

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

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Princess, What Is The Capital City Like? |

Chapter 385: Princess, What Is The Capital City Like?

Lux sat on top of his bed as he recalled the discussion he had with the Third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

The Half-Elf didn't trust them enough to impart the information he currently had. Also, he was waiting for Boss to arrive after his investigation in the Dark Plains.

Lux wanted to confirm first whether the seals that were shackling the Creature of Ruins for many years were truly gone.

Even so, his goal didn't change. His mission was to keep the Baron's second son, Clyde, from leaving the Barony. As long as he was able to do that, everything was going to be fine.

'It sounds easy, but will things really be that simple?' Lux thought. 'I doubt it.'

The Half-Elf didn't want any variables to get in the way, so he wanted to kidnap Clyde and hide him somewhere safe until the timer of the mission expired.

But now, a Princess had arrived in the Baron's Residence and even had two Rankers accompanying her.

If Lux were to truly kidnap the Baron's second son, the Princess would jump at the opportunity to score some Merit Points by having her Rankers capture him.

Not only would this make him an enemy of the nobility, but it might also get him kicked out of the Order of the Griffin.

While Lux was deep in thought, the Baron's second son, Clyde, was currently in front of the Princess' room, carrying an ornate box with him.

"Your Highness, can I please have an audience with you?" Clyde asked in a respectful manner.

"Enter."

Anastasia's reply came from the other side of the door, making Clyde smile in his heart. He had brought the incense that would allow him to implant subconscious suggestions into the Princess' mind once she had a good whiff of the special incense that was bought from an auction in the Black Market.

"Thank you for allowing me to have an audience with you, Your Highness," Clyde said as he humbly presented himself to one of the Princesses of the kingdom.

"I am the one that is enjoying your family's hospitality and generosity," Princess Anastasia replied with a smile. "Please, take a seat."

Clyde slightly bowed his head before he sat facing the charming Princess.

"May I know why you came to visit me today, Sir Clyde?" Princess Anastasia asked. Truth be told, she didn't really want to interact with the Baron's second son because of the scandal he had.

The Third Princess made sure to carefully handpick the people serving her. She always ensured that none of them had shady backgrounds and were capable enough to meet her requirements.

Clearly, Clyde didn't fit the bill, so Princess Anastasia didn't want the Baron's second son to keep her company. However, since she was being hosted by their family, the minimum etiquette expected of the Royal Family must be shown at all times.

"I've heard that the Princess likes incense, so I thought that I should share with you a rare incense I acquired not long ago," Clyde explained.

Princess Anastasia's face lit up after hearing that Clyde was going to give her a rare incense. This hobby of hers started from her mother.

Whenever she entered her mother's room, a soothing fragrance could be smelled right away, allowing her to relax and sleep peacefully.

As the Queen who was supporting the King of a Nation, she would also feel stressed from time to time. This was where incense came to play, allowing the Queen to enjoy a peaceful rest.

Since then, Anastasia would purchase incense from all over the Kingdom of Gweliven to use for herself, as well as a gift to her mother, whenever she found something unique and fragrant smelling.

Clyde then placed the ornate box on top of the table and opened it slowly.

A faint tinkling sound was heard afterwards, surprising Princess Anastasia. The sounds of soothing music played for half a minute before coming to a complete stop.

The Princess smiled when she saw a dancing Dwarf girl that was made from an orange gem, which she believed to be garnet. The gem caught the faint light of the sunlight that entered the room, which created a dazzling display, showing small lights hovering around the music box as she danced around.

"This is a custom made incense burner with a music box," Clyde explained. "You can make it play by using this windup key and inserting it in this place."

Clyde demonstrated how to wind up the music box before allowing it to play the music again.

While the music box was playing, the Baron's Second Son opened another compartment inside the box, showing the place where incense could be burned.

The music box was made up of metal, so there was no danger of it burning.

"This is the pouch that contains the incense, Your Highness," Clyde said as he took out a pouch from his storage ring and placed it beside the incense burner. "Should I light some for you?"

Princess Anastasia nodded. "Yes, please."

Clyde obeyed and carefully placed an incense stick in the burner, and used a little bit of fire magic to light it.

It didn't take long before a fragrant scent wafted inside the room, making Princess Anastasia's mood a little better.

After her discussion with Lux, she felt a bit frustrated because she felt that her brother had managed to take the lead when it came to solving the drought in the Wolfpine Barony.

As the incense burned, and filled the room with an aromatic smell, Clyde dutifully wound up the music box, so that his plan could finally come into motion.

The combination of the music and the incense would create a gap inside a person's subconscious mind, allowing him to use his eloquence to make the Princess take him away from his birthplace that had long lost its value in his eyes.

"Princess, what is the capital city like?" Clyde asked. "I've been here in Wolfpine Barony all my life, and I am curious what the capital city of our kingdom is like."

"The capital city?" Princess Anastasia thought of the place where her father and mother were waiting for her with a smile on her face. "It is a good place. Always bustling with life, and there is always something new going on everyday."

"The Princess must be feeling homesick being this far away from the capital city."

"Just a little. I plan to return as soon as I finish helping this Barony return to what it once was."

Clyde sighed. "I wish I could see the capital city at least once in my lifetime. However, I am always stuck here in the countryside."

"That's quite unfortunate," Princess Anastasia replied. "The Wolfpine Barony is a good place to relax because it is surrounded by greenery, rivers, and lakes. In the Capital City, only the residences of the Royal Family are surrounded by nature."

Clyde continued to chat with Princess Anastasia giving subtle suggestions here, and there about allowing him to accompany her to the capital city once she returned.

As the two continued to talk, there were instances when the Princess' beautiful hazel eyes would glaze over for a brief second before they returned to normal.

The Baron's second son knew that the effect of the incense wouldn't show right away, so he bid farewell to the Princess after chatting for half an hour.

Now that he had planted the suggestions in her mind, all he needed to do was visit her again tomorrow.

He was certain that the Princess would burn another stick of incense before going to sleep, which would help in solidifying the foundations that he had built inside her subconscious mind.

Chapter 386: Unexpected Turn Of Events

To Lux's surprise, two days passed in the blink of an eye.

The Baron's second son was still under house arrest, and he was still not allowed to leave the residence, which made the Half-Elf's job a little easier.

However, on the third day, the Bearkin, Boss, and the other Adventurers, returned to the city with grim expressions on their faces.

Cai immediately informed Lux of the Bearkin's arrival using their Guild Chat, and the red-headed teenager rushed to the Adventurer's Guild, wanting to know what they found out on their expedition to the Dark Plains as soon as possible.

"The seals are all destroyed," Boss stated as soon as Lux entered the room. "But, that is not the only bad news. We saw it! But it was very different from what I imagined."

Lux's face became solemn because he understood what the Bearkin was trying to say. However, his curiosity was also piqued as he had no idea about what the Monster of Ruin looked like.

"What does it look like?"

"It's a giant Seven-Headed Dog Monster that my ancestors called Teju Jagua."

"So, where is it now?" Lux asked.

Boss gave a bitter expression before answering Lux's question. "If my assumption is correct, and I believe it is, the Monster of Ruin is now headed in this direction. But, its movement is a bit sluggish, so it might take at least half a day before reaching the city. What about the Baron's second son? Is he still here?"

The Bearkin was feeling anxious because if Clyde somehow managed to leave the city before the monster arrived, the curse on his body might remain with him for life.

Lux nodded. "Before I left, he was still in the Baron's Residence."

Boss breathed a sigh of relief after hearing Lux's confirmation. They needed Clyde to still be in the city in order to prevent the worse case scenario from happening.

"Good. For now, go back," Boss said. "I will contact you again if the Monster is near the city. No matter what, do not let the Baron's second son leave at all cost. I will order my men to prepare to evacuate the people, so that they won't be involved if the Monster suddenly decides to destroy the city."

Lux sighed in his heart after hearing the news.

The past two days were so peaceful that it was hard to imagine that all hell would break loose on the third day.

Now that the Monster of Ruin was headed to the city, he needed to ensure that Clyde couldn't leave no matter what.

The Half-Elf then faced Cai and Keane, who were also inside the room. Just in case the two had forgotten, the red-headed teenager decided to remind them once again that they shouldn't attack the monster no matter what.

"Don't worry!" Cai said. "I only bully the weak and fear the strong. I will not touch that monster with a hundred-foot pole!"

Lux and Keane looked at the Boar in disdain when it admitted that it could only bully the weak, and flee for its life when facing strong opponents.

"I know what to do," Keane commented. "I'll just knock this stupid boar unconscious if it turns crazy due to fear and decides to charge at the Calamity-Ranked Monster."

The Half-Elf patted the skinny swordsman's shoulder because he knew that he could count on Keane to ensure that Cai wouldn't do something stupid.

"I'll go back to the residence and keep an eye on our target," Lux said before bidding farewell to his two friends.

A few minutes later, Lux arrived at the gates of the Baron's Residence.

As soon as he entered, he noticed that the Princess' carriages were all lined up together, and her entourage seemed to be in the process of preparing their departure.

'Good, she's finally leaving,' Lux mused as he walked past the carriages which seemed to only be waiting for the Princess' arrival.

In truth, Lux didn't dislike the Princess. During the two days that they had been together, Princess Anastasia had been a wonderful conversation partner. Through her, Lux learned many things about the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven, except for the background of the Royal Family.

Surprisingly, Clyde would often appear to join them during their talks.

Just like the playboy he was, the handsome Dwarf was a master on how to make the conversation lively and interesting, often causing Lux to almost forget that he was the source of the Wolfpine Barony's eminent ruin.

Judging by how the Princess treated Clyde, it seemed that the two got along pretty well.

In Lux's eyes, the two were like two best friends who seemed to have known each other for years, which surprised him.

He could tell that Clyde wasn't giving out any romantic signals to the Princess, and Princess Anastasia wasn't showing any hint that she fancied the handsome boy, who was currently under house arrest.

"Ah, there you are, Sir Lucien," Princess Anastasia said with a smile. "I was hoping to see you before I return to the Capital City. During the short time that we have been together, I really enjoyed your company. If you change your mind, and decide to join my faction, feel free to find me in the Capital City. My doors will always be open for you."

Lux politely bowed his head before answering. "I also enjoyed Her Highness' company, and if there is another opportunity, let us meet again."

Princess Anastasia extended her hand towards Lux and the Half-Elf knelt down to receive it before kissing the back of her hand.

"...I was only going to shake your hand," Princess Anastasia said with a cramped smile on her face. "But, this is fine as well. Consider this as a reward for keeping me company."

Lux gave an awkward chuckle before standing up again. He had read and watched many stories about how to interact with the members of the Royal Family, and he thought that what he did was the normal thing to do.

'Well, I guess I took a loss this time,' Lux thought as he took a step back to allow the Princess to pass.

"Safe travels, Your Highness," the Baron said. "The domain of Wolfpine Barony will always welcome you with open arms, should you wish to return."

Princess Anastasia gave the Baron a brief nod and gave him a sweet smile. She needed supporters to help her become the Crown Princess of the Kingdom. Even though the Wolfpine Barony was suffering hardships at the moment, it wouldn't change the fact that it was still a Barony, and thus, its Lord was a member of the nobility.

"I had a wonderful stay, Sir Edgar," Princess Anastasia replied. "I will definitely visit again, and I hope that when I return, the drought of Wolfpine Barony will have ended."

"Although I am going back to the capital city, know that I will leave some capable people behind to help you investigate the cause of the drought. I'm sure that, with their help, you will be able to get to the bottom of this problem right away."

The Baron respectfully bowed his head to show his gratitude to the only member of the Royal Family who visited his lands during its time of crisis.

"Well then, the sun is almost at its Zenith, and it is now time to leave," Princess Anastasia stated. Just as she was about to leave the door, someone called out to her, which made the Baron's face frown.

"I have finished packing, Your Highness," Clyde said as he walked towards Princess Anastasia with a calm expression on his face.

However, no matter how much he tried to hide it, his eyes were filled with excitement, which made Lux, as well as the Baron, look at him in confusion.

"Clyde, you're being disrespectful to Her Highness," Baron Edgar snapped at his son for talking to the Princess in a casual manner. He didn't want the Princess' retainers to get the wrong idea that he didn't raise his son properly.

"It's fine, Sir Edgar," Princess Anastasia commented. "I felt sorry for Clyde for always being stuck inside the house, so I decided to take him back to the capital for a vacation. You won't mind, do you?"

The Baron's face became weird as he glanced at his son before shifting his attention back to the Princess, who seemed to be perfectly fine with having his son as company.

"A vacation?" the Baron inquired. "Is this a short one or a long one?"

"Just a short one," Princess Anastasia replied. "Probably a month or two."

Lux, who was listening at the side, felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand on end. The moment the Princess said that she was taking the Baron's second son to the capital city, he felt like he had just misheard things.

But, after the Princess confirmed her intentions, he finally realized that she was serious.

He had thought of many scenarios that Clyde would come up with so he would be able to leave the city undetected, but he never expected that the handsome Dwarf would be able to hitch a ride on the Princess' personal carriage.

This was something that was outside of his calculations, which made him feel as if his insides were churning.

'This is bad,' Lux thought. 'Really bad.'

Right now, the Half-Elf's brain was going into overdrive as he thought of ways and excuses to keep Clyde inside the Wolfpine Barony before the timer was up.

Now that the Princess decided to take him back to the capital city with her, the red-headed teenager needed to come up with a good excuse to detain the handsome Dwarf, and ensure his mission's successful completion.

Chapter 387: The Proof You Are Looking For Is There

When Princess Anastasia and Clyde were about to board the carriage, Lux suddenly grabbed hold of the Baron's second son and transformed his right hand into dragon claws.

"Nobody move!" Lux shouted as he placed the tip of his claws on Clyde's neck. "I'm taking him with me, and if any of you does anything stupid, I'll kill him."

Everyone at the scene looked at the chubby teenager in surprise. They didn't know why he suddenly attacked Clyde and was now using him as a hostage.

"What do you think you are doing?" Princess Anastasia asked coldly. "Are you mad? You dare to raise your hand against a noble of this kingdom? Do you want to be hanged?"

"I also don't want to do this, but you left me with no choice," Lux replied. "The Kingdom of Gweliven is going to be destroyed if I don't take him into my custody. So, if you don't want that to happen, just behave like the good girl you are and go back home."

Princess Anastasia narrowed her eyes before snapping her finger.

"Millie, do it."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Before Lux could even react, the green-haired Dwarf had already delivered a blow to his head, making him collapse on the ground.

Just as the Half-Elf was about to lose his consciousness, he heard the Princess' words, which made him feel cold.

"It's a shame, but I really thought that you were a good person. Millie, be sure to lock him up in the prison in the capital. Make sure that he will never be able to see the sun ever again."

"Yes, Your Highness".

Lux's heart shuddered as he suddenly thought of this bad ending.

At first, he planned to forcefully take Clyde hostage, but after seeing that scene, he was forced to think of another way to deal with the situation.

'Then, should I try to take Princess Anastasia as hostage?' Lux thought. 'No. I don't want to die.'

Taking a noble as a hostage was one thing, but taking the princess of a Kingdom hostage? That was just asking for you to be killed.

Even if Lux succeeded, and the Princess' escorts felt threatened enough to not do anything stupid, the Half-Elf would still suffer a lot of hardships in the longrun.

Lese Majeste wasn't a simple crime. The punishment for it would be lifetime imprisonment if you were lucky, and a one-way trip to the guillotine if you were unlucky.

Just as the Half-Elf was still desperately trying to think of a way on how to detain Clyde in the Wolfpine Barony, an idea popped into his head.

"Lady Millie, there is something important that I need to discuss with you," Lux said as he blocked the Ranker's path. "This has something to do with the Order. Can we talk in private?"

Millie frowned because she didn't expect someone would stop her as she escorted the Princess to the carriage. However, the phrase "something to do with the Order" caught her attention.

Her Master was one of the members of the Order of the Griffon, and she was very proud of her. The green-haired Dwarf's dream was to become part of this organization, but it had very strict requirements, and only the King had the ability to recruit members.

This was why she was very upset when she saw the golden locket in Lux's hands, making her feel like the goal she had set for herself had been snatched away by a random stranger.

"Something to do with the Order?" Millie asked back. "Why are you telling me this now? Can't you see that we are about to depart for the capital."

Lux sighed. If possible, he didn't want to resort to this method as well, but he no longer had any leeway to take things in a casual manner.

"If you don't come with me, the Kingdom of Gweliven will suffer a calamity," Lux stated. "You are the only one that can help prevent this disaster from happening. So, please, come with me."

The green-haired Dwarf looked up at the Human who had a very solemn expression on his face. She could tell that something was wrong, but she was hesitant to follow him because she only took orders from the Princess.

"Your Highness, Sir Lucien wants to tell me something in private," Millie said as she looked at the Princess who was waiting for her to board the carriage. "Can you give me a few minutes?"

"Take your time, Millie," Princess Anastasia replied. "I have Megan with me, so you can just catch up when your talk with Sir Lucien is over."

"Thank you, Your Highness."

"Mmm."

Lux had sent Cai and Keane a message through their Guild Chat, informing them of the sudden turn of events at the Baron's Residence. He asked them to do everything in their power to delay the Princess' trip back home. The Half-

Elf added that they should also inform the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild, Boss, to help them stop the Princess from leaving.

Since his life was on the line, Lux knew that Boss would think of something. He was first going to deal with Millie, who might be the key to solve this problem once and for all.

"You asked me to bring you here, so what is this important matter regarding the Order?" Millie asked as he took Lux to the same place where she had dragged him a few days ago to know his identity.

The red-headed teenager knew that the time had come to come clean, so he decided to use facts in order to convince the green-haired Dwarf of the real danger they were facing.

"Do you know about the Monster of Ruin?" Lux asked.

Millie pondered for a bit because the term sounded familiar. She was someone who had been trained by her Master to read history books, so she was well educated when it came to stories about the past.

"Is that the Monster that was sealed away by the Saints of the Arondight Territory?" Millie asked back. "A tale that mothers use to scare their children when they are misbehaving."

"No. This isn't a made up story," Lux replied. "It is real, and this monster is heading towards this location even as we speak."

Millie stared at Lux with a doubtful look on her face.

Seeing that she was showing an expression of disbelief, Lux decided to bluff his way out in order to convince the dwarf to believe him.

"How about I give you this locket as a wager?" Lux said as he took out the golden locket of the Order of the Griffon. "If what I said was false, this locket that is given only to the members of the Order will be yours."

Millie's eyes widened in shock because she didn't expect that Lux would use the token, which she coveted all her life, as a wager for her to believe him.

"You're serious?"

"I am very serious. Millie, believe me when I say that you are the only one that can help me prevent this Kingdom's destruction. If you leave now, everything you hold sacred may come to ruin."

The green-haired Dwarf was still half-doubtful whether she could believe Lux's words or not. However, seeing how desperate he was to convince her, even going as far as to offer the Locket of the Griffon, she felt that she needed to give him the benefit of the doubt before making the final decision.

"I need proof." Millie demanded. "Proof that you're not lying to me."

Lux sighed internally because this was the exact scenario that he was hoping to achieve. As long as Millie gave him a chance to prove that his claim was true, he had half won the battle.

"Understood," Lux said as he handed the golden locket to Millie before pointing in the direction of the Dark Plains. "Let's go to the Dark Plains. The proof you are looking for is there."

Millie nodded. She waved her hand, and a gust of wind enveloped her and Lux, allowing the two of them to soar towards the sky in the direction of the Dark Plains. The green-haired Dwarf was an expert in Wind Magic, and her forte was speed.

Because of this, the speed at which they traveled was quite fast, and according to Lux's estimate, it would only take them half an hour before they arrived at their destination.

If what the Half-Elf said was true, then Millie would do everything in her power to prevent a calamity from befalling her kingdom. She would do this, not only to save the people that she deemed important in her life, but for the sake of her homeland, which her Master tried so hard to protect.

Chapter 388.1: When Twilight Falls [Part 1]

It didn't take long before Lux and Millie arrived in the Dark Plains, and even from a distance, they could tell that something was wrong.

Dark clouds covered the horizon, and lightning snaked in the heavens like living snakes, waiting to strike at the unwary.

The low rumbling of thunder reached their ears, as if it was waiting for something before it roared in full, making everyone in Wolfpine Barony realize that something very sinister was now headed in their direction.

Several more minutes passed, and then, they finally saw it

"...By the Earth Goddess," Millie sharply inhaled cold air when she saw the 40-meter tall Monstrosity that was sluggishly walking towards their location.

"Cerberus can't hold a candle to this guy," Lux muttered as his face became grim.

The Bearkin, Boss, had already told him what the Monster of Ruin looked like. However, being told and seeing it personally were two different things.

The sheer size of the Monster, along with its seven dog heads, which looked very similar to that of a husky, was enough to make Lux want to go back to Solais and call it a day.

However, since he, his friends, and the people of the Wolfpine Barony were under the Curse of Ruin, he just couldn't pack up and leave.

"Is that the Monster of Ruin?" Millie asked as she used her power to hastily back away because she felt that if she were to go near the monster's strike range, it wouldn't hesitate to attack her.

"Yes," Lux replied. "That's none other than Teju Jagua, the Monster that required a dozen Saints in order to seal it due to how powerful it was."

Seeing was believing. Millie, who had personally seen the evidence right in front of her had no choice but to admit that Lux was telling the truth.

"Tell me, how do we stop this thing?" Millie asked. "Should I go back to the capital and inform his Majesty of this threat? Should we mobilize all the Rankers and ask the help of the Saints in order to defeat this thing?"

Lux shook his head. "Right now, that is not our priority. This monster is after the Baron's second son, Clyde. No matter what happens, he must remain in Wolfpine Barony in order to prevent the drought from spreading to other parts of the Kingdom.

"If we let him go, the monster will just follow him and destroy every village, town, and city along its path. You can take the Princess back to the capital, but Clyde must remain no matter what."

Millie nodded and no longer asked any questions. She just flew as fast as she could in order to catch up to the carriages that were departing for the capital city.

Lux turned around to give the Calamity-Ranked Monster one last glance before shifting his attention to what was in front of him.

Now that he had Millie on his side, he should finally be able to convince the Princess to let the Baron's second son remain inside Wolpine Barony for the sake of her Kingdom.

Half an hour later, the two finally arrived in Wolpine Barony. They then followed the road that the carriages had taken in order to go back to the capital.

A few minutes later, they finally caught up, but this wasn't the scene that the two of them were expecting.

The carriages were all destroyed, and several of the escorts lay on the ground with heavy injuries, while some were dead.

'My God! Did Cai and Keane do this?' Lux couldn't believe that his two friends were capable of such merciless destruction. 'No. They wouldn't resort to killing people.'

The Half-Elf knew that no matter how obnoxious the Boar was, it would never kill anyone unless it was the last resort. Keane might not bat an eye in chopping off people's limbs, but he wouldn't go as far as killing people.

Also, Lux believed that there was one more Ranker protecting the Princess. This was why Princess Anastasia was confident that she could travel back to the capital, even if Millie was away from her side.

The green-haired Dwarf's face had turned ashen as she called out for the Princess' name, as she searched for her among the wreckage.

Lux did the same, and to his surprise, he saw someone whom he didn't expect to see.

"Fei Fei?" Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, looked at the golden slime who was hiding under one of the carriages that were partially destroyed.

"Wuwuwu Sis!" Fei Fei started to cry as soon as she saw Eiko, making the blue slime jump towards her and give her a hug.

"Eiko, ask her what happened." Lux felt his blood turn cold as a realization hit him.

The Boar would never leave Fei Fei behind unless something incredibly serious happened. After some coaxing, Eiko was able to get the gist of the story from the golden slime, who was pushed to the wreckage by Cai before it was captured by the people who ambushed the Princess on her trip back to the capital city.

The golden slime's narration wasn't very clear, but Lux was able to get the gist of it. Cai and Keane decided to block the path of the carriages using trees in order to delay their journey. However, before they could do so, several people wearing black robes attacked the carriages.

Cai and Keane went to help, but both of them were overpowered by their enemies and were captured as well.

Before the Boar came to assist the Princess, it told Fei Fei to hide first. The golden slime had just been born, and it was not really a slime meant for battle. Because of this, Fei Fei hid in one of the destroyed carriages and watched the battle unfold.

When Cai was subjugated, Fei Fei wanted to go out, but the Boar sent her a message through their contract, telling her to keep on hiding and wait for Lux's and Eiko's arrival.

"Don't worry, Fei Fei," Lux held the golden slime in his arms and patted her head. "We will find them. I will do my best to find them."

Millie, who had confirmed that the Princess had been kidnapped while she was away, felt that everything was her fault. If she had only remained then this thing wouldn't have happened, making her feel regretful.

"It's not your fault, Millie," the other ranker, who served as Princess Anastasia's escort, Megan, said while cradled in Millie's arms. "There were too

many of them, and they had four rankers in their group. Even if you had been here, the end result would still be the same."

"Even so! I should have been here and fought alongside you," Millie replied as tears streamed down the side of her face. "Maybe we would have stood a chance if we were together."

The green-haired Dwarf was busy applying healing potions to the injuries that Megan had suffered during the clash against the other Rankers.

If not for the fact that Princess Anastasia threatened to commit suicide if they didn't stop killing her people, the robed figures would have made sure that no witnesses remained behind.

"Who was it?" Millie asked as she poured the last healing potion in her possession to help her friend recover from the serious injuries that she sustained during the battle.

"Twilight Rain." Megan held on to Millie's robes firmly as she used her remaining strength to answer her question. "They are from Twilight Rain."

As soon as Megan spoke those words, she finally lost consciousness, and Millie's roar of anger reverberated in the surroundings, making Lux, who had realized who the perpetrators were, feel that the difficulty of the mission he was trying to accomplish, suddenly went up several notches.

Chapter 389.2: When Twilight Falls [Part 2]

After taking care of the wounded, Millie took them back to the Baron's Residence to let them fully recover from their injuries.

The Baron was alarmed after hearing the news, and wanted to send his personal army to help with the rescue of the Princess and his son.

However, after hearing that the ones who kidnapped the Princess were a group with four rankers, the Baron collapsed on the ground as he was aware that this was something that he was unable to handle with his current strength.

"I need to find them," Millie said with determination as he looked at Lux. "Even if it's just me, I need to save the Princess."

Lux frowned. Clearly, Millie wasn't able to think properly because the person she had sworn to protect was kidnapped while she was away.

Just as the Half-Elf was about to tell the green-haired Dwarf that she shouldn't do anything reckless, rows of words appeared in front of him, making his body stiffen.

< Optional Quest! >

< Rescue the Princess of Gweliven! >

Mision Rating: S

– The Third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven was kidnapped by the members of Twilight Rain. It is up to you to decide whether to save her or not!

< Rewards >

– ????

Lux didn't know whether he should laugh or cry about the timing of the quest. In truth, he had already decided to rescue the Princess since Cai and Keane were captured along with her.

He couldn't possibly leave the two of them behind, especially when the members of Twilight Rain had them in their custody.

"Listen, even if you want to look for the Princess, do you know where to go?" Lux asked.

"It doesn't matter. I need to do something. I can't just stay here and do nothing."

"Calm down. I have a way to find them."

Millie, who seemed to be grasping for straws looked at Lux with a hopeful gaze. After the wager she had with the chubby teenager and seeing the Monster of Ruin with her own eyes, she learned to trust him more.

"If you travel at full speed, how long will it take you to reach the nearest city with a teleportation gate that connects to the capital?" Lux asked.

He wasn't quite familiar with the geography of the Kingdom of Gweliven, so he was hoping that Millie would be able to fill in the gaps for what he didn't know.

"If I travel at my full speed, it will still take me almost five hours to reach a city with a teleportation gate that connects to the capital," she replied.

Lux nodded his head in understanding before glancing at the timer on his Soul Book.

Mission Time: 21: 14: 25

'Five hours to reach a city with a teleportation gate, and a few more hours to get reinforcements,' Lux thought. 'Give and take, the fastest time that reinforcements can arrive is in twelve to fifteen hours... that is cutting it way too close to the arrival of the Monster of Ruin.'

Lux's silence made Millie feel quite anxious. When she said that she could arrive at a city with a teleportation gate in five hours, she meant that she could do that if she pushed herself to the very limit.

According to her estimate, it might even take her six to seven hours. However, if she was willing to go all out and sacrifice a few things, she could reach her destination in five hours.

After pondering things for a very long time, Lux decided to ask Millie if she had a way to contact her Master, who was one of the members of the Order of the Griffon.

"I have an artifact that I use to contact Master, but it has a very limited range," Millie replied in a somewhat embarrassed tone. "It will only activate if the

receiver is within a six mile-wide radius. Beyond that range, I am unable to contact him."

Lux sighed. It seems that he really needed to use everything he had in order to even get a chance to succeed in his mission.

"Stay here," Lux ordered. "I will contact some people. Make sure that you don't leave the Baron's Residence. We will go and look for the Princess as soon as I finish finding help."

Millie wanted to grab hold of Lux and tell him to not leave her. After losing the Princess, the green-haired Dwarf felt as if she had lost the ability to think clearly, and was now only clinging to the faint hope that the chubby teenager had presented to her.

Seeing her anxious gaze, Lux decided to give her some assurance that everything would be alright.

"Listen. Although they are not Rankers, my friends are very capable people," Lux said. "Since they are with the Princess, I am certain that they will do everything in their power to ensure her safety."

"Is that true?"

"Yes. They are brave and resourceful individuals. Even in the face of adversity, they will be able to think calmly and face the dangers with a calm attitude. I'm sure that even now, they are looking for ways to deal with their current circumstances."

Millie felt a little better after hearing Lux's words. If his friends were truly capable individuals and were able to deal with their current predicament calmly, then there was a small chance for them to escape their captors.

The green-haired Dwarf wondered what kind of friends Lux had. If they were truly as brave and courageous as the chubby teenager portrayed them to be, then she would like to form connections with them as well.

"Nooooooooooooooooo!"

Cai's squeal reverberated inside the cavern, where the members of Twilight Rain had taken them after ambushing the princess' entourage.

"My meat doesn't taste good," Cai wailed. "I don't eat healthy foods. If you eat me, all of you will have Swine Disease. It has a 100% mortality rate! No one has ever survived it. Even Rankers are no exception!"

Cai, who was currently tied up on a log, was currently being roasted over an open fire. It kept on squealing out of fear and anxiety.

The Ranker who was spinning the log was quite amused with the Boar's antics. Originally, they didn't plan to take anyone with them, but after seeing Keane, who was a Human—a race rarely seen in the Kingdom of Gweliven, they decided to take him into custody along with his "pet", who was now being roasted alive.

"You bastards! Do you know who I am?" Cai squealed as the ranker threw more firewood on the bonfire, making the flames grow bigger. "I am a member of the strongest guild in the world! When my Guildmaster finds out what you're doing to me, he will hunt you down until none of you are left!"

The Ranker laughed after hearing Cai's threats. He was quite curious to know what Guild the Boar belonged to, so he decided to ask, just for fun, while making the boar suffer hardships while it was being roasted alive.

"You're a member of the strongest guild in the world? That's very scary," the Dwarven Ranker, who had reddish-brown hair, said in a teasing tone. "Pray tell, what is the name of this strong Guild? I want to know so I can run away when I meet your Guild Master."

Cai gritted its teeth before shouting with all of its might.

"Listen well, you bastard!" Cai roared. "My Guild is called Twilight Rain! It's a very powerful guild—so powerful that we don't speak how powerful it is. Only those who are in high positions are aware of our existence! If you don't want to get hurt, release us now before my Guild Master personally strangles all of you!"

The Ranker with reddish-brown hair, as well as the rest of the people inside the Cavern all shifted their attention on the Boar that was desperately struggling against the metallic chains that bound it to the log.

A moment later, all the kidnappers laughed at the same time, making Keane, who had been knocked unconscious earlier, regain his consciousness.

"Did you hear that? It said that it's a member of Twilight Rain!"

"Hahaha! This Boar is quite funny. I like it!"

"I have heard of this Twilight Rain before. It is indeed the most powerful guild in the world. Oh no! We kicked a steel plate! We are doomed!"

"I think it is best that we kneel and ask for forgiveness. If we do that, perhaps the Guild Master of Twilight Rain will forgive us."

Cai, who seemed to have caught a second wind, decided to go all in, so that the kidnappers would free it from the chains that bound it.

"Hah! Now you realize who you are dealing with?!" Cai shouted. "My grandfather is a Saint! The moment he finds out that I am kidnapped, he would scour the lands looking for all of you and turn you all into meat paste! Release me and I will forget that this incident even happened. If you know what is good for all of you, you better apologize to me right here, right now!"

The members of Twilight Rain quieted down for a few seconds before laughing once more. They found the Boar to be quite an amusing beast.

When Cai said that it was a member of Twilight Rain, all of them found it extremely funny because it was basically threatening them with their very own guild.

Then, it said that its grandfather was a Saint, and if they didn't release it, the Saint would turn them into meat paste.

How could they possibly believe such a story?

The Ranker lifted Cai off the bonfire and set it aside on the ground. In truth, they really didn't need to cook it since they had already bought food beforehand.

The dwarf with reddish-brown hair just thought that it would be entertaining to roast the boar alive and watch it beg him to spare its life while they waited for their comrades to return from their scouting trip.

But, after hearing Cai's antics, the Ranker felt that it would be a shame to roast such an amusing pet, so he decided to take the Boar back to their Guild Headquarters and make it an official member of their Dark Guild, for the sake of his own amusement.

Chapter 390.3: When Twilight Falls [Part 3]

The Boar, who had been spared, wept on the ground in relief because it thought that it was really going to be roasted alive. Fortunately, that didn't happen. It decided to behave for now while desperately calling out to Lux through their Guild Chat.

Cai had noticed that Keane and Lux were already talking to each other and exchanging information.

"Cai and Keane, don't worry. I can pinpoint your location on the map using my Soul Book," Lux said calmly. "I have already contacted Commander Thoram and Guildmaster Keelan to start calling our backup. Once we regroup, we will save the two of you without fail."

"Wuwuwuwu! They almost roasted me alive," Cai wept bitterly in the Guild Chat, making Laura, and Livia, who were in Leaf Village, do their best to comfort the Boar who was still in pain from its recent experience.

"Hang on, Cai! Help is already on the way!" Laura said.

"Big Brother Lux has already called out to everyone, including Village Head, Cedwyn," Livia commented. "Just endure for now. We will avenge your death!"

"Um, I'm nowhere near death, Livia," Cai replied. "You little devil. Wait till I get out of this mess and I'll squish you to oblivion!"

Wolfpine Barony...

Lux felt relieved after knowing that both Cai and Keane were safe.

The first one he contacted as soon as he left Millie's side was Commander Thoram of the Stronghold of Norria.

He reported that the Princess had been kidnapped, which made the Commander take this case seriously.

Lux asked the Dwarf Commander to get in touch with Nevreal as soon as possible, and report the events that had happened in the city. He added that the members of the Order of the Griffin should be mobilized for this operation because they were dealing with several powerful Rankers from Twilight Rain.

The next one he contacted was the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild inside the Stronghold of Norria, Keelan, who had a vast information network.

He requested that if there were any available Rankers in the Adventurer's Guild who were willing to join the rescue operation to save the Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven, they should send them directly to the borders between the Wolfpine Barony and the Earldom of Draycott.

Judging from Cai and Keane's current location, the kidnappers seemed to be planning to go to the Draycott Earldom, which was located South West of the Wolfpine Barony.

The Domain that belonged to Earl Aeston was a seaport town, famous for trade among the adjacent territories, who use the port as a hub to buy and sell specialty products that were exclusive to certain domains within the Kingdom of Gweliven.

A few minutes later, Keelan informed Lux through the Guild Chat that he had made contact with the Guildmaster who was in charge of the Earldom of Draycott, as well as the other branches of the Adventurer's Guild in adjacent territories that had some Rankers that were currently on standby.

Keelan himself would go to the Earldom in order to take command of the situation. Since Lux could tell them where Cai and Keane were, all he needed to do was guide him, and he would position his allies accordingly.

Lux was awed by how efficient Keelan's performance was that he felt immensely thankful that the latter had joined his guild back then.

Five minutes later, Thoram joined the chat, and told Lux that Nevreal was already on the way to meet the King to inform the latter about the incident that had happened in Wolfpine Village.

This was the first time that Lux had mobilized his guild members in order to deal with a serious incident, and it proved that he had dependable allies that would help him whenever he needed it.

Lux was even tempted to have Guild Members in all the cities of the Kingdom of Gweliven. However, he knew that this was not possible at this point in time.

He couldn't just randomly invite people because it would endanger his Guild, which was still in its infancy.

Suddenly, Lux had an idea, so he immediately opened his connection with Scarlet, who was currently with Twilight Rain.

'Where are you right now?' Lux asked. 'There is a matter that I need your help with.'

Lux didn't have to wait long before he received Scarlet's reply, telling him that she was currently on an important mission, and wouldn't be able to come to his aid at the moment.

'You're on a mission?' Lux inquired. 'Are you perhaps part of the team that kidnapped Princess Anastasia?'

'... How did you know that the Princess was kidnapped?' Scarlet asked with a doubtful tone. 'This is supposed to be a secret operation.'

Lux's eyes widened in shock because he didn't expect that his mole inside Twilight Rain was part of the group that had kidnapped the Princess. He only thought that he would ask Scarlet to help him get some inside information on what the group was planning.

However, since Scarlet was already part of the group, this allowed Lux to have more leeway with the things he could do with the rescue operation.

'I was in the Wolfpine Barony when you guys ambushed the Princess,' Lux explained. 'Also, the Boar, and the Human Swordsman that you guys kidnapped alongside the Princess are my friends.'

Scarlet, who had been resurrected by Lux to become a Cambion, was loyal to him. Although she grudgingly obeyed his orders, it didn't change the fact that he allowed her to have a second chance at life in exchange of becoming his subordinate.

Lux then told Scarlet his plan, so the Slayer Candidate could help him in subtle ways without blowing her cover.

After finalizing a few more things with Scarlet, the Half-Elf finally went back to look for Millie.

Not long after, both of them left the Wolfpine Barony in haste.

Lux was pressed for time since he needed to save the Princess and return Clyde back to the Wolfpine Barony before the Monster of Ruin arrived.

Chapter 391.1: Running Out Of Options [Part 1]

Millie and Lux soared in the sky, with one slime perched on the Half-Elf's head, and another on his right shoulder.

Fei Fei was Cai's Beast Companion, and shared a strong connection with the Boar.

This was the excuse that Lux had given Millie to give the green-haired Dwarf some hope that they would be able to pinpoint the Princess whereabouts using Fei Fei as a detector.

However, for the time being, he asked Millie to take him to the Port City of Watford, which was also the main city of the Earldom of Draycott.

This city didn't have any teleportation gates, but it was a hub of activity because many merchant ships frequented this port in order to sell, trade, and buy some products that they would sell in other places.

The journey took nearly five hours. When Lux and Millie arrived, it was around two in the afternoon.

During their trip, Lux was keeping in close contact with Commander Thoram and Guildmaster Keelan, so he knew about the progress being made on their side.

Keelan, and the reinforcements that he had called for, had already arrived in the adjacent territory of the Earldom of Draycott. All they needed to do was

travel towards the sea-port town and meet up with Lux, which would take a minimum of two more hours.

The other thing that concerned the Half-Elf was the Order of the Griffon. He had no way of contacting them, so he didn't know whether they were already on their way, or were still waiting for each other before they headed to the meeting area.

Millie had an artifact that allowed her to talk with her Master. However, due to its limited range, he couldn't determine if the Rankers that would serve as their backup would be enough to deal with the Rankers of Twilight Rain.

'I hope that they're already on their way,' Lux thought. 'Right now, the kidnappers aren't moving, and Cai and Keane assured me that the Princess is safe, but, that can change at any given time. There is also the issue with the Monster of Ruin... I simply don't have much time left before the mission ends.'

Mission Time: 15: 48: 36

Lux sighed internally. If he had one more day, he wouldn't feel this anxious.

Since they were fighting with Rankers, he had no choice but to wait for their side's Rankers to arrive.

'According to Scarlet, the force that Twilight Rain dispatched in this mission was made up of Six Rankers and 10 Initiates, including her,' Lux mused.

'Unless we are able to have the same number of Rankers and Initiates on our side, we didn't stand a chance in rescuing her. Good thing, Scarlet is there to give me some inside information. If she hadn't given me a heads up, we might have been taken completely by surprise.'

Since she was a Slayer Candidate, the Guildmaster of Twilight Rain thought that it was a good idea to let her join this important mission, so that she could gain some experience.

Scarlet was an Assassin, and didn't have much experience in moving as part of a group.

Because of this, the Guildmaster decided to let her be part of an Elite Unit, so she would develop some sense of teamwork with her other guild members, when carrying out important missions for the Dark Guild.

Each member of the Royal Family carried an artifact that would inform the King that they were in danger. Only the members of the Royal Family knew of this, and even Nevreal, who had faithfully served the kingdom, had no idea that such artifacts existed.

This was why, before Nevreal had received the news from Lux that the Princess had been kidnapped, the King had already informed the members of the Order of the Griffon to mobilize.

Unfortunately, Twilight Rain expected the Princess to be carrying some sort of tracking artifact on their person.

One of the Rankers that was brought on this operation had a special appraisal ability that allowed him to detect the use of such items. Because of this, the pendant that hung on Princess Anastasia's neck had been taken by them, and tied on the talon of a random bird in the forest.

The members of Twilight Rain believed that this would send their pursuers on a wild goose chase, allowing them to escape to the Port City of Watford and take the boat that their Organization had prepared beforehand.

"What's taking them so long?" Millie muttered as she paced back and forth inside the Guildmaster's Office in the Adventurer's Guild. "Aren't they here yet?"

Lux could only smile wryly because Millie had asked this question ten times already. He understood that she wanted to rescue Princess Anastasia right away. But, the two of them were not strong enough to save anyone without help.

"Calm down, the reinforcements from the Adventurer's Guild are already on the way," Lux replied. "Also, Fei Fei is able to detect when Cai is near. Since she is not reacting, it means that the members of Twilight Rain have not yet arrived here in the city."

In truth, Lux had seen that the members of Twilight Rain had started to move on his map. However, it would still take them two to three hours at most to arrive at their location, while traveling on mounts.

Keelan had managed to get in touch with two Rankers, as well as twenty Initiates during the five hours that Lux, and Millie were flying in the sky.

Sadly, the other Rankers that had a connection with the Adventurer's Guild were all out on missions, so Keelan wasn't able to call them back.

'We're still four Rankers short,' Lux glanced at the green-haired Dwarf who was pacing back and forth inside the room.

Millie had already activated her artifact, so the moment her Master came within range, she would be able to talk to her right away. Seeing that the artifact wasn't making any sound, it only meant that one of the members of Rankers of the Order of the Griffon was still not within their range.

Suddenly, the movement of Cai's, and Keane's markers on the map increased their speed, catching the Half-Elf by surprise.

'What happened, Cai?' Lux asked the Boar through their Guild Chat. 'Your traveling speed is faster than it was a minute ago.'

It didn't take long before Cai replied to Lux, and its reply made the Half-Elf's face turn grim.

'My Daddy, it's crazy!' the Boar almost shouted its reply. 'This guy came and he is riding on this big colorful bird that can carry a lot of people. We are currently riding on its back, and it flies pretty fast!'

Lux almost cursed internally because he could see on the map that it would now take the members of Twilight Rain less than half an hour to arrive in the Port City of Watford.

Their reinforcements from the Adventurer's Guild were still an hour away from their location, and the Half-Elf estimated that by the time they got here, the Princess, and his friends, might be loaded on a ship, and taken to a place they wouldn't be able to reach in a short period of time.

Chapter 392.2: Running Out Of Options [Part 2]

'What do I do?' Lux thought as he paced back and forth inside the room. 'This is no good. I am out of options.'

Earlier, it was Millie that was pacing anxiously, but now, it was him.

The green-haired Dwarf even felt more anxious because Lux was the one she was counting on to find the Princess. Seeing how pale his face was, she could tell that something was terribly wrong, and it made her feel her stomach churn in anxiety.

"Did something happen?" Millie asked in a worried tone. "You don't look good."

Lux sighed before he sat on one of the chairs and rubbed his face with both hands.

"The members of Twilight Rain will be arriving in this place soon," Lux answered. "They have Six Rankers, and Ten Initiates. Their plan is to get on a boat, and take the Princess somewhere far away, to avoid the detection of those who are attempting to rescue her."

Millie gasped in shock after hearing the bad news. She didn't even bother to ask Lux how he knew about these things, and just believed him unconditionally.

"... what are we going to do now?" Millie asked helplessly.

She was willing to lay down her life to save the Princess, but the way things were, she would just die a dog's death if she attempted to rescue her alone.

Millie didn't even consider Lux accompanying her to save the Princess because, in her eyes, the Human was just a Grade A Apostle.

In the eyes of Rankers, Grade A Apostles were not a threat, so it wouldn't be a big deal even if there were hundreds of them. Knowing what the Dark Guild was planning to do, the green-haired Dwarf suddenly had an idea that would be frowned upon by anyone who heard it.

"They will travel by boat, right?" Millie asked. "What if we destroy all the boats in the Port? If we do that, they will need to think about other options, right?"

The Half-Elf shuddered because he could tell that the green-haired Dwarf was dead serious.

There were dozens of boats that were currently docked at the port, and if she were to destroy them all, it would be similar to poking a hornet's nest.

They would undoubtedly become the Public Enemy of all the Merchants within the city, as well as the Earl who ruled the Earldom of Draycott.

Lux was desperate, but he wasn't that desperate!

"Calm down, Millie," Lux said as he pressed his hands on the Dwarf's shoulders and looked her straight in the eye. "I know that the Princess is important to you. My friends are important to me as well, but involving the innocent is not good. We don't know what the consequences of destroying the ships in the Port would be. If we are going to destroy a ship, it would be Twilight Rain's ship and no one else's!"

Millie recovered a bit of her composure after hearing Lux's reply.

"So, we can still destroy their ship, right?" Millie asked.

Lux nodded. "Yes. You can destroy it as much as you like."

Even Lux felt that this was the only option available to them, so that they could delay Twilight Rain's plan to take the Princess far from their reach.

Fortunately, Scarlet had now become Princess Anastasia's bodyguard. This gave Lux a sliver of hope that an opportunity would present itself to him, while he waited for his allies to arrive.

"Let's go to the Port," Lux proposed. "Perhaps we can identify what ship they will be using. We can destroy it subtly, while they are still not here."

Millie agreed to this plan, so the two left the Guildmaster's Office and headed to the Port in order to check all the ships one by one.

Lux currently looked like a chubby human teenager, which caught the attention of several Dwarves along the way. The Kingdom of Gweliven was very strict in keeping the other races away from their borders, so seeing Lux appear in front of them was like seeing a rare animal in the zoo for the first time.

The Half-Elf ignored these stares as he used his Soul Book to appraise every ship that was docked in the port.

He didn't know if he could use his appraisal ability in this manner, but he still decided to try since he was out of options.

< Black Pearl >

Captain's Name: Jack Spawow

– This is the day you will always remember as the day you almost caught Captain Jack Spawow!

< Flying Dutchman >

Captain's Name: Hendrick Van Der Decken

– The Dutchman sails as the captain commands!

< The Dying Gull >

Captain's Name: Josh Amie Gibbs

– Dead Gulls tell no tales.

Lux went past several ships and appraised them one by one. Some of them had been sailing for many years, while others were newly built. Right now, he was desperate to look for any clue that would help them delay the members of Twilight Rain from leaving the Port before their reinforcements arrived

< Twilight >

Captain's Name: Brytman

– No. I am not Batman. This isn't Twilight Rain's ship. We are not members of a Dark Guild. We just happen to know some of their members. We're not suspicious people.

Lux almost slipped while walking on the dock as he walked past the ship named Twilight. This was the ship that was at the very end of the port and, from all looks and angles, it looked like a decent merchant ship that was just here to trade some goods.

Suddenly, an ingenious idea popped up inside his head. It was a very risky idea, but if it worked, he would be able to save the Princess, his friends, and even get Clyde off the ship under the Ranker's noses.

But, the Half-Elf was very conflicted about doing it. This plan involved Eiko going inside the ship, which would put her at great risk.

She had already died once, and the red-headed teenager wasn't too keen on having the baby Slime die a second time.

As if sensing his thoughts, Eiko crawled down from Lux's head and sat on his shoulder. She then poked Lux's cheek, making him turn to look at her.

"Pa!"

The baby Slime looked at Lux with a smile because she and him shared a strong connection, allowing her to vaguely understand what he was feeling and thinking.

Of course, Lux and Iris had made sure that both of them had a piece of Eiko's body with them as insurance if ever they needed to revive her again. Even so, they didn't want her to do dangerous missions just because they had the ability to revive her.

"Pa!"

Seeing that Lux wasn't answering her, Eiko pouted and gave her Papa a face filled with injustice.

In the end, the Half-Elf sighed and told the baby slime what she needed to do.

Eiko nodded her head in understanding and gave Lux a very reassuring smile.

"If something bad happens, abandon the mission and teleport to me immediately, do you understand?" Lux said as he held the baby Slime on the palm of his hands.

"Pa!" Eiko nodded before jumping off Lux's hands and sneakily entering the Merchant Ship, which they believed to be the ship that Twilight Rain was going to use to escape their pursuers.

'Be safe, Eiko,' Lux said to the baby slime via telepathy before leaving the dock with Millie, who didn't know what the baby Slime and the Half-Elf discussed before parting ways.

Even so, she understood that Lux wasn't doing things at random, and decided to just keep quiet for the time being.

Ten minutes later, the members of Twilight Rain entered the Port City of Watford, and just like Lux had expected, they headed straight to the Merchant Ship, where Eiko was currently hiding.

Chapter 393.1: Battle At The Port City [Part 1]

"As long as you follow the plan, we have a chance to save them," Lux said with a serious expression on his face. "However, this also means that the risk that you are going to take is the highest between the two of us. It is highly possible that you will be facing off against six Rankers on your own. But, remember, your role is not to fight them. You just need to make them take notice of you then run away."

Millie nodded her head. "Even if I have to risk my life, I will do my duty without fail. Just promise me that you will save the Princess no matter what."

"... Hello? Your mission is just to show yourself, hurl some Wind Blades at the ship from a distance, and fly away," Lux stated. "I didn't tell you to fight them. Your role is to harass them, and force them to shift their attention to you, while Eiko is carrying out her mission inside the ship."

"Depending on how the situation turns out, you will still need to assist in the rescue operation, so don't talk about this dying nonsense. I need you alive just in case things turn south."

The Half-Elf and the green-haired Dwarf were currently in a warehouse overlooking the port. They were paying close attention to the ship where the Princess Anastasia, Cai, Keane, and Clyde were taken.

Eiko was currently hiding at the Hold of the ship, where the majority of their supplies were being kept. She was just waiting for Lux to give the signal to start the operation before she made her move.

Compared to Millie, the baby Slime was playing a more dangerous role. Just thinking of the danger that Eiko would be facing was enough to make the Half-Elf's stomach churn. But, since she had given Lux the "please believe in me, Pa!" gaze, the red-headed teenager decided to believe in her as she tried her best to save her friends.

"They are almost finished loading their shipment into their ship," Millie commented. "Should we start the operation now?"

Lux nodded. "We need to strike now before they even leave the port. Even if parts of the port are destroyed, it's fine. Those can be rebuilt, but try not to hit the other ships. This will prevent unnecessary trouble in the future. Be sure to wait for my signal before you start harassing them."

Millie gave Lux a brief nod before putting on a hooded black robe to hide her identity.

Cai, and Keane had stopped giving him messages in the guild chat, but Lux wasn't too worried.

According to Scarlet, they had just been put to sleep by a powerful sleeping spell, and loaded inside wooden containers that were then carried onto the ship. This was done to prevent the hostages from making any noise, while entering the port city of Watford.

'Are you ready on your side?' Lux asked.

'Yes, Master,' Asmodeus replied. "We are ready to start anytime.'

'Wait until Millie has caught the attention of the enemy Rankers,' Lux ordered. 'Be sure not to hit the area where Cai and the others are currently held.'

'Understood,' Asmodeus replied. 'Please be careful as well, Master.'

'Okay. Go all out, Asmodeus.'

'As you wish, Master.'

Lux put on a black robe also, similar to what Millie had donned earlier and activated his Doppelganger skill. He then left the warehouse in haste and positioned himself in the most ideal place to take a better view of the soon-to-be-battlefield.

"Diablo, Pazuzu, to my side," Lux said as he summoned his Named Creatures to help him with the operation that he was about to do. After seeing his two trusted companions, the Half-Elf communicated with his Nightstalker, whom he had entrusted with a different kind of mission.

'Ishtar, are you in position?' Lux asked.

'Yes, Master,' Ishtar replied as she took a Siege Stance, summoning a two-meter long crossbow at the seabed, directly under the Twilight Ship.

Lux felt relieved because it seemed that the members of Twilight Rain didn't detect Ishtar's presence since she was an Undead.

As a Nightstalker, she gained the ability to become more stealthy in her actions, preventing others from noticing her, unless she made a sudden move.

Inside the Twilight Ship...

"Man, this box sure is heavy," one of the sailors that was carrying Cai's box complained. "Just what did they load into this thing?"

"Stop complaining!" the Quartermaster shouted. "Just do what you are supposed to do and carry that thing under the deck!"

The sailor grumbled, but still did his work properly. The people that had come onto their ship were scary folks. According to their Captain, they were the high-ranking officers of their Guild and should be treated as VIP guests.

All the crew members on the Twilight Ship were of course members of Twilight Rain. They were the undercover agents that used the cover of

merchants to deliver the Dark Guild's supplies to the various places of the archipelago, located in the Northwestern Regions of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

After loading the three boxes into the ship's main holding compartment, the Sailors finally left, and returned to the deck to oversee the preparatory work before they departed from the port.

The cabin fell into a stilled silence for a few minutes, before a slight movement happened at the corner of the holding compartment.

Eiko, who was communicating with Lux through the connection they shared, poked her head up from a sack of beans and glanced at her surroundings. Seeing that the coast was clear, the baby Slime jumped off the sack and crawled towards the three wooden crates where Cai, Keane, and Clyde were being held.

The baby Slime then pressed its body against the crate and listened for any signs of sounds and movements. A few seconds later, it climbed up the crate, and was about to make a hole in it when a presence suddenly appeared behind her.

"Well, well, well... what do we have here?" The Dwarf with reddish-brown hair, who had also tried to roast Cai a few hours ago, picked up the baby Slime, who immediately struggled from his grasp.

Chapter 394.2: Battle At The Port City [Part 2]

"A Slime?" the Dwarf gazed at the slime on his hand with great interest. Although the compartment area was rather dark, he didn't have any problem seeing because, thanks to his ability, the compartment looked as bright as it would have in daylight. "Just where did those fools pick up this thing?"

Slimes were common monsters and could be found almost anywhere. There had been more than one occasion when Slimes ended up inside a cargo ship, especially water Slimes, since they could swim in the water.

"Well, I wonder what I should do with you?" the Dwarf asked in a teasing tone as he held the Slime firmly in his grip, preventing it from escaping his grasp. He had coated his hand with an aura that prevented the Slime from slipping out of his hand, despite how much it struggled.

While the Dwarf was deep in thought, a sudden explosion was heard on the deck of the ship, which made his eyes widen in shock.

"How?" the Dwarf muttered as more explosions sounded around the ship. "We should have been safely out to sea before they found out about our whereabouts."

The Dwarf with the reddish-brown hair was the leader of the Elite Group that had been assigned to kidnap Princess Anastasia, while she was in the Wolfpine Barony. The spy that they had carefully planted within the Princess' entourage two years ago had tipped them off that the Princess was going to the Wolfpine Barony to look into why the drought was still persisting.

Because of this, the Guild Leader of Twilight Rain didn't miss this chance and ordered the Dwarf, who went by the name, Harrus, to oversee the operation.

Harrus couldn't believe that his carefully thought out plan would be discovered so easily.

'Does the Princess have other things in her possession that would allow others to find her location?' Harrus frowned. However, he shook his head and immediately dismissed the idea. He had the ability to immediately detect, and appraise, if someone had any magical artifacts in their possession.

Aside from the Princess' necklace that he had away with a bird, she didn't have any other tools that could help their pursuers to track their location. Just to be safe, he even took off her earrings, rings, storage ring, storage bags, and any other items that were on her person.

He even asked Scarlet to strip her of her clothes, and help the Princess put on a new set of clothes, which had an enchantment that prevented her presence from being detected by special artifacts that used blood to track anyone with that bloodline.

They had prepared thoroughly to ensure that everything would go smoothly, so he didn't believe that the King of Edelweiss had discovered their location so easily.

'Could it be the boar and those two boys I picked up on a whim?' Harrus thought. Once again, he denied this idea.

Just like the Princess, he had already confiscated everything they had, including their clothes. The two boys were currently wearing robes that slaves wore as they lay in the wooden crates fast asleep.

As for the Boar, it was an animal so it didn't have any artifacts or storage devices in its possession.

But, this was far from the truth. Cai had a minor ability when it came to manipulating space, so it could store anything, and pull it out of thin air whenever it needed something.

Originally, Lux, and Keane thought that Cai had some sort of storage ring, but after paying close attention to how it took stuff out of the blue, they noticed that the Boar had the ability to manipulate space, which made them look at her in a new light.

More explosions sounded on the deck of the ship, which made Harrus click his tongue in irritation.

He then squashed the Slime in his hands, killing it instantly before going up to the deck to see what the hell was going on.

A few minutes later, more movement was heard in one of the corners of the storage compartment. A little Slime poked its head from a sack of corn and glanced in the direction where Harrus had left.

After dying once, Eiko had become more cautious, especially when Lux wasn't with her. She had summoned her two Doppelgangers and hid them within the ship, using them as scouts to check if the coast was clear.

Seeing that the coast was clear, the Doppelganger jumped off of the sack, and hurriedly crawled towards the wooden crates where the others were sleeping.

Then it did something unexpected. It opened its mouth, and sucked up all three crates, including the people inside them.

Eiko had gained this ability long ago, but it was strengthened to the next level after her revival. She was able to store living things inside their body, as long as they didn't resist her.

Since the three were asleep, the Doppelganger had no problem taking them inside its body before passing them to the real Eiko, who was hiding in yet another sack inside the storage compartment.

'Pa!' Eiko immediately informed the Half-Elf that she had retrieved Cai, Keane, and Clyde.

'Good job, Eiko!' Lux praised the baby Slime for a job well done. 'Now we only need to find the princess.'

The baby Slime nodded in understanding, so she immediately summoned her personal Slime army to help her look for the princess' whereabouts, alongside her remaining Doppelganger.

Blackie (Devil Slime), Whitey (Angel Slime), Rocky (Earth Slime), Maya (Water Slime), Saber (Saber Slime), and Cloud (Aero Slime).

They were Eiko's personal Slime regiment that served as her personal bodyguards. She tasked some of them to head straight to the location of the Princess, while the two slimes, Rocky and Saber, were tasked to remain in the Hold Compartment, and start creating places of weakness in the hull that would allow the water to enter the ship when it started to sail.

They didn't want to sink the ship right away, but only made preparations to make it happen.

Lux's plan was to let the ship wander out into the water first, before water started flowing inside it, slowing its progress, until its interior was finally flooded.

The Half-Elf knew where the Princess was, but to get there was not an easy task. They would have to pass through the security that was protecting her, which consisted of Scarlet, and two more Rankers that were in the same room with her.

She was their VIP guest, so Rankers were always assigned to keep watch over her, just in case something unexpected happened.

The Slimes under Eiko's command weren't ordered to engage the Rankers. Their goal was to hide near the room where the Princess was staying and wait for an opportunity to rescue her.

On the deck of the Ship....

"What are you doing?!" Harrus asked his comrade as soon as he arrived on the deck of the ship. "Shoot that bastard down, Garnus!"

"Shut it!" the Dwarf named Garnus snapped back at Harrus as he hurled several Fireballs towards the Wind Blades that were flying in their direction.

He had already tried to shoot down the black-robed Ranker in the distance, but the latter was moving too quickly, making it very hard for his fire-based attacks to hit.

Also, their opponent was a Wind Elementalist, making it very easy to evade Garnus' attacks, while counter attacking with a Wind Blade.

Suddenly, one of the other Rankers that belonged to Twilight Rain roared and materialized a boulder in thin air, before throwing it at the projectile that was headed towards the right side of their ship.

The boulder and the Bone Cannonball collided, creating a loud explosion that spread across the entire port.

Originally, when Millie had started to rain down Wind Blades at the Twilight Ship, the people at the port didn't notice it right away. However, when Garnus, the Fire Mage Ranker that belonged to Twilight Rain, blocked her attacks, the explosion that followed had alarmed the people of the battle that was happening within the city's Port.

"As expected of a Ranker," Asmodeus said before raising his hand. "Prepare to fire!"

Three bone cannons aimed their muzzles at the distant Merchant ship and waited for Asmodeus' orders to fire.

Just like Lux, Asmodeus had summoned its own Doppelgangers, allowing them to command three Grand Cannons made from the Skeleton Make Skill.

"Load the special ammunition!" Several Skeleton Gang Bangers entered the cannon and positioned themselves snugly inside it.

"Open Fire!" Asmodeus ordered, and as soon as he gave the signal, three Skeleton Gang Bangers shot towards the flying ship like Cannon Balls.

After the first round was fired, another followed

The Skeleton Cannons fired non-stop as the Skeleton Gang Bangers entered them one by one, allowing them to be shot like projectiles towards the Merchant Ship.

Their purpose was not to destroy the ship because they knew that it wouldn't do anything to the Rankers, who were leagues above their current rank. Their purpose was to only cause a distraction, making the Rankers think that they were dealing with many enemies at once.

Lux, who deemed that the time was right, immediately ordered his two Doppelgangers to join the fray, raising the chaos to the next level.

Harrus and the three Rankers who were on top of the deck, who were becoming annoyed by the sudden attacks that were being hurled in their direction, sensed a concentration of magical power in the distance, making them shift their attention to the roofs of two houses in the distance.

Lux's Doppelgangers unleashed their attacks at the same time, aimed at the hull of the Merchant Ship, in an attempt to destroy it.

""Dragon's Breath!""

A few seconds later, a loud explosion ensued, destroying parts of the city's port, and sending the onlookers who were near the ship scrambling away in fear for their lives.

Chapter 395: I Hate Dealing With These Abyss Touched Bastards!

"What?! There's a battle taking place at the Port?!" the Earl of Draycott gasped in shock. "Where are the Guards? Why aren't they interfering?!"

"My Lord, the members of the Adventurer's Guild talked to the Guard Captain to ask for permission for him and his men to encircle the perimeter of the Port, but they were told not to interfere."

The Earl of Draycott slammed his fist on the table before shouting at the top of his lungs.

"Why are they listening to the Adventurer's Guild?!" the Earl roared in anger. "This is my Domain, and I order the Guards to arrest those who dared to disrupt the peace of my city!"

The aide of the Earl had a conflicted look on his face before stating why the Adventurer's Guild had intervened.

"The Adventurer's Guild has been commissioned by the King to assist in the rescue of Princess Anastasia, who is currently being held by Rankers of a terrorist organization," the aide replied. "The Rankers of the Kingdom are also headed to your Earldom, My Lord, and they have been given explicit orders to take full command of the situation.

"According to the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild, all the cost for the repair of the Port will be shouldered by his Majesty. So, in order to protect the citizens of the city, the Guard Captain was ordered to evacuate everyone near the Port, so that there wouldn't be additional casualties from the clash between the Rankers of both sides."

The Earl almost slipped off his chair after hearing that Rankers were involved in the battle. The strongest fighters in his Domain were Initiates, and they were in no position to fight against those that had stepped among the powerhouses of the realm.

But, that was not the biggest issue of all.

"Princess Anastasia is kidnapped?" the Earl asked. "Are you sure that it is Princess Anastasia that is kidnapped?"

"Yes, My Lord," the Aide replied. "It is indeed the Princess."

The Earl slowly sat down on his chair after realization had hit him. He was one of Princess Anastasia's supporters, and for him, the Princess' safety was very important.

"Understood," The Earl replied. "Call the leader of my Elite Guards. I will ask them to coordinate with the Adventurer's Guild, as well as the envoys from the Royal Palace."

"Yes, My Lord."

""Dragon's Breath!""

Two Dragon Breaths headed towards the hull of the ship in an attempt to destroy it.

However, before they could even arrive at their intended target, a Dwarf with reddish-brown hair jumped off the ship and blocked them both with his bare fists.

The Dragon Breaths that looked so powerful in the distance were dispelled easily, as if it was just a low-level spell that didn't have much destructive power.

However, after the Ranker had stopped the attack, he felt a pin-pricking pain that seemed to puncture his soul, which made him arch an eyebrow.

"Abyss Touch," Harrus muttered. "It seems that someone is asking for an early death."

The Ranker stomped his foot on the ground, and instantly hurled himself towards one of the houses where the black-robed figures were.

He had a sneer on his face because he found it quite laughable that a mere Grade A Apostle had dared to attack a boat where several Rankers were stationed.

Seeing that the Ranker was approaching, one of Lux's Doppelgangers immediately jumped off the house, down where a Rock Golem was waiting to catch him.

A moment later, the Doppelganger was thrown away by the Rock Golem to a safe location, just before its entire body was smashed to pieces by the Ranker.

"Petty tricks," Harrus sneered as he once again stomped his foot to lunge at the black-robed attacker.

Due to his speed, he managed to close the gap in mere seconds and unleashed his fist to smash the black-robed individual without holding back.

But just before the moment of impact, corpses of several horned rabbits and other low-leveled monsters were released from the Doppelganger's storage ring, hovering around the Doppelganger, as well as the Ranker that was about to smash his body into meat paste.

The other Doppelganger, who was standing on one of the houses near the Port, pointed his finger at the corpses in the distance and detonated them.

"Corpse Explosion!"

Just like a lit matchstick that was thrown into a box of fireworks, several explosions filled the sky, creating a dust cloud that blocked everyone's view.

"Well played. That felt quite a bit ticklish."

The smoke parted and Harrus appeared with minor blood stains on his clothes. The corpse explosion had detonated the corpses that Lux had prepared beforehand in an attempt to hurt their opponent, but he hadn't been able to gather a lot of dead monsters because they were in a hurry.

Because of this, the full power of the Chain Explosion wasn't realized. But, that was enough. It allowed the Half-Elf to gauge the effect of his attacks against a Ranker without holding back.

'As expected, Rankers are tough nuts to crack,' Lux thought as he watched the battle from a distance. 'Still, I doubt that you got out of that unscathed.'

A sneer appeared on Lux's face as he looked at the seemingly unaffected Ranker, who had dispersed the smoke that blocked his view.

Abyss Touch was an attack that directly targeted the soul. No matter how tough your defenses were, it was something that couldn't be brushed off so easily.

This was what made Abyssal Monsters very difficult to kill. Only those that could resist their soul-based attacks would be able to endure their relentless assault, just like the Dragon Race and other Mythical Races that had a high resistance against the attacks from the Abyss.

Just as Lux had assumed, Harrus did indeed suffer a bit due to the Corpse Explosion. Although he said that it was ticklish, in truth, he wasn't as composed deep inside.

'I hate dealing with these Abyss Touched bastards!' Harrus cursed internally.

It was not only Lux and Nero that had gained the power of the Abyss by absorbing the Beast Cores of Abyssal Monsters. There were many of them, and they were the bane of Rankers who specialized in defenses.

Harrus was an offensive fighter and preferred to destroy Abyss Touched opponents before they could hurt him. But, right now, he was feeling a little annoyed because the one that he was facing wasn't even a Ranker, but a mere Apostle, whose attacks were now getting on his nerves.

"Is that all you've got?" Harrus asked as he looked at the robed-figure who was still standing on the roof.

The moment he had disposed of one of the two Doppelgangers, he realized that his opponent was just using clones against him, ticking him off even further.

Hearing no answer from the Apostle, Harrus clicked his tongue and took a fighting pose. A moment later, he unleashed a single punch.

The punch didn't look like much and even looked as if someone was casually just throwing a punch just for the sake of it.

However, what happened next made Lux realize that he wasn't just fighting a Ranker, but a High-Ranker.

The house, as well as every other structure that was dozens of meters around it were instantly decimated as if they had been hit by a giant cannonball.

Naturally, Lux's clone was destroyed before it could even use one of the tricks that he had prepared beforehand.

Seeing that his two Doppelgangers had been destroyed, Lux sneakily made his escape in order to not catch the Ranker's attention.

'Asmodeus, Plan B,' Lux said as he made his getaway.

'Understood, Master,' Asmodeus replied.

The Archlich raised his hand, and the attacks of the cannons stopped firing.

Asmodeus' Doppelgangers stood behind the original one, and the three of them raised their hands at the same time.

"Skeleton Make..."

Inside the Twilight Ship....

"SkeletoMake..." Eiko said softly. "Bone Bomb!"

A moment later, a round Bone ball appeared in front of Eiko, and the latter rolled it on the hull compartment of the ship, in a place where it couldn't be seen right away.

"Skeleton Make... Bone Bomb!"

"Skeleton Make... Bone Bomb!"

"Skeleton Make... Bone Bomb!"

"Skeleton Make... Bone Bomb!"

The baby Slime, as well as her two helpers, Rocky (Earth Slime) and Saber (Saber Slime), all rolled the Bone Bombs into the key locations within the ship.

Eiko could detonate these balls anytime as long as she was within a two-mile radius of the ship, flooding its Hold Compartment within seconds.

Lux and Millie were attacking the ship relentlessly to cause a diversion, allowing Eiko and her Slimes to carry out their missions.

Now that the First Phase of the plan had been carried out, which was to secure Cai, Keane, and Clyde, the Second Phase of the Plan was about to start.

After planting as many Skeleton Bombs as possible, Eiko double checked her work for the last time before using her teleportation skill to instantly teleport to Lux's location, marking the success of her mission to rescue her friends, as well as the Baron's Second Son.

"Good job, Eiko," Lux praised the baby Slime who had appeared beside him.
"Let's go to a safe place first before you unload them, okay?"

"Pa!" The baby Slime nodded in understanding.

As the Half-Elf and the baby Slime made their way to the center of the city, where it was safe, Asmodeus had given Millie the signal that the First Phase of their operation was a success.

Although she was reluctant to leave because the Princess was still not saved, the green-haired Dwarf retreated because Lux had promised her that he would do everything in his power to help rescue Princess Anastasia, once their reinforcements had finally arrived.

Chapter 396: We're Moving As Planned Master

"Ugh! My head hurts!" Cai shook its head in an attempt to shake off the sleeping spell that was cast over it.

Keane, on the other hand, calmly put on the set of robes that Lux had provided him.

"I'm sorry about your sword," Lux said to the skinny swordsman. "I left it in Wolfpine Barony to have it repaired."

Keane nodded and said his thanks to Lux. During their battle against the members of Twilight Rain, his sword broke when he clashed against Harrus.

The Half-Elf couldn't believe that his friend would have the guts to point his sword at a Ranker, but knowing that Keane was not the type to turn a blind eye to those who were suffering made the red-headed teenager have a better opinion of him.

"That sword is just a cheap sword that my Master randomly picked up in a junk shop," Keane stated. "I was also planning to get a new one, but my funds kept on decreasing because a certain chatty boar made me pay for the food bill in all the places we visited."

Cai, who heard Keane's explanation which sounded more like a complaint, sneakily walked away, causing the Half-Elf to look at it in disdain.

"Don't worry, I'll get you a better sword in the future," Lux said before taking out the sword he had used when he had started his journey in Elysium. "Use this for now."

Lux handed the blade, Oathbreaker, to Keane, and the latter's eyes softened after unsheathing the sword in his hand.

It was just slightly shorter than his original sword, and the blade was a little thicker, but after he swung it around a few times, he found that it was much more convenient to use than his previous sword.

< Oathbreaker, Dark Blade of Eternity >

Rarity: Unique

(One Handed Sword)

Requirement: 100 Combined Stats

- Attack: 100-145 Dark Damage
- Physical skills deal 20% more damage.
- Has a 10% chance to trigger double damage with each attack. This ability works with skills as well.

Although it was only a Unique Weapon, and not a Mythical one, it was still a good weapon, and the 10% chance to trigger double damage was a welcome addition to Keane's deadly one-hit strikes.

"Thank you, I'll put it to good use," Keane said.

"You're welcome," Lux replied.

Millie, who was standing not far from the two of them, had her arms crossed over her chest. It had only been half an hour since their attack on the Twilight Ship ended, but the members of Twilight Rain had already decided to set sail before any more problems arose.

"Can we really rescue the Princess this way?" Millie asked anxiously as she stared at Lux who looked quite calm after saving his friends.

The Half-Elf nodded. "Now that the other hostages are gone, they will only have the Princess with them. That will make them feel anxious and increase her security to make sure that no one will be able to save her."

Millie who heard Lux's reply suddenly wanted to slap the Half-Elf silly.

Instead of raising their chances of rescuing the princess, their rescue operation only made things a lot harder. If they discovered that the other hostages were gone, it would be highly probable that more Rankers would guard the Princess to keep an eye on her.

"Isn't this counterproductive?" Millie asked. "With more security guarding Her Highness, it would be nearly impossible to get her off of the ship!"

Lux smiled because he could understand what the green-haired Dwarf was thinking. However, having more guards guarding the Princess meant less people paying attention to what was happening outside and inside the ship.

If Lux had his way, he hoped that at least three to four Rankers stood guard with Princess Anastasia. Two rankers were easier to deal with than four, and it also allowed plenty of opportunities for his own undercover agent, Scarlet, to do things without raising any suspicions.

The Dwarf Assassin's loyalty belonged to him. After being reborn as a Cambion, Scarlet knew that as long as Lux willed it, she would obey him without fail.

This was her fate after her defeat, and because of that, she decided to use anything to her advantage to become stronger, including using the Dark Guild she was part of to become a Ranker.

Of course, the red-headed teenager wouldn't disclose his mole inside Twilight Rain to anyone. With such a capable Assassin under his command, he could easily create opportunities for the Princess to be saved, as long as the right conditions were met.

Five minutes later, the sound of a large group of mounted people finally arrived in the Port City to take command of the situation.

Keelan was among them, and the first person he looked for was not the Earl of Draycott, but the Half-Elf, who was waiting for his arrival.

"What's the situation?" Keelan asked. "Have they left the Port?"

Lux nodded. "Around half an hour ago. They are headed North West. I'm not familiar with the islands in that direction, but I assume that they are headed to one of their strongholds."

Keelan frowned because this was definitely bad news. Right now, he only had two Rankers and twenty Initiates. If Millie were to join their ranks, that would only add one more Ranker to the group, and it was still three less than the Rankers of Twilight Rain.

"We can't let them reach their stronghold," Keelan stated. "Who knows how many Rankers they have stationed there?"

Lux agreed. However, he wasn't too worried about the Twilight Ship getting far out to sea. They had departed the Port only half an hour ago, which meant that they hadn't gone far.

As long as they moved now, they would be able to catch up to them after Eiko detonated the Bone Bombs that had been planted inside the ship.

"What about the reinforcements from the Royal Family?" Keelan asked. "Even if we manage to intercept them, they still outnumber us."

Lux glanced in Millie's direction, and the latter just shook her head. There was still no reply from the artifact that allowed her to contact her Master, which proved that the latter was not within the artifact's range.

Keelan sighed after seeing Millie's reaction. Their Grand Guildmaster who was stationed in the Capital City of the Kingdom of Gweliven agreed to his proposal to mobilize all available manpower in order to save the Princess.

This would make the Royal Family owe the Adventurer's Guild for mobilizing their own troops in order to save the Princess from her kidnappers.

Lux understood that this was also a political move, but he didn't concern himself with such things. Right now, he was pressed on time, so he asked Keelan to order his men to board the Earl's personal battleship, which would be used to pursue the members of Twilight Rain.

Mission Time: 13: 56: 22

Lux sighed internally after seeing his precious time tick by.

It would take him five hours to return to Wolfpine Barony in order to complete his mission. If possible, he would like the battle to end sooner, but since they were fighting against Rankers, they needed to plan things out properly.

'I only have one chance to save her,' Lux mused as he thought of Eiko's Doppelganger, as well as the other Slimes that were still inside the enemy's ship. 'Asmodeus, how are the things on your side?'

'We're moving as planned, Master,' Asmodeus replied. 'It seems that they can't detect us from this distance.'

Lux felt relieved after knowing that his Undead Army was moving according to schedule. With them hounding the ship from behind, the members of Twilight Rain wouldn't know what hit them until it was too late.

Chapter 397: Not Following The Script

Keelan, Millie, and the rest of the members that were tasked to rescue the Princess, boarded the Battleship of the Earldom of Draycott which was named Starlight.

According to the Captain, the Earl made the decision of making his own Battleship in order to protect his territory from Pirates while looking at a star-studded sky. Because of this, he had given the ship the name Starlight, so that even on the darkest nights, the stars would guide the battleship back home.

Lux, on the other hand, didn't board the battleship. Instead, he rented another ship docked at the Port to act as his own transport during the battle that would be waged on the high seas.

Since Keelan was in charge of the operation, it would limit Lux's own actions when it came to ordering his Undead Army, so he decided to ride a separate ship, which would let them use a pincer attack against their target out in the open sea.

"Captain Spawow, I heard you are one of the most dishonest Dwarfs to have sailed the Seven Seas," Lux said as he shook hands with the Captain of the Ship that he had rented to help him save Princess Anastasia.

"I'm dishonest, and a dishonest Dwarf you can always trust to be dishonest," Jack Spawow replied. "Honestly. It's the honest ones you want to watch out for, because you can never predict when they're going to do something incredibly... stupid."

Lux smirked because the more he looked at the Dwarf, the more he liked his personality.

"Unfurl the sails," Jack Spawow commanded. "Raise the anchor, and hoist the Colours!"

(A/N: Bloody Hell, before any of you complain, Colours is intentionally written in this way, Mate.)

The crew of the blackship began to move, as the Black Pearl prepared to sail to pursue the Twilight Ship.

A flag which bore a skull with two swords crossed underneath it was soon flying in the breeze.

"Um, are you sure we are on the right ship?" Cai asked as it looked at the flag. "Isn't this a pirate ship?"

Lux grinned before turning his head to look at the Captain who was standing behind the steering wheel of the ship.

"Captain, Cai said that this is a pirate ship," Lux shouted. "What do you have to say to that?"

The crew, who was busy finishing the preparations for departure, paused for a few seconds before roaring in laughter. The Captain also laughed alongside his crew before looking at Cai who was wondering why everyone around her suddenly started laughing.

"I'll leave the answer to your imagination, My Dear Friend." Jack Spawow winked before steering the ship toward the sea where a new adventure awaited them.

An hour later...

"Eiko, stir it like you mean it, Sweetheart," Jack Spawow said as he looked at the baby Slime who was having fun jumping all over the steering wheel, making it spin.

"Aye!" Eiko replied as she jumped over the steering wheel to make the ship turn Westwards.

The ship was quite a bit faster than Lux expected.

It was like the ship was gliding across the waters as it enjoyed the steering of the baby Slime who was giggling non-stop after she found herself a new "toy" to play with.

Behind them, Starlight lagged behind, which made its Captain, and the sailors of the battleship, feel a bit embarrassed—they thought that their ship was the fastest ship within the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Suddenly, a green-haired Dwarf descended from the cabin, which made the pirate—err sailors—draw their swords and point their flintlocks in her direction.

"Calm down everyone. The lass is on our side," Captain Jack Spawow said. "Aren't you, Darling?"

"I'm not your darling," Millie replied before walking towards Lux, making the sailors erupt in cheers because their Captain got ignored by the green-haired Dwarf, who was more fiery than some of the women they met at sea.

"How far are they?" Millie asked.

"Not far," Lux answered with a smile. "You can even see them now if you look properly."

The Half-Elf pointed towards the horizon, making Millie squint her eyes. A moment later, she found a small black speck in the distance, which made her heart skip a beat.

Millie clenched her fist in both excitement and anxiety.

She was happy that they were finally closing the gap between them and the kidnappers, but also anxious because she didn't know if she would be able to save the Princess once they started their naval battle.

"Tell Keelan to prepare for battle," Lux stated. "We will be engaging them soon enough."

"What's the plan?" Millie asked, making the Half-Elf smile.

There was another reason why Lux decided to take a separate ship instead of joining the battleship.

"The plan is to defend your ship with all of your might," Lux replied. "Soon, they will be coming after you guys, so you better do your best to hold out until the Princess is rescued."

Millie didn't understand what Lux was hinting at, but she still decided to do what he said.

The green-haired Dwarf left the ship and flew towards Starlight and passed the Captain and Keelan the exact words that Lux had told her.

Cai had once told him that one of the Rankers had a giant bird that they could ride in order to get to the Earldom of Draycott faster.

In truth, the flying mount was the greatest threat in this rescue operation, but Lux had already prepared a plan to counter it.

As long as they were able to bring it down, the Rankers wouldn't have any other choice but to try to capture one of their two ships once Eiko had detonated the Bone Bombs that would sink the ship, making the members of Twilight Rain desperate.

Lux had seen firsthand how the Ranker made his strongest attacks look like child's play. Because of this, he knew that the only way to beat them was by using the element of surprise, allowing him to rescue Princess Anastasia while everyone was fighting over the ownership of the battleship, Starlight.

However, before they could even start their plan, a giant bird appeared over the horizon and flew in their direction.

Soon, giant fireballs descended upon the Black Pearl, which made the Half-Elf curse internally because the members of Twilight Rain weren't following the script that he had elaborately prepared for them.

Chapter 398.1: Twilight Rain's Mistake [Part 1]

"All hands, prepare to battle!" Captain Jack Spawow shouted as he took over the steering wheel from Eiko and held it steadily.

The ship was too slow to evade the fireballs, but the Pirate Captain had an amused expression on his face as he gave the blazing balls of fire, that were about to descend on his ship, a side-long glance before shifting his gaze back to the ship they were chasing beyond the horizon.

The crew wasn't as composed as their Captain, but they still began loading their cannons, which were on the deck, and prepared for battle.

Lux had already summoned his two Doppelgangers and was about to launch three Dragon Breaths in an attempt to repel the fireballs, but before he could do that, several Wind Blades collided with them, making them explode mid-air.

Millie had flown from the other ship and began to engage the enemy in an Aerial Battle.

As a Ranker who wielded the Wind Element, she was very capable of fighting on all kinds of battlefields.

The Half-Elf breathed a sigh of relief after seeing that the green-haired Dwarf had come to their rescue. Now that their backup had arrived, the opportunity to eliminate their greatest threat had become a reality.

'I was planning to deal with that flying mount later, but since it is already here it's about time to get it out of the picture,' Lux thought. 'Asmodeus, prepare for Operation Dead Bird!'

'Understood, Master,' Asmodeus replied.

Under the Sea, a ship made up of skeletons was wading under the waters.

Asmodeus stood at the steering wheel and looked up above him where bright flashes of light could be seen. Slowly, but surely, the Skeleton Ship rose up from the deep waters.

The Archlich had no intention of taking the Skeleton Ship up to the surface, because that was not part of their plan. He only wanted to get within range, so that they could target the flying mount from under the sea, rendering it immobile.

"Are you ready, Orion?" Asmodeus asked the Jade Golem who was standing in the center of the Skeleton Ship.

"Yes," Orion replied. "We're still out of range, so we need to get a little higher."

Asmodeus nodded as he controlled the Flying Ship to rise a little higher from the depths until Orion gave him the signal that they were now within range.

A chuckle escaped the Archlich's lips as he summoned the Skeleton Gangbangers, whose hollow eyes burned brightly, even under the waters.

'Master, we are in position,' Asmodeus reported. 'We can begin the operation anytime.'

After hearing Asmodeus' report, Lux narrowed his eyes to look at the battle that was happening in the sky.

There were two Rankers who were riding on the flying bird in the sky, which, in his opinion, was perfect for their operation.

One of the Rankers that was on the Battleship was a Ranker that specialized in Water Magic, who had jumped off the ship and joined the battle, while riding on a Water Dragon.

Right now, he had the geographical advantage, manipulating the surrounding waters around him into an infinite supply of water spears that shot towards the Flying Mount from below, while Millie rained down Wind Blades from above.

The two Rankers from Twilight Rain were hard pressed to resist this combination attack and were forced to be on the defensive.

Malkhalm, the Ranker from Twilight Rain who specialized in Fire Magic cursed as he launched fire balls, and fire spears to repel the Wind Blades, while his companion, Khezmod, who used Earth Magic, summoned a Dome of Rock, that acted as a barrier to shield themselves from the Wind Blades that managed to break through their defensive barrage.

The Flying Mount, on the other hand, fired crystal shards to deflect the water balls, and water spears being fired at it from the sea, while evading those that it couldn't block completely.

They could have resisted the combined attacks of Millie and the Water Mage well, but there was one more problem that they didn't expect to face.

A Third Ranker, who was part of the Adventurer's Group, was a Sniper who specialized in long distance combat.

Even from the deck of the Battleship, his arrows flew straight and true, hitting the flying Mount repeatedly, making the latter cry out in pain.

If not for the fact that the Flying Mount's was a Deimos-Ranked Monster, it would have already been shot dead by the Ranker whose deadly attacks were always aimed at its eyes, heart, and neck.

"No good, we won't hold out long," Khazmod stated. "Let's go back to the ship. I thought they only had one Ranker with them. It seems that they managed to recruit another one on short notice."

"Dammit!" Malkhalm cursed but he understood that they had underestimated their opponents.

He was the one that proposed that they should eliminate their pursuers and sink their ships, so that they would not follow them to their secret Stronghold, while they were massing their pirate fleet, in order to attack the merchant fleet from the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Another reason why he proposed to launch a preemptive strike at their pursuers was because he thought that they only had a Wind Mage by their side.

Now that two additional rankers had joined the battle, they were clearly at a major disadvantage.

"Return to the ship, Hermeas!" Khazmod ordered.

The Giant Bird screeched as it acknowledged its Master's order. It shot the Sniper in the distance with a hateful glare before turning around to return to their ship.

However, just before it could fly away, its body stiffened for a brief second before it took a nosedive towards the sea, which made Khazmod and Malkhalm eyes widen in shock.

"Dumb bird! Go back to the ship!" Maklhalm screamed. "What do you think you're doing?!"

"Hermeas! Go up!" Khazmod ordered. "Go up I say!"

Hermes gave a helpless screech because it couldn't control its body. It was about to return to the ship when it found itself being pulled towards the sea, unable to stir itself to fly back up.

"Millie and Sir Ranker! Attack them now!" Lux shouted. "I will take care of the Giant Bird, you deal with the two Rankers!"

Millie and the Water Mage, who went by the name Favian, were surprised at the sudden turn of events, but after hearing Lux's shout, both of them charged at the falling bird, and launched a deadly barrage of Wind Blades and Water Spears without mercy.

Malkhalm's and Khazmod's faces became pale because they didn't know what kind of sorcery the Half-Elf had used to make their flying mount descend towards the sea head-first.

If their Flying Mount was gone, they would be hard pressed to escape the pursuit of the two Rankers, and their chances of getting back to their ship were zero.

For a brief moment, time seemed to have come to a standstill as the Two Rankers from Twilight Rain looked in the direction of the Black Pearl.

There, they saw a red-headed teenager looking at them with a sneer, which made their blood turn cold.

That was the last thing they saw before a loud splash of water erupted in every direction, as the Giant Bird, Hermes, dove into the sea, in pursuit of the opponent that had forced it to duel them under the waters.

Chapter 399.2: Twilight Rain's Mistake [Part 2]

Five minutes before the Giant Bird crashed into the sea...

'Master, we are in position,' Asmodeus reported. 'We can begin the operation anytime.'

'Good,' Lux replied. 'Orion, wait for my signal.'

'Yes, Master.'

The Jade Golem positioned itself on the side of the Skeleton Ship, preparing to jump off as soon as Lux gave it the signal.

From the start, the Half-Elf was worried that the members of Twilight Rain would use their flying mount to escape their pursuit if their ship was destroyed during the naval warfare.

This was why he still hadn't given Eiko the order to detonate the Bone Bombs that she had left on the Twilight Ship because they could still escape if they wanted to.

Now that the greatest threat had come willingly to him, the Half-Elf would be a fool to let this opportunity escape his grasp.

Seeing that the time was right, Lux gave the order to start the Operation Dead Bird, which would eliminate the Flying Mount once and for all.

"Duel [EX]!" Orion roared as he targeted the Giant Bird that was flying above the waters. After making sure that his skill had taken effect, the Jade Golem jumped off the Skeleton Ship and descended towards the sea floor.

The Skeleton Ship, on the other hand, immediately backed away, as soon as Orion had jumped off because they didn't want to be in the immediate area when the underwater battle began.

Over a hundred Skeleton Gangbangers stood at the deck of the ship, waiting to attack the prey that would soon serve itself on a silver platter.

Less than a minute later, a giant bird broke through the water's surface, and dove towards the bottom of the sea, following the Jade Golem whose role was to keep it under water and drown it.

Several wind blades pierced through the water in pursuit of the giant bird, hitting it from behind.

The Water Mage had also dove underwater and was having the time of his life as he sent countless water spears at his helpless targets, who were still sinking towards the bottom of the sea.

Above the waters, Lux had summoned Pazuzu and Diablo to his side.

"Go down and ensure that none of them escape alive!" Lux ordered.

The two acknowledged their Master's order and immediately jumped off the Pirate Ship to join their comrades, who were about to initiate the underwater battle against the two Rankers, as well as their Flying Mount, which was currently holding its breath for as long as it could.

Millie didn't hesitate to dive down into the sea as well, encapsulating herself in a bubble of air, allowing her to breathe underwater.

"Looks like our opponents made a grave mistake." Captain Spawow chuckled. "Boys, make sure to get those cannons at the ready. I like to hit people when they're down."

""Aye captain!""

The crew of the Black Pearl were all excited to join the fight. As Pirates they liked to be on the winning side, and judging at the current circumstances, they are indeed on the winning side.

Lux shared his connection with Asmodeus, as well as Orion, to pinpoint the exact location of their enemies.

"Captain, can you move the boat closer to that location?" Lux asked as he pointed in the distance.

Jack Spawow nodded and did as the Half-Elf requested. He didn't need to ask why the red-headed teenager wanted to move the ship closer since he believed that the boy had a plan.

Deep inside, he was also looking forward to what the Half-Elf was planning to do.

When they neared the location, Lux, and his two clones summoned a Rock Golem each, and ordered them to jump into the water.

They summoned five more each, making eighteen Rock Golems in total, that had descended into the sea.

Eiko had also done the same and summoned six Rock Golems to join in the fun. She didn't know what her Papa was thinking, but she decided to do it as well because her Papa knew best!

As the Twenty Four Rock Golems descended into the sea the first thing they saw was the backside of the Giant Bird, which had now almost reached the sea floor, where the Jade Golem, Orion, was waiting for it with its strongest attack.

Asmodeus, who was navigating the Skeleton Ship, deemed that it was now safe for them to approach their target, and summoned Rock Golems of his own.

"Go!" Asmodeus ordered. "Drown that bird!"

Asmodeus clones had also summoned their Rock Golems, totaling eighteen, that had all jumped off the Skeleton Ship as well.

Millie and the Water Mage, Favian, who saw these Rock Golems didn't understand what they were planning to do. However, they finally understood their purpose the moment a strong surge of water erupted at the bottom of the sea.

Orion and the Giant Bird had finally clashed, and the Jade Golem made sure to punch the Bird's Beak with his Gaia Smash, making it cry out in pain, which allowed seawater to enter its throat.

Khezmod slammed his fists together, creating several Earth Spikes to pierce the Jade Golem's body.

However, since Orion had the Guts ability, it didn't die right away, allowing it to summon his own Earth Spike which pierced through one of the Giant Bird's eyes before an angered Khezmod smashed him to pieces.

Blood started to spread into the sea as the bird struggled to go back up to the surface.

Unfortunately, at this moment, several Rock Golems crashed on its body from above, and clung to it, preventing it from moving upwards.

To make matters worse, hundreds of Skeleton Gang Bangers also arrived at the scene, and started hacking at the Giant Bird with their bony swords.

Malkhalm and Khezmod didn't remain idle and started blasting the Rock Golems, and the Skeleton Gang Bangers, off their Flying Mount's body.

However, Millie and Favian had also arrived at the scene, and attacked the two Rankers, forcing them to defend themselves.

The two Rankers from Twilight Rain knew that they had no chance of winning the Underwater Battle, so they immediately took two crystals from their storage rings and activated them.

A moment later, two flashes of light erupted on the seafloor.

The two Rankers had used their Teleportation Crystals that would send them to the Stronghold where they planned to take Princess Anastasia.

Everyone that was involved in the mission had been given one as a life saving item, in case they were overpowered by their enemies. These crystals were specially made to only activate if it was used by a member of Twilight Rain, to prevent outsiders from teleporting to their main headquarters, and attack them from within.

Truth be told, none of them expected that they would be using these crystals because their plan was perfect. They had predicted that it would take the Royal Family at least a day or two to discover that the Princess was gone before they tasked people to find her.

By then, they would have already arrived safely in their Stronghold, allowing their Master to negotiate with the King of Gweliven for his daughter's release.

The only mistake they made was to bring Cai and Keane with them. Since they were part of Lux's Guild, he was able to find their location on the map, using his Elysium Compendium.

This also allowed the Half-Elf to rally some people in the quickest time possible to help with the rescue operation.

After the two Rankers were done, the Giant Bird was as good as dead after its body was pinned to the sea floor by the golems, despite its struggling.

Pazuzu and Diablo had also arrived at the scene and didn't hesitate to start hacking at the Giant Bird's head, while the Rock Golems held it down to drown it.

Soon, the Giant Bird gave its last unwilling screech as it tried to draw in its last breath.

It was at this moment when several giant creatures, who had sensed the blood spilling out of the Giant Bird's body, arrived at the scene.

Diablo no longer tarried and used the Enchanted Beast Ring to store the Flying Mount's body before the other Sea Monsters took a bite out of it.

Millie and Favian hurriedly went up to the surface because there were several Sea Monsters whose Rank was at the peak of the Deimos Rank, making them as strong as E-Rankers.

They still needed to rescue the Princess, and the last thing they wanted was to entangle themselves with such beasts.

Seeing that their prey had disappeared, the Sea Monsters lost interest and swam away. They had no appetite for skeletons, much less Rock Golems. Although they could attack the two ships above them, they refrained from doing so because they sensed that three Rankers were guarding them.

Since that was the case, they would just find weaker prey elsewhere, and no longer trouble themselves with something that might endanger their lives.

'Master, the mission was a complete success,' Asmodeus reported.

'Good job, everyone,' Lux said to all of his subordinates who were still under the water. 'But, our true mission is still not done. We will resume the rescue operation, so make sure to position yourselves accordingly.'

""Yes, Master!""

Now that two of the enemy Rankers were gone, and their Flying Mount was out of the picture, Lux and his allies felt emboldened by their victory, and pursued the Twilight Ship in the distance with renewed vigor.

Millie, who was skeptical about their chances of winning, glanced at the red-headed teenager who was on the deck of the pirate ship, and finally understood why the King had deemed him worthy to be part of his Elite Unit, whose qualifications she still failed to reach.

Chapter 400: I Don't Have Any Interest In The Opinions Of Weaklings

Harrus, who was standing on the deck, narrowed his eyes as he looked at the battle using a telescope.

The moment he saw that Khezmod's flying mount suddenly took a nosedive towards the sea, he felt that something was wrong.

He waited for a minute, two minutes, and then three. However, no matter how long he waited, the Flying Mount never resurfaced.

Harrus could see the bubbles that were rising up to the surface, but that was all that he saw. Several minutes later, he saw two beams of light shoot up towards the sky and fly North West.

It was at that moment when he realized what had happened.

"Those two useless fools!" Harrus' grip suddenly tightened, destroying the telescope in his hands. "Useless!"

The Dwarf roared as he threw the broken telescope to the sea. He no longer needed it because he knew that their pursuers were hot on their tail, and it was only a matter of time before they were overtaken.

"How can this happen?!" Harrus muttered. Even now, he still didn't understand how the Kingdom was able to mobilize a rescue team on such short notice, even being able to chase them to the Port of Draycott, where they planned to take a Merchant Ship to reach their stronghold in the scattered islands that were outside the control of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

The Dwarf with reddish-brown hair could understand if they were able to mobilize a sizable force in order to pursue them. What he couldn't understand was how their opponent knew where they were going.

The artifact that had a tracking spell that the Princess owned was tied to a random bird they found in the forest, which they had sent flying in the opposite direction, so it was impossible for anyone to find out where they were headed.

But still, they were found. This made Harrus, who was the leader of the kidnapping operation, seethe in anger.

'It no longer matters,' Harrus thought. 'Since it has already come to this, a fight is inevitable. We will just use the hostages as a last resort if we are outmatched.'

Now that two of the Rankers on their side were gone, only four remained.

Harrus didn't know how many Rankers were on the two ships that were following them, but according to his estimate, three Rankers were needed in order to defeat his comrades, who had been forced to use their teleportation crystals to escape.

"Floyd, Eric, come!" Harrus shouted. "We got company!"

Three Rankers guarded the room that Princess Anastasia was in, in order to prevent her from escaping. However, two of them were called to the deck in order to prepare for a naval battle.

The last remaining Ranker, who was a woman, frowned, but didn't say anything because it was Harrus who led their group in this operation.

Her name was Carol, and her specialty was Dark Magic.

She was supposed to be the leader of this operation, but their Guild Master suddenly added Harrus to the team, making him the temporary leader of their group.

Carol had concerns about making Harrus their leader because she believed that the Brawler was all brawn and no brains. Still, to her surprise, the Brawler had made very logical decisions for the entirety of their mission.

The only mistake he had made was to agree to Malkahm's proposal to destroy their pursuers and burn the two ships in the sea.

Truth be told, if she were in Harrus' position, she would have also agreed to their proposal, so she couldn't find fault with it. The only problem now was that they would have no choice but to fight with their pursuers, who were closing the gap with each passing minute.

While Carol was deep in thought, Scarlet suddenly stood up and headed towards the door of the cabin.

"Where are you going?" Carol asked.

"Toilet," Scarlet replied. "I've been holding it since an hour ago. Now that there is an imminent battle approaching, I thought that now is the best time to do it, while I still have the chance."

Carol wrinkled her nose, but she still nodded her head.

"Go, but be quick about it," Carol ordered.

Scarlet nodded and left the cabin, where Carol, and five other Initiates, stayed to guard the Princess.

The moment the Slayer Candidate left the room, one of the Initiates snorted.

"So much for a Slayer Candidate," a lady Dwarf said. "She can't even hold it in during a mission, and she's supposed to be a top-class assassin? Isn't that funny?"

"You say that now, but you lost to her during the mock battle three days ago," a Dwarf who was in his early twenties commented. "If you're that brave, why don't you complain when she is around, and not when she's not?"

"Shut up!" the lady Dwarf glared at the Dwarf that chastised her. "What's this? Don't tell me you have a crush on her? Hah~ you just want to score some brownie points."

"It is you who should shut up. Just looking at you makes me puke."

"Oh? Then how about we have a mock battle when we return? I'm going to wipe the floor with your face!"

Carol didn't do anything and allowed the Initiates to quarrel among themselves. Rivalry was encouraged within the Dark Guild because it compelled their members to strive harder in order to surpass their rivals.

Also, just watching over the Princess was getting boring, so listening to the banter between the two Dwarfs served as her entertainment.

Princess Anastasia, on the other hand, sat on top of the bed.

Her hands, and feet were shackled with steel chains that prevented her from using any kind of magic. They had already researched the Princess' ability and found out that she had an aptitude for Life Magic and Wood Magic, allowing her to heal others, as well as manipulate the power trees and plants to do her bidding.

Despite her young age, she was already a Grade B Apostle, but compared to her guards, who were Initiates and Rankers, her rank was of no use.

In the end, she decided to remain silent and wait for her rescuers to arrive.

'Millie must have come with reinforcements,' Princess Anastasia thought. 'Judging by how the enemy has divided their forces, they must have lost two of their Rankers in battle. This is good news.'

She did her best to prevent a smile from appearing on her face because she knew that it would only agitate her captors. For the time being, she decided to just observe the people around her and try to understand their characteristics.

Although the chance was small, it might allow her to use it to her advantage in order to escape.

Scarlet entered the washroom and locked the door, she then looked up at the ceiling and saw a blue slime at the corner of the cramped room.

'The slime is indeed here,' Scarlet reported to Lux. 'Now what?'

'Can you bring the Princess to the washroom?' Lux replied. 'That way, we can drag her away without too much effort.'

'Impossible. Even if she begged, Carol would not allow her to leave the room. Also, bringing the slime to the cabin will arouse suspicion, so I can't take it with me.'

'True. very well, we will be arriving soon and once that happens, there will be explosions inside your ship. I'm sure that the Ranker will keep a closer eye on the Princess when that happens, but if an opportunity arises, make sure to take her with you.'

'Understood,' Scarlet gave the blue slime one last glance before leaving the washroom. 'I will keep in touch.'

'Okay.'

Lux's voice faded from her head, making the Slayer Candidate sigh internally. She knew that the moment the fighting started, it would be next to impossible for her to get the Princess away from Carol.

However, many things could happen when the fighting began, so she was already thinking of ways, and excuses that she could use the moment the Princess suddenly disappeared from the Merchant Ship.

When Scarlet returned to the cabin, one of the lady Dwarfs glared in her direction which made her arc an eyebrow. She remembered shoving her face into the floor because she kept on saying that she just got lucky because the target she assassinated was a weakling.

Naturally, Scarlet couldn't say that the "weakling" that the Initiate spoke off was the same person that killed her and Sid, who were the two highest ranked Assassins among the Initiates that were part of the Assassination Squad called the Reapers, which were considered to be the group of Assassin Candidates that were trained to join the Slayers, which were Twilight Rain's main Assassination group that specialized in killing high profile targets.

All of the members of the Slayers were Rankers, so the moment Scarlet became a Ranker, she would immediately be added to this group, which all of the members of Reapers aspired to become.

"Did something happen?" Scarlet asked the boy, whom she knew had a crush on her. She didn't mind being adored by others. In fact, she would find it incomprehensible if she was not admired by her peers.

She had beauty, strength, and connections.

One could say that she had everything from birth, so it was very easy for her to stand above others. Even so, everyone understood that her becoming a Slayer Candidate was due to the fact that she had been tasked to assassinate a Half-Elf, who had somehow appeared in their Kingdom.

"She was saying things behind your back," the Dwarf replied. "As for what she was saying while you were gone, you can ask her yourself."

"Oh?" Scarlet gave the lady dwarf a side-long glance before yawning. "Sorry. I don't have any interest in the opinions of weaklings."

Scarlet then sat beside Princess Anastasia and leaned on its headboard. Right now, she wasn't thinking about the Initiate who was glaring daggers at the guy that tattled on her.

She only managed to make the situation more volatile, allowing her to think of ways she could make the princess meet Eiko's clone, who was currently crawling somewhere in the Merchant Ship, waiting for the opportunity that Lux and Scarlet would prepare for it.