulled back, ready to deliver its most powerful strike.

"Gaia Smash!"

The Field Monster skidded a few meters back as Orion's punch hit it squarely in the face. However, it was still a Boss-Level monster, so it would take more than just that to bring it down.

Fortunately, Orion wasn't alone and the Vicious Horned Flame Rat found itself being attacked without mercy from every direction, making it unable to retreat even if it wanted to.

Diablo, who was the main damage dealer of the group, dealt massive damage to the enemy, shaving large portions of its health with every strike.

Orion who in second place pounded the Field Monster with devastating blows one after another that made everyone's teeth itch due to how painful it looked.

Isthar used her Ice Arrows to slow the monster's movements, buying time for everyone to encircle it completely.

Keane darted in and out of the battle as he used his Sword Style, Grand Void, to attack the Rat Boss Monster in its blind spot.

Finally, after nearly twenty minutes, the Boss Monster finally collapsed on the ground before drawing its last breath.

Cheers spread in the canyon as everyone celebrated their victory over such an overwhelming foe.

Of course, there had also been casualties, especially on the side of the Adventurers. More than fifty Adventurers had died to defend the path of the canyon, making Boris sigh in his heart.

As the Guildmaster who had commissioned them to help defend the townspeople, it would be his duty later to send the news to their families and ensure that all of them would be properly compensated by the Vahan Empire for their sacrifice.

Guthram, who had also joined the battle from the sky, nodded his head in satisfaction when the battle ended.

A smile appeared on the Guildmaster's face not because they had won, but because he was looking forward to how the Emperor would react after hearing about the destruction that had taken place in the Southern Regions of the Empire.

The Standeen Forest, which spanned a total of several miles and was used as the general hunting grounds of several High-Ranking nobles, had been burnt to the ground. This would certainly raise a lot of commotion in court, and the Emperor would be forced to conduct an investigation.

Naturally, the Adventurer's Guild would not say anything about the matter because they owed Lux a debt.

Even so, Emperor Andreas had many ways of finding the answers to his question, and once he did, it would certainly make things more difficult for the Half-Elf, who had already secured three Letters of Recommendations from three Guildmasters, which would allow him to take the Trial of Leadership.

'This boy really knows how to stir up trouble.' Guthram chuckled internally as he eyed the Half-Elf who was busy collecting the Beast Cores of the Monsters as his spoils of war.

No one, not even the Adventurers, took part in the collection of Beast Cores because they all agreed that Lux deserved to have them all.

To the Half-Elf's disappointment, the Beast Cores of the Rat Monsters he got were still Rank 2 Beast Cores. It seemed that forcibly raising the rank of the monster to Rank 4 didn't affect the quality of its Beast Core, making it remain the same.

The only true prize was the Vicious Horned Flame Rat's Beast Core, which was a bonafide Field Boss, making Lux feel a little better about his effort.

Just as Lux was about to take the core of the Field Boss Monster, Cai beat him to it and dug the Monster's Core from its chest.

But, before the Boar could even place the Beast Core inside its storage ring, Orion's hand rested on its back, holding it in place.

"Um? Sir Orion, what's wrong?" Cai asked as he looked at the four-meter-tall Jade Golem, who was the same size as the boar in its Hildivisni Form.

Orion smiled and simply presented its open palm to the Boar as he looked at Cai with the "give it to me" stare.

Cai glanced at the Jade Golem's palm before shifting her gaze to Orion's face before once again looking at his palm.

"Great job!" Cai shouted as it smacked its hoof on the Jade Golem's palm, giving it a high five. "Our teamwork is the best!"

A moment later, a squeal filled with fear and pain could be heard as Orion tied up the boar's hooves, hanging it over the barbecue pit that Lux had made using his skill, Skeleton Make.

Stacks of firewood were placed under the Boar's body and they were ignited by one of the Skeleton Mages to start their barbecue.

It didn't take long before Cai begged for forgiveness and returned the Beast Cores that it had sneakily stolen earlier.

"You never learn," Keane sighed as he gave Cai a fed up gaze while the Boar shed crocodile tears over having its fur slightly burned by the flames of the fire pit that Lux had created earlier.

Cai was too sad and depressed to reply, so it just cried as if its life fortune had been stolen from it.

"What are you two doing here?" Lux was finally able to ask the question that was on his mind since his two friends appeared to help him.

"Well, Cai was bored, so it decided to follow you here to the Vahan Empire," Keane replied. "We are also still blacklisted in the regions of the Xynnar War Pact, so coming here to explore a bit is not a bad idea. Since you are already here, we decided to look for you and travel together."

Lux nodded his head in understanding because this was indeed the case.

"Thank you for coming," Lux said. "You helped us a lot."

"So, where are you going next? Did you already get your Letters of Recommendation?"

"Yes. I already got the letters. My next stop will be the capital city, Dainsleif, so I can take the Trial of Leadership and finally make my own guild."

After Keane left the mountains, he came to learn a bit about guilds in Elysium. He didn't have any intention of creating one since it was too much trouble. However, he was quite interested in joining one.

Although the Rowan Tribe had been good to him, he didn't have any sense of belonging with them. He also didn't want to join any random guild because he didn't want to be around strangers who had never fought side by side with him in life and death battles.

The skinny swordsman then stared at the Half-Elf with a serious expression before making up his mind.

"Can I join your guild when it is made?" Keane asked. "Of course, if you don't want me to, it's fine as well."

"I'd love to have you in it!" Lux readily agreed to make Keane one of his guild members. "Do you want to be one of its Vice-Guild Leaders?"

"No. Too much work."

"Alright, a Squad Captain then."

Keane thought about it before nodding his head. Since a Squad Captain only managed around a dozen people, he didn't mind accepting the position that Lux offered to give him.

"Then it is settled," Lux smiled. "Just wait for me to create the guild."

Keane nodded and smiled back at Lux. "Okay."

Suddenly, Cai squeezed itself between the two and nudged Lux with its tusks.

"How about me?" Cai asked. "I want in as well!"

"...Aren't you already in the Rowan Tribe's Guild?" Lux asked.

"Yes! But there is no rule that says that I can't guild hop, right? Guild hopping sounds fun, don't you think?"

"..."

Lux ignored the shameless boar and went to talk to Boris and Guthram about his next course of action. Since the crisis was already averted, he wanted to tell them that he would leave as soon as he had finished escorting the townspeople to Aeston Town to head to the capital city of the Vahan Empire.

The journey there would take some time because he would need to travel to several different cities in order to use their Teleportation Gates to reach his destination.

With Cai and Keane to accompany him, the Half-Elf was certain that his journey would be more fun because he had friends to travel with to the capital city of the Empire, which was known to be the most lively city in the entirety of the Skystead Alliance.

## **Chapter 344: Do All Of You Want To Die That Badly?**

Two days after Lux's battle against the Rat Monsters, a high-level meeting was held within the throneroom of the Vahan Empire.

"Your Majesty, the reports of our investigation have arrived," a high-ranking noble who bordered the Standeen Forest spoke up. "Two days ago, we noticed dense black smoke rising near the territories of Bradford and Aeston Towns. I immediately sent my knights alongside a Wyvern Rider to investigate the incident.

"According to the Wyvern Rider who was first to arrive at the scene, he found a long procession of refugees headed for Aeston Town. When he asked one of the townspeople what happened, he was informed that Stone Clawed Rats numbering in the thousands attacked Bradford Town.

"Now, as you may already know, these Monsters' strength is around the initial stages of Rank 2 Monsters. But according to the guards, as well as the Adventurers who escorted the townspeople, they were different from the usual Stone Clawed Rats. They were all in a berserk state, and their strength had reached the Initial Stages of Rank 4 Monsters."

Murmurs started to spread among the nobles that were present at the meeting, unable to believe what they had heard. Only major cities in the Empire could resist an invasion of thousands of Rank 4 Monsters, which explained why the people of Bradford Town chose to flee instead of staying to defend their hometown.

"According to the refugees and several eyewitnesses, the one who boldly tried to delay the pursuit of Monsters and stop them from reaching the townspeople was a red-headed Half-Elf," the high-ranking noble explained.

"However, when my Wyvern Knight asked the Adventurer's Guild Masters, Boris and Guthram—who were present at the scene—who the Half-Elf was, they said that they had no idea, and insisted that the red-headed teenager just happen to arrive at the scene, while being accompanied by a Boar and a swordsman of unknown origins."

The corner of Emperor Andreas' lips rose ever so slightly because, even if the two Guild Masters didn't say who the Half-Elf was, the shrewd Emperor already knew the identity of the Half-Elf in question.

"The townspeople of Bradford Town hailed the Half-Elf a hero, and I will not say that what he did wasn't heroic," the high-ranking noble stated. "However, we have every reason to believe that in order to stop the Monsters' advance, this Half-Elf razed the Standeen Forest to the ground, without care for its importance to the Empire."

"That's right!"

"What he did is a crime!"

"We lost countless resources because of him!"

"Execute him!"

"Your Majesty, please, give us justice!"

Several nobles, whose territories bordered the Standeen Forest and who used it to hunt monsters for sports and even going as far as making them their servants, voiced their anger. Clearly, they were very unhappy about what happened.

For them, the loss of the Forest was a greater blow than losing Bradford Town and its people. In their eyes, profit was more important than the lives of commoners whose only purpose was to pay them taxes.

Emperor Andreas listened to the nobles and closed his eyes in order to give his verdict.

While he sympathized with the townspeople of Bradford Town, he agreed that losing the Standeen Forest was a great blow to the nobles of the Southern Regions of his Empire. But be that as it may, the fact that Lux saved a lot of people was a fact.

If he were to punish him for such an act, this news would spread across the land, making the common folk feel disgruntled about his decision. The one who understood commoners the most were their fellow commoners.

If they heard that people of their status were not important in the Emperor's eyes, then a seed of rebellion would bloom in their hearts.

Also, Emperor Andreas' secret agents had also reported that although there was no clear evidence that was found on the scene, they believed that the Dark Guild, Twilight Dynasty, had a role to play in this incident.

If Emperor Andreas was to punish Lux, he believed that the Dark Guild would use this opportunity to fan the flames and make the commoners stand up and rebel against him.

Commoners and Noble Families. These were the two factions that supported his empire. Emperor Andreas was confident that if this wasn't handled properly, things could get ugly real quickly.

'Still, this isn't the first time that the Half-Elf has made things difficult for me,' Emperor Andreas mused.

The Emperor of the Vahan Empire was quite annoyed with what happened to the Sacred Dungeon. Although he acted calm on the surface, he felt cheated by what Lux had done to his representatives.

His goal was to conquer the Gate of Conquest in order to gain a key that would allow him to make contact with the Dragon Empire whose whereabouts were unknown.

Emperor Andreas believed that if he were able to make them his ally, then his wish to expand his borders would become a reality.

The incident was still fresh in his mind, yet this time, another incident involving the Half-Elf happened. As someone who bore grudges, he felt the need to punish Lux in order to teach him a lesson without dirtying his hands.

"I understand your concern but I also sympathize with the townspeople of Bradford Town," Emperor Andreas said after organizing his thoughts. "But someone as young as him risked his life to help other people, so he should not be punished by death. Also, his identity is quite special.

"If any of you make a move to kill him, a Saint, perhaps even two of them, will cross our borders and erase your existence from the face of the world. Do all of you want to die that badly?"

The moment a Saint was mentioned, all the nobles that were asking for Lux's execution all shut up. It was not long ago since the capital city, as well as the Royal Palace of the Ashina Kingdom had been razed to the ground.

Fortunately, the two Saints weren't heartless and didn't kill any of the people that resided in it. They just destroyed structures that were void of people in order to cause panic, while giving the people time to evacuate before they started their rampage.

Even so, this incident reminded everyone that there were people who they couldn't afford to mess with, prompting them to be more careful with their words and actions.

"But... are we just going to turn a blind eye on this, Your Majesty?" the high-ranking noble asked.

Clearly, he was very unwilling to let this incident slide because it was a great loss for his territory.

The other nobles felt the same, and they wanted to at least punish the Half-Elf in a way that would make him suffer.

"Don't worry," Emperor Andreas assured the nobles that he was also on their side. "The Half-Elf will arrive here in the capital city in two to three days. His purpose for coming here is to take the Trial of Leadership in order to form his own guild.

"I will allow all of you to choose the manner of his trial, but let me make this clear. None of you are allowed to kill him. If you do, I will offer your head, as well as the heads of your entire family's bloodline to his Step-Father, who is a Saint, in order to appease his anger. With that said, I believe that all of you gentlemen will not do anything over the top, right?"

"Understood, Your Majesty," the high-ranking noble replied through gritted teeth.

Although the high-ranking noble was still reluctant to let the Half-Elf go with such a light punishment, he had no choice but to obey the order of his Emperor.

Since that was the case, he decided to make the red-headed teenager suffer in his Trial of Leadership that will teach him a lesson he would never forget.

## **Chapter 345: Arrival in the Capital City of Dainsleif**

"So this is the capital city of Dainsleif?" Cai looked at the magnificent city in the distance. "Not too shabby."

Keane had not stayed in Elysium for long, but even he was amazed at how impressive the city was.

Lux had to admit that among the places that he had seen in his current lifetime, the Capital City of the Vahan Empire was the most spectacular of all.

No one was able to teleport directly into the capital city aside from the Royal Family. Because of this, it took Lux and his friends several days to arrive at their destination. He still had seven days left until his deadline to create a guild came, so he was quite happy that he had made it to the capital city without too many problems.

"Let's go," Lux said. He really wanted to finish his quest as soon as possible, so he could return triumphantly back to Solais.

Unlike the people who had to line up in the long queue, Lux was able to enter the city using the passage reserved for the staff of the Adventurer's Guild.

Boris and Guthram both gave him letters of introduction to the Guildmaster of the Vahan Empire, giving him the ability to act as their messenger of sorts which also gave him the qualifications to use the privileges reserved for high-ranking members of the Adventurer's Guild.

As soon as Lux entered the city, he headed straight to the Main Branch of the Adventurer's Guild in the Vahan Empire.

According to Boris and Guthram, the Guildmaster's name was Alastor.

He was the highest ranking officer of the Adventurer's Guild within the Vahan Empire, and all the Branch Guild Masters reported to him.

To Lux's surprise, Alastor was already waiting for him in the lobby of the Adventurer's Guild and personally escorted the Half-Elf to his office. Keane and Cai had to wait for him in the lobby because the only one who had business with Alastor was the Half-Elf.

"I know your purpose for coming, and your Trial has already been approved, but there is a catch," Alastor said with a solemn expression on his face. "The ones conducting your Trial are the high-ranking nobles of the Vahan Empire, and I can tell you with certainty that they are up to no good. I'm guessing that it has something to do with... an entire forest being burned to the ground?"

Lux coughed lightly after hearing Alastor's words. In hindsight, he had already expected that something like this was going to happen. If it had been the forest bordering the Wildgarde Stronghold that got completely burned, the Guardians would definitely raise havoc and look for the culprit with blood-shot eyes.

He had already expected a similar response, but he didn't expect that the nobles would use his Trial to get back at him.

".. Can I get a Trial in other cities?" Lux inquired. "You know, a place where there are no angry nobles that will do everything they can to make me fail? Although not being able to create a guild isn't a life and death scenario for me, I am on a tight deadline."

"Hahaha, you are still trying to worm your way out of this mess?" Alastor chuckled as he eyed the Half-Elf who fully understood his current situation. "Unfortunately, the Emperor has decreed that you will only be able to create a guild in this city."

"I've already relayed his orders to all of the Adventurer's Guild in the entire Empire. I'm sorry, but there are politics involved. We may be a neutral organization, but the Vahan Empire has every right to kick us out of their

lands, as well as the territories of the Skystead Alliance if the Emperor wants it so.

"That is how much influence he possessed, and in order to prevent countless lives from losing their livelihood, I have no choice but to sacrifice you for the majority. I'm sorry that I am unable to help you in regards to this matter."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. If the Adventurer's Guild disappeared, the Adventurers would lose their main sources of income, and they would have to go to other regions in order to continue their profession.

If sacrificing one person meant that countless people would be able to continue living their everyday lives as usual, then Alastor would harden his heart and turn a blind eye to the high-ranking nobles' pettiness.

"What are the chances of me actually passing their trial?" Lux asked. He was still hoping that there was a slim chance that everything would still work out in the end.

"Zero," Alastor replied. "If you agree to continue the trial despite the overwhelming odds, then tomorrow at noon, you will have a duel in the arena."

"I don't know who they are going to send as their representative, but they plan to use this opportunity to humiliate you in front of everyone and make you the laughing stock of the Vahan Empire. If I were you, I'd go back to your faction's territories and beg to be allowed to create a guild there."

Lux sighed because what Alastor asked of him was impossible at this point in time.

"So are you still going to accept the Trial?" Alastor asked. "If you are, be prepared to be at a great disadvantage. It is highly possible that they will force you to fight a World Boss or something similar for everyone's entertainment."

Lux pondered for a bit before nodding his head. He didn't know what kind of enemy he was about to face, but the least he could do was check to see if there was a chance of winning. If not, then he would just concede and look for other ways to reach his goal.

"Okay, I will inform them that you have agreed," Alastor sighed and patted Lux's shoulder. "On behalf of all the Adventurers in the Vahan Empire, I thank

you for doing your best to save thousands of lives to the best of your abilities. Also, I hope that you realize your goal in one form or the other."

Unlike Lux, Alastor wasn't hopeful about the Half-Elf's chances in the Trial. He had been dealing with the high-ranking nobles of the Vahan Empire for a long time and understood how petty they were.

No matter how small the grievance, these nobles would carry a grudge and stab you when you least expected it. If possible, Alastor wanted to help Lux and give him a letter to the adjunctive Kingdom of the Vahan Empire, so that he could take his Trial there.

Unfortunately, Lux was running short on time, and even if he accepted Alastor's help, the duration of his quest would end before he could create a guild in another Kingdom.

After leaving the Adventurer's Guild, Lux and his friends went to find an inn to stay for the night. The Trial would be held the next day, so he wanted to rest in order to reach his maximum potential during his duel.

"Those scummy nobles!" Cai snorted. "They always make things difficult for everyone. Even our settlement in Elysium has been harassed from time to time. If my Grandpa hadn't personally punched their faces and sent them flying, they would still be scheming behind our backs!"

Cai was really annoyed because her tribe had suffered a lot when they were just starting to create their own faction in Elysium. The Rowan Tribe was a Nomadic Tribe, but they were unable to travel the lands of Elysium the same way they could in Solais.

Even as a Saint, there were places that Cai's grandfather, Maximilian, couldn't go. Because of this, the members of the young generation, as well as the adults, made two permanent settlements in the forests that were within the territories of the Xynnar War Pact.

Since the teenagers and the adults were separated, the one who took the helm as the leader of the young generation was Cai's older brother, Callum.

"It seems that they are hell-bent on making you suffer tomorrow," Keane commented. "Will you still go?"

Lux nodded. "If it's not too unreasonable, I might still have a chance. If not, I'll just concede and call it a day."

The Half-Elf was unwilling to give up because he was already so close to his goal. As long as there was a slim chance of victory, he would take it, and fight with everything he had in the duel that would decide whether he could stay in the Vahan Empire or not.

## **Chapter 346.1: Tell Me, Arrogant Weakling. Would You Like To Try Dying Once? [Part 1]**

"I will guide you to the arena grounds," a pretty lady said after meeting Lux in the lobby of the Coliseum.

Lux nodded and followed the lady to the challenger's waiting room where he'd prepare for his battle.

Before going to the Arena Grounds, Lux had already told Cai and Keane what to do if something unexpected happened. He didn't know what the high-ranking nobles were planning, so the chances of him winning were very slim.

That was good in its own way, but the problem would be what might happen to him later. There was a chance that he would be taken somewhere without his approval, so he instructed Cai and Keane to leave the city as fast as they could and send the news to his step-father in Barbatos Academy.

Lux's two friends agreed to his request, so they made sure to secure seats near the exit of the arena. In case that Lux was right, they could leave in a moment's notice right after the duel ended.

Today, there were three battles that would commence in the arena—and Lux's battle was the last. The first two were also taking the Trial of Leadership, which was always an event that most people wanted to see.

When the challenger, who was a Grade A Apostle, entered the scene, he was surprised to see that his opponent was a Ranker.

Even the audience, who had watched similar events in the past, didn't expect this kind of trial for the person who was about to take the Trial of Leadership.

"Don't worry, boy," the Ranker said to the challenger. "This trial will test how courageous you are in facing opponents far stronger than you. In order to pass this trial, you just need to break this bottle."

The Ranker placed the glass bottle in the center of the arena and smiled.

"You may use any method in order to break this bottle," the Ranker stated. "My goal is to prevent you from breaking it. Of course, I will also attack you, but rest assured, I will be holding back. Let us enjoy your trial, shall we?"

After that short introduction, the Trial started.

Contrary to what people expected, the battle was quite entertaining to watch. The Ranker used some flashy skills that didn't contain much power behind them. In the end, it looked like a Mentor teaching a student some lessons, making the crowd cheer and encourage the challenger to break the bottle.

Finally, after thirty minutes of an exciting exchange of abilities, the bottle broke, allowing the teenager to pass his trial.

The audience loved the spectacle because the Ranker knew how to entertain others with his performance.

A few minutes later, the second challenger came and another round of fighting began. He faced a different Ranker this time, but their exchange was just as exciting as the first. In fact, even Cai and Keane were moved by the battle, and before they knew it, both of them were cheering for the challenger.

High above the VIP seats, Emperor Andreas smiled.

"They sure know how to entertain the masses," Emperor Andreas said.

A man who stood behind him nodded his head in agreement. His name was Aron, and he was the strongest High-Ranker in the Vahan Empire. He served as Emperor Andreas' bodyguard and right-hand man, and had also come to watch the duel.

"They've put on this elaborate display in order to prepare for the main event," Aron commented. "Those nobles sure know how to put on a show. Unfortunately, the last one will be a farce."

Emperor Andreas laughed, knowing that this was indeed the case. Although he wasn't aware of what the nobles had planned for Lux, they had surprised him with the pretext of holding a Trial of Leadership against Rankers.

Since Rankers were simply too powerful for the members of the Young Generation, they needed to come up with a scheme to allow the challenger to win, but also entertain the masses that had come to watch the trial.

"Well, this is also a good opportunity to see the ability of the person that defeated Malcolm's team." Emperor Andreas leaned back on his chair. "I've only heard rumors about his strength, but rumors are just rumors. I'd like to see what he is really capable of with my own eyes."

Aron nodded in understanding and no longer said anything. He also wanted to see just how strong the rumored Half-Elf was, who managed to deter the Ranker who served the Prince of the Ashina Kingdom.

Half an hour later, the second battle ended with the challenger breaking the bottle at the center of the arena.

Finally, it was Lux's turn to enter.

He didn't know what kind of challenge he was going to face because all the challengers weren't briefed on what was to come. The Half-Elf had already prepared for the worst, but he was shocked when he saw that he was going to fight against a Ranker.

"The first two challengers before you have cleared their trial," the Ranker that was facing Lux said with a smirk. "They have also faced Rankers, like me, and succeeded in their challenge. This trial is all about facing someone who is far stronger than you and overcoming them. Let me explain the rules, so you will not cry when you fail."

The audience laughed, but they, too, cheered for Lux. After seeing the previous two battles, all of them were hyped up for the main event.

This was the perfect plan that the nobles had come up with in order to trick the audience into thinking that Lux was just incapable of clearing the trial. Since the first two challengers succeeded, the audience were fooled to think that the Rankers wouldn't go all out, and were giving the challengers a handicap.

Doing it this way would not make it look like something underhanded was being done, which might give the nobles, who had organized the event, a bad reputation.

"The trial is really simple," the Ranker said as he placed a bottle at the center of the arena. "All you need to do is break this. You may use whatever method is available to you. The trial will end if you break the bottle or when you give up. Sounds simple enough?"

Lux nodded. "I understand."

The Ranker smirked as he placed the bottle down on the ground.

"Ready when you are," the Ranker stated with his arms crossed over his chest. "Give it your best shot."

The Half-Elf summoned Pazuzu and Ishtar and ordered them through telepathy.

Pazuzu flew high up in the air, while Ishtar turned into a black mist, disappearing from sight. The Ranker who was facing Lux still had a confident smile on his face, seemingly unbothered by whatever the Half-Elf was scheming.

A moment later, a surprised expression appeared on the Ranker's face when he felt his body move on its own.

'A taunt ability?!' The Ranker's expression immediately changed as he gathered his willpower to release his aura.

As someone who had stepped past the limits of Mortals, Rankers had the innate ability to resist certain skills that were impossible for those who still hadn't reached their current rank.

This was why after taking just four steps, the Ranker was able to completely break free from Pazuzu's Taunt Skill, which surprised the Half-Elf because it had never failed him in the past.

But those precious seconds when the Ranker had momentarily shifted his attention to Pazuzu weren't in vain.

Ishtar, who had disappeared earlier, reappeared from the Shadow of the Ranker and immediately kicked the bottle to destroy it.

The audience gasped because they thought that the battle had already ended. However, the bottle didn't break and was instead sent flying towards Lux, who had already anticipated that the bottle had been rigged from the start.

When Pazuzu had taunted the Ranker, the first thing he did was to charge towards the bottle standing beside his opponent.

When Ishtar kicked the bottle to break it, she just didn't kick it in any direction. She had kicked it towards Lux, which was part of their plan, just in case the bottle didn't break on their first attempt.

"Dragon Claw!" Lux roared as he transformed his right arm into that of a dragon and swung it towards the bottle with all the strength he could muster.

## **Chapter 347.2: Tell Me, Arrogant Weakling. Would You Like To Try Dying Once? [Part 2]**

Everyone in the coliseum watched with bated breath as Lux's Dragon Claw slashed the bottle mid-air.

Emperor Andreas and Aron who were watching the Trial from the VIP seat also didn't expect this sudden turn of events.

'As expected, he isn't someone simple,' Emperor Andreas thought. 'Too bad it is futile.'

As if confirming his thoughts, the bottle, which received Lux's full powered attack, didn't break, and only crashed on the ground with a resounding thud.

The Ranker who saw everything that happened, immediately threw a punch in Lux's direction, sending a shockwave attack that sent the Half-Elf flying towards the other side of the arena. Naturally, he held back because he was strictly ordered to not kill the Half-Elf, or he would risk having their entire bloodline erased from the world.

The audience watching the battle was confused by the sudden turn of events. They were already expecting the bottle to break after receiving Lux's attacks, but it didn't, which made them wonder what had happened.

"I used my ability to coat the bottle with my aura to prevent it from breaking," the Ranker said as he looked at Lux with contempt. "Nice try, kid, but you will not pass this trial so easily."

Of course, this wasn't the truth. Although there were Rankers who were able to pass their Auras to certain objects to strengthen or empower them, the Ranker fighting Lux didn't have that ability.

His statement might have made the audience understand why the bottle didn't break. However, it didn't sit well with them.

"Boooooooo!" Cai booed at the Ranker. "You cheater! What's the point of this trial if you do something like that!"

Keane was also disappointed and started booing.

Soon, more boos came from the audience, with some of them even cursing the Ranker for his shamelessness.

"You're already a Ranker, yet you're still bullying a child?! Shame on you!"

"Are you really a Ranker? Why are you going so far as to cheat? You make me sick!"

"Your name is Mason, right? I looked up to you in the past, but now, I feel ashamed of even treating you as my role model. You cheater!"

""Cheater!""

""Cheater!""

""Cheater!""

The crowd went wild as they chanted together. They came to watch a good show, so seeing Mason's disappointing performance riled them up. Because of this, all of them started to show their discontent by shouting and cursing at the Ranker who was gripping the bottle tightly in his hands.

The nobles who were in charge of the event started to panic because they weren't aware of Lux's abilities. All they knew was that he was a Necromancer, but they also didn't fully research the abilities of his Summoned Creatures.

"Oh, dear. I wonder how they will wrap this up?" Emperor Andreas chuckled.

"Sir, wouldn't it be a good idea to intervene?" Aron asked.

Emperor Andreas shook his head. "I came here in secret, Aron. I'm just here to watch, and not do anything. Whatever happens, it will be the nobles who will take the brunt of the populace's dissatisfaction."

"Such a roundabout way of doing things," Aron commented.

"That is politics." Emperor Andreas shrugged. "They have enjoyed too much freedom as of late, and I need a good reason to punish them. This is a good opportunity to do that, and it is about time for them to be brought down a peg. However, I have a feeling that things are going to get ugly from this point onwards. Aron, make sure the Half-Elf doesn't die. I don't want to start a war before I find the key that I am looking for."

"Understood, Your Majesty." Aron bowed.

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Lux spat out a mouthful of blood before propping himself up from the ground. Even with his strong body constitution, the Ranker's attack still managed to break three of his ribs and injure some of his internal organs.

Mason was a C-Ranker. He was as strong as Lux's grandma, Vera. Even if he held back, his attack was simply too powerful for Apostles to receive straight on.

If it were an ordinary Grade A Apostle that got hit by such an attack, they would have suffered more damage, or in the worst case scenario, die.

"My bad," Mason chuckled as he placed the bottle on the ground, shrugging off the boos that were coming from the audience. "I shouldn't have done that. Let's try again, shall we? This time, I promise that I won't use my Aura to shield the bottle from attacks. Since I dampened the mood, how about I make

up for it? Healers, please heal our outstanding challenger. We will continue the Trial after he is healed."

The clerics hurriedly rushed to Lux's side and started to heal his injuries. They were in cahoots with the High-Ranking nobles who had organized the event, and they were also paid an adequate sum to ignore Lux's injuries.

However, the current situation didn't give them that leeway, so they did their supposed jobs and patched the Half-Elf properly until all of his injuries were recovered.

"Well then, now that you are healed, let's start Round 2," Mason said. "This time, I will not use my hands to fight you. This is enough of a handicap for cheating earlier, right?"

Lux who had already seen through Mason's farce laughed out loud. Earlier he thought that the bottle was just an ordinary bottle, so he didn't put much attention to it.

However, after failing to break it, he used his Appraisal Skill which was tied up to the Elysium Compendium in order to appraise the bottle. The description he saw made him so angry.

"What's so funny?" Mason asked. "Do you think that my handicap is not enough? How about I only use one leg to fight you? How about it?"

Lux looked at the Ranker with contempt as he pointed at the bottle on the ground.

"How about this? Go and break that bottle yourself," Lux sneered. "If you are unable to break it within ten seconds I win."

"What nonsense are you talking about, Half-Elf?" Mason asked. "Did the healers perhaps fail to heal your head? Did you receive some brain injuries?"

"I'll count from one to ten," Lux stated. "If you still haven't broken that bottle after I've counted to ten, I win. Everyone, please bear witness to this challenge. If the Ranker fails to break the bottle after I finished counting, that means that it is impossible to break it. From the start, this whole Trial is a farce!"

The audience was still doubtful of Lux's words, but once again, Cai shouted from the audience.

"Okay! I agree to this condition!" Cai shouted. "If that Ranker isn't able to break that bottle after I count to ten, this means that this Trial is rigged! Everyone count with me! I didn't pay the entrance fee to watch a farce! One! Two!"

"Three!"

"Four!"

Soon the audience joined in the counting making Mason grit his teeth in frustration.

""Five!""

""Six!""

""Seven!""

Suddenly, Mason made his move. Instead of breaking the bottle, he appeared right in front of Lux and punched his chest, which sent the Half-Elf crashing towards the barrier of the Coliseum.

The audience who saw this scene cried out in shock as the Half-Elf collapsed on the ground coughing blood.

"You think you're so smart, aren't you?" Mason said as he stepped on Lux's hand, slowly applying pressure on it until his bones started to break, making the Half-Elf scream in pain. "Boy, I don't care about your squabbles with the nobles, but there is one thing that you shouldn't do and that is to never annoy someone stronger than you."

After breaking Lux's right hand, Mason stomped on his left hand as well, making the Half-Elf cry out in pain.

"I was told not to kill you, but that doesn't mean that I can't cut off a limb or two, right?" Mason laughed as he took out a sword from his storage ring.

Aron, who was standing beside Emperor Andreas, glanced at the man sitting beside him. He was waiting for the Emperor's orders to stop Mason from cutting off Lux's limbs, but the Emperor didn't give that order.

Instead, Emperor Andreas smiled and said.

"We can always reattach an arm or a leg," Emperor Andreas stated. "It will be best if I appear at the last minute to save the Half-Elf. That way, the people's hearts will be moved and that boy will be indebted to me as well."

Aron sighed in his heart, but he no longer said anything. He simply watched and readied himself to protect the Half-Elf just in case Mason aimed to take his life, instead of a limb from the red-headed teenager's body.

Mason spat on the Half-Elf before raising the sword in his hand. "If you want someone to blame, blame yourself for being weak!"

The Ranker then slashed to cut off Lux's right arm in order to teach the Half-Elf a lesson. He knew that his reputation would take a blow for harming a junior, but he was prepared to take the infamy.

As a Ranker of the Empire, the Emperor wouldn't punish him too harshly and might just send him to the outskirts of the Empire in order to help expand the territories. He could return after a few years when the people had forgotten what he had done and, by then, everything would be back to normal.

In front of everyone, an arm fell on the ground, and blood sprayed in the air.

A scream of pain reverberated in the surroundings as Mason pressed his left hand over the stump on his right, where his right arm used to be.

Hovering behind Lux, a black coffin which radiated a crimson glow could be seen. The cover of its lid was open slightly, and a silvery thread could be seen coming from inside it.

Soon, the coffin's cover slowly opened, revealing a silver-haired lady, who seemed to be in her late twenties.

Her blue eyes, which were as clear as the sky, looked at the screaming Ranker coldly as she stepped out from the coffin.

Without even saying anything, she raised her index finger, and a silvery thread appeared from it.

A moment later, another scream of pain was heard as Mason's left arm was cut off from his body. Now that both of his arms were cut off, the blood that sprayed out of the stumps of his arms dyed the ground red.

"If you want someone to blame, then blame yourself for being weak," Vera said in a voice that was colder than ice. "Tell me, arrogant weakling. Would you like to try dying once?"

Vera, who loved Lux more than anyone in the world, looked at the Ranker in front of her with the intention to kill.

In truth, her transformation inside the coffin was still unfinished.

But, after sensing that her grandson's life was in danger, she had forcefully awakened from her slumber and attacked Mason.

The arrogant Ranker backed away in fear and pain as he looked at the silver-haired beauty, whose eyes were filled with killing intent, making him regret accepting the bribes of the nobles to hurt the Half-Elf, whose Grandma had now appeared to avenge him.

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End of Volume 2: Who's Your Daddy?

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## **Chapter 348: I Don't Need Anyone's Permission To Do As I Please**

"Tell me, arrogant weakling. Would you like to try dying once?"

A pin drop silence descended in the Coliseum as the silver-haired lady made her appearance. Even the Ranker, who had lost both of his arms and was still in pain, found it hard to make any sound in the face of the woman in front of him.

He had a feeling that if he let out even just a single sound, his head would be chopped off from his body, just like what happened to both of his arms.

"What are you doing?!"

"Who are you, and why are you getting in the way of the Trial?!"

The two Rankers, who fought the first two challengers before Lux appeared in the Coliseum, landed beside the Ranker whose blood had dyed the ground red with his blood.

"What am I doing?" Vera asked back. "Isn't it obvious? I'm here to end this farce. How about you two? Where were you when your comrade was bullying my grandson? Don't you have any pride as Rankers? It seems like I have overestimated the Rankers of the Vahan Empire. What a joke. The only people you can defeat are mere Apostles."

"You bastard, how dare you!" roared one of the Rankers as he summoned his sword.

The other Ranker summoned a War Axe and held it firmly with his hands.

"Did you think you can barge in on our capital city and do what you want?!" the other Ranker shouted before charging towards Vera with his weapon at the ready. "Do you think we'll allow you to do as you please?!"

His fellow Ranker followed suit as they flanked the silver-haired lady from both sides with the intention to kill her.

"I don't need anyone's permission to do as I please," Vera replied as the fingers in her hands moved, creating faint ripples in the air. "If you want to stop me, you'll need to bring stronger Rankers. Just the two of you alone will not be enough."

The two rankers ignored Vera's words and slashed their weapon towards her with all their might. A moment later, two screams of pain reverberated in the coliseum as both of the Rankers' arms were cut off from their bodies.

But the thing that surprised everyone who was watching the scene was that the one that cut off the arms of the two Rankers wasn't Vera, but each other.

"What is happening?! My body is moving on its own!"

"Damn it! What have you done to us?!"

Vera didn't answer as she once again moved her fingers.

A moment later, the two Rankers punched each other's face repeatedly, until both of their teeth had fallen off. This continued for two minutes before the two Rankers lost their consciousness and collapsed on the ground.

Just like the Ranker that attacked Lux earlier, both of the Rankers who ganged up on Vera were C-Rankers. They were as strong as Vera of the past, and the old lady would have found it difficult to deal with two Rankers at the same time.

But now, things were different.

The silver-haired lady was no longer a C-Ranker, but an A-Ranker.

Due to the powerful effects of the Flower of Death, not only were Vera's injuries fully healed, but her body also regained its vitality. This allowed her to use a fraction of her full power from when she was at her prime.

Now that the two obstacles were gone, Vera once again shifted his attention to the Ranker named Mason, who bullied her grandson. However, before she could cut off the Ranker's legs, a man appeared beside him with his arms behind his back.

"I apologize for the injustice that happened just a moment ago," Aron said. "I know that this isn't much of a compensation, but I declare that Lux Von Kaiser has succeeded in his Trial of Leadership."

Aron then made a slicing gesture of his hand, and the bottle that Lux had failed to break was sliced in half.

An S-Ranker like him felt quite ashamed of what had happened earlier, but since the Emperor didn't say anything, he had only prepared to save Lux at the very last moment.

Vera, who had sensed how strong the Ranker in front of her was, just snorted. She was currently an A-Ranker, and her opponent was an S-Ranker, which was also called a High-Ranker. The difference in their abilities was evident, but the silver-haired lady didn't have any intention of backing down.

Because she had wanted to save Lux earlier, she broke free from Blackfire's control and ended her transformation before it was completed.

If she had remained inside Blackfire for a couple more days then her Rank would be the same as the man that was currently standing in front of her.

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(A/N: The Rank of Rankers are E, D, C, B, A, S, SS, and SSS. Rank S up to SSS are called High-Rankers. The Ranks above High-Rankers are Saint, and Supreme.)

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"That's it?" Vera asked. "Your Rankers attacked my grandson, and the only thing you are going to say is that he passed the Trial of Leadership? Very funny."

"You have already punished him enough," Aron stated. "Please don't forget where you are. This is not your backyard."

Vera eyed Aron coolly, but she no longer said anything. She understood that she was in the Capital of the Vahan Empire, which meant that it was the headquarters of the Rankers, as well as the Saint that protected the Empire.

"Let's go, Lux," Vera said as she walked towards her grandson and helped him stand up. "Making a guild in this Empire is not worth it. You will only stain your record if you register in this place."

"Yes, Grandma," Lux replied as he allowed the silver-haired lady to support him. "I'll do as you say."

Vera smiled before giving Aron a side-long glance. A second later, she jumped up in the air, carrying Lux.

The Half-Elf understood that his grandma was only making a bold front, but as Blackfire's owner, he knew that Vera still hadn't completed her transformation.

Once they were safely out of the capital, the Half-Elf urged Vera to enter the coffin again to recover. Right now, there was a danger that her Rank would regress due to her incomplete transformation, and this was something that Lux didn't want to have happen.

"Be careful," Vera said as he patted Lux's head. "I'll be sleeping again for a while. I will not be able to help you if something bad happens again."

"Leave the Vahan Empire as soon as you can and return to our Faction's territories. Don't worry, once I recover, I will beat up Gerald for you, and make the other Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold agree to allow you to retake your quest."

Lux chuckled when he imagined the leader of Wildgarde Stronghold, Gerald, being beaten up by his Grandma using a broom in order to punish him for bullying her grandson while she was away.

"Don't worry, Grandma," Lux replied. "Everything will be fine. I know what to do."

Vera nodded. "Okay. I trust you. But leave this place as soon as possible. I'm sure that the Rankers of this Kingdom will hold a grudge against you for what happened."

"Understood, Grandma." Lux smiled. "Now please return inside Blackfire."

The Black Coffin appeared beside Lux and opened its lid. Vera didn't resist and allowed herself to be transformed into particles of light that flew towards it. She really needed to rest and complete her transformation.

Although she wouldn't be able to become an S-Ranker because of what happened, she would at least be able to retain her current Rank and get stronger in the future.

Lux sighed before looking at the magnificent city in the distance. After everything that happened, he still failed to create a guild in the Vahan Empire.

"I guess I have no choice but to do it," Lux summoned the Dragon Token in his hand and held it firmly.

Now that his back was pressed against the wall, he had no other choice but to use his last resort.

## **Chapter 349: Who Are The Bastards That Are Cutting Onions Near My Eyes?**

Lux didn't leave the Vahan Empire right away.

After leaving the capital city, he camped out on the meeting place that he had agreed upon with Cai and Keane, just in case they all got separated from each other.

Fortunately, he didn't have to wait for long because the two arrived at their meeting point an hour after the incident ended.

"Hahaha! You should have seen it, My Daddy!" Cai said with a smug expression on his face. "After you left, the Emperor arrived and punished the nobles who were responsible for rigging your Trial.

"Several other Rankers also arrived at the scene, and all their High-Clerics were busy re-attaching the limbs that were cut off from those bastards. Um, who is that silver-haired beauty that protected you earlier? She doesn't look familiar, but she feels familiar. I have a feeling that I've met her somewhere before, I just can't remember where."

Lux glanced at the Boar who was walking by his side and casually told it the identity of the lady that appeared to save him.

"She's my Grandma," Lux replied.

"Hahaha! Nice joke! I almost fell for it."

"I'm not joking though."

Cai laughed and once again ignored Lux's reply. How could the silver-haired beauty that saved Lux be his grandma? The Boar couldn't possibly believe that a lady who could easily pass as Alice's older sister was Lux's grandma.

Keane, who was mounted on the warg that was also traveling beside Lux, asked a question.

"Where do you plan to go now?" Keane inquired. "Are you going back to the Xynnar War Pact's territory?"

Lux shook his head. "No. I made a promise earlier, so I have to do that first. I will go to Brookwest Town first."

"Brookwest Town? I vaguely remember passing that place..." Cai frowned as she tried to remember where Brookwest Town was.

"It's the place where the Gorilla-like Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild is stationed," Keane commented. "If I remember correctly, he said he would be marrying the Gorilla-kin named Diana in a week's time. Ah. He also mentioned that since we are your friend, we should invite you to their wedding. The Guildmaster insisted that you become his best man for making the marriage possible."

Lux almost fell off Jed's back after hearing Keane's words. He didn't expect the Guildmaster, Cobie, to be successful in his attempt to ask Diana for marriage.

'I guess the Passion Blossom's effect is more powerful than I expected,' Lux thought with a complicated look on his face. As for becoming Cobie's best man for his marriage, he would have to pass.

He didn't have a lot of spare time. The Half-Elf only wanted to visit Heid and her mother, Lilia, and finish the favor that the Crimson Knight had asked of him.

Their journey towards Brookwest Town took them four days, leaving only two days until Lux's deadline.

Since he was short on time, he immediately went to meet up with the Crimson Knight, which surprised Cai and Keane. The two almost assumed a fighting stance against the Rank 4 Field Boss Monster, but Lux stopped them before a misunderstanding could occur.

"Wear this," Lux said as he handed his Mask of Thousand Faces to the Crimson Knight. "I don't know if it will work on you, but with this mask, you will be able to transform into your previous self. You need to convince your family to trust me, so I can take them somewhere safe, where they won't be attacked by the people who have targeted you."

The Crimson Knight glanced at the mask in the Half-Elf's hand for a minute before taking it.

"Do you remember what you looked like in the past?" Lux inquired.

It was very important for the wearer of the mask to hold the image they wanted to change into inside their mind in order for it to be registered in the Mask of a Thousand Faces.

"Although I have forgotten many things, I still remember my face when I was still alive," the Crimson Knight answered.

"Good." Lux nodded. "Now envision that image and put the mask on. I don't know if it works for Undead Monsters, but there is no harm in trying."

After instructing the Living Armor what to do, it placed the mask over his helmet.

In truth, Lux had a plan B if his Plan A didn't work. However, it would require him to make Lilia believe that the living armor was none other than her lost husband, whom she hadn't seen for two years.

A few minutes passed but nothing happened. The Living Armor didn't change its appearance, just like what happened to him when he chose to transform into his previous life's form, in order to join the Lionheart Tournament.

'I guess it only works for living creatures,' Lux thought.

Just as he was about to retrieve the mask, something unexpected happened. The Living Armor's body glowed faintly before its color changed to silver. A moment later, the helmet disappeared, and was replaced by a human head.

A man with short blonde hair, and blue eyes appeared in front of Lux. Although he hated to admit it, the person standing in front of him was only slightly less handsome than him.

"Um, it's quite unfortunate that you are too old and already dead," Cai said as he looked at the handsome Knight standing in front of it. "If you were still alive and several years younger, I would have invited you to join the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen."

Lux and Keane glanced at the thick-skinned boar who was blatantly staring at the hunk in shining armor.

"Did... we succeed?" the blonde-haired man asked.

"Yes," Lux replied. "See for yourself."

Lux summoned a full body mirror, allowing the Living Armor to look at the temporary shell that he was using. His hands moved up to lightly touch his

face, but he couldn't feel anything. This was understandable because he was already dead.

Even so, he was quite happy that he had the opportunity to talk to his loved ones again after being separated for two years.

"I haven't asked for your name, but I think now is a good time to ask it," Lux stated. "Can you tell me your name, Sir Knight?"

The blonde-haired man shifted his gaze from the mirror to the Half-Elf who was looking at him with a smile.

When he first saw the young Necromancer, he decided to take a gamble. He had promised Lux that he would serve him if he did him a favor. However, he didn't expect that the red-headed teenager would use this method to make his wish a reality.

"Bedivere. That was my name when I was still alive," Bedivere replied.

Lux nodded. "Well then, Sir Bedivere. Let's go. I don't have much time left, and I would appreciate it if we could hurry to fulfill your request. All you need to do is..."

An hour later, Lux, Bedivere, Cai, and Keane, arrived at the small hut on the outskirts of Brookwest Town.

When they neared the hut, they saw Heidi and Lilia reading a book in the distance.

Although the Living Armor no longer had a heart, but a Beast Core instead, he felt as if his chest was aching. Perhaps, it was his current human form that was affecting his emotions, but he couldn't stop but feel a great deal of both sadness and happiness for getting the opportunity to talk to his loved ones again.

As if sensing that they were no longer alone, Lilia shifted her gaze in Lux's direction. When her gaze landed on the man who was wearing silver armor beside the Half-Elf, she dropped the book in her hands, and immediately started running.

"Bedivere!" Lilia shouted as tears streamed down her eyes.

Heidi, who also saw her father after such a long time, also shouted "Daddy!" and ran towards him crying.

Lux, Cai, and Keane gave way to the family reunion, and simply watched from the side.

The Boar started crying as well, and tears streamed down from its face. Cai was a sucker for happy endings, and just looking at the happy family in front of it made its heart ache.

"Wuwuwuwu! Who are the bastards that are cutting onions near my eyes?" Cai asked. "Get away from me dammit!"

Cai wasn't the only one that was feeling emotional due to the happy scene in front of them. Even Lux, who had orchestrated this brief moment of happiness for the family, felt an ache in his heart.

Bedivere was already dead, and yet, he did all he could to meet with his family one last time. Perhaps, this was the strong will that prevented him from getting tamed by Asmodeus when they tried to subdue him almost two weeks ago.

As a Necromancer, this was the first time Lux had encountered such a strong soul, refusing to leave the mortal realm. Clearly, Bedivere still had lingering attachments to the world of the living, so his soul refused to pass on.

This allowed him to transform into a Living Armor, in order to anchor himself to the mortal plane, but he was already nearing his limit.

The people who killed Bedivere had also sent people to kill his family. But the Living Armor had foiled their plans time and time again, killing all the mercenaries that went after his family's life.

Unfortunately, he was starting to lose his memories as time passed by. Bedivere was afraid that when the time did come when all of his memories of the two most important people in his life were gone, he would no longer be there to protect them when the subordinates of the nobles that had killed him came to Brookwest Town to look for them.

This was why, when he saw Lux, the Living Armor pledged that he was willing to become his servant if he would do him a favor.

All for the sake of the two people, whom he cherished with all of his heart, even after he had breathed his last.

## Chapter 350: A Chance To Get A Happy Ending

"Bedivere, I missed you so much!" Lilia hugged her husband tightly.

"I missed you just as much, my love," Bedivere replied as he hugged her back with his right hand, while patting the head of his daughter, Heidi, with the left. The little girl was bawling her eyes out as she clung to her father's body. "You too, Heidi."

"Daddy! Wuwuwu!" Heidi cried because it had been so long since she last saw her father. Just like her Mommy, she missed him terribly.

"I know that the two of you have a lot of questions, but there is no time," Bedivere said as he pulled back to look at his two family members. "We need to leave this place right now."

Lilia, who had been with Bedivere for many years, nodded her head in understanding. She already knew that her husband had offended powerful nobles in the past, which was the reason why they fled to Brookwest Town.

"I'll pack our things," Lilia stated. "Look after our daughter."

She gave Bedivere a kiss on the lips and then hurried towards the hut.

'Strange, why are his lips so cold?' Lilia thought as she entered the house to pack their belongings.

While Lilia busied herself with packing, Bedivere coaxed the crying Heidi until she stopped.

"Daddy, will you not leave us again?" Heidi asked. "Mommy and I want you to stay with us."

"...I can't stay for long," Bedivere replied. "I have an important mission that I must finish."

"Then will you come back after you finish your mission?" Heidi inquired.

"...Yes." Bedivere forced himself to smile after assuring Heidi that he would come back and see her again. "So be good and always listen to your mother, okay?"

"Un!"

"Good girl."

Cai, who was watching this scene, cried even harder. Since it knew that Bedivere was already dead, the white lies he told his daughter to assure her that he would come back made it feel heartbroken.

Lux could only sigh in his heart as he looked at the father and daughter pair. Unlike the two assassins, Sid and Scarlet, who he had resurrected, Bedivere no longer had a body.

As a Living Armor, he no longer had a mortal body. In place of his body was a suit of armor, which had been dyed crimson by the blood of the monsters and people that he had slain over the past two years.

'If I reanimate his Beast Core, will it change things?' Lux pondered. 'As for Blackfire... it only accepts dead bodies and near-death bodies. But I don't know if it can accept a soul...'

Lux opened his Soul Book and checked the description of his skill, Animate Undead [EX], to see if it was possible to give Bedivere a mortal body.

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< Animate Undead [EX] >

– You are now able to choose what form your Animated Undead will become if you are willing to pay the adequate number of Beast Cores for them. If you don't want to turn them into specific creatures, you can just go ahead with the revival, making their new forms completely random.

– Animating Monsters doesn't need a corpse. If you have their Beast Cores, the likelihood of summoning an Undead Version of them is high. Their Rank will always be a Rank lower when they were alive.

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Lux frowned. In truth, he wanted to have Bedivere as the Living Armor who was immune to almost everything, with the exception of Necrotic Damage and Divine Magic.

There was also the fact that he was a Rank 4 Field Boss Monster, making him a high-ranking Undead, even surpassing his Named Creatures in strength.

If he were to use Animate Undead to give him a mortal body, he might lose his ability, Invincible Body, which made the Half-Elf want to tame him in the first place.

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< Invincible Body >

– Only attacks that deal the right Elemental Damage can deal damage to this monster.

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The Half-Elf was then faced with a dilemma between choosing what was right and what was convenient. If he chose to give the family a happy ending, he might no longer have the Living Armor he wanted. Not only that, Bedivere's rank would regress to match Lux.

Instead of a Rank 4 Field Boss Monster, Bedivere's new form would demote him to a Rank 4 Monster, similar to Diablo and his other Named Creatures.

'There's also the need to offer Beast Cores in order to give him the desired form once he is reanimated,' Lux scratched his head. 'I don't have too many Beast Cores in my possession at the moment...'

Suddenly, a thunderous roar erupted from the Forest, which was not far from the hut where everyone was staying.

Bedivere, who was hugging Heidi immediately froze because he recognized the owner of the roar that they just heard. It was the same Monster that had tried to attack Heidi when he was escorting her to look for rare herbs inside the forest to sell to the town in order to buy medicine for her mother.

"It's worth a try," Lux gazed in the direction of the forest where several trees were flying in different directions.

Although it was a bit troublesome, the Half-Elf decided to take on the Rank 5 World Boss, Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus, in order to get the Beast Core he needed to give the family of three a chance to have a happy ending.

"Sir Bedivere, let's go hunt a World Boss," Lux said to the Living Armor who held Heidi in a protective embrace. "If we are lucky, you might be able to stay with your family for a long time. Would you like to give it a try?"

Bedivere looked at the Half-Elf with surprise etched on his face. However, the surprise didn't last long before he stood up and nodded his head.

If there was really a chance to be together with his family, he would grasp it with both of his hands.

He didn't care even if he needed to fight the entire world to do it. As long as the possibility existed, he was willing to put his trust in the Half-Elf, whose fearless smile made him feel as though his hopes and dreams were not lost just yet.

## **Chapter 351.1: Dealing With The Uninvited Guest [Part 1]**

"Let's do this!" Cai was so hyped as Lux explained his reason for attacking the World Boss out of the blue. "I'm going to ensure that Heidi will be able to stay with her Daddy!"

The Boar was raring to go and ready to charge at the Rank 5 World Boss that would give it a world of pain. But the reality wasn't that simple. The enemy was an eight-meter-tall dinosaur, and even the four-meter-tall Cai in its Hildivisni form would be easily sent flying with its long and powerful tail that was as hard as steel.

"Calm down and let Bedivere aggro it first," Lux ordered. "We will hit it in its blindspots, so make sure you don't charge in recklessly."

"Got it!" Cai, who was brimming with determination, listened to Lux's orders, which surprised the Half-Elf.

Usually, the Boar didn't follow instructions whenever they entered battle, charging willy-nilly as it liked. But right now, it was willing to listen to Lux's orders for the sake of the little girl who missed her daddy.

"Keane, focus on attacking the Monster's legs, but be careful," Lux ordered the skinny swordsman who was riding beside him. "That thing is a hard hitter."

"Got it," Keane replied.

Bedivere, who had reverted to his Crimson Knight form, was at the front of the formation. He had his crimson sword drawn at the ready.

The plan was simple.

Bedivere would tank the World Boss, while Lux, his Summons, Cai, and Keane would be the damage dealers.

As they drew closer to the loud roars deep in the forest, they felt the ground shaking under their feet. Whatever was happening, the battle was truly an intense one, making Lux wonder just what kind of Monster was able to fight against the Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus, which was the World Boss of the Forest.

Finally, the four arrived at the scene of the carnage.

"Sh\*t!" Lux cursed when he saw the monster that the Tyrannosaurus Monster was facing against.

Now he finally understood why it was having trouble fighting its opponent, and with valid reason.

"Abyssal Monster!" Cai gasped in shock as it looked at the Shadowy Monster, whose entire body emitted dark mists, marking it as one of the Terrifying Monsters that had come to Elysium from the Void.

During the defense of Whitebridge City in the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven, Lux came face to face with the Lesser Demogorgon, which was an Alpha-Ranked Argonaut Monster.

It was incredibly powerful, and it alone could have destroyed the entire city if not for the fact that two Rankers had been there to protect the city. Now that he was faced with a similar monster, Lux could feel the Abyssal Power inside

his body stir, as if being awakened by its brethren who had appeared in front of its new Master.

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< Grim Butcher Nightwalker >

- Giant Nightshade from the Abyss
- Wandering Field Boss
- Rank 5 World Boss Monster

Health: 24,258,130 / 25,000,000

Mana: 3,450,180 / 3,500,000

Strength: ?????

Intelligence: ?????

Vitality: ?????

Agility: ????

Dexterity:????

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"Change of plans!" Lux shouted. "We are going to help the World Boss defeat the Abyssal Monster first! Sir Bedivere, I'm counting on you to tank it!"

The Crimson Knight nodded its head before heading towards the battle between the two Behemoths.

Lux gritted his teeth, knowing that their opponent was truly a handful. Not only was its health double that of the Tyrannosaurus World Boss, but its Abyss Touch Attack also bypassed the World Boss' steely body, making it lose one of its advantages in battle.

The moment the Crimson Knight struck the legs of the Giant Nightshade that was as tall as the Tyrannosaurus Monster, several elemental attacks also landed on its body.

Lux didn't hold back and used his Doppelganger skill, which allowed him to summon his two clones, who then summoned their entire Army of Undead and Golems to fight against the Abyssal Monster that threatened the safety of Brookwest Town.

Lux's entire army had finally surpassed the six hundred mark, making him a force to be reckoned with.

"Battle Cry!"

"War Cry!"

"Barbed Bones!"

"Decaying Touch!"

"Improved Jade Body (Mass Buff)"

Lux buffed all of his Summons, making them more powerful than ever before.

Seeing that it was surrounded by monsters, the Grim Butcher Nightwalker roared and went on a rampage. A single swipe of its shadowy arms insta-killed the Skeletons that had come to swarm it from all sides.

Bedivere was also blown away from the attack, and to Lux's surprise, the Living Armor's Health decreased after receiving the Nightwalker's brutal blow. Fortunately, the damage wasn't that high, so the Living Armor was mostly safe.

However, if Bedivere received a dozen more blows of the same intensity, even with his near-invincible state, he would crumble before the power of the Abyss.

'Abyss Touch is really a bug,' Lux complained in his heart. 'Pazuzu! Get its aggro for now!'

The Fortress Defender immediately pointed its mace at the monster before banging his shield with it.

A moment later, the giant Nightwalker shifted its attention to Pazuzu and ran in his direction.

"You're not the only one who has the power of the Abyss!" Lux roared.

""Dragon's Breath!""

An otherworldly roar escaped from the Nightwalker's mouth as three Dragon Breaths blasted it away. The Tyrannosaurus Monster didn't miss the opportunity and used its tail to smash the monster's body, while it was down on the ground.

Although the Boss Monster and Lux weren't allies, both sides suddenly had an unspoken agreement that they would first deal with the guest that had come into the world uninvited and unannounced.

Since all of Lux's attacks were empowered with the Abyss Touch, the damage it dealt to Abyssal Monsters was doubled, making them feel a world of pain.

However, the Nightwalker was a very sturdy creature, and Lux's attack only managed to shave off a million of its Health Points.

Even so, Lux wasn't disheartened by the outcome. He already knew how tenacious these monsters were, and he decided to fight it in a battle of attrition.

Although the Half-Elf didn't know if he would be able to defeat the monster before him, he believed that as long as he was able to hold on long enough, an opportunity would present itself, allowing him and his allies to gain the upper hand in the battle.

## **Chapter 352.2: Dealing With The Uninvited Guest [Part 2]**

'This is bad,' Lux thought.

This was not the first time for his Skeleton Summons to be destroyed from a single hit by a monster.

It had happened a lot back when he was still weak, and when his Summons couldn't even put up a fight against opponents whose ranks were higher than theirs.

However, now was different.

His Skeletons were stronger, and his Named Creatures were all Rank 4 Monsters. But in the face of overwhelming strength, they were no different from the monsters that Diablo had killed after gaining a massive bonus attack from Blood Fervor.

While it was true that Diablo's attack power was rising at a steady pace, it was not enough to overcome the Abyssal Monster, whose ability was out of this world.

"Sh\*t!" Lux cursed as Diablo died for the second time.

The Abyssal Monster he was fighting was a very smart creature. It targeted Lux several times, forcing his Summons and Named Creatures to sacrifice their lives in order to save him.

Pazuzu and Orion were his tankiest units, yet in the face of the Monster in front of them whose attack bypassed defenses, they died after only getting hit twice.

Diablo's Blood Fervor also didn't matter to their opponent because no matter how high Diablo's defenses became, it was useless. One direct attack was enough for his first Named Creature to turn into a pile of shattered bones.

""Dragon's Breath!""

Lux's attack made the Grim Butcher Nightwalker skid dozens of meters on the ground, but that was all.

During the battle of Whitebridge City, it had been the Rankers who fought against the Abyssal Monsters and defeated them with their strength.

Now that he was fighting against a Rank 5 Abyssal World Boss by himself, he finally understood how different they were from the Boss Monsters that he had faced in the past.

After reaching their current Rank, Lux's Named Creatures needed five minutes before they could be summoned again.

Right now, only Ishtar and Asmodeus remained to assist Lux in holding back the Monster in front of him.

After fighting against the Abyssal Monster for half an hour, they only managed to shave three million of its Health.

The problem they were facing was that it still had over twenty million of its Health left, making Lux clench his fists in frustration.

'This is impossible,' Lux thought as smoke escaped from his lips after unleashing his Dragon's Breath for the third time.

Suddenly, Lux heard a familiar voice in his head. At the same time, Blackfire, Lux's black coffin appeared beside him.

"Should I help?" Vera, who was still inside the coffin asked.

"No. Grandma," Lux replied through telepathy. "If you come out now, you will receive a backlash. You already forced yourself by helping me earlier. We can't risk having your condition deteriorate any further."

Vera didn't reply right away as if she was deep in thought.

The battle continued for ten more minutes, as Lux used the Tyrannosaurus as a meat shield in order to attack the Abyssal Monster on its blindspots.

"I finally found it."

Vera's voice suddenly rang out in Lux's head.

"All Abyssal Monsters have a weak spot. If you attack this place, your damage will be multiplied several times. The weakness of this Abyssal Monster is at the nape of its neck. Look for the faint symbol of a hexagram on its back."

"Nape of its neck?" Lux muttered. "Understood."

A pair of dragon wings sprouted behind Lux's back as he took off towards the sky. His clones did the same because they could use all of his abilities perfectly.

Just as Vera had said earlier, there was really a faint, crimson-colored, hexagram on the back of the Abyssal Monster's neck, which was supposed to be its weakness.

""Dragon's Breath!""

A blood curdling scream reverberated inside the forest as the Abyssal Monster writhed in pain after getting its weak spot attacked.

Lux's eyes widened in shock when he saw that he had dealt over three million damage to the monster whom he thought was impossible to beat.

"Because of how powerful they are, Abyssal Monsters suffer a penalty when they spawn in Elysium," Vera explained. "A mark will appear on their bodies once they cross over from the void. We, Rankers, always look for these marks because it is the only way we can defeat them in the shortest time possible.

"Fortunately, it is not hidden on the bottom of their feet or on the palms of their hands. As long as you can consistently hit its weak points, you will be able to defeat this monster."

Just as Lux was about to deliver another Dragon's Breath, the Abyssal Monster did something unexpected, which made Lux almost choke on the Dragon's Breath that he was about to unleash.

The Grim Butcher Nightwalker used its left hand to cover the nape of its neck, as it used its right arm to punch the Tyrannosaurus monster, sending it crashing towards the trees behind it.

It then shifted its attention to the flying Half-Elves in the sky and unleashed a breath attack of its own, forcing Lux to evade, while cursing the shameless Monster for not playing fair since it had covered its neck using its left hand, shielding its weak spot from further attacks.

"Oi, Sir Tyrannosaurus, can't you do better?!" Lux shouted at the World Boss who just propped itself up from the ground. "Your enemy is fighting you one-handed. Can't you see it is belittling you?!"

Perhaps angered by Lux's taunt, the Dinosaur Monster roared and once again charged at the Abyssal Monster. However, before its foe could even properly defend itself, the Tyrannosaurus swung its tail and slammed it against the legs of the Abyssal Monster, making it fall on the ground.

""Dragon's Breath!""

Not wasting the opportunity he was given, three Dragon Breaths' descended at the fallen Abyssal Monster, targeting its weak spot.

This once again shaved a huge chunk of its Health, revitalizing Lux and his comrades.

"I'm Charging!"

Cai, who was known as the most opportunistic of them all, once again charged and slammed its tusks into the back of the Abyssal Monster's head, as it propped itself to stand up. Because of this, its giant body once again crashed to the ground, allowing Bedivere and Keane to deliver their own blows at it.

The Abyssal Monster roared, and tried to stand back up, but it was not given this opportunity.

The Tyrannosaurus Monster stomped on the Nightwalker's head, and pinned it against the ground, preventing it from standing up. It then used its massive jaws to bite its opponent's neck, holding it in place like a vice grip.

Enraged and in pain, the Nightwalker recklessly attacked the Tyrannosaurus Monster with its clawed hands, digging deep in the monster's flesh. However, the World Boss endured the pain and didn't let go.

On the contrary, it dug its razor sharp teeth deeper while using its clawed hands to scratch the Abyssal Monster's body, dealing further damage to it.

Lux was unable to use his Dragon's Breath because he would be a fool to do so. He was afraid that he would hit the Tyrannosaurus Monster, so he descended from the sky and used Dragon Claws to relentlessly attack the Nightwalker, which was currently being besieged from all sides.