

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

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Chapter 401.1: The Decisive Battle [Part 1]

Soon enough, the gap between the two ships shortened.

What used to be a speck in the horizon was now big enough for everyone to see.

The distance between the Black Pearl and the Twilight Ship was less than a mile, and everyone was preparing for the battle that was only minutes away from happening.

Millie was currently on the Black Pearl, while the two Rankers of the Adventurer's Guild were on the Battleship, Starlight.

"Steady lads," Captain Spawow said. "You can light those cannons when we get closer, but for now, stay your hands."

Rows upon rows of cannons were placed at the deck of the ship, pointing out its left side. Naval warfares were much simpler than land battles. The only thing that either side needed to do was to blast the opponent's ship to oblivion until it sank.

As for the survivors, they would be under the mercy of the victors.

Lux, who was looking at the enemy ship using a set of binoculars, could see that three of the remaining four Rankers had arrived on the deck.

'The numbers are even now,' Lux thought. 'We now have a chance to beat them. But, rescuing the Princess is still an issue.'

The Half-Elf knew that if their opponent became desperate, they would definitely use Princess Anastasia as a hostage. What he must do is to create a situation where the Princess would be able to meet with Eiko's Doppelganger, allowing the former to be devoured by it.

"Millie, listen to me," Lux said as he pointed at the Merchant Ship. "Do you see that small window over there on the side of the ship?"

Millie squinted her eyes to look in the direction where Lux was pointing at and nodded her head.

"The Princess is kept in that location," Lux explained. "Don't worry. The Princess is seated on the bed, and it is far from the window. Even if you blast that part of the ship, she will still be safe."

"Are you telling me to attack that spot of the ship?" Millie asked. She could tell that the reason why the chubby teenager was telling her this information was because he wanted her to attack that location in order to free the Princess.

"Yes," Lux replied. "You are to ignore the other Rankers on the ship, and just focus on that location. Just be warned that there is a Ranker that specializes in Dark Magic guarding her. Aside from her, there are five other Initiates. Whatever you do later, don't kill the lady with scarlet hair. You can injure her, but make sure that it is not fatal. Do you understand?"

Millie wasn't dumb, so she was able to piece together the information that Lux had given her. She had long wondered how the chubby teenager was able to know the location of the Princess, as well as gauge the strength of their enemies.

The only reason she could think of was that he had an accomplice, and this scarlet-haired lady was the one who was sharing the kidnappers' information with him.

"Understood," Millie replied.

Lux smiled. "Also, your goal is to not rescue the princess. Your goal is to engage the Ranker in a battle, forcing her away from the Princess. I will handle the rest."

Millie nodded "Okay."

"Go back to the battleship for a moment and inform them that I will now cripple the enemy ship," Lux stated. "Tell them to focus their attacks on the Rankers on the deck, and leave the saving of the Princess to us."

Millie gave the Hal-Elf a brief nod before flying towards the battleship, Starlight.

Cai's and Keane's expressions became serious because they knew that it was now time to give a payback to their kidnappers, finally putting an end to their criminal act.

"Pazuzu, come!" Lux summoned his Demonic Defender because Pazuzu would play an important role in the battle.

"I am here," Pazuzu announced as soon as he appeared.

"Listen, when Millie attacks the ship, I want you to..."

The Half-Elf explained in detail what the Demonic Defender would do as soon as Millie had infiltrated the ship and engaged the Ranker in a battle. Although the Ranker would be gone, the remaining Initiates were still a threat to Pazuzu.

However, Pazuzu's role was not to engage their enemies, but to only hold them off for a short period of time.

As long as he was able to hold out long enough, an opportunity would arise, and the Half-Elf would use that opportunity to hit his enemies with a surprise attack from a place that they wouldn't expect.

"Eiko, detonate the bombs," Lux ordered.

The baby Slime that was perched on top of his head, nodded.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" Eiko shouted as it jumped in place on top of Lux's head

Suddenly, loud explosions rocked the storage compartment of the ship, making those who were inside the cabin, as well as those in the deck, to grab hold of something, so that they wouldn't be thrown off the ship.

Seawater started to flood the Hold of the ship, making its crew panic.

Captain Jack Spawow smirked as he swung the steering wheel to the right, making the Black Pearl make a right turn, allowing its cannons to face the target that was now within firing range.

"Lads! Time to make a few things go Boom," Captain Spawow shouted. "Open Fire!"

As soon as the order was given, the cannons on the deck of the Black Pearl roared to life. The Rankers on the Merchant Ship immediately stepped into action as they deflected the cannon balls from further damaging their ship.

Unfortunately, they couldn't deflect all of them because the Battleship had also come within firing range and joined the barrage, making sure to not hit the location that Millie had told them was where the Princess was currently being held.

"Millie, go now!" Lux ordered.

The green-haired Dwarf shot towards the sky, using the distraction of the cannons and the black smoke that was rising in the air, to launch her own sneak attack towards the enemy.

Pazuzu also flew behind her in order to initiate the plan that his Master had devised.

Deep in the sea, the Skeleton Ship also started to rise to the surface.

Asmodeus, Orion, and Diablo, prepared to join the battle as well.

Ishtar, who had boarded the Skeleton Ship upon Lux's orders, had taken a siege stance on the deck of the Skeleton Ship, and aimed her crossbow at the Merchant ship above them.

The moment they came in range, the Night Stalker pulled the trigger, allowing the bolt that had a rope tied in it to shoot upwards.

Several rock golems held onto the rope, keeping it in place. Preventing the Merchant ship from going anywhere.

"Advance!" Asmodeus ordered.

Soon hundreds of skeletons started to climb up the rope.

This was an all out attack from above, and underneath, the water. Both sides knew that the decisive battle had come.

However, even though the members of Twilight Rain were at a disadvantage, no one knew for certain who the final victors of the battle would be.

One wrong move and things could get ugly, leading to consequences that Lux, as well as those who wished to rescue the princess, didn't want to have happen.

Chapter 402.2: The Decisive Battle [Part 2]

As several volleys of cannonballs rained on the ship non-stop, the Rankers of Twilight Rain, as well as some of the Initiates onboard, deflected them with everything they had.

The boat was no longer moving, and its storage compartment was being flooded with seawater at a very fast rate, making them unable to go anywhere.

Harrus, who was on the deck of the Merchant Ship, had bloodshot eyes as he punched one of the cannonballs that flew in his direction, sending it back to the battleship in the distance.

However, before the cannonball could hit the ship, an arrow pierced it, destroying it mid-air.

The Sniper, who belonged to the Adventurer's Guild, fired another arrow at the Dwarf with reddish-brown hair, forcing the latter to evade it.

A cannon ball shot by a cannon was different from an arrow shot by a Ranker. Even if the Brawler was confident in his skills, he didn't dare try to meet the attack head-on.

'I guess there's no other way,' Harrus gritted his teeth. 'We must use the Princess as leverage in order to escape this predicament.'

Harrus knew that they were already out of options. They had been backed into a dead-end, and the only way to escape it was to capture one of the ships belonging to their enemy, or force them to negotiate using the Princess as a hostage.

The Brawler wanted to use the first option, but the enemy ships were attacking them from a safe distance. Although he could jump to where they

were, the Rankers stationed on both ships would not watch idly as they tried to capture it.

As Harrus was thinking about how they would use the Princess as a hostage to reverse their current circumstances, a green-haired Dwarf flew past their ship and suddenly unleashed a barrage of Wind Blades on the side of the ship, making the Brawler gasp in shock.

The part of the hull that the Wind Blades destroyed was the room where Princess was being kept, making the faces of the three Rankers on the deck turn pale in fright.

"Oi! Aren't you afraid that you will accidentally kill the Princess?!" Harris shouted as he immediately tried to go to the cabin of the ship where the Princess was being held.

However, before he could do that, he saw a water dragon spell that was about to smash the deck of the Merchant Ship, forcing him and the two Rankers with him to block the attack, otherwise, their merchant ship would be split apart.

'Dammit, why are these people attacking so crazily?!' Harrus cursed internally. 'Aren't they afraid of accidentally killing our hostage? Just where is their confidence coming from? Don't tell me they plan to kill everyone in the ship including the Princess, so that there won't be any witnesses?!'

Harrus thought that this idea was too crazy, so he forced himself to focus on the task at hand, instead of being distracted by some random thoughts.

The smoke that covered the Merchant Ship grew in intensity as more cannonballs found their marks, inching the battered merchant ship closer and closer to complete destruction.

Suddenly, the green-haired Dwarf, who had unleashed a barrage of Wind Blades, made a nose dive towards the ship, entering the gap she had created.

As soon as Millie entered the ship, she came face to face with Carol, who wielded a dark whip in her right hand. The Dark Magician then lashed her whip at the green-haired Dwarf, making her weapon attack her target like a living snake about to sink its fangs into its prey.

However, Millie was no push over. She was a bonafide Ranker and had experienced many hardships before she reached her rank. As soon as the

dark whip approached her, she summoned a sword made of wind, and deflected it to the side before unleashing a gust of air, pushing everyone inside the room backwards.

She had already seen the Princess in the corner of her vision.

Scarlet, who was closest to the Princess, grabbed Princess Anastasia and pushed her to the corner of the room, shielding her from the attack.

Carol approved of the Slayer Candidate's action because as long as the Princess was safe, she could focus on exterminating the pesky Ranker, who dared to get in the way of their plans.

Millie was so tempted to grab the Princess and escape, but she knew that the Ranker she was facing wouldn't just stand idly and let that happen.

Since Lux had already told her that the scarlet-haired girl was on their side, she endured her impulse and attacked the Dark Magician, destroying portions of the room in the process.

Seeing that an opportunity appeared, Scarlet grabbed Princess Anastasia and made a run towards the door.

The other Initiates followed her because they knew that they would just get in the way of their superior.

There was no place for them in a battle between Rankers. If they chose to stay, the chances of them dying by accident was very high, so they didn't think twice and followed Scarlet without looking back.

As soon as the Initiates entered the hallway, they found themselves face to face with several skeletons, who were wielding weapons in their hands.

Scarlet used her dagger and slashed at those who blocked her way, splitting the Skeletons apart with a single strike. Instead of going to the deck, where the other Rankers were fighting, the Slayer Candidate ran towards the very back of the ship, where it was "safe".

What she was doing was simply distancing herself from the deck of the ship, in order to prevent her superiors from being able to use the Princess as a hostage.

As she was running down the hallway, she ran past three Skeletons that were quite different from the others.

Diablo, Ishtar, and Asmodeus had boarded the ship, serving as Scarlet's backup, and effectively separated her from the rest of the Initiates, who were following behind her.

"Morpheus, come!" Asmodeus ordered and the Death Tyrant materialized in front of him.

Without being given an order, Morpheus immediately began shooting colorful rays at the Initiates, forcing them to dodge to the side.

"I-Isn't that a Death Tyrant?!" the lady who didn't like Scarlet gasped in shock. "What is it doing inside the ship?!"

The other Initiates were also surprised at first, but after seeing Skeletons appear inside the ship, they assumed that they were summoned by the Death Tyrant, which was known to be a very powerful Undead Creature.

"Fortunately, Scarlet was able to run past them," the young man who had a crush on the Slayer Candidate said. "But, we must support her at once, or else she might get surrounded."

The lady who didn't like Scarlet suddenly thought of a good idea. This was a perfect opportunity to rid them of a rival, so she immediately glanced at her comrades, who shared the same opinion as her.

"Let's not do that," the lady Dwarf said. "Can't you see what is blocking our way? That's a Deathknight and a Death Tyrant. As for those other Skeletons beside them, I don't know what they are, but they don't look like some random mob we can kill easily."

The young man frowned, but he had no choice but to agree with his comrades' assessment. Although he wanted to help Scarlet, the Skeletons in front of him were giving him a bad feeling, making him hesitate.

Scarlet, who had gotten rid of her comrades, didn't let her guard down and continued to run. She could already see the blue slime in front of her, which was her goal.

It wouldn't even take her ten seconds to cross the distance between them and finish the mission that was assigned to her.

However, before she could even deliver her baggage, the floorboards in front of her exploded, and Harrus appeared in front of her with bloodshot eyes.

"Hahaha! Scarlet, you did well!" Harrus laughed as soon as he saw the Slayer Candidate carrying the Princess.

The Brawler had intended to enter the cabin earlier to retrieve the Princess, but the Water Elementalist and the Sniper prevented him from doing so.

Because of this, he smashed the deck of the ship with a punch and entered through that gap. To his surprise, he found dozens of Undead in the Storage Area, which was now flooded with seawater.

Since he was in a hurry, he ignored them and just ran in the direction where he thought the cabin was.

To his surprise, he immediately saw Scarlet carrying the Princess as soon as he entered the hallway, making him laugh out loud. Now that the Princess was in his hands, he would be able to use her as a hostage to prevent their enemies from annihilating all of them.

Scarlet smiled as she handed the Princess to the Brawler's hands. She couldn't afford to blow her cover, and she could only blame the Princess for being unlucky.

Eiko's Doppelganger hid itself in the corner of the hallway as soon as Harrus broke through the floor.

It knew what the Ranker had done to the other clone, so it didn't plan to take any reckless actions that might get itself killed before it could finish its mission.

Just as the Ranker was about to grab hold of Princess Anastasia, a hand that looked like it was made out of exquisite jade broke through the floor underneath Harrus' feet, and dragged him down, making Harrus roar in anger because there was someone, or something, that was always getting in the way of his plans.

Chapter 403.1: How About You Take A Nice Long Swim Instead? [Part 1]

"Let me go, you bastard!" Harrus roared before he was dragged down into the water by the Jade Golem, who had grabbed hold of his foot.

With one powerful kick, he managed to break free from the Golem's hold and send it crashing towards the seabed.

As a B-Ranker, he didn't even recognize a Rank 4 Jade Golem as a threat. For the Dwarf, it was just a mob character that could easily be crushed with his hands.

With one kick, he easily broke the arm that grabbed his foot and sent it speeding towards the bottom of the sea. However, just as he was about to swim back up, a powerful pulling force pulled him to the bottom, which made Harrus' rage burn to its limit.

Back on the ship, Scarlet peeked down into the hole that was in front of her and waited for a few seconds. After sensing that Harrus wouldn't be back anytime soon, she jumped across the hole onto the other side where Eiko's Doppelganger was waiting for her.

"If you want to escape, listen closely to what I am going to tell you and listen well," Scarlet whispered to the Princess as she ran towards the Doppelganger. "You will be devoured by the slime, but don't resist. My Master is waiting on the other side."

"Who is your Master?" Princess Anastasia inquired as she looked at the scarlet-haired girl with a critical gaze.

"You'll meet him soon enough," Scarlet replied as she tossed the Princess towards the blue slime who had already opened its mouth to swallow the Princess whole. "Make sure to tell him that he shouldn't order me to do anything unreasonable in the future."

Although Princess Anastasia was scared, she didn't resist or struggle when the slime devoured her whole.

Eiko could store living creatures, but there was a condition. They must not resist her, because if they did, she would be unable to swallow them whole.

Cai, Keane, and Clyde, were all unconscious when all of them were swallowed, so it wasn't a problem back then.

However, the Princess was conscious, so Lux thought that Princess Anastasia would struggle if she felt threatened by the Slime. Because of this, he ordered Scarlet to tell the Princess that she had nothing to worry about and that she should simply allow herself to be devoured, so that she could be rescued without a hitch.

After devouring the Princess, Eiko's Doppelganger didn't teleport right away. Instead, it once again opened its mouth and unleashed a Dragon's Breath, pushing Scarlet back and sending her crashing towards the wooden floor.

'He could have at least chosen the least painful method,' Scarlet complained in her heart before hitting a wall, and coming to a complete stop with bruises and wounds on her entire body.

She didn't bother to block the attack and allowed herself to be injured, so that she wouldn't be suspected of betraying her guild.

Scarlet still needed them to provide her with resources so that she could become a Ranker. Until then, she didn't plan on leaving Twilight Rain to accompany Lux as he traveled around Elysium.

After seeing that it had accomplished its mission, the Doppelganger glowed briefly before disappearing from its place.

When it reappeared, it was now in front of the chubby teenager, who was in the process of unleashing a Dragon's Breath towards the enemy ship, sinking it for good.

"Dragon's Breath!"

Lux roared and the powerful breath attack flew towards the flying ship, hitting its side and making it explode.

"Now, Captain!" Lux shouted.

"All hands, grab onto something!" Jack Spawow ordered as he maneuvered Black Pearl for a speedy retreat.

The Doppelganger was already at its limit, so it jumped towards Lux and released the Princess before it turned into particles of light.

The chubby teenager caught the Princess safely in his arms, making the latter raise her head to take a good look at him.

One moment, she found herself surrounded by darkness, the next second, she found herself wrapped in the arms of the Human, whom she had only met a few days ago.

"S-Sir Lucien," Princess Anastasia stuttered. "Than—"

"Let's talk later, Princess," Lux stopped the Princess from thanking him because they were not out of danger yet.

The plan was for the Doppelganger to release the Princess when they had retreated a safe distance in order to prevent the enemy Rankers from seeing her.

However, since the Doppelganger had also received damage due to the indiscriminate attack on the ship, it had reached its limit and could no longer maintain its form.

At the last moment, it decided to release the Princess before disappearing, allowing some of the members of Twilight Rain to spot her from a distance.

"They got the Princess!" one of the Sailors shouted as she pointed at Princess Anastasia who was now in Lux's arms.

The two Rankers on the deck of the ship immediately shifted their attention to the Princess and were already planning to jump off their own ship in order to retrieve her, but the Water Elementalist and the Sniper naturally wouldn't let them have their way and unleashed a barrage of attacks, forcing the Rankers from Twilight Rain to defend themselves.

Just as the Black Pearl was gaining some distance away from the enemy ship, a tower of water erupted beside the ship and, from there, Harrus appeared.

He had just smashed the Jade Golem to pieces before rushing towards the surface in order to capture one of the ships that belonged to their pursuers.

However, to his surprise, when he emerged, he saw Princess Anastasia being carried by a Human, whom he had already met in the past.

"It's you!" Harrus shouted as he looked at the chubby teenager who was holding Princess Anastasia with bloodshot eyes. "You're the one responsible for all of this mess!"

The Brawler then stomped his foot in the air, as if using it as a foothold to propel himself onto the Pirate Ship that was trying to make a run for it.

A moment later, he shot towards Lux like a cannonball with his arms pulled back in preparation to punch the human for getting in the way of his plans and smash him into a pulp.

He had recognized Lux as the owner of the two clones that he had fought in the Port City of Watford.

With all the pent up rage in his chest, the Dwarf prepared to unleash an attack that was strong enough to destroy an entire city wall.

"Die!" Harrus shouted. His enraged face was only a meter away from Lux, and his right fist was just a foot away from the chubby teenager's cheeks.

Harrus specialized in burst attacks that allowed him to travel at great speeds, and deliver powerful blows that left his enemies hopeless.

Lux, whose face was about to get smacked by a Ranker, was still calm, and met Harrus' gaze head-on.

Just as the deadly fist was about to hit its target, the Brawler's body froze, and his attack stopped mid-air.

"Y-You Bastard!" Harrus said through gritted teeth as he forced his right fist to kill the Half-Elf who had gotten in the way of his plans.

However, instead of moving forward, the fist continued to remain in its place, as Harrus' feet slowly skidded backwards.

"I will not lose to this petty trick!" Harrus roared. As he tried to fight the powerful pulling force coming from behind him.

The Ranker took a step forward in an effort to get near Lux. However, after just taking a single step to approach the chubby teenager, his feet once again slowly skidded backwards, unable to fight the strong pull that was preventing him from killing the chubby teenager who was holding the Princess.

"Your name, Boy?!" Harrus shouted.

He knew that he would be unable to fight the strong pull that was holding him back, so he wanted to at least ask for the name of the person that he planned to kill in the future.

"Randolph," Lux replied. "My name is Randolph."

Lux had no intention of saying his name, so he decided to use an alias.

However, the first name that came to his mind was the name of his Master, Randolph, who was happily drinking a mug of mead, back in Leaf Village, without a care in the world.

Chapter 404.2: How About You Take A Nice Long Swim Instead? [Part 2]

Leaf Village...

"Achooo!" Randolph sneezed before raising his fist high up in the air and roared in anger.

"You unfilial bastard, Lux! I'm guessing you're using my name as a scapegoat! Unfilial disciple! Do you plan to get me killed?!"

Lux had no idea that Randolph had a special ability that would give him a warning whenever someone was planning to kill him.

This ability worked no matter the distance.

As long as the other party was seriously planning to kill him, Randolph would be able to know the attacker's name, age, Rank, as well as their current location.

After seeing that a B-Ranker had vowed to kill him, the blacksmith almost choked on the mead that he had been drinking.

This was one of the few reasons why he had managed to live so long in his life—he always made sure to run away from those who wished him ill, and secluded himself as he learned the arts of blacksmithing.

Back in the Naval Battle...

"Randolph? Good!" Harrus growled in anger. "I'll remember you! The next time we meet, you're dead!"

The Dwarf then hatefully turned around to look at the Fortress Defender, who was floating high in the air, and looking down on him with disdain.

Lux had specifically ordered Pazuzu to lock onto the Dwarf with reddish-brown hair because Harrus was the strongest Ranker and the one in charge of the kidnapping operation.

The Half-Elf's intention was clear. He wanted Harrus to be unable to help anyone by forcing him to fight against Pazuzu who was hovering in the sky.

The Dwarf hatefully stomped on the floor of the Pirate Ship and shot toward the sky in order to deal with the Fortress Defender who had forced him to duel.

Using that opportunity, Jack Spawow maneuvered the Black Pearl to escape the messy battle and fled by leveraging the wind to gain as much distance as possible.

Pazuzu, whose role was to ensure that his Master could escape, flew away, forcing Harrus to use the Twilight Ship as a springboard to jump towards the Fortress Defender's location at a speed that was impossible to evade.

Having lost their hostage, the Rankers that belonged to Twilight Rain started to fight desperately.

At first, they thought of taking over the Battleship, Starlight, to pursue the fleeing Black Pearl.

But after the battleship had also retreated to a safe distance while keeping their bombardment active, the Rankers had no choice but to shelve this plan.

"Looks like you won," Carol hatefully spat on the ground before glaring at the green-haired Dwarf that had kept her busy all-throughout Lux's rescue operation.

"Yes," Millie replied. "You lost."

Carol snorted, but she didn't refute Millie's words.

The green-haired Dwarf smirked before flying out of the Merchant Ship that was now teetering on the brink of total collapse.

Carol watched her go for a few seconds before looking at her surroundings. The walls had been destroyed, and the Initiates, who were with her not long ago, were all lying on the ground, suffering from several injuries due to the stray attacks from Millie and the powerful bombardment of attacks that came from the Water Elementalist and the Sniper.

Some of them were unconscious, which made Carol click her tongue in annoyance. However, since they were the new blood of their organization, it was impossible for her to leave them to die.

Using her Dark Magic, she procured dark whips and grabbed hold of their bodies one by one.

When she found the unconscious and badly wounded Scarlet at the back of the ship, Carol lightly tapped on the latter's cheeks.

A few seconds later, Scarlet woke up and looked up at the Dark Magician, who had the expression of a person who had eaten a fly.

"Take out your teleportation crystal and leave this place," Carol ordered. "The mission failed. We are returning to base."

Scarlet weakly nodded her head and took out a teleportation crystal from her storage ring and activated it. A moment later, her body turned into particles of light, disappearing from where she lay a few seconds ago.

The other Initiates had already left, and it was only Scarlet that was left on the ship.

The two Rankers met up with Carol, and both of them had furious looks on their faces. However, there was nothing they could do.

Just before the three could activate their own teleportation crystals, Harrus landed beside them. Compared to the three Rankers, their leader's face was so contorted that it was scary enough to make little children start crying.

"Return to the Stronghold," Harrus ordered. "We will get them next time."

The three Rankers nodded their heads and no longer hesitated. When the three of them disappeared, Harrus glanced in the direction of the Black Pearl, which was now nothing more than a small black dot in the distance.

"Randolph, I'll make sure to repay you in full," Harrus clenched his fist in anger before taking out the teleportation crystal from his storage ring. "I'll chase you, even to the end of the world!"

Just as he was about to activate the teleportation crystal in his hand, a teasing voice reached his ears.

"Really? How about you take a nice long swim instead?"

The Brawler turned his head to the right and stared at the Archlich who had his arms crossed over his chest.

Before the Ranker could even act to kill the Archlich, he felt another strong pull that was coming from the bottom of the boat, making him howl in anger.

Suddenly, Ishtar appeared beside him and kicked the flying crystal that he was carrying away. A moment later, the Night Stalker turned into black mists, and reappeared some distance away, catching the teleportation crystal.

Harrus, who was already overwhelmed by anger, irritation, and grief, roared, destroying the entire ship.

"Looks like we pushed him to the limit," Ishtar said as she stood in the air, using two of Morpheus' floating eyeballs as a foothold.

"Well, since he is already our enemy, it doesn't really matter if he gets angrier," Asmodeus replied as he stood on top of Morpheus' head.

Ishtar nodded because this was indeed the case.

"Let's go," Asmodeus replied. "Diablo wanted to give that Ranker a piece of his mind, so let's leave the aftermath to him."

"Okay," Ishtar replied.

Soon, the Named Creatures, as well as the Death Tyrant, turned into particles of light and returned to their Master's side, who had succeeded in rescuing the Princess with the limited time he had.

Under the Sea....

Diablo stood on the deck of the Skeleton Ship and looked up above him.

Harrus was already swimming in his direction, which made Lux's first Named Creature sneer.

He knew that it was impossible for him to defeat a Ranker of Harrus' rank, but that was not important.

The Death Knight could have just returned to Lux's side and called it a day, but after seeing Harrus' strong hostility and killing intent directed towards his Master, the Death Knight decided to use his strongest attack to give the Ranker a little bit of pain before dying.

Holding the Mythical Sword in his Hand, Diablo's eyes glowed brightly from under the water as he brandished his weapon with all the strength he could muster.

"Hellfire Annihilation Slash!" Diablo shouted as his sword was covered with Hellish Flames, making the water around him instantly boil due to the powerful flames he produced.

Suddenly, a loud explosion erupted under the sea, creating a tower of water to rise up to the surface.

A minute later, Harrus emerged from the water, and clung to one of the floating parts of the merchant ship that had now been completely destroyed.

This was Diablo's, Ishtar's, and Asmodeus' last gift to the Ranker, who had almost succeeded in killing their Master.

Now that the Teleportation Crystal was gone, he had no choice but to swim to the nearest island if he hoped to survive. Harrus felt bitter, but there was nothing he could do about it.

Chapter 405.1: A Human's Touch [Part 1]

If someone were to ask me if I felt blessed, the answer would be yes.

Out of the millions of Dwarfs in the world, I was born as the Third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven and was loved by my father and three mothers.

I said three mothers because my father married three women.

My birth mother was his second wife. But, even so, all three of my mothers loved us all, just as much as they loved their own children, making me feel lucky that I was born into the Royal Family.

Perhaps because I was born on the same day as my father, he spoiled me more than the others.

But that didn't mean that he loved the others less.

My mother said that fathers usually loved their daughters more, while mothers loved their sons more. I didn't really know if this was true or not, but perhaps it was true because my father loved all of his daughters and spoiled us rotten, more than he did my brothers.

Even so, my sisters and I didn't take his love for granted and worked hard for the betterment of this Kingdom to the best of our abilities. No matter how small it was and no matter how short our reach extended, we all took pride that we were born as members of the Royal Family.

As I grew older, I realized that there were many more things that I wanted to do in order to help the kingdom. However, with the power I currently had, I was unable to do them.

The Dwarven Kingdom had always been ruled by a King.

There had been no instance when a Queen had sat on the throne and ruled the Kingdom of Gweliven since the day it was founded.

Because of this, I wanted to be the first.

The first to be crowned as its Queen, and make it so that everyone in my kingdom could live better and more prosperous lives.

When I asked my father if it was possible for me to become the one to take his position, he laughed, patted my head, and said in a gentle tone. "You can easily carry the crown on my head with a single hand. But, the moment you put it on your head, a burden, which is heavier than a mountain, will press on your shoulders. Do you think you will be able to carry its weight?"

The me back then was still naive and said with confidence.

"I can do it! I will become a Queen that will make our kingdom prosper!"

My father chuckled and rested his right hand on my shoulder before giving his reply.

"Very well, Anastasia. See with your own eyes, hear with your own ears, taste with your own lips, and feel with your own skin everything this kingdom has to offer. Compete with your brothers, and see for yourself if you are able to take this burden off my shoulders in the future."

"Un!"

Oh... how naive I was.

Bolstered with confidence, I began to rally people and started to build my own faction. My older brothers didn't mind having additional competition because that was how the Crown Prince of this Kingdom was chosen.

Only through great deeds, not words.

Only through actions, not words.

Only through merits, not words.

Only through great feats, not words.

The Royal Family of Gweliven wasn't only talk.

They must prove their words with action as well.

And so, my father decided to add me, along with my other sisters, as candidates who could have the right of succession.

Three Years.

In three years, the one who would be able to obtain the most merits would be hailed as the next Crown Prince or Crown Princess.

My father was still at the prime of his life and would probably still rule the kingdom for a decade or two.

Dwarves may not be as long-lived as the Elves, but their lifespan was still longer than that of Humans'.

If a Dwarf didn't choose to cultivate and raise their rank, they would be able to live up to three hundred years. However, those who chose to go to Elysium and raise their ranks could increase their lifespan fifty to a hundred years more.

Rankers, in general, gained an additional fifty years in their lifespan with every breakthrough they made.

At least, that was what people believed.

It had never been proven, but Rankers, especially High-Rankers and Saints were long-lived people.

My father was a High Ranker. Because of this, he would be able to live for a long time.

I couldn't speak for my brothers, but for me, I was content to let him rule for as long as he could because, through him, our kingdom had grown stronger and better than before.

If not for the fact that there was a Dark Guild that constantly hindered our development, our Kingdom would have already expanded and grown to new heights.

I hated this Dark Guild.

I hated it with a passion.

Because of them, many of our citizens were suffering. Many of them were hurt, and some of them had even died. Their merciless acts of violence in order to get what they wanted was something that I, my brothers, and my father, would never approve of.

Although I had already considered myself to be a target of this Terrorist Organization, I never thought that they would really go for it.

I had always thought that my guards and the two Rankers, who served by my side, were more than enough to protect me.

But, in the end, my assumptions were all wrong.

Although I, myself, didn't know why I decided to go back to the Capital to check on my family and bring the Baron's Second Son with me, I thought that seeing my parents wasn't a bad idea, so I cut short my visit in the Wolfpine Barony and returned home.

It happened so suddenly and without any warning.

One moment I was riding on my carriage, the next, I was at the center of a life and death battle.

My guards were murdered one by one, and the Ranker, who was also one of my trusted confidants, used her body as a shield to protect me against the Rankers of this terrorist organization.

In the end, I decided to go with them with the promise that they would no longer hurt or kill any of my people.

Much blood had already been shed, and I didn't want the survivors to die a meaningless death.

"Well, since her Royal Highness wished for it, then we will stop, but on one condition—you must kneel and beg us to take you," teasingly said by the Ranker, who wielded the power of flames and was stepping on my protector, Megan. A flaming lance was pressed against her neck, and I knew that if I didn't do as he asked, one of the people that had always supported me would perish right in front of my eyes.

A member of the Royal Family wouldn't kneel to their enemies, but at that time, I tossed my dignity and honor aside and knelt.

I begged them to take me and spare the lives of my people.

The Ranker who had reddish-brown hair, who I believed was called Harrus, grabbed the pendant on my neck before knocking me unconscious.

However, just before I lost my consciousness, I heard him tell me that he would honor the promise and leave my people alone.

I remembered the faces of my father, mothers, and siblings, who were waiting for me back in the capital.

'I'm sorry.'

Those were the last words I spoke in my heart before I closed my eyes.

A second later, my world, which was filled with color and happiness just a few minutes ago, was replaced by complete and utter darkness.

Chapter 406.2: A Human's Touch [Part 2]

My memory became a blur after that.

I was placed in a wooden crate, and when I opened my eyes, I was in a cabin, which I believed was inside a ship.

Then, another battle began.

I could hear explosions around me. I felt hopeful because I thought that my rescuers had arrived.

For a brief moment, I thought I heard Millie's voice. But several minutes later, the fighting ended.

My hope waned as we journeyed far out to the sea.

I knew that with every hour that passed, the lower the chances of me being saved became. There was even a time when I thought that I would never see my family again, but it didn't last because I was aware that I was a valuable hostage and my father would pay a great price for my return.

I felt ashamed of myself when the image of my proud, honorable, and loving father bowing his head to terrorists for my sake, filled my mind.

I hated it.

I HATED IT!

Then suddenly, a loud explosion rocked the entire ship.

Two of the Rankers that were guarding me left the room and ran to the deck of the ship. Several minutes later, the sound of cannons being fired reverberated in the surroundings.

Everything was in chaos, and the only thing I could hear were the sounds of explosions being set off all around us.

Then it happened.

The wall of my room exploded and several Wind Blades passed before my eyes.

There was only one person that I knew who would risk her life to save me, and that was none other than Millie. She was my Protector, who was always with me no matter how difficult the situation was.

Half a minute later, I saw her enter the room through the destroyed wall and fight against the Ranker who was guarding me.

One of their Dark Faction's members, a Dwarf lady who seemed to be in her early twenties, grabbed me and took me into the hallway.

The entire ship was shaking due to the relentless attacks that were hitting it from all sides.

"If you want to escape, listen closely to what I am going to tell you and listen well. You will be devoured by a Slime, but don't resist. My Master is waiting on the other side."

That was what the scarlet-haired lady said to me as she carried me in her arms.

"Who is your Master?" I asked because I was genuinely curious about who that person was.

"You'll meet him soon enough. Make sure to tell him that he shouldn't order me to do anything unreasonable in the future."

Then, the Harrus named Ranker appeared, and for a brief moment, my heart skipped a beat. I thought that I would be used as a hostage to force those who wished to rescue me to compromise.

Just as I was lamenting my bad luck, the Ranker was pulled down towards the bottom of the ship, disappearing right before my eyes.

After a moment of hesitation, the scarlet-haired lady then jumped over the hole that the Ranker created, and tossed me towards the baby Slime that I played with back at the Baron's house.

Yes. This was the Slime that belonged to Sir Lucien. The one who Millie had said was a probationary member of the Order of the Griffin.

An organization that belonged solely to the King and carried out his will without fail.

Just as the scarlet-haired lady had instructed me, I didn't resist when the Slime devoured me. It was then when I found myself in pitch-black darkness.

It was so dark that I couldn't help but feel fear. However, the darkness didn't last long.

One moment I was in total darkness, the next moment I found myself being cradled by two strong arms.

When I raised my head to look at the person carrying me, I saw the man who went by the name Lucien.

At least, that was what he said his name was. However, Millie and I both knew that this wasn't his real name.

Then, the realization hit me.

I was saved.

And the one who saved me was none other than this chubby human, whose strong arms that were carrying me made me feel safe.

Suddenly, I heard an explosion not far from me, and a tower of water erupted from the sea.

Then, I saw him.

The Ranker named Harrus, and he was looking at Sir Lucien with bloodshot eyes.

"It is you! You're the one responsible for all of this mess!"

For a brief moment, I felt Sir Lucien's body stiffen, but this stiffness immediately went away as he gazed at the Ranker whose killing intent was oozing out of his body.

"Die!"

The Ranker named Harrus charged at us back then. I subconsciously closed my eyes and buried my head into Sir Lucien's chest. I knew that the one holding me in his arms right now was only an Apostle.

An Apostle had no chance of winning against a Ranker.

I feared that the next time I opened my eyes, the one who tried to save me would be dead.

"Y-You Bastard!"

Hearing Harrus' voice filled with surprise and hatred, I opened my eyes and looked up just in time to see the sneer on Sir Lucien's face.

"I will not lose to this petty trick!"

Harrus shouted, and took a step forward. He succeeded, but it only lasted for a second as his body slowly backed away as if he was being pulled by something.

"Your name, Boy?!"

The Ranker asked, and I could tell that he planned to engrave Sir Lucien's name to his memory, so that he could kill him at a later time.

'No! You mustn't tell him your name!'

That was the thought that passed through my head at that moment. However, before I could form my thoughts into words, Sir Lucien opened his lips and gave him an answer.

"Randolph. My name is Randolph."

Randolph? I almost laughed out loud after hearing such a silly name. I almost felt sorry for this person because I knew that the Ranker with reddish-brown hair would look for him, thinking that he was Sir Lucien.

'I see,' I thought. 'He has this childish side to him.'

"Randolph? Good!" Harrus growled in anger. "I'll remember you! The next time we meet, you're dead!"

Oh, Mr. Ranker, do you still not realize that Sir Lucien is merely teasing you? I was tempted to say this out loud, but in order to protect my savior, I decided to cover my lips, just in case I laughed out loud due to my savior's shamelessness.

Again, I uttered a silent prayer in my heart to whoever this Randolph was. Sir Lucien also had this mean side to him.

No good... for some reason, I find myself strongly attracted to his daring personality.

Several minutes after that incident, the ship I was on finally left the scene.

I had been successfully rescued and was currently being carried by two strong arms, which made me feel as if they could carry me all my life.

Unfortunately, this blissful moment didn't last because Sir Lucien handed me over to Millie, whose face was covered in tears.

Although I was happy that my loyal retainer had come to save me, I wished that she could have waited for five... no, two more minutes before she made her appearance.

That way, I would still be held by those two strong arms and be close enough to hear the heartbeat of the person who had devised a plan to save me from my captors.

All my life, I had seen many handsome young men among the ones that tried to ask for my hand in marriage.

Even though the person who I reluctantly parted with wasn't good looking, was fat, and was a Human, I felt that it wouldn't be so bad to have him by my side, so that he could keep me in his embrace forever.

No matter what he looked like, no matter what his race was, it would not change the fact that he was there when I needed him the most.

He was none other than...

The first person who truly made her heart skip a beat, not out of fear, but a feeling that made her long for a human's touch.

Chapter 407.1: Return To Wolfpine Barony [Part 1]

"Millie, I must go now," Lux said. "You already know the reason why. Please, take the Princess back to the Capital City to keep her safe. I must return to the Wolfpine Barony as soon as possible and deal with the unfinished business waiting for me there."

Millie nodded her head in understanding. "Be careful. I will also ask his Majesty to send some help."

The moment Black Pearl returned to the damaged port of the City of Watford, Lux bid goodbye to the green-haired Dwarf and Princess Anastasia.

Now that the princess had been successfully rescued, the Adventurer's Guild would personally escort her back to the Capital City to reunite with her family.

Princess Anastasia had already thanked Lux for saving her life and was reluctant to see him go.

In truth, she wanted to invite the chubby teenager back to the Royal Palace so that her father could reward him personally, but according to Millie, her savior still had something very important to do in Wolfpine Barony that needed his immediate attention.

The Princess watched as Lux summoned his mount, Jed, and left the City of Watford alongside Cai and Keane.

"Millie, is the reason why Sir Lucien rejected my invitation to go back to the Capital City of Aeronwen that important?" Princess Anastasia asked. "Is it more important than meeting the King and getting his rewards for saving me?"

"Yes, Princess," Millie replied. "Actually, I am not supposed to tell you this, but Lucien is doing something in order to help save our kingdom. In fact, the thing he is going to face in the Wolfpine of Barony would make all the Rankers of Twilight Rain that kidnapped you look like a joke."

Princess Anastasia's eyes widened in shock after hearing Millie's reply. Since her sworn protectors had sworn their loyalty to her, she believed the green-haired Dwarf was telling her the truth.

"Tell me. What is happening in the Wolfpine Barony aside from the drought?" Princess Anastasia inquired. "Tell me everything that you know and make sure to not leave out even the smallest of details."

Millie felt conflicted, but knowing how serious her Princess was, she decided to tell her what Lux had told her, as well as what she had seen in the Dark Plains.

While this was happening, Lux had just left the city gates and was traveling in haste to return to the Wolfpine Barony, where the Monster of Ruin was currently headed.

< Optional Quest COMPLETED! >

< Rescue the Princess of Gweliven! >

Mision Rating: S

< Rewards >

+200 Free Stat Points

+5,000 Points to Body Constitution

100,000 Gold Coins

< Additional Rewards >

+1,000 Reputation Points to the Kingdom of Gweliven

– A gift personally given by the King of the Kingdom of Gweliven

'Not bad,' Lux thought when he saw the rewards he gained after saving the Princess from the members of Twilight Rain.

'For the time being, I'll just pump the 200 Free Stat Points to Intelligence. The skill, Skeleton Make, is a very flexible skill, but it requires a lot of Mana. I still need to conduct experiments on how else I can use it in the future.'

After experiencing what the skill, Skeleton Make, could do, Lux decided to conjure possible combinations, like the Skeleton Grand Cannon which he could use as a long distance attack that could deal devastating damage.

There was also the Skeleton Ship that they had used to follow the Merchant Ship under the sea, which proved to be a very good decision.

The Half-Elf then opened his status page, as well as his Body Constitution Page to check his progress.

Name: Lux Von Kaizer

Age: 16

Race: Half-Elf

Rank: Grade A Apostle

Health: 113,000 / 113,000

Mana: 42,500 / 42,500

Strength: 450

Intelligence: 650

Vitality: 460

Agility: 400

Dexterity: 400

< Immortal Dragon Conqueror's Legacy >

Rating: D+

Progress: (6,000 / 40,000)

Back then, Lux's stats looked extremely pitiful. But now, all of his parameters had reached the 400 mark, making him an inch closer to the next Rank, which was Initiate.

The Initiate rank required a minimum of 5,000 combined Stat Points to reach it, which many considered as the wall that blocked them from becoming a Ranker.

Not everyone could step into the Realm of Rankers because, once you became an Initiate, experience points could only be gained from Rank 4 and above Beast Cores.

Any Beast Core whose rank was lower than Rank 4 would only give 1 EXP at most and was only useful in learning skills.

This was why many had a hard time advancing in order to become a Ranker because hunting Rank 4 Beasts wasn't an easy task, even for someone that had stepped into the Initiate Rank.

Beasts were inherently stronger than humans, and a Rank 4 Beast would require a team of Grade A Apostles in order to be defeated safely.

'I'm halfway there,' Lux thought as he looked at his stats. 'After this mission in the Wolfpine Barony is over, I'll visit the floating island, Karshvar Draconis, and build my Guild Headquarters. Sir Nevreal will be the one paying for its construction, so I could choose the second to the most expensive option...'

The second most expensive option, which cost ten million gold coins, would allow Lux to build a Guild Headquarters made of marble.

The most expensive option was a hundred million gold coins, and the Half-Elf knew that if he asked the middle-aged dwarf to give him this amount of money, there was a high chance that Nevreal would go berserk and hack him to pieces.

Ten million gold coins was already an astronomical sum for the Half-Elf, so he couldn't possibly ask for more... at least, for the time being.

The Half-Elf also glanced at the remaining time he had to return Clyde to the Wolfpine Barony to complete his most important mission.

The Baron's Second Son was currently tied up and was riding with Keane on his Warg.

Clyde was still sleeping because the Half-Elf didn't dispel the sleeping spell that was cast on him by the Rankers of Twilight Rain.

To keep it safe, the Half-Elf decided to keep the Dwarf asleep until they returned to the Wolfpine Barony.

Mission Time: 8: 24: 10

'With the time remaining, we will barely arrive at the Border of the Barony,' Lux thought. 'Maybe I should have asked Millie to carry us instead.'

As the Half-Elf thought about the green-haired Dwarf, he felt a strong gust of wind from above his head, making him look up.

"Millie and Princess Anastasia?" Lux frowned. "What are the two of you doing here?"

Princess Anastasia looked at the chubby teenager before shifting her gaze to Clyde, who was still tied up with a rope.

After hearing the full details from Millie, the Princess almost cursed herself for bringing the Baron's Second Son to the Capital City, which would ultimately make the Creature of Ruin follow him.

As a member of the Royal Family, she was well-aware of the history of the Kingdom, especially about the Monsters of Ruin that were scattered around the Arondight Territory.

Within the Kingdom of Gweliven, the giant Seven-Headed Dog, Teju Jagua, which was one of the four Monsters of Ruin, had the ability to suck up the life of the land around it, turning it into a wasteland.

If such a Beast were allowed to wander freely across the Kingdom of Gweliven, the Princess knew that her people would suffer unprecedented hardship if she didn't do anything to help stop its advance.

"We are going to take you to the Wolfpine Barony as fast as we can, Sir Lucien," Princess Anastasia said as she hovered in the air with the help of Millie's power. Unfortunately, we can't bring all of you there. However, since time is of the essence, Sir Lucien and Clyde will come with me.

"With Millie's help, we will be able to reach our destination in time, and still have room to spare before the Creature of Ruin arrives."

Lux nodded after hearing the Princess' words. That was indeed the fastest mean they could use to return to the barony.

"Cai, Keane, I'll go on ahead," Lux said. "I'll wait for you in the Barony, so please, do your best to arrive in time."

Cai and Keane nodded in understanding.

Traveling on land took too much time, so it would be a lot faster if Lux traveled in the air with Millie and the Princess.

Without another word, the chubby teenager grabbed the sleeping Clyde and signaled Millie that he was ready.

"Bye bye!" Eiko waved at Cai, Keane, and Fei Fei on the ground as she and her Papa floated in the air.

"Bye bye!" Fei Fei replied as she jumped in place on top of Cai's head.

A moment later, the Half-Elf, Eiko, Clyde, Millie, and Princess Anastasia soared into the sky, headed towards the Wolfpine Barony.

Chapter 408.2: Return To Wolfpine Barony [Part 2]

Because Millie was still tired from the battle, they weren't able to fly at a very fast rate. However, it was swift enough.

Lux believed that, within the eight remaining hours, they would arrive at Dunspear City, where the Baron's Residence was located, in time.

Seeing the Half-Elf carrying the sleeping Clyde in his arms made Princess Anastasia frown a bit.

Right now, she was being carried by Millie in a princess carry as they soared across the sky headed towards the Baron's territory.

In truth, the Princess wanted to propose that she swap places with Clyde, allowing herself to be carried by the chubby teenager.

But, knowing the crisis that her Kingdom was about to face, she decided to set this selfish thought aside.

'There will be plenty of opportunities in the future,' Princess Anastasia thought.

Since she was a Princess of the Kingdom, she would just use her authority to create opportunities for him to pamper her.

Due to the urgency of the situation, none of them had the chance to talk as they continued their journey.

Princess Anastasia had asked the Adventurers from the Adventurer's Guild to head to Wolfpine Barony in order to serve as reinforcements, just in case something out of the ordinary happened.

After completing their mission, Keelan and his comrades were about to disband and return to their own hometowns, but after hearing the Princess' request, they decided to take a detour, and assist her one more time.

Keelan, who had already been informed by Lux about the Creature of Ruin, decided to convince his people to do as the Princess asked.

However, he insisted that they should be given additional compensation because they would treat the Princess' orders as a direct commission to the Adventurer's Guild.

Princess Anastasia didn't bat an eye and agreed to their request. It wasn't her money that would be used to pay the Adventurer's Guild, so she was fine with that. She would just collect the payment from the Baron, or from her father, and cite that this was an emergency request that concerned the safety of the Kingdom.

If what Millie told her was real, then the Adventurers would not hesitate to help them because once the Monster of Ruin rampaged across the land, their livelihoods would be affected as well.

Seven and a half hours later, an exhausted Millie landed on the outskirts of Dunspear City at Lux's request.

He knew that bringing Clyde back to the Baron's house was a bad idea, so they agreed to just hide him somewhere for the time being until the Monster of Ruin arrived.

The Half-Elf passed the sleeping Clyde to Eiko, who unceremoniously devoured him for safekeeping.

The Half-Elf then rented a big room in an inn, while Millie and Princess Anastasia put on robes with hoods to cover their faces.

Only after they were safely inside the room did the two Dwarves take them off.

"Let's rest for now," Lux proposed before glancing at the remaining time on his mission. "We don't know what will happen later. There is still an hour left before the Monster of Ruin arrives."

Mission Time: 1: 14: 37

The Half-Elf opened the window and stared towards the North.

He could see the dark clouds in the distance, which meant that the monster of Ruin was close.

"Sir Lucien, I have something to ask," Princess Anastasia said as she sat on top of the bed. "Millie told me that her Master said that the latest member of the Order of the Griffon was a Half-Elf and not a Human. Are you perhaps hiding your true identity?"

Lux glanced at the adorable Princess before nodding his head.

"Yes," Lux answered. "I am indeed hiding my true identity."

After receiving Millie's help, Lux felt that it was fine to share this bit of information with them since they were currently temporary allies.

The green-haired Dwarf was the disciple of one of the members of the Order, so it was only natural for her to know some information about him.

"Then, are you using some kind of artifact to hide your true looks?" Princess Anastasia asked. "If possible, I want to see what you really look like."

"Is there even a need for that?" Lux asked back. "Also, Twilight Rain is looking for me. It will be best if I don't show my true appearance right now."

Princess Anastasia pouted.

"We are not members of Twilight Rain, and you are my benefactor," Princess Anastasia insisted. "Your secret is safe with me."

Lux sighed before glancing in Millie's direction.

After seeing that Lux was asking for her opinion, the green-haired Dwarf nodded her head.

"Although your employer and her Highness are currently competing, it doesn't change the fact that we owe you a great debt," Millie stated. "We will not do anything to jeopardize your identity. Also, I am very curious about what you truly looked like. Just this once, I want to see the real face of the person who helped save Her Highness, so I can repay this favor in the future. I won't be able to do that if I didn't know your real face, right?"

Lux couldn't come up with any reason to refute the green-haired Dwarf because she had indeed helped him a lot on this mission.

Also, he didn't know what would happen in the future, and having a Ranker become indebted to him wasn't a bad idea.

"Okay," Lux finally agreed. "But, you have to promise me one thing. No matter what happens, you will not spread my information to other people. Right now, Twilight Rain thinks that I am dead. It should stay that way until I am strong enough to let them know that I am still alive and kicking."

Princess Anastasia and Millie nodded their heads and promised Lux to not divulge his information.

"Actually, my true name is not Lucien, but Lux," Lux said as he took off his mask, undoing his current transformation. "And this is what I truly looked like."

Princess Anastasia's face turned beet red after seeing the handsome Half-Elf look at her with a smile. Even Millie, who didn't expect Lux to be a good looking teenager, blinked a few times just to confirm that she wasn't seeing things.

'He looks like a Prince,' Princess Anastasia thought as she looked at the Half-Elf with a flushed face. 'Although our race is different, I think I can convince my father to...'

The Princess started to get lost in her fantasy as she looked at the handsome Half-Elf, who was responsible for devising a plan to save her.

Millie, on the other hand, just nodded her head before telling Lux that he could put his mask on again.

"Thank you for your trust," Millie said. "In the future, if you ever need my help, just ask. I will not hesitate to offer you my assistance in order to repay the debt that I owe you."

"I'll take you up on that offer," Lux replied. "I always find myself in situations similar to this, so having a Ranker's help is greatly appreciated."

The corner of Millie's lips twitched when he heard that Lux always found himself in tricky situations such as this.

"...Do you always attract Calamity-Ranked Disasters?" Millie asked. If someone were to listen closely to the tone of her voice, they would hear the faint traces of anxiety and regret in her voice.

"Not always," Lux replied as he put on his Mask of Thousand Faces. He was so close to answering Yes to Millie's question. Fortunately, he managed to stop himself at the last minute, making Millie breathe a sigh of relief.

For the green-haired Dwarf, the Princess' kidnapping on top of the Calamity-Ranked Monster of Ruin was already a very big deal.

If Lux were to admit that he often found himself in trouble, Millie might take her offer back, making him lose a dependable ally in the future.

Half an hour later, a thunderous roar reverberated in the skies above Dunspear City, making Princess Anastasia jump up from the bed in fright and run towards Lux, clinging onto him.

At first, Lux wanted to pry the Princess' hands from his robes, but after he saw that her body was trembling, he had no choice but to pat her head and assure her that everything was going to be fine.

Millie walked towards where Lux was standing before looking out of the window.

Strong gusts of wind were blowing in the surroundings, and thunder and lightning rampaged in the sky, forcing the people outdoors to seek shelter.

"Is it here?" Millie asked Lux with a voice that was almost akin to a whisper. She still couldn't forget the instinctive fear that she felt when she saw the seven-headed dog monster, making her subconsciously clench her fist due to anxiety.

Lux narrowed his eyes as he glanced at the blurry figure that seemed to be covered by a thick mist that had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, shrouding the entire city.

The Half-Elf might not be able to see the seven-headed dog, but he could hear its steady steps in the distance. He knew that it was only a matter of time before it arrived.

Princess Anastasia had never seen the Monster of Ruin before, but due to the nature of her powers, she was quite sensitive to everything that was dangerous to living things.

She couldn't stop her body from shuddering as she buried her face in Lux's waist, hoping that her savior would be able to deal with the current situation and stop the Monster of Ruin from turning her Kingdom into a wasteland.

Chapter 409.1: Seven-Headed Calamity [Part 1]

"Listen to me, and listen very closely," Lux said as he stared at the ominous scene outside the window while gently patting Princess Anastasia's head. "No matter what happens, you mustn't attack the Creature of Ruin. Do you understand, Your Highness, Millie?"

Princess Anastasia, who had buried her head in Lux's waist, nodded her head in understanding.

Millie also replied with a brief nod to indicate that she understood. As a Disciple of one of the members of the Order of the Griffin, she had the opportunity to meet one of the two Saints of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

She had felt how strong a Saint was back then, but after seeing the Monster of Ruin, she felt like she would rather offend a Saint than offend a creature like that.

'Cai, Keane, where are you guys?' Lux asked using the guild chat function.

Now that the timer of his mission was less than half an hour, he assumed that Cai and Keane should have already entered the border of the Wolfpine Barony.

'It will take us at least an hour to reach the city,' Cai replied. 'But, I can see dark clouds in the distance. Also, my instincts are telling me that I should stay away no matter what.'

'I also sense something very powerful in the distance,' Keane replied. 'Are you sure we are going to be fine?'

Lux wanted to tell them that everything was going to be fine, but even he was feeling that he should run away as far as he could.

If not for the fact that his life depended on it, he would have already escaped the Wolfpine Barony alongside his friends and the Princess, who was shivering non-stop while holding onto him.

'The two of you are still cursed, so it is best that you come here as fast as you could for the curse to be lifted,' Lux explained. 'Also, remember what we talked about earlier. No matter what happens, do not attack the Monster. Keane, if Cai does anything stupid due to panic, just knock it unconscious, okay?'

'How barbaric!' Cai exclaimed. 'Do you really think I'm stupid? I already told you that I only bully the weak and fear the strong. Something like that creature who is stronger than my Gramps is way out of my league!'

'Okay, I'll knock this pig out if it does something stupid,' Keane replied.

'Hello? Little Swordy. I'm a Boar, not a Pig! Get your facts straight.'

'Okay, Pig.'

'Kuh! I made sure that you are well-fed, yet you still developed the gall to talk back to me!'

'Huh? I think you're reversing the situation. Who do you think always pays when we go to restaurants? You're the one that is well-fed, you leech.'

'I'm a Boar, okay?'

'Just shut up.'

The Half-Elf couldn't help but smile when he heard the bickering of his friends. It somehow took his mind off the approaching calamity in front of him, giving him an opportunity to regain his composure.

Eiko, who was perched on top of his head, was shivering as well, just like Princess Anastasia.

Clearly, she could tell how powerful the beast was because of her own Monster instincts.

"Eiko, release Clyde," Lux ordered.

Eiko nodded and spat out the Baron's second son, who was still tied up by a rope. Now that there was less than half an hour remaining, there was no way in hell that the Dwarf playboy would be able to run away.

< Emergency Quest! >

< Whisper of Ruin >

Mission Rating: SSS

< Quest Objective >

– Find the Baron's second son and stop him from leaving Wolfpine Barony within the next 72 hours.

– Do not attack the Creature of Ruin. The quest will automatically fail if you or any of your members harm the creature in any way possible.

< Mission Rewards >

– The Curse of Ruin will be lifted.

– Your lives will be spared.

Mission Time: 00: 18: 21

Suddenly, a loud roar spread in the surroundings, causing the gust of wind that was blowing down on the city to intensify.

It was at that moment when Lux finally saw it.

Amidst the Dark Mists that grew thicker every passing minute, he saw several glowing orbs, which he believed were the eyes of the seven-headed dog monster, Teju Jagua.

"Millie, take care of the Princess," Lux said as he coaxed the Princess who was clinging to him as if her life depended on it. "Princess, stay with Millie. You will be safer with her. I still have things I need to do."

"Princess, Lux is right," Millie stated. "Please, come here."

Without waiting for Princess Anastasia's reply, the green-haired Dwarf pried the princess' hands away from Lux and pulled her back towards the bed.

Lux then gave Millie a brief nod before grabbing the tied up Dwarf and jumping out of the window.

The Half-Elf then equipped his Favonius Battle Regalia, which he had inherited from the founder of Leaf Village, Favonius.

Eiko remained on top of Lux's head, fighting off the fear she was feeling, as the Half-Elf flew in the direction where the glowing eyes were located.

"Hoh... What's this? A Half-Elf?"

A voice filled with amusement spread in the surroundings.

Perhaps, knowing that Lux was heading in its direction, the black mists that covered the surroundings thinned, allowing the Half-Elf to see the monster of Ruin whose seven heads were looking on his body as if he was something delicious.

"It has been a while since I've seen a Half-Elf."

"It has been hundreds of years since I ate one. I wonder if this one tastes the same as the one we ate in the past."

"Do you even have time to taste them? As far as I know, you just devour them whole."

"Hahaha! You got that part right. They are so small that I can't even taste them properly."

Four of the Seven Heads were talking among themselves, while the three heads looked at him with a sleepy gaze.

'It seems like this monster is still not fully awake,' Lux thought as he landed on the rampart of the City Wall.

He didn't know if the Monster of Ruin would break through the city's protective wall in order to get Clyde, but to ensure that no other people would get hurt, the Half-Elf decided to meet it halfway, as he held the dwarf in his hands firmly.

"I brought the person you are looking for," Lux said as he held his ground, showing Clyde's face to the Seven-headed Dog whose heads were talking among themselves.

"Oh?"

One of the Giant Dog's heads took a closer look to see the Dwarf in Lux's hands.

"Well, he matches the description that our new Master gave us. Is this the boy we are looking for?"

"There's no rush. The Master is almost here," one of the heads replied. "We will know once he gets here."

As if waiting for that cue, a giant black eagle descended from the sky. Mounted on its back were two people.

One was covered with a black robe, preventing Lux from seeing what they looked like, and the other was a female Dwarf, whom Lux believed to be in her early twenties.

The moment she saw the tied up Clyde, an expression of hate, tinted with excitement, appeared on her pretty face, making the Half-Elf shudder subconsciously. He instinctively felt something ominous about the Dwarf lady, whose gaze had locked on to the Dwarf in his hands.

"I told you I'd be back, didn't I, Clyde?" the lady dwarf said with a smile that was borderline crazy. However, her smile disappeared when she realized that the tied up dwarf wasn't conscious.

"What did you do to him?!" the lady dwarf shouted hatefully at Lux. "Did you kill him?!"

"Calm down, young miss," the black-robed man spoke. "He is not dead. Just under a sleeping spell."

The black-robed man snapped his finger, creating a crisp and clear sound that woke up Clyde, who had been sleeping all this time.

"Wher—Hiiii!" Clyde glanced at his surroundings, but immediately froze in place after seeing the Giant Seven-Headed Dog in front of him.

"Clyde, you're finally awake!" the lady Dwarf said. "Did you miss me? Because I've missed you a lot!"

"D-Dora... No!" shouted Clyde, who recognized the Dwarf lady who had been exiled from the Barony due to her claim of getting pregnant with his child.

She reappeared in front of him, however, unlike before, the Dwarf lady had a crazed smile on her face, making Clyde regret taking advantage of her when she was still innocent and ignorant with the ways of the world and love.

Chapter 410.2: Seven-Headed Calamity [Part 2]

"No? What are you talking about, Clyde?" Dora asked. "Are you saying that you didn't miss me?"

"I-I missed you!" Clyde replied because he had a feeling that if he replied otherwise, he would die a very miserable death.

"Really?"

"Yes! I missed you very much. In fact, I am regretting my decision to toss you aside. If only I took responsibility after getting you pregnant, then the three of us, along with our child, would have lived very happy lives."

The crazed smile disappeared on Dora's face as she stared at the Baron's second son with a serene gaze.

For some reason, Lux could feel that the current Dora is more dangerous than the one that he had seen before. It was as if the crazed smile earlier was just a facade of something more sinister that hid within the depths of her heart.

"Did you regret that time when we lost our child?" Dora asked calmly.

Clyde nodded desperately as if it was his last chance to appeal to that innocent teenage girl, whom he had tricked to spend the night with him a few years ago.

"Of course!" Clyde answered. "That was my child. How could I possibly not regret its death?"

"But you are the reason why he is dead, you know? You were the one that killed our firstborn son."

"I am truly sorry for what happened. Please, allow me to make it up to you! I will do anything. I swear that I will love you, and only you!"

Lux then saw a smile appear on Dora's face.

Although the pretty Dwarf was smiling, it gave him a feeling of sadness and heartache.

It was the smile of someone who had lost someone very important to them. And this was true for her, as she lost the child she had protected inside her body for several months.

This was the first time that Lux had seen such a smile, and for a brief moment, he could see the true feelings inside Dora's heart, which no one had seen since she had disappeared from Wolfpine Barony.

"Words are cheap, Clyde," Dora said calmly. "But, don't worry. I forgive you."

"R-Really?" Clyde looked at the pretty Dwarf with a hopeful gaze, as if he had been spared from the death penalty.

As long as he could survive his current predicament, he was willing to say anything, do anything, even tell her words that he didn't really mean.

The Baron's second son would, of course, abandon Dora as soon as the Monster with seven heads, who was looking at him with amusement, disappeared from his sight.

"Yes, I will forgive you," Dora said as she once again gave Clyde a very sweet smile that made the hairs on the back of Lux's neck stand on end.

"Thank you!" Clyde shouted. "I promise this time I will do it right! We will live as a happy family. As for the child we lost, don't worry! I can give you as many children as you want. We can build a big family together!"

"...Right." Dora nodded. "Since you want to be with me so badly, then I guess I have no choice but to accept it, right?"

One of the heads of the Seven-Headed Dog laughed.

Suddenly, Clyde's body froze in place before it slowly rose up from the ground.

Clyde wanted to scream, but no voice came out of his mouth. He flew helplessly towards the head that laughed at him, unable to close his eyes even if he wanted to.

When Clyde's and the Dog's eyes met, the dwarf's body shuddered once before a calm and infatuated look appeared on his face.

The ropes that bound him split apart, and the Baron's second son shifted his gaze to Dora, who was looking at him with a smile on her face.

"My love," Clyde said. "I'm sorry. I'm really sorry. I've hurt you very much."

Clyde's green eyes had turned purple, and he looked lovingly at the young lady whom he had tossed aside almost a year ago.

"Mmm, don't worry, I forgive you," Dora said as he reached out to the Baron's second son, who would now live and die for her sake. "Since you wanted to be with me so much, I guess I have no choice but to accept you, right?"

"I'm sorry, my Love. I promise to dedicate everything to you from this day onwards."

"I'm sure you will... I'm sure you will."

Lux clenched his fist, digging his nails into his palms in order to keep himself sane as he watched the scene in front of his eyes.

He knew that Clyde had been stripped of his freedom and will for the rest of his life, due to whatever the monster had done to him.

"I love happy endings," One of the monster's heads said before glancing down at Lux with its crimson eyes. "Don't you agree, Half-Elf?"

Lux forced himself to nod, and agree to the monster's words. He was afraid that if he didn't, he would suffer the same fate as Clyde, who would now live and die according to Dora's will.

Dora, who was now hugging the Baron's second son, shifted her gaze to the Half-Elf, who was ready to flee at any moment.

"You are the one that brought Clyde to me," Dora said. "What reward do you want?"

The lady dwarf smiled at Lux, but it never reached her eyes. It was as if she was just promising him a reward, when in fact, she didn't plan on giving him anything.

Even so, Lux forced himself to talk. He knew that if he didn't, he would regret not saying anything at a later time.

"My life," Lux said through gritted teeth. "As well as the life of my friends, and the people of this city."

Dora's eyes widened in surprise after hearing Lux's words. However, this surprise didn't last for long before a chuckle escaped her lips.

A moment later, this chuckle turned into laughter.

A crazy laughter that spread across the entire city, making the blood of those who heard it turn cold.

"I think that is an appropriate reward," Dora replied with a smile. "What are the names of your friends?"

Lux then said Cai's, Keane's, Princess Anastasia's, Millie's, and the Adventurer Guildmaster's name. He wanted to say more names, but Dora's face was telling him that adding more would make her make her promise null and void.

"Very well, the names of the people you said will be spared," Dora stated. "As for the rest..."

Four of the seven dog heads opened their mouths and unleashed a breath attack that instantly obliterated everything it touched.

In just a span of a second, half of the city was already destroyed and turned into ruins.

Screams, cries for help, curses, and wailing reverberated in the surroundings as the smile on Dora's face widened. It was as if she was enjoying the death and destruction around her, making her pretty face contort into something hideous.

"All of you will accompany my child to the Underworld!" Dora shouted as the four Heads once again unleashed a breath attack, destroying the parts of the town that had survived its earlier strike.

At that moment, a green-haired Dwarf soared towards the skies, holding the Third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven in her arms.

One of the Dogs shifted its gaze on Millie and Princess Anastasia, and was about to unleash an attack to kill them. But, the black-robed man spoke out, preventing it from doing what it was supposed to do.

"Don't kill those two," the black-robed man said. "They are two of the people that he mentioned earlier."

The Dog Head clicked its tongue before shifting its gaze on the part of the city that hadn't been destroyed yet.

From the very start, they had no intention of letting anyone in Dunspear City survive for it was the promise they made to Dora, who had helped them unlock the seals that bound their main body.

< Emergency Quest - Completed! >

< Whisper of Ruin >

Mission Rating: SSS

< Rewards >

– The Curse of Ruin will be lifted.

– Your lives will be spared.

Lux felt conflicted after seeing the completion of the mission.

He, Millie, and Princess Anastasia had survived, but everyone in the city had been killed without mercy by the Monster of Ruin, which was known as a walking Calamity.

The Half-Elf pondered if there was another way he could have salvaged the situation, but after everything that happened, he knew that there was really nothing he could do aside from plead for his life, his friends' lives, as well as the lives of Princess Anastasia and Millie.

Suddenly, a series of words appeared in front of Lux, which made him bite his lip due to helplessness and frustration.

He didn't expect that things would turn out this way, but after seeing the next quest that appeared in front of him, he felt as if he had lost the ability to breathe for a brief moment.

< Optional Quest Activated! >

< Destroy One Of The Head of Ruin! >

Mission Rating: SSS

– Now that it has been revived, the Creature of Ruin will hide for the time being to fully recover its powers.

– While it is still in its weakened state, destroy one of its heads in order to delay its complete revival.

– This quest is optional. You have the right to accept or reject it.

< Rewards >

+10,000 Free Stat Points

+500,000 Body Constitution Points

+100,000 Kingdom of Gweliven Reputation points.

– 200,000,000 Gold Coins

– Gaining 100,000 Reputation Points in one territory will give you the status of "Reverence," making your influence, and authority, second only to the ruler of that territory.

< Will you accept this quest? >

< Yes / No >

Chapter 411: The Day Of Ruin

The Half-Elf firmly chose No after he had regained his composure. Although it might be possible for him to injure and possibly destroy one of the heads of the Monster of Ruin, he didn't dare to take the risk.

A Calamity-Ranked Monster that couldn't even be defeated by a dozen Saints working together was something he didn't want to antagonize.

Although the rewards were great, the possibility of being hunted down by such a creature would become his living nightmare.

He would rather not offend such a monster, and be thankful that his life was spared. However, he still felt that the tragedy that was happening around him could have been avoided if he only had the courage to speak his mind.

Just as the Half-Elf was feeling depressed, a surprisingly kind and understanding voice reached his ears.

"Don't blame yourself, boy," the black-robed dwarf said. "The moment Teju Jagua's seals were broken, this was this Barony's inevitable fate. No one could have saved them. Especially not a little Apostle like you, nor the Two Saints that stand at the pinnacle of this Kingdom. Also, don't feel sad. The

people of this town didn't die for naught. Their deaths will serve a grander purpose."

The black-robed man snapped his fingers a second time.

The blaze that had engulfed the entire city suddenly disappeared, leaving only black smoke rising up in the air.

Suddenly, the sound of something crumbling and chattering reached Lux's ears, making him look behind him at the city, which had now been charred to ruins.

At first, he wasn't able to see anything due to the black smoke in his surroundings. But after several minutes, he felt them.

Lux felt his entire body tingle, as if he was being electrocuted because he didn't expect to see something like this in his life.

Skeletons... that numbered in the hundreds of thousands, rose up from the rubble.

Skeletons of adults, skeletons of children, and even skeletons that were so small that Lux could only think of them as the skeletons of babies all started to rise up from where they died, as they answered their new Master's summons.

"N-Necromancer," Lux stuttered as he stared at the Skeleton Army that had risen up from the ashes of Dunspear City.

"Right," the black-robed man replied in a teasing tone. "A Necromancer, just like you, boy."

Lux slowly turned his head to look at the black-robed man, whose face was still hidden by the black robe he was wearing.

He hadn't been able to notice it right away because the Seven-Headed Dog's presence was too overwhelming that he couldn't focus on anything else.

But now that things had calmed down a bit, he was able to observe the black-robed person more, and beads of sweat formed on his forehead.

"Saint..." Lux muttered. "You are a Saint."

A gust of wind blew away the hood covering the Necromancer's face, showing Lux a middle-aged Dwarf with silver hair, and eyes that were as red as blood.

Lux knew that there were other Necromancers in the World, but never in his wildest dreams did he expect that the first Necromancer that he would meet in his life was a bonafide Saint, whose eyes looked down on him with great interest, making the Half-Elf's heart beat wildly inside his chest.

Fear slowly started to rise from the very depths of his soul.

"Since we've already met, how about you tell me your name?" the middle-aged Dwarf said. "But, before you do that, take off that mask covering your face. I want to see what you really look like. A while ago, Teju Jagua said that you are a Half-Elf, but all I see is a chubby Human.

"I'm sure you have your reasons for hiding your identity, but you don't have to worry anymore. Aside from you, us, and those two dwarfs over there, there will be no one else who could see you. Now, take it off."

Lux was very tempted to retort with, "What if I don't want to do it?" but he didn't dare to do such a thing.

In front of overwhelming strength, the only thing he could do was try his best to avoid provoking them.

The Half-Elf took off the Mask of the Thousand Faces, allowing the middle-aged Dwarf, Dora, as well as the Seven-Headed Dog, to see what he really looked like.

"My name is Lux," Lux said. "Lux Von Kaizer."

The thought of using his Master's name crossed his mind again, but he had a feeling that the Saint in front of him could tell if he was lying or not, so he answered truthfully.

"Hmmm. Judging by your looks, you are still in your mid-teens... maybe around sixteen to eighteen, but not more than twenty," the middle-aged Dwarf said as he rubbed his chin. "Very well. I'll allow you to live, Lux. Also..."

The middle-aged Dwarf shifted his gaze at Millie who was holding Princess Anastasia in her arms.

"You are the Third Princess of this Kingdom?" the middle-aged Dwarf asked.

Princess Anastasia's body shuddered uncontrollably as the Necromancer shifted his gaze to her. After personally witnessing how the entirety of Dunspear City was wiped out in a matter of seconds, she finally understood why the Calamity-Ranked Monster was sealed—it was because of its destructive capabilities.

"Poor child, you're too scared to answer me?" the middle-aged Dwarf said softly. "Very well. When you see your father, tell him this, Memento Mori will be taking the Creature of Ruin. However, he doesn't have to worry about his kingdom being destroyed. Even though we are Necromancers, we value life more than others."

The middle-aged Dwarf then smiled before continuing his declaration. "Our goal is for both the living and the dead to live in peace. So, make sure to tell your father to forget this incident, and we can part ways without any hard feelings. Do you understand?"

Princess Anastasia forced herself to nod her head. Although she didn't know if the Necromancer was telling the truth or not, this was not for her to decide, but for her father.

Seeing the adorable Dwarf nod her head in understanding, the Necromancer chuckled before patting the back of his Black Eagle.

"If Fate wills it, we'll meet again Lux," the middle-aged dwarf said. "Until then, make sure you become an outstanding Necromancer. I look forward to seeing how much you've grown the next time we meet. Let's go, Teju Jagua."

""Yes, Master.""

The Black Eagle rose to the sky, and the giant Seven-Headed Monster of Ruin walked away.

Right behind it, the Skeletons that numbered in hundreds of thousands followed, making Princess Anastasia bury her face in Millie's chest, unable to handle the gruesome sight.

Cai and Keane had also seen the incident from a distance and decided to stay away from the city until the Monster of Ruin left for their own safety.

In the end, those who were at the scene were taken to the capital city of Aeronwen by the members of the Order of the Griffin, who were late to arrive.

The members of the Order, including Millie's Master, were tasked to track the Princess down using an artifact that could locate the Princess' Pendant.

But after realizing that they were tricked by their opponents, they hurried towards Dunspear City. They believed that they could find clues about the Princess's whereabouts along the way.

When they saw the dense black smoke that was rising in the distance, they knew that something had gone terribly wrong. Unfortunately, it was already too late when they arrived.

The Necromancer was long gone, and the Monster of Ruin was nowhere in sight.

A day later, news of Dunspear City being destroyed spread throughout the surrounding lands. However, no one knew what caused it.

In the end, the Dwarf King, Uther Von Gweliven, mobilized his secret agents to erase all traces of the Teju Jagua's footprints from the scene, preventing anyone from knowing what had happened.

The official statement of the King was that a meteor had fallen from the sky and landed on Dunspear City.

Naturally, the members of the Griffin worked hand in hand to create the scenario that the King had announced, making the populace calm down.

Aside from a select number of people, no one was told what truly happened, burying the real story of the tragedy that went down in the history books as the Day of Ruin.

Chapter 412: You Forgot Or You Wanted To Forget

Princess Anastasia woke up early and impatiently walked down the hallways of the Royal Palace.

"Princess, it's still too early," Millie yawned as she followed behind the Princess who hadn't had breakfast yet. "I think he is still sleeping."

"Millie, remember this," Princess Anastasia said as she walked briskly in the hallway. "The early bird gets the early worm. If I don't act now, the worm might get snatched from me."

"Uhh... I don't really understand, but if Her Highness says so, then it must be true," Millie stifled another yawn as she followed behind the adorable Dwarf who was so energetic early in the morning.

After returning to the Capital, the five of them went to meet with the King, who was very happy to see that his daughter was safe. However, since there were other people around, he acted like how a King should act and listened to Lux's tale about how the Princess was saved and what caused the destruction of Dunspear City.

Aside from the King, there were six more people inside the room who listened to his narration.

After his report ended, the King once again thanked him for saving the Princess and promised to give him an adequate reward.

Lux was exhausted both physically and emotionally, so he excused himself to get proper rest.

The chase to save the princess, as well as the pressure he endured when he faced the Seven-Headed Dog and the Necromancer, took a toll on his body.

If not for the fact that the King had personally called for him, he would have gone to sleep the moment he arrived at the Royal Palace.

"Good morning, Sir Lucien!" Princess Anastasia greeted as she unceremoniously opened the door without even knocking.

Seeing that no one was in the living room, she headed straight to the bedroom, where Lux slept soundly.

The Half-Elf was sleeping face down, still wearing the clothes he had on yesterday. The funny thing was that he was still wearing his shoes, which made Princess Anastasia and Millie assume that, the moment Lux entered the bedroom, he went to sleep right away.

He must be so tired that he could not even be bothered to change his clothes or remove his shoes.

Eiko was also sleeping on the pillow beside Lux's head.

Just like her Papa, she was also very exhausted and didn't even stir when Princess Anastasia barged inside their room.

To Millie's surprise, the first thing that Princess Anastasia did was take Lux's shoes off of his feet before sitting down on the bed to look at the Half-Elf's face.

The Princess didn't like touching dirty things, yet she didn't even hesitate to remove Lux's shoes which were quite dirty.

"His sleeping face is quite handsome, don't you think so, Millie?"

"M-Maybe a little?"

"Poor thing, he looks really exhausted," Princess Anastasia said softly as she brushed away a lock of hair that covered the Half-Elf's face. "I must give him a proper reward for saving me."

Millie blinked once then twice before a realization hit her.

'C-Could it be?!' Millie wasn't a dense person, but she didn't know if what she was thinking was correct.

(A/N: M-Masaka?!)

The fact that Princess Anastasia seemed to be quite interested in Lux didn't surprise her. However, she only thought that the Princess only wanted to make the Half-Elf one of her retainers, just like her.

However, after seeing her affectionate gaze, the green-haired Dwarf finally connected the dots, making her look at the Third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven in disbelief.

"Princess, do you like Lux?" Millie asked.

Princess Anastasia didn't answer right and continued to look at the Half-Elf's sleeping face.

A few minutes later, she shifted her gaze toward her loyal retainer and nodded her head.

"Yes," Princess Anastasia replied. "I like him."

Millie pinched the bridge of her nose before asking the Princess another question.

"You like him—as in you want to poach him to become your retainer, right?" Millie inquired.

The princess shook her head before giving the sleeping Half-Elf a side-long glance.

"Although I would be happy if he becomes my retainer, I don't think he will accept my invitation," Princess Anastasia said with a smile. "Yes. Millie. I like him. If possible, I want to make him my fiancé."

The corner of the green-haired Dwarf's lips twitched after hearing Princess Anastasia's reply. For a brief moment, she imagined Lux being tied to a chair with a gagged mouth as the Princess dragged him to a temple to have a shotgun marriage.

As if reading Millie's thoughts, Princess Anastasia puffed her cheeks in annoyance.

"How rude," Princess Anastasia pouted. "I'm not that kind of lady. Do you think that I would force someone to marry me by tying them up with a rope? Just what kind of Princess do you think I am?"

"The type that will use any means within her power to get what she wants?" Millie replied without batting an eye.

"Is that what I am like in your mind?"

"A little."

Princess Anastasia once again pouted before looking at the sleeping Half-Elf beside her.

"I know that it is next to impossible," Princess Anastasia stated. "I'm sure that father will not allow it. But, even so, I can't lie about my own feelings."

Millie walked towards the Princess and crossed her arms over her chest.

"But you only met him a few days ago," Millie commented. "You don't even know what he is like."

Princess Anastasia smiled and nodded her head.

"You are right, but can't you see that baby Slime over there?" Princess Anastasia asked as she pointed at the sleeping Eiko beside Lux. "For him to care about this little one means he is inherently a good person. Even if he does bad things, I believe that he will have a good reason to do so."

"Princess, I didn't believe this phrase before, but I believe it now. Love is blind."

"Perhaps."

Princess Anastasia didn't deny or affirm Millie's statement because she understood that what she might be feeling right now was gratitude instead of love.

However, she believed that if she was given more time and got to know Lux a little more, then the feelings that had started to grow inside her heart would definitely bear fruit in the not-so-distant future.

"I can't believe that we fell for Twilight Rain's trick," a Dwarf with silver hair said as he gnashed his teeth in anger.

"Albert, it's not your fault," Nikola stated. "The enemy is just too shrewd with their methods, preventing us from knowing right away that we were sent on a wild goose chase."

"Fortunately, that boy, Lux was there," Galileo commented. "Isn't that right, Charles?"

The Dwarf, who was wearing spectacles, snorted. "At least he didn't waste the blood of the Jade World Dragon that I procured to fake his death."

The four men who were in the same room with the King of Gweliven were none other than four of the members of the Order of the Griffin.

The silver-haired dwarf who seemed to be in his early twenties was Albert Tesla.

He was an S-Ranker and held the second highest authority within the Order that served directly under the King.

Albert was also Millie's Master, and he arrived in Dunspear City after it was destroyed by the Monster of Ruin.

(A/N: I'm sure that the majority of you have already forgotten these characters. In order to refresh your memories, feel free to re-read Chapter 189 up to Chapter 217.)

Uther Von Gweliven, the King of the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven, sighed as he pressed his hands together.

"I am truly grateful for Lux's help in saving my daughter," Uther said. "And I will reward him handsomely for it. However, we have bigger problems at the moment. After hearing Millie's report, I fear that the peace we now have will shatter once that Monster of Ruin makes its move."

A profound silence descended inside the room because all of them knew the severity of the situation.

"If we can believe the Necromancer's words, then our Kingdom might be spared from the calamity," Nikola commented. "Memento Mori hasn't made any moves over the past decade. I almost forgot that they existed."

Charles snorted after hearing Nikola's comment. "You forgot or you wanted to forget? Those Necromancers might have been busy amassing their Undead Army in the years that they didn't make their appearance."

Albert nodded his agreement and made his opinion known as well.

"I believe that it is only a matter of time before we hear from them again," Albert said. "For now, we should inform Those TWO, just in case. Also, Twilight Rain is still active. We shouldn't let our guard down."

King Uther nodded his head because he too agreed with Albert's view.

"For now, cover all the traces left behind by the Monster of Ruin," Uther ordered. "Since those who know of its existence are currently with us, Twilight

Rain will also be in the dark about what happened. Be sure to be discreet and leave nothing behind."

The members of the Order all bowed to the King before leaving the room to carry out the mission that their King had given them.

When he was the only one left in the room, King Uther sighed before closing his eyes.

"The first Mythical Guild in the World has appeared, and now, the Monster of Ruin has been released from its imprisonment," King Uther muttered. "Could this be a coincidence?"

The king didn't know the answer to this question, but he hoped beyond hope that, whatever plans the organization, Memento Mori, was going to execute, they would do it far from his kingdom and allow his people, who had suffered over the years, to regain a semblance of peace that they rightfully deserved.

Chapter 413: I Feel Like I'm Forgetting Something

"Uh... what are the two of you doing?" Lux asked the Princess, who was tugging on his pants with the help of her retainer, Millie.

Truth be told, he had just woken up a moment ago because he instinctively felt that something wasn't right.

The moment he opened his eyes, he found the adorable Princess and Millie holding his pants, which had been pulled down to his knees.

"T-This is now what you think, Sir Lux," Princess Anastasia stuttered. "Y-You fell asleep while wearing your clothes, so I was just helping you remove them so you could sleep comfortably! E-Explain it to him properly, Millie!"

The green-haired Dwarf sighed before glaring at the Half-Elf.

"Oi, the princess was very worried that you were not comfortable wearing these rugged clothes in your sleep, so she decided to remove them," Millie said. "Don't get the wrong idea, okay? We're just helping you because you helped us back in Dunspear City."

Lux blinked once then twice before the memories of what happened several hours ago started to play in his head.

He vaguely remembered entering his room and landing face first on the bed to sleep due to how tired he was.

"Ah... I see. So that's what happened," Lux finally connected the dots before looking at the blushing Princess, whose eyes were glued at the lower half of his body.

In truth, the reason she tried to remove the red-headed teenager's clothes was out of curiosity.

She wanted to know what the difference between Half-Elves and Dwarves was, but before she could succeed in her mission, the Half-Elf woke up, preventing her from taking a good look at his body.

'Are Dwarves really this daring?' Lux thought as he pulled his pants back up. 'Fortunately, I was wearing swim shorts underneath. If not, the princess might have gotten the shock of her life.'

Since he didn't have the time to change clothes after rescuing the Princess from the Rankers of Twilight Rain, Lux was still wearing the same clothes he wore back then.

After considering the possibility of a sea battle, the Half-Elf put on swimming shorts in advance, allowing him to maneuver in the water better should the need arise.

"What time is it?" Lux asked as he stifled a yawn. "I still feel exhausted."

Princess Anastasia, who had now recovered a bit of her composure, answered with a flushed face.

"It's just past seven, Sir Lux," Princess Anastasia replied. "Would you like to join me for breakfast?"

The Princess had a hopeful look on her face, which made Millie, who was standing beside her, sigh in her heart. Clearly, the Princess wanted to spend more time with the Half-Elf, who might leave the capital city at any given moment.

"If possible, I'd like to take a bath first," Lux said.

Now that he thought about it, he'd actually gone to meet the king in his traveler's clothes, which were covered with filth.

"T-Then you can use the Royal Bathhouse!" Princess Anastasia proposed. "Should I send maidservants to help you take a bath? They are very good at scrubbing bodies."

"Thank you, but I'll pass," Lux replied. "Does this room have a private bathtub? I'd like to soak my body in the water for a while."

Millie nodded. "The guest room is equipped with the best amenities. Please, enjoy your bath. Princess, let's go. I'm sure that His Majesty would like to have breakfast with you."

Princess Anastasia gave the Half-Elf one last glance before nodding her head. However, before she left the room, she made Lux promise that he would eat lunch with her.

Since there was nothing wrong with her offer, the Half-Elf agreed, making the adorable Princess' mood lighten once again.

Half a minute later, Lux sighed in pleasure as he soaked his body in the bathtub.

Eiko was happily swimming in the water because the bathtub was spacious enough to fit three people.

After Princess Anastasia left the room, the baby Slime also woke up and joined her Papa in taking a bath.

She had mostly recovered from the fright she experienced after facing the Creature of Ruin several hours ago.

Her Papa didn't know that while he was talking with the middle-aged Necromancer, the baby Slime's body was frozen stiff, paralyzed with fear, unable to move or even utter a word.

She had faced many strong Monsters and people in the past, but the Monster of Ruin was on a whole new level, making her instincts as a Monster rise to the surface.

Lux only found out what happened to Eiko later on, and he spent some time coaxing the baby Slime until she calmed down.

"Are you feeling better now, Eiko?" Lux asked the baby Slime that was swimming in circles in front of him.

"Pa!" Eiko replied.

"Are you sure?"

"Pa!"

Lux knew that Eiko had a strong personality, but he was still worried that the Monster of Ruin had left a mark in her heart, traumatizing her for life.

Seeing that she was back to her lively self, the Half-Elf was able to breathe a sigh of relief before closing his eyes to recall the face of the middle-aged Necromancer.

For some reason, he had a very strong feeling that he would meet him again sometime in the future.

"Memento Mori and the Monster of Ruin," Lux muttered. "I hope that I don't see them anytime soon."

Now that the Half-Elf was able to lift the Curse of Ruin from his body, he could focus on building his Guild Headquarters using the money that Nevreal had promised him.

Having a base for his guild was a crucial step for its expansion, so Lux wanted to finish that first before he reunited with Colette and the others.

When they meet, he would apologize for not telling them about his plan of faking his death to prevent the Dark Guild, Twilight Rain, from targeting him repeatedly.

"I feel like I'm forgetting something," Lux crossed his arms over his chest as he tried to find the source of the uneasy feeling that was nagging at the back of his mind.

Half a minute later, he opened his eyes because he remembered that he and Eiko were not the only ones brought to the Royal Palace.

Cai and Keane were brought there as well, and knowing how much of a troublemaker the Boar was, Lux felt that he had to prevent it from saying something that might offend the Royal Family that would have it blacklisted from the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven.

Chapter 414: Can I Ask For Anything?

Royal Dining Area...

"Even though they were powerful, I didn't back away and faced those powerful Rankers from Twilight Rain with a fearless gaze... Um, are you not eating that pancake? If so, can I have it?"

Cai, who was narrating its story of bravery, was currently dining with the Dwarf King, Queen, his other wives, and his children, who were currently in the Royal Palace.

"Of course, Cai," Princess Anastasia replied with a smile. "You can have it."

The Dwarf Princess unceremoniously handed her plate of pancakes to the Boar that was eating across from her.

The corner of the Dwarf King's lips twitched because he was half-regretting inviting the boar to join them for breakfast as a way to repay it for its help in saving his daughter.

Cai ate with gusto before continuing its tale.

"Where was I? Oh yeah! I was facing off against that Ranker with reddish-brown hair, who had taken the Princess captive," Cai said with a solemn look on its face. "Truth be told, I was so scared that I wanted to run away, but in that situation, I just couldn't leave the princess behind and escape. I thought that since the Dwarves took great care of me in Leaf Village, I needed to repay the favor.

"Unfortunately, I was too weak. Instead of saving the Princess, I was beaten black and blue by those Rankers, and was kidnapped by them as well. Fortunately, My Daddy saved me and the rest is history. Um... are there any more pancakes? I got so engrossed in my story that I didn't notice that I ate them all."

Keane, who was seated beside Cai, kept his silence and pretended that he didn't know who the shameless Boar was.

He found it quite surprising that the Boar treated the Royal Family so casually as it fearlessly chatted with them as though they were its long time friends.

Robin, who was also present at the dining table, also pretended that he didn't know the boar and ate with an elegance befitting a member of the Royal Family.

After hearing Nevreal's report, Robin felt worried about his sister's safety and tasked his retainer to do everything in his power to help with the rescue operations.

Although they were all competitors for the position of Crown Prince or Crown Princess, that didn't change the fact that the members of the Royal Family truly cared for each other.

"On behalf of my family, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to you, Cai and Keane," King Uther said. "Without your help, the Dark Guild might have succeeded in their evil plans. Tell me, what do you want as a reward? As long as it is within my ability, I will grant it without fail."

Cai quieted down and looked at King Uther with sparkling eyes.

Keane, who knew how shameless that Boar could be, immediately tensed because he had a feeling that Cai would ask for something very unreasonable.

"Can I ask for anything?" Cai inquired.

"Yes," King Uther replied. "As long as I can grant it, I will give it to you."

Cai, who felt that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, decided to go all out. However, before it could voice its wish, Lux arrived at the scene and cut it off with his words.

"Ten Million Gold Coins!"

The King, as well as the rest of the Royal Family, shifted their attention to the Half-Elf who was panting for breath. His hair was still wet, and it was quite obvious that he had just gotten out of the bath.

After remembering that the troublemaker, Cai, was also in the Royal Palace, the Half-Elf hurriedly left the room and sprinted toward the Dining Area to prevent it from doing something that would put them all in jeopardy.

However, when he realized that the King was asking Cai what it for a reward, the Half-Elf immediately shouted the first thing that came to his mind, to prevent the Boar from speaking up.

"Okay," King Uther nodded. "As a reward for everything you have done for the Kingdom, I will reward you with ten million gold coins."

Cai, who had lost the opportunity to tell the Dwarf King that it wanted a Legendary Item, stood rooted in place.

Lux sent the Boar a message using their Guild Chat, telling it not to say anything or he would kick it out of the Guild.

Fearing that its future prospects were on the line, the shameless Boar had no choice but to cry crocodile tears and bid its wish for a Legendary Item goodbye.

"How shameless can you get?" Keane looked at the boar who was still crying crocodile tears in the corner of the room in disdain. "You actually wanted to ask for a Legendary Item? Don't you know that those are like National Treasures?"

"But, Little Swordy, he told me that I can ask for anything I wanted," Cai replied.

"That's because the King was being polite and considerate. That doesn't mean that you can get away with asking for just anything!"

"Booo hooo! If only I'd known that the King of this country was a cheapskate, I would have asked for money instead!"

While Keane was nagging at the Boar for being shameless, they heard a knock on the door, which made them stop their conversation.

"It is me, Robin," Robin announced his presence. "Can I come in?"

Lux gave Cai a warning gaze before opening the door to let his employer enter the room.

Just like he expected, Nevreal came with Robin. The middle-aged dwarf smiled and patted Lux in the waist and told him that even though what happened to the Wolfpine Barony was regrettable, Robin still managed to get some Merit Points because Lux was temporarily under his employ when the incident happened.

"You've done well," Nevreal said. "As promised, I will pay for the creation of your Guild Headquarters. How much is it?"

Lux smiled and whispered the amount that he needed in the middle-aged Dwarf's ear.

A moment later, loud noises, the sound of several things breaking, and profane curses were heard inside the guest room, making the guards that were stationed outside its doors wonder what was currently happening inside.

The Royal Guards weren't aware that Robin, Cai, and Keane were all doing their best to hold the middle-aged Dwarf in order to keep him from chopping the shameless Half-Elf to pieces with the War Axe that he was currently holding with both hands.

Chapter 415: It's Just Puppy Love

"Please keep my identity a secret," Robin said after he opened the door, about to leave the guest's bedroom that Lux was currently staying in. "I don't want Colette and the others to know."

Lux nodded. "Very well. Just make sure that you don't involve them in your schemes, or else..."

The Half-Elf gave Robin the "I'll beat the crap out of you" gaze, which made the latter smile.

"I admit that when I first approached them, I had ulterior motives," Robin stated. "But after spending some time with them, I know that they are good people. Don't worry, I'll do things in moderation."

Robin didn't wait for Lux's reply before leaving the room.

Nevreal, who was escorting Robin, gave Lux one last glare before closing the door behind him.

Due to the agreement that he had with the Half-Elf, the poor dwarf had no choice but to fork over ten million gold coins, which was almost half of his entire life savings.

In order to pacify the middle-aged Dwarf, Lux promised that he would assist Robin one more time, free of charge, as long as the request wasn't unreasonable.

Only after the Half-Elf had made his promise did Nevreal calm down.

While ten million gold coins was nothing in the eyes of the Royal Family, for Nevreal who had lived a frugal life, he felt as if he had been robbed in broad daylight.

Even so, after hearing Millie's report, Nevreal knew that Lux's help would be beneficial in the future.

"Are you sure he won't hack you to pieces while you are sleeping?" Cai wondered after Nevreal and Robin left the room. "I can tell that he's holding a grudge against you."

Lux shrugged because he knew that Nevreal wouldn't really hurt him. Although he felt a bit guilty for not being specific about the amount he wanted from him, it was still the Dwarf's fault for not asking how much it would cost him to build the Half-Elf's Guild Headquarters.

"Still, twenty million gold coins... that's a lot," Cai said as it scooted beside Lux and nudged his body with its head. "Mind if I borrow a few million? I promise I will put them to good use."

Lux ignored the shameless Boar as he sat on the couch. He then opened his Soul Book to look at the facilities that he could buy with the extra ten million gold that he got from King Uther, which he would receive when morning came.

'I don't have enough money on hand,' Lux sighed internally after seeing the cost of the Smithy, the Bestiary, the Alchemy Shop, as well as the other facilities that could be installed inside his Guild Headquarters.

< Guild Facilities >

Smithy - 5,000,000 Gold Coins

Bestiary - 5,000,000 Gold Coins

Alchemy Shop - 5,000,000 Gold Coins

XXX - XXX

XXX - XXX

XXX - XXX

XXX - XXX

XXX - XXX

Teleportation Gate - 10,000,000 Gold Coins

If possible, Lux wanted to have the Smithy, Bestiary, Alchemy Shop, as well as the Teleportation Gate, installed in his Guild Headquarters. However, with the limited funds he had, it was simply impossible.

Because of this, Lux was deliberating whether he should build the Smithy or the Bestiary first. If he built the Smithy first, his Master, Randolph, could start crafting his guild members' weapons, armor, and other miscellaneous items that they might need.

The Bestiary, on the other hand, would allow his guild to tame Mounts that each member could use.

For the time being, Lux didn't have much of a problem when it came to mounts. He already had Jed, as well as the other Wargs he received from the Dungeon of Dominion. The reason he was tempted to get the Bestiary was that he wanted to tame Beasts that could fly.

Bedivere was a Dragon Knight, so he had the ability to tame flying beasts, especially young Dragons. If Lux's members all had Dragons as their mounts, wouldn't that be awesome?

There were three types of Dragon Species.

They were the Dragons, like the one Bedivere used as a mount.

There were also Elder Dragons, which were more powerful than regular dragons. The weakest Rank of an Elder Dragon was the Argonaut Rank.

Lastly, there were the Ancient Dragons, whose numbers were very few, but all of them were Calamity Rank.

Of course, there was one more Dragon, and it was none other than the Dragon King.

The Supreme leader of all Dragons, whose Rank stood at the highest rank in the world of Elysium.

Even amongst Demigods, there were only a handful of individuals who could match its strength.

Truth be told, Lux was feeling anxious. He could only build his Guild Headquarters in the floating city of Karshvar Draconis.

After checking its information in the Elysium Compendium, the Half-Elf found out that a race that was half dragon and half human called DragonBorns also lived on that floating island.

The majority of them had bodies entirely covered with dragon scales, while others only had scales on some parts of their bodies.

There were also several who didn't have any scales on their bodies, and the only distinguishing features that made them recognizable as Dragon Borns were the two dragon horns on their heads and the Dragon Wings on their backs.

They were a proud race, but they never shied away from meeting people of other races. They were extremely powerful and, similar to Lux, they could use Dragon Breath anytime they wanted.

'The Dragon King is also there,' Lux scratched his head due to anxiety. 'I wonder what kind of treatment we will get if we suddenly appear unannounced in their Domain? Would they immediately think we are hostile individuals and attack us?'

The Half-Elf shuddered at the thought of being surrounded and attacked simultaneously by Dragon Borns, Dragons, Elder Dragons, and Ancient Dragons.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained," Lux said through gritted teeth. "I'll just wing it when I get there."

Cai, who was lying on the carpet, glanced at Lux with a confused look on its face.

"Wing what?" Cai asked. "Are you going somewhere?"

Keane, who was seated on the couch opposite Lux's and cleaning his sword, glanced at the Boar in disdain.

"Didn't you know that he's going to look for a place to build our Guild Headquarters tomorrow?" Keane asked. "Or were you not listening when he said it?"

Cai's eyes sparkled after hearing that their Guild Headquarters was finally going to be built. It began to pester Lux, repeatedly asking if it could come with him to see the Floating Island of Karshvar Draconis.

Although they knew the location where their Guild would be stationed, they had no idea what kind of place it was.

The only thing that Lux's Guild Members knew was that it was a floating island, and it was floating somewhere in the skies of Elysium.

"Once the Guild is built, you guys can go there as well," Lux pushed the Boar's face away from him. "Also, Cai, when you go there, be sure to behave, okay? We don't know what kind of reception we will get from its inhabitants."

"What do you think of me? Some kind of problem child?" Cai replied. "Relax, I'm sure that I'll get along with the people on that floating island just fine."

""I doubt it.""

Lux and Keane spoke up at the same time, making the two of them chuckle because both of them knew what Cai was like.

The Boar, who was oblivious to what its two friends were thinking, was already looking forward to seeing their Guild Headquarters.

It was very tempted to return to Solais and brag to its Grandpa about its new Guild, but after being repeatedly warned by Lux and Keane, the Boar reluctantly pushed aside its plan for the time being.

The next day...

"Lux, once again, I sincerely thank you for your timely rescue of my daughter, not as a king, but as a father," King Uther said. "If not for you, I'm sure that Twilight Rain would have asked for an exorbitant ransom for her safe return—one that might take them one step closer to causing strife to my kingdom."

Princess Anastasia, who was also in the throne room, gazed at Lux with a smile on her face. After everything that happened, she realized that the Kingdom of Gweliven was really not as peaceful as it looked on the surface.

Terrorists organizations were moving in the shadows, causing strife among its populace, in addition to the hidden dangers, like the Monster of Ruin, whose whereabouts were still unknown.

The Princess learned a lot from her experience, and because of this, she decided to dedicate more time studying how to become a better ruler and remain in the capital for the time being.

"Sir Lux, if you ever need my help, feel free to come and visit me," Princess Anastasia stated. "The favor for saving my life, I will always remember it. No matter what situation or dangers you are facing, as long as I can lend you my assistance, do not hesitate to look for me at any given time."

Lux smiled at the adorable Princess whose face turned a rosy shade after seeing his smile.

"Thank you, Your Majesty and Your Highness for the rewards and favors that you bestow upon me." Lux bowed his head respectfully. "Although I was not born in the Kingdom of Gweliven, I treat this Kingdom as my second home. If

there comes a time when its safety is in danger, I will be there to lend my hand and ensure that this land would not fall into the wrong hands."

King Uther nodded his head in satisfaction because he liked the subtle promise that was contained in Lux's message.

"Safe journey, Lux Von Kaizer, and may the Earth Goddess always hold you in her bosom," King Uther said. "Anastasia, please escort Lux to the Royal Teleportation Gate."

"Yes, Father! I mean, Yes, Your Majesty," Princess Anastasia hastily corrected herself after hearing her father's order.

She then boldly walked towards Lux and grabbed his hand, dragging him away from the throne room, making the King of the Dwarves chuckle despite himself.

"Dear, you're being mischievous," the Queen, who was seated beside King Uther said with a smile. "You already know that she somehow developed a crush on her Savior, and yet you still tease her like this."

Uther glanced at his wife and rested his hand over hers. "It's just puppy love. It will go away as she gets older."

The Queen rolled her eyes at her husband, but she didn't make any comments.

How could she possibly tell the King that he was also her puppy love?

Yet the two of them ended up getting married and were blessed with children, whose fates would help shape the Dwarven Kingdom in ways that neither of them could imagine.

Chapter 416: The Greatest Problem Of Heaven's Gate

The Teleportation Gate inside the Royal Palace had access to all the teleportation Gates located in the territories of the Kingdom.

Because of this, Lux, Cai, and Keane were able to instantly teleport to the Stronghold of Norria, and their arrival surprised its commander, Thoram.

"What a tragedy..." Thoram sighed after hearing Lux's story about what had happened in the Wolfpine Barony. "If not for you, I would still be in the dark about what happened in Dunspear City. The Royal Family must have given a gag order, preventing those who knew about the incident from speaking about it."

Lux nodded. "The King didn't mention anything to me, so I guess he might have forgotten about it. Even so, I would appreciate it if you didn't spread the news, Commander. Right now, the public is not ready to know about the existence of the Creature of Ruin."

Thoram wholeheartedly agreed with Lux and promised to keep the information to himself. A moment later, the Dwarf Commander chuckled before giving the Half-Elf a thumbs up.

"Yesterday, Nevreal talked to me and said that you robbed him of his money." Thoram smirked. "Is this true?"

"Yes," Lux replied. "But, I'll make it up to him in the future. The funds that I got from him and His Majesty is barely enough to build our Headquarters and add a few other guild facilities. In this regard, I would like to have a second opinion about what you think would be the better option for our guild."

Lux told Thoram about his plan, and the Dwarf Commander listened without interrupting him. Only after the Half-Elf finished his explanation did the Dwarf give his opinion on the matter.

"Right now, we're not in a hurry to gather Guild Members," Thoram stated. "The fewer who know about this secret, the better. Naturally, you have the right to recruit whoever you want to recruit, and I am confident that you will take great care to only bring trustworthy people into our guild. As for the Guild Facilities you want to build, may I offer a suggestion?"

Lux nodded his head and waited for Thoram to give his expert opinion on the matter.

"First, as much as I want to have a Dragon Mount, it will be best if we put this on hold," Thoram said as he raised his index finger.

"The moment we are seen with these powerful mounts, people will wonder where and how we got them. Dragons are very rare in the Kingdom of Gweliven. In fact, there are only two people who have Dragon Mounts in this kingdom. One is a Saint, and the other is the General of the Armed Forces.

"If we add Bedivere in the equation, then we have three. Now, do you understand what will happen if a sudden influx of Dragon Riders appears out of nowhere? This is simply asking for trouble. Sure, we might look good on our Dragon Mounts, but we won't be able to enjoy it for long, especially if the King orders an investigation."

Cai, who was also in the room, was heartbroken. It also wanted to have a Dragon Mount so badly. Now that Thoram had said that adding the Bestiary would spell trouble, the Boar bitterly wept at the corner of the room. It could no longer have a Dragon that it could use to brag to its family and friends.

Thoram then raised a second finger, voicing his second suggestion.

"Having a smithy is good and all because it gives us good weapons and armor. However, it is far too early for us to even need that," Thoram explained. "I'm sure that when the smithy is built, you will ask Randolph to manage it, right?"

Lux nodded because that was his initial plan.

"Randolph is good and can even craft Mythical Level Equipments, but that takes a lot of time and resources," Thoram continued his explanation. "Also, a blacksmith can only work if he has something to work on. We will need to gather a lot of resources if we want to create high quality weapons and armors that can be used by our members.

"But, like I said, since we are keeping our Guild a secret for the time being, there is no immediate need to craft a lot of weapons and armors. Besides, Randolph is busy repairing and crafting weapons for the Elysians and Foreigners that come to Leaf Village. A single Blacksmith is simply not enough to work on many commissions at once."

The Half-Elf felt as if his horizons had been broadened after hearing the Commander's words. Right now, the majority of the weapons and armors that they owned could be found in dungeons and treasure chests.

Boss Monsters usually dropped these rare items, so it would just be easier to hunt them, rather than have Randolph craft a weapon for them. Also, even if he didn't build the Guild Smithy, Randolph could still work in his own Smithy for the time being, while their members were still so few.

Thoram nodded his head in satisfaction because he could see that Lux could now see the bigger picture. Because of this, he decided to give his recommendation for which Guild Facility that the Half-Elf needed to build in order to enhance the quality of life of his Guild Members.

"Lux, what is the greatest problem in our Guild right now?" Thoram asked. "What is the thing that limits us from building the things we want?"

Lux didn't bat an eye and answered Thoram's question without skipping a beat. "It's money."

The Half-Elf added, "If we have money, we won't even have a problem in choosing which guild facilities to build."

Thoram nodded. "That's right. So, since lack of money is our problem, what is the solution?"

The Dwarf Commander smiled as he looked at the red-headed teenager whose eyes widened in shock.

"We need to make money," Lux answered. "A lot of money."

"That's right," Thoram stated. "I don't know what kind of place Karshvar Draconis is, but if we want our Guild to expand, we need money. I suggest you build the Alchemy Shop first and buy an Advanced Alchemy Recipe Book, and give it to Annie. Laura and Livia are now her Disciples, and they are learning the art of Alchemy."

"Compared to Randolph who only has you as his Apprentice, Annie has it better because she has two more people helping her. Also, Bedivere's wife, Lilia, has some background in making medicines. If Heidi also joins, then we have one Master Alchemist, One Veteran Alchemist, and three Apprentices."

"As long as they study hard, Annie can advance to Grandmaster Alchemist, allowing her to craft powerful pills, potions, and medicines that we can sell to earn money. You already know that pills, potions, and medicines are all consumables, right? It means that it doesn't matter how many we make."

People will buy them because of demand. So, I suggest you build the Alchemy Shop first and buy an Advanced Alchemy Recipe Book."

Thoram paused for a bit before rummaging through his drawer. After grabbing an old scroll, he then handed it to Lux, which the latter accepted with great curiosity.

"That is a deed for a small lot in the capital city," Thoram explained. "It may not be much, but that is the land that my parents gave to me before they retired to the countryside. My dad was a baker, so he bought a piece of land on the third busiest street in the capital using his life savings.

"We were able to live comfortably back in the day, but after I joined the military, and became a Commander, I told them that they no longer need to work and that they should live a quiet and peaceful life in our hometown. They agreed, so they left me the deed of our land, but since I'm too busy here, I have no time to use that plot of land for business."

Lux opened the scroll and read its contents before shifting his gaze back to Thoram, who seemed to be reminiscing about his childhood.

"Thank you, Commander," Lux said before giving Thoram a respectful bow.

"Don't thank me. This is for our guild. Make sure to hire a good manager who has a knack for business. Let them deal with these things, so you can focus on other stuff."

"Mmm."

Now that the first of the guild facilities had been decided on, Thoram then raised a third finger, to tell Lux the best way to use the remaining funds they had.

"For now, we will use the remaining gold for investment," Thoram stated. "If we can find another good source of income, we can invest in that. Talk to Keelan before you leave for Karshvar Draconis. That person is more business-minded than I am. Ask him to help you find good locations to open up a store.

"We can use the money to open up more store branches. The beginning phase is going to require us to fork out some money, but once we gain customers, the money will come back to us tenfold. If we are lucky, it might

not even take us a year to build the other guild facilities with the funds we will gain through our Guild Stores."

Thoram and Lux discussed a lot of things before the Half-Elf went to look for the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild, Keelan, who was more than happy to assist Lux in making money for their Guild.

After the rescue operation with the Princess, Keelan, as well as the Adventurers who joined the rescue mission, were handsomely rewarded by the King. Because of this, Keelan gained a good reputation among his peers.

The two Rankers that had assisted Lux and Millie in fighting against Twilight Rain also voiced their willingness to work with them again in the future.

For Keelan, building up his network allowed him to gain some leverage in other things, which was quite useful for the expansion of their upcoming business.

After everything had been settled, Lux, Cai, and Keane traveled to Leaf Village to rest for a day.

The Half-Elf was the only one that could travel to the Floating Island at the moment, so the others would have to wait until their Guild Headquarters had been built before they could see for themselves just what kind of place the Floating Island, which was ruled by the Dragon King himself, was like.