

The Herb King

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Wedding

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“This is for you and Sir Eliazar. You can also bring more people if you want.” Aethelwolf said as he handed an invitation letter to Nocturna.

Nocturna took the letter and saw that it was an invitation to his wedding. She smiled and nodded her head. “We’ll find time for your wedding, Sir Aethelwolf.”

“Good. Farewell.” Aethelwolf chuckled before flying into the skies.

Nocturna stared at his figure with a complicated look on her face.

A few days later, a grand wedding was held in the newly created castle in Barden Territory. Visitors from all parts of the Leone Empire could be seen queuing to enter the castle. There were even some notable guests from all over the Regalis Continent present at the scene. Experts from big empires and major powers could also be seen chatting with their acquaintances.

The scale of the wedding was so big that the Lassiter Household had to station a large part of their army to maintain the safety of the guests. The Leone Imperial Family and their allies also sent their soldiers to assist them in monitoring the entire venue.

At this moment, everyone was only waiting for the bride and groom to arrive.

Soon, a servant announced the arrival of the bride, Samira Reynolds. She was escorted by her father, the family head of the Reynolds Household, Harold Reynolds. Behind them were the members of the Reynolds Household.

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The guests stared at the black-haired young woman who looked incredibly gorgeous in her wedding gown. This gown was designed by Aethelwolf using the style of the modern era so it looked elegant and beautiful. The noble women at the scene stared at her with jealousy. They all wished that they could have the same wedding dress as her. It was just too beautiful.

"I feel a bit nervous..." Samira muttered as she looked at the crowd. These people were the upper echelons of the Leone Empire and there were even top figures from the Regalis Continent. The power of their households was a lot stronger than their Reynolds Household and it made her feel that she was insignificant.

"Relax. You will soon become the wife of Sir Aethelwolf and the future Queen of Barden Territory. You must hold your head high and don't let them see a sign of weakness." Harolds whispered to his daughter, but in truth, he was also nervous in his heart. He was only a Level 4 Esper and many experts at the venue were stronger than him. Even his father would have to be careful not to offend those guys.

Samira took a deep breath after hearing her father's words. "Yes, father." She muttered as she lifted her head to look at the crowd with a confident smile.

"King Aethelwolf has arrived!" The servant announced in a booming voice.

Everyone turned their gazes at the entrance and saw a man with short black hair that was combed neatly. He looked sharp and domineering with his sword-like eyebrows and onyx eyes. Dressed in his modern suit, he looked like a prince charming and even the married women in the crowd felt their hearts stir as they looked at him.

"So handsome!"

"King Aethelwolf is so handsome!"

Some brave young ladies shouted excitedly as they looked at Aethelwolf.

Suddenly, three figures walked towards him and greeted him. "Sir Aethelwolf."

"I'm happy to see you guys here." Aethelwolf smiled at Nocturna. The two who came with her were Eliazar and Victor, the Holy Generals of the Mystic Island. They really gave him a lot of face this time. Usually, Mystic Island would only send a representative during such occasions, but they sent two Holy Generals and their heiress to Aethelwolf's wedding.

"Congratulations, Sir Aethelwolf." Eliazar smiled politely at him.

"Congratulations." Victor nodded his head. He wasn't close to Aethelwolf and he only came here to ensure Nocturna's safety.

"Thanks. Follow me. I'll take you guys to your seats. I have prepared a special spot for you." Aethelwolf smiled and led the three to the most prominent seats in the venue. The people sitting here are all Level 5 Espers. One of them was General Gilbert Holt of the Zion Empire.

"Sir Aethelwolf!"

“Young Miss Nocturna!”

“Sir Victor!”

“Sir Eliazar!”

General Gilbert and the other experts were surprised when they saw the people behind Aethelwolf. Who among them didn't know about the important members of the Mystic Island?

“Just relax and enjoy the ceremony. I won't stay here for long since the ceremony is about to start.” Aethelwolf smiled at them.

They watched him walk to the stage with mixed feelings. Some were looking at him with admiration, while a few stared at him with unreadable expressions.

The wedding ceremony began and the guests tactfully remained silent to respect the couple.

“Congratulations to the new couple!”

“Congratulations, King Aethelwolf!”

“Congratulations, Queen Samira!”

In the crowd, Julie Irish stared at Aethelwolf and Samira with complex emotions. Her eyes misted when she saw how happy they were.

Suddenly, she felt a warm hand patting her back.

“Sister, you just have to be patient. I believe in you. I know that King Aethelwolf also likes you. You can do it!” It was her sister, Grace Urgel, raising her spirits.

“I know.” Julie Irish forced out a smile as she held her sister's hands.

After the wedding ceremony, a grand feast was held in the banquet hall. All sorts of delicacies from all over the Regalis Continent were served at every table. Servants dressed in waiter's and maid's uniforms roamed around the hall, distributing drinks to the guests.

At this moment, everyone started viewing the Reynolds Household differently. They were no longer just a minor noble family in the Leone Empire because they were now tightly related to the Lassiter Household, the family of King Aethelwolf.

Harold Reynolds and the other members of the Reynolds Household were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the people.

“Everyone is so eager to befriend us,” Harold muttered as he looked at his father, Julius Reynolds, who was smiling from ear to ear. This was the happiest he had seen his old man.

Aethelwolf held Samira’s hand as they chatted with the guests.

“King Aethelwolf, this is a gift from our Singler Household. Congratulations to the both of you.” Jade Kristine smiled as she opened a golden box filled with all sorts of precious gems and stones. The value of everything added altogether was in the tens of millions!

“Thank you for your gift, Miss Jade.” Samira smiled gently before she nodded to a servant who was following them.

The servant immediately took the golden box after getting Samira’s signal.

While they were chatting, Nocturna’s group walked towards them.

“Sir Aethelwolf, I’d like to speak with you. This is important.” Nocturna muttered in a serious voice.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf glanced at Samira and saw her smiling as she nodded her head.

“Go on. I’ll take care of the guests. You can come and see me later after everything has been taken care of.” She whispered to him.

Aethelwolf nodded and said. “Alright.” He then followed Nocturna’s group.

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“We can talk here. What do you want to tell me?” Aethelwolf said while calmly looking at Nocturna. He opened up about an alliance with her last time and he hoped that he would receive a favorable response. After knowing about the impending catastrophe, he felt the need to further strengthen his forces. The Mystic Island was only the first step to his plans.

Nocturna looked at him and answered. “I have already talked with my father about the alliance you proposed. He told me that he wants to see you first.” It was the first time her father didn’t outright reject an alliance proposal, but she wasn’t that surprised since Aethelwolf was the person who returned their Holy Treasure.

“Is that so?” Aethelwolf leaned on his chair as he pondered deeply. He knew a few things about Nocturna’s father. His name is Estes, a top expert who was ranked second in the Heavenly Might Rankings. Estes only fought once and it was against the first ranked Argus. No one knew how their battle ended, but Argus who was unknown at that time suddenly became the top one in the Heavenly Might Rankings!

Aethelwolf also wanted to meet Estes and see what kind of person he was. According to the information that was known about him, he was someone proficient in healing spells and magic.

“There will be a competition for the younger generation next month and only those below the age of twenty-five are eligible to join. Each empire can send five participants while the big empires can send ten participants. The results of this competition will decide if an empire is worthy to be part of the Holy Rankings and enter the Frigid Snow Dimension. Sir Aethelwolf, my father wants to see you next month in this competition. He knows that you still have a lot of things to do this time so he didn’t rush your meeting.” Nocturna said.

The Holy Rankings was the ranking of the top ten empires in the Regalis Continent. The strength of the experts, the talent of the younger generation, the economy of the empire, and a few more things are calculated.

“The Leone Empire already has you and its economy will also boom because of your presence. The only thing left to consider is the talent of the younger generation. If the Leone Empire manages to clinch a spot in the Holy Rankings, you will have the chance to enter the Frigid Snow Dimension again.” Nocturna added after seeing that Aethelwolf was still silent.

“Fine. I’ll bring the best young talents of the Leone Empire to join the competition, but tell me first. What kind of competition is it going to be?” Aethelwolf asked curiously.

Nocturna heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his words. She then took a deep breath before she answered. “The competition is divided into three parts. First is the martial arts competition, the second one is the pill refining competition, and the last part is a team treasure hunting competition.”

Aethelwolf furrowed his eyebrows when he heard this. He wasn’t worried about the martial arts competition and the pill refining competition, but the treasure-hunting competition was different. Since it was a team competition, the big empires would have the advantage in numbers.

“Alright. I’d appreciate it if you tell me more information about the competition.” Aethelwolf wanted to enter the Frigid Snow Dimension again and look for something that could help the ancestor of the Ancient Fairies escape from her seal.

Nocturna smiled as she took out a document from her storage ring. “This is a piece of detailed information about the competition. I also compiled the list of participants who would be sent by other empires. There might be some small discrepancies in the information, but it’s negligible. I hope this will help you, Sir Aethelwolf.”

Hearing this, Aethelwolf was speechless. “Isn’t this cheating?”

Nocturna shook her head as she chuckled. "The big empires also have this information. Just treat it as a gift from your future ally." She muttered.

Aethelwolf took the document from her and placed it inside his storage space. "Thank you." This was very valuable for the Leone Empire since they have no information about the other empires.

"I've already delivered the message to you, Sir Aethelwolf. It's time for us to leave. I hope you'll have a happy wedding night. We'll see you again next month." Nocturna stood up and bid him farewell.

Aethelwolf sent them off. "A competition for the younger generation. Who should I choose among those little guys?" He muttered as he thought of who he would send for the competition.

Soon, the ceremony ended and all the guests left the castle. The spacious banquet hall became empty and only the members of the Lassiter Household and the Reynolds Household remained.

Samira leaned on a chair with an exhausted look on her face. "Gosh. That was tiring." She protested weakly.

"Are you alright?" A gentle pair of hands suddenly massaged her shoulders, making her jolt in surprise.

"Aethelwolf?" Samira looked at him in shock.

"Still calling me Aethelwolf? I'm your husband now." Aethelwolf smiled teasingly.

"H-Husband."

Aethelwolf slowly opened his eyes and turned his head to the side. Samira was sleeping soundly beside him with a blissful look on her face. They had a wonderful time last night and Aethelwolf had finally graduated from his virgin status.

He gently combed her hair and smiled lightly before kissing her forehead.

Samira didn't show signs of waking up so Aethelwolf didn't disturb her. He silently got up from the bed and left the room.

"Did you have a good time last night?" A cold voice drifted into his ears the moment he stepped out of the room. Aethelwolf turned his head and saw the elven princess, Aenwyn, looking at him with an expressionless face.

"What's up?" Aethelwolf immediately changed the topic. He didn't want to talk about his first night to someone.

Aenwyn looked at him and said. "Your Barden Territory already has a strong army, but you still lack Engravers. The Engravers I'm training don't have strong potential and they could at most become Level 3 Engravers. If you believe me, let me go back to the Aracan Kingdom. I'll gather my subordinates and bring them back here. I'll also try to persuade my mother to join your side."

Aethelwolf was surprised when he heard her words. It was no different than making the elves submit to him. "Would the Queen even agree to serve me? She is ranked 9th in the Heavenly Might Rankings and it would be difficult to persuade her. What about the future of your Aracan Kingdom?"

Aenwyn's expression was still calm as she replied. "My mother will do what's best for the kingdom. As for the rest, my brother can take care of them." She still holds resentment toward her brother for usurping the throne. She was also worried about her mother and her subordinates so she planned to take them back with her and join Aethelwolf's banner.

"I can't go with you, but you can bring Ramiel and his army." Aethelwolf muttered. Ramiel's army had already grown into an elite force and even Level 5 Espers would have trouble fighting them for they are in possession of highly advanced weapons like the magical cannon that was inspired by the modern world. It is a very destructive weapon of war and was very threatening even to top Espers.

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"Thanks. I'll leave now." Aenwyn knew that Aethelwolf was a busy man so she didn't make things difficult for him. Besides, Ramiel's elite army was more than enough for the trip. She had seen their training and she believed that they were sufficient to deter the army of elves.

Aenwyn lightly bowed her head and left.

Aethelwolf stared at her figure with a thoughtful look on his face. If Aenwyn manages to convince her mother to join them, the Barden Territory and even the Leone Empire would become stronger. After all, the Queen of the Aracan Kingdom is a Level 5 Esper who was ranked ninth in the Heavenly Might Rankings.

After taking a hot bath, Aethelwolf convened the important members of the Lassiter Household and the Reynolds Household to discuss about the incoming competition.

Aethelwolf sat on the main seat as he scanned the people in the meeting room. "I summoned you guys here to inform you that we have been invited to join the competition for the top talents of the Regalis Continent. As a small empire, we can send five participants to join the competition. I want to ask your opinions on who we should send to participate."

Hearing this, everyone was surprised. The Leone Empire has never been invited to such prestigious competitions before.

“What kind of competition is it, King Aethelwolf?” Anton Lassiter asked.

Aethelwolf started explaining the nature of the competition to everyone and they all furrowed their eyebrows after they heard everything.

“The big empires would have the edge since they could send ten participants. They also have more talents than most small empires.” Harold Reynolds muttered.

“King Aethelwolf, how about we send Young Miss Olivia? Her martial prowess is the strongest I’ve seen among the younger generation and no one is her match in the entire Leone Empire. Our victory in the martial arts competition is guaranteed if we send her as our participant.” Julius Reynolds suggested while stroking his beard.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf shook his head. “She won’t be participating this time.” He muttered. Olivia was a magical beast and the other empires would certainly protest if she joins the competition. After all, magical beasts were innately stronger compared to others of the same level.

Everyone raised their eyebrows in surprise upon hearing this. Olivia was the top talent in the younger generation of the Leone Empire and other than her, only a few could be called top prodigies. They would be less confident if Olivia wouldn’t participate.

“In the Alchemy competition, I think we can send His Highness Christopher. Although his martial prowess isn’t the best in the younger generation, his talent in Alchemy is second to no one.” Hyacinth suggested.

The others nodded their heads in agreement after hearing her words. They also acknowledged the young prince’s abilities.

“How about sending Alec Ward for the martial arts competition? He is already a mid stage Level 2 Esper and his battle prowess is exceptional even against someone stronger than him. I’ve seen him fight on the frontlines in the last war. The kid is a real beast and if he is nurtured well, he could become one of the best generals in the empire.” Suggested Einar in a stern voice. Although Alec Ward was the son of a traitor, he didn’t hold any prejudice against him. The Ward Household has already paid for the crime of betrayal by fighting on the frontlines. They lost a huge number of their elite force and only a few of them remained.

Some people frowned when they heard this, but no one refuted his words. They also knew that Alec Ward was a powerful young soldier so he was the best choice for them.

Aethelwolf leaned on his chair and rubbed his chin. “Alec Ward? Alright. Bring him here.” He commanded.

The Ward Household lost their noble status after betraying the Leone Empire. The men and women in the family were forcefully conscripted and was sent to the frontlines. Even the young children were sent to the military camp to undergo strict training. After paying for their crimes, only a few members of the Ward Household remained.

At this moment, Alec Ward was by his lonesome self inside a military tent. He had lost his young master status, but he was promoted to a company commander because of his feats in the last war.

“Commander, someone is looking for you.” A soldier’s voice echoed outside.

Alec Ward furrowed his eyebrows as he said. “Bring them inside.”

Alec’s subordinate brought a strong-looking Level 3 Esper inside the tent. He was wearing an armor with the insignia of the Lassiter Household on his left chest.

“Alec Ward, you have been summoned by King Aethelwolf and you are to follow me back to the castle in Barden Territory!” The Level 3 Esper muttered in a cold voice.

Alec’s subordinate was scared by the aura exuded by the Level 3 Esper and his knees almost caved in from the pressure.

“The king has summoned me?” Alec revealed a look of surprise.

“That’s right. Follow me now. This is urgent.” The Level 3 Esper nodded his head.

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“Alright. Take me there.” Alec followed the Level 3 Esper and they jumped on top of a Level 3 Gryphon.

The Gryphon soared to the skies and disappeared in a blink of an eye.

Alec Ward felt amazed when he saw the fortifications being built in Barden Territory. Even the walls looked sturdier and more durable than the ones in Lion City. He also noticed that the weapons on top of the walls were more advanced and intimidating.

“Strong!” He muttered when he saw the soldiers equipped with the latest weapons and armor. The elites of the Leone Empire were nothing compared to these soldiers!

The Level 3 Esper’s expression flashed with pride the moment he heard this. “Those soldiers are just a small portion of the new recruits of General Ramiel’s army.”

Alec’s eyes widened upon hearing this. “Those guys are just new recruits?”

The Level 3 Esper snorted disdainfully. "That's right. However, any one of those soldiers could fight evenly against the elites of any forces!"

While Alec was still reeling in shock, the huge Gryphon slowly descended to the ground. Flying was forbidden near the castle grounds so they had to walk from here on out.

"Get down. We'll take the carriage from here."

Alec immediately got down from the Gryphon after hearing this. The defense in the area was so tight and he even saw numerous experts roaming in groups of three or four.

After a twenty-minute ride in the carriage, the Level 3 Esper said. "We are here. Follow me to the castle."

Alec was brought inside the castle and he was led to a spacious room. Upon entering, he saw a group of intimidating people sitting inside. His gaze momentarily stopped to look at the young man in the head seat. It was Aethelwolf, the only Level 5 Esper in the Leone Empire.

"Greetings, King Aethelwolf." He kneeled as he greeted respectfully.

"You're finally here. I summoned you here because one of my people suggested to send you as one of the Leone Empire's participants for the coming competition that would be hosted by the Mystic Island..." Aethelwolf didn't beat around the bush and quickly told Alec the reason for the summons.

After hearing everything, Alec was overjoyed. He knew that it was a chance for him to redeem his noble status! Although he had already accepted his fate to become a soldier for the rest of his life, he still wished to gain back his former status. "Thank you for choosing me, King Aethelwolf! I promise that I will work hard to bring us victory in the martial arts competition!" He solemnly promised. He vowed in his heart that he will train well even if he had to sacrifice his resting time.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and smiled. "Good! Tomorrow, you will be training under me with the other participants." He then turned his gaze to Rendell and commanded. "Rendell, bring him to his quarters."

"Yes, King Aethelwolf!" Rendell stood up and led Alec to his room.

'This is my only chance to recover the glory of our Ward Household! Father, please guide me...' Alec prayed in his heart.

The next day, the five participants in the competition were brought to a training room. Everyone was familiar with each other, but they were surprised to see Alec among them.

“Alec, you’re here!” Janrose stared at Alec with a complicated look on her face. She had fought with this guy in the final round of the martial arts competition some time ago.

Alec glanced at her silently and nodded his head.

The atmosphere suddenly became awkward because of the silence.

“Everyone should relax. We are now teammates so we shouldn’t be wary of each other.” Michael, the spear prodigy of the Singler Household, said in a bid to defuse the tense atmosphere.

The five participants were Janrose Lassiter, Christopher Leone, Grace Urgel, Michael Singler, and Alec Ward. They were the best of the best in the younger generation of the Leone Empire.

Suddenly, the door sprung open and Aethelwolf entered the room together with Einar.

“Greetings, King Aethelwolf!” The young talents immediately bowed their heads when they saw him.

Aethelwolf waved his hand and said. “You guys have been chosen to represent the Leone Empire in the upcoming competition of the top talents of the Regalis Continent. From today onwards, you will be a team so you have to let go of your past grudges and work together to build a solid group. Today, you will be training under Einar. Good luck!”

Aethelwolf stepped aside and let Einar take the center stage.

“I will be your trainer for today and we will be training your individual battle abilities. You can choose any weapon from the rack over there.”

While Aethelwolf was overseeing the training of the five participants, Aenwyn traveled with Ramiel and his elite army to the Kingdom of Aracan. They brought more than ten thousand Espers equipped with the latest weapons produced by the Lassiter Household. Each soldier was riding an armored battle steed. The entire army was brimming with a ferocious aura as they traveled to their destination.

“Look! Is that the army of the Leone Empire?! They looked goddamn scary!” A bandit who was hiding in the woods muttered in fear as he watched the army.

“That insignia seems to be the crest of the Lassiter Household! That’s the private army of King Aethelwolf! Do you see those flags? That’s the flag of General Ramiel!” Another bandit said with an incredulous look on his face.

“Dammit! Are they here to wipe us out? I heard that they are sending their new recruits to purge the large bandit groups! Shit! I’m out of here!” A bandit immediately ran away without hesitation, leaving behind his companions.

“Hey! Wait for us!”

Meanwhile, Ramiel already received a report that a small group of bandits was spotted spying on them.

“Let them be. They are just a bunch of ants. Let the empire handle them. Our mission is to follow Miss Aenwyn to the Aracan Kingdom.” Ramiel indifferently said. After eating the pills provided by Aethelwolf like candy, he had already reached the mid stage of Level 4. Coupled with the Unique-Rated items and Level 4 magical beast in his possession, he could even defeat a peak stage Level 4 Esper.

“Yes, General Ramiel!” The scout bowed his head and left with his mount.

Ramiel gazed into the distance with a serious look on his face. The elves were creatures known for their proficiency in controlling the power of elements. Furthermore, they are blessed with longer lifespans compared to other humanoid species. They could live for thousands of years!

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Ramiel was confident about the strength of his army, but the elven army was also strong so he didn’t dare underestimate them.

After a few days of traveling, the army finally arrived at the borders of the Aracan Kingdom. It was in the middle of the forest, surrounded by towering trees and thick shrubbery.

Hundreds of elven warriors holding magical crossbows suddenly appeared on top of the trees and aimed at them.

“Stop your advance! This is the territory of the Aracan Kingdom! If you take another step, we will be forced to attack you!” The leader of the elven warriors warned as he glared at the human army beneath them. In truth, he didn’t want to engage in a battle against the army because they were severely outnumbered. However, he had a sense of duty and he didn’t want to let anyone step foot in their territory, especially the humans.

Ramiel raised his hand to signal his troops to stop advancing. He then eyed the elven warriors with a calm look on his face. Each of the elven warriors was a Level 2 Esper and their leader was a Level 4 Esper. If they engaged in a battle with these guys, his army would suffer some casualties. As a leader and the general of the Lassiter

Household, he didn't want his subordinates to die needlessly. If he could avoid a battle, he was willing to compromise.

"What should we do, Miss Aenwyn?" He asked the elven woman who was riding a Level 4 Gryphon beside him. Aenwyn held more authority than him and Aethelwolf also commanded him to follow her orders. She was the highest commander of this expedition.

Aenwyn narrowed her eyes as she observed the elven warriors. "Leave them to me." She muttered in a cold voice. She then urged her Gryphon to walk forward.

Weis, the leader of the elven warriors frowned when he saw the Gryphon making a move. The elven warriors under him immediately pointed their arrows at the Gryphon. One word from their leader and they would release their arrows.

Aenwyn was wearing a hood so the elves didn't notice her presence. She removed her hood and the elven warriors gasp in shock the moment they saw her face.

"Your Highness!"

"Your Highness!"

Weis' eyes widened as she looked at Aenwyn. "Your Highness!"

"Weis, I want to speak with Her Majesty! This human army is working for me so I command you to let them enter!" Aenwyn shouted in a calm voice.

Weis immediately got down from the tree and kneeled in front of Aenwyn. "This subordinate has been looking for you for a long time, Your Highness. I'm relieved to see you again." He muttered emotionally.

The elven warriors also kneeled as they greeted Aenwyn.

"Rise! I want you to lead me to the castle. Inform the other forest rangers not to attack this army." Aenwyn shouted.

Weis stood up and forced out a smile as he muttered helplessly. "Your Highness, I can take you to the castle, but you can't bring a large force inside. At most, you can bring a hundred of those soldiers with you. If you bring all of them, I'm afraid that the Aracan Kingdom would view them as enemies. This is the best that I can do for you. I apologize for my incompetence."

Ramiel frowned when he heard this, but he remained silent.

Aenwyn's expression didn't change. She already expected this result. After her brother's rebellion, many of her mother's loyal subordinates were removed from the army. Only a

few of them remained and they were forced to protect the borders of the Aracan Kingdom. Weis was among the lucky ones among her mother's subordinates who managed to preserve their status as soldiers of the kingdom.

Aenwyn turned her gaze to Ramiel and said in a low voice. "Ramiel, choose 100 of our best soldiers to accompany us inside."

Ramiel nodded his head and immediately called the names of his strongest subordinates. After choosing 100 soldiers, they moved behind Aenwyn, waiting for her next orders.

Aenwyn inspected the 100 soldiers behind Ramiel before turning her gaze back to Weis. "Lead the way."

Weis led them to the deepest part of the forest. More and more tree houses came into view and the number of elves also increased. Ramiel and the 100 elite soldiers looked at the elves curiously.

The elves were also staring at them, but their gazes were filled with fear, anger, and contempt, and some even showed hostile expressions. The humans and elves were allies a long time ago, but because of the foolishness of one human who sold elves into slavery, the perception of elves towards the humans dropped to the lowest.

"Weis, why did you bring these humans into our kingdom?! Do you know what atrocities they did to our ancestors?!" A valiant lady wearing battle armor stopped them from entering deeper into the forest. Behind her was a group of elven women holding bows and spears. Each of them was a strong warrior who has the power of a Level 2 Esper! The valiant lady leading them was even more powerful. She was at the peak stage of Level 4!

Weis stared at the valiant lady nervously. She was a High Elf and the daughter of an Elder. Despite not having the royal bloodline of the Aracan Family, this valiant lady possesses an authority that wasn't any less than theirs. This was because her father was one of the four Level 5 Espers in the kingdom, Elder Dawon.

Before Weis could say something, Aenwyn stepped forward and uncovered her hood, revealing a devastatingly beautiful face.

Seeing her, Lucia's eyes widened in shock. "Your Highness!" She exclaimed. The elven women behind her also gasped in surprise as they stared at Aenwyn.

"Lucia, I want to speak with my mother. Please take us to her." Aenwyn muttered.

"This..." Lucia hesitated upon hearing this. Aenwyn's mother was the Queen of the Aracan Kingdom, Queen Irithel Aracan. She was the strongest expert in the Aracan Kingdom, but she was being held captive by her son, Aenwyn's elder brother, Callon.

“What’s wrong?” Aenwyn’s voice turned cold as she eyed Lucia.

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After a moment of hesitation, Lucia sighed and said. “Her Majesty is locked up in the cold prison by His Highness. I don’t have the authority to take her out. Even the three Elders need His Highness’ approval if they want to see her. If you really want to see Her Majesty, I’ll take you to His Highness and help you beg him.” She was close friends with Aenwyn, but everything changed after her brother’s rebellion. This was because her father, Elder Dawon, is an avid supporter of Prince Callon.

“Your Highness, the prince might lock you up! I’m against this idea!” Weis immediately interjected in a solemn voice.

Aenwyn was silent as she contemplated deeply. “Fine. Bring me to see my brother.”

“Your Highness!” Weis frowned upon hearing this.

“Don’t stop me, Weis! There are more important matters than the internal conflict in our family! I have to speak with my elder brother!” Aenwyn muttered seriously. Aethelwolf told her about the calamity and it brought her a huge sense of pressure. She didn’t want her family to suffer and the only thing she could do to save them was to have them work for Aethelwolf. The strength of the Aracan Kingdom alone wasn’t enough to fight against the Underworlders. She believed that only Aethelwolf could protect them from the calamity.

Weis could only sigh in his heart as he stood behind Aenwyn.

“Lead the way.” Aenwyn said to Lucia.

Lucia glanced at Ramiel and the 100 elite human soldiers before turning her gaze to Aenwyn. “Alright. Follow me.” She muttered.

Under Lucia’s lead, no one dared to stop them. Even those elite elven warriors could only stare at the human soldiers with hostility. They didn’t dare stop them at all.

Soon, they arrived at the biggest tree castle at the center of the forest.

“His Highness is resting! Please leave!” The elven soldiers guarding the tree castle block them.

“How dare you guys stop me! Scram before I pull my sword!” Lucia angrily shouted at the soldiers.

The soldiers felt nervous when they saw her getting angry, but they still didn’t allow them to enter. “Please don’t make things difficult for us, Miss Lucia.”

“Let them enter!” A calm voice suddenly echoed from inside the tree castle.

When the soldiers heard this, they backed down and allowed Lucia and the others to enter, but they blocked the human soldiers from entering including Ramiel.

“Miss Aenwyn, just shout if you need our help.” Ramiel whispered solemnly.

Aenwyn nodded her head and followed Lucia and Weis inside the tree castle.

“You’ve come, my little sister...”

Aenwyn stared at the handsome elf who was sitting on the throne. It was her elder brother, Callon Aracan. Behind him were three middle-aged elves who emitted strong auras.

Aenwyn’s eyes flashed with hatred when she saw Callon.

“Give her a seat.” Callon commanded.

One soldier immediately grabbed a seat for Aenwyn.

Callon stared at Aenwyn and smiled. “My lovely little sister. I thought that you were captured by the humans, but it seems like you even made friends with them.”

“Callon, I’m not here to talk nonsense with you! Release Her Majesty and the others! I’ll bring them out of here!” Aenwyn said in an icy tone.

One of the Elders standing behind Callon frowned after seeing how disrespectful Aenwyn was. However, Callon raised his hand and prevented them from making a move.

“My dear little sister, to think that you would one day work for a human. I never thought that the Ice Princess would actually become a human’s lapdog. How intriguing...” Callon muttered in a disdainful voice.

Aenwyn furrowed her eyebrows as she looked at Callon. “I have no time to quibble with you. Release my mother and we’ll leave the kingdom. I promise that we won’t come back again. You’ll have the kingdom and you no longer have to worry about my mother’s faction.”

Callon’s eyes glinted upon hearing this. “Interesting! Interesting! Are you really willing to go that far for a human?” He knew his sister very well since he had seen her grow up from a little girl to a valiant young princess. She wasn’t someone who was willing to admit inferiority to someone her age. He wondered what kind of human her sister has met for her to change so drastically.

The Novel will be updated first on this website. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!

272 News About the Competition

Aethelwolf held Samira's hand as they chatted with the guests.

"King Aethelwolf, this is a gift from our Singler Household. Congratulations to the both of you." Jade Kristine smiled as she opened a golden box filled with all sorts of precious gems and stones. The value of everything added altogether was in the tens of millions!

"Thank you for your gift, Miss Jade." Samira smiled gently before she nodded to a servant who was following them.

The servant immediately took the golden box after getting Samira's signal.

While they were chatting, Nocturna's group walked towards them.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I'd like to speak with you. This is important." Nocturna muttered in a serious voice.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf glanced at Samira and saw her smiling as she nodded her head.

"Go on. I'll take care of the guests. You can come and see me later after everything has been taken care of." She whispered to him.

Aethelwolf nodded and said. "Alright." He then followed Nocturna's group.

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"We can talk here. What do you want to tell me?" Aethelwolf said while calmly looking at Nocturna. He opened up about an alliance with her last time and he hoped that he would receive a favorable response. After knowing about the impending catastrophe, he felt the need to further strengthen his forces. The Mystic Island was only the first step to his plans.

Nocturna looked at him and answered. "I have already talked with my father about the alliance you proposed. He told me that he wants to see you first." It was the first time her father didn't outright reject an alliance proposal, but she wasn't that surprised since Aethelwolf was the person who returned their Holy Treasure.

"Is that so?" Aethelwolf leaned on his chair as he pondered deeply. He knew a few things about Nocturna's father. His name is Estes, a top expert who was ranked second in the Heavenly Might Rankings. Estes only fought once and it was against the first ranked Argus. No one knew how their battle ended, but Argus who was unknown at that time suddenly became the top one in the Heavenly Might Rankings!

Aethelwolf also wanted to meet Estes and see what kind of person he was. According to the information that was known about him, he was someone proficient in healing spells and magic.

"There will be a competition for the younger generation next month and only those below the age of twenty-five are eligible to join. Each empire can send five participants while the big empires can send ten participants. The results of this competition will decide if an empire is worthy to be part of the Holy Rankings and enter the Frigid Snow Dimension. Sir Aethelwolf,

my father wants to see you next month in this competition. He knows that you still have a lot of things to do this time so he didn't rush your meeting." Nocturna said.

The Holy Rankings was the ranking of the top ten empires in the Regalis Continent. The strength of the experts, the talent of the younger generation, the economy of the empire, and a few more things are calculated.

"The Leone Empire already has you and its economy will also boom because of your presence. The only thing left to consider is the talent of the younger generation. If the Leone Empire manages to clinch a spot in the Holy Rankings, you will have the chance to enter the Frigid Snow Dimension again." Nocturna added after seeing that Aethelwolf was still silent.

"Fine. I'll bring the best young talents of the Leone Empire to join the competition, but tell me first. What kind of competition is it going to be?" Aethelwolf asked curiously.

Nocturna heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his words. She then took a deep breath before she answered. "The competition is divided into three parts. First is the martial arts competition, the second one is the pill refining competition, and the last part is a team treasure hunting competition."

Aethelwolf furrowed his eyebrows when he heard this. He wasn't worried about the martial arts competition and the pill refining competition, but the treasure-hunting competition was different. Since it was a team competition, the big empires would have the advantage in numbers.

"Alright. I'd appreciate it if you tell me more information about the competition." Aethelwolf wanted to enter the Frigid Snow Dimension again and look for something that could help the ancestor of the Ancient Fairies escape from her seal.

Nocturna smiled as she took out a document from her storage ring. "This is a piece of detailed information about the competition. I also compiled the list of participants who would be sent by other empires. There might be some small discrepancies in the information, but it's negligible. I hope this will help you, Sir Aethelwolf."

Hearing this, Aethelwolf was speechless. "Isn't this cheating?"

Nocturna shook her head as she chuckled. "The big empires also have this information. Just treat it as a gift from your future ally." She muttered.

Aethelwolf took the document from her and placed it inside his storage space. "Thank you." This was very valuable for the Leone Empire since they have no information about the other empires.

"I've already delivered the message to you, Sir Aethelwolf. It's time for us to leave. I hope you'll have a happy wedding night. We'll see you again next month." Nocturna stood up and bid him farewell.

Aethelwolf sent them off. "A competition for the younger generation. Who should I choose among those little guys?" He muttered as he thought of who he would send for the competition.

Soon, the ceremony ended and all the guests left the castle. The spacious banquet hall became empty and only the members of the Lassiter Household and the Reynolds Household remained.

Samira leaned on a chair with an exhausted look on her face. "Gosh. That was tiring." She protested weakly.

“Are you alright?” A gentle pair of hands suddenly massaged her shoulders, making her jolt in surprise.

“Aethelwolf?” Samira looked at him in shock.

“Still calling me Aethelwolf? I’m your husband now.” Aethelwolf smiled teasingly.

“H-Husband.”

273 Send Alec Ward?

Aethelwolf slowly opened his eyes and turned his head to the side. Samira was sleeping soundly beside him with a blissful look on her face. They had a wonderful time last night and Aethelwolf had finally graduated from his virgin status.

He gently combed her hair and smiled lightly before kissing her forehead.

Samira didn’t show signs of waking up so Aethelwolf didn’t disturb her. He silently got up from the bed and left the room.

“Did you have a good time last night?” A cold voice drifted into his ears the moment he stepped out of the room. Aethelwolf turned his head and saw the elven princess, Aenwyn, looking at him with an expressionless face.

“What’s up?” Aethelwolf immediately changed the topic. He didn’t want to talk about his first night to someone.

Aenwyn looked at him and said. “Your Barden Territory already has a strong army, but you still lack Engravers. The Engravers I’m training don’t have strong potential and they could at most become Level 3 Engravers. If you believe me, let me go back to the Aracan Kingdom. I’ll gather my subordinates and bring them back here. I’ll also try to persuade my mother to join your side.”

Aethelwolf was surprised when he heard her words. It was no different than making the elves submit to him. “Would the Queen even agree to serve me? She is ranked 9th in the Heavenly Might Rankings and it would be difficult to persuade her. What about the future of your Aracan Kingdom?”

Aenwyn’s expression was still calm as she replied. “My mother will do what’s best for the kingdom. As for the rest, my brother can take care of them.” She still holds resentment toward her brother for usurping the throne. She was also worried about her mother and her subordinates so she planned to take them back with her and join Aethelwolf’s banner.

“I can’t go with you, but you can bring Ramiel and his army.” Aethelwolf muttered. Ramiel’s army had already grown into an elite force and even Level 5 Espers would have trouble fighting them for they are in possession of highly advanced weapons like the magical cannon that was inspired by the modern world. It is a very destructive weapon of war and was very threatening even to top Espers.

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“Thanks. I’ll leave now.” Aenwyn knew that Aethelwolf was a busy man so she didn’t make things difficult for him. Besides, Ramiel’s elite army was more than enough for the trip. She had seen their training and she believed that they were sufficient to deter the army of elves.

Aenwyn lightly bowed her head and left.

Aethelwolf stared at her figure with a thoughtful look on his face. If Aenwyn manages to convince her mother to join them, the Barden Territory and even the Leone Empire would become stronger. After all, the Queen of the Aracan Kingdom is a Level 5 Esper who was ranked ninth in the Heavenly Might Rankings.

After taking a hot bath, Aethelwolf convened the important members of the Lassiter Household and the Reynolds Household to discuss about the incoming competition.

Aethelwolf sat on the main seat as he scanned the people in the meeting room. “I summoned you guys here to inform you that we have been invited to join the competition for the top talents of the Regalis Continent. As a small empire, we can send five participants to join the competition. I want to ask your opinions on who we should send to participate.”

Hearing this, everyone was surprised. The Leone Empire has never been invited to such prestigious competitions before.

“What kind of competition is it, King Aethelwolf?” Anton Lassiter asked.

Aethelwolf started explaining the nature of the competition to everyone and they all furrowed their eyebrows after they heard everything.

“The big empires would have the edge since they could send ten participants. They also have more talents than most small empires.” Harold Reynolds muttered.

“King Aethelwolf, how about we send Young Miss Olivia? Her martial prowess is the strongest I’ve seen among the younger generation and no one is her match in the entire Leone Empire. Our victory in the martial arts competition is guaranteed if we send her as our participant.” Julius Reynolds suggested while stroking his beard.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf shook his head. “She won’t be participating this time.” He muttered. Olivia was a magical beast and the other empires would certainly protest if she joins the competition. After all, magical beasts were innately stronger compared to others of the same level.

Everyone raised their eyebrows in surprise upon hearing this. Olivia was the top talent in the younger generation of the Leone Empire and other than her, only a few could be called top prodigies. They would be less confident if Olivia wouldn’t participate.

“In the Alchemy competition, I think we can send His Highness Christopher. Although his martial prowess isn’t the best in the younger generation, his talent in Alchemy is second to no one.” Hyacinth suggested.

The others nodded their heads in agreement after hearing her words. They also acknowledged the young prince’s abilities.

“How about sending Alec Ward for the martial arts competition? He is already a mid stage Level 2 Esper and his battle prowess is exceptional even against someone stronger than him. I’ve seen him fight on the frontlines in the last war. The kid is a real beast and if he is nurtured well, he could become one of the best generals in the empire.” Suggested Einar in a stern voice. Although Alec Ward was the son of a traitor, he didn’t hold any prejudice against him. The Ward

Household has already paid for the crime of betrayal by fighting on the frontlines. They lost a huge number of their elite force and only a few of them remained.

Some people frowned when they heard this, but no one refuted his words. They also knew that Alec Ward was a powerful young soldier so he was the best choice for them.

Aethelwolf leaned on his chair and rubbed his chin. "Alec Ward? Alright. Bring him here." He commanded.

274 The Five Young Talents

The Ward Household lost their noble status after betraying the Leone Empire. The men and women in the family were forcefully conscripted and was sent to the frontlines. Even the young children were sent to the military camp to undergo strict training. After paying for their crimes, only a few members of the Ward Household remained.

At this moment, Alec Ward was by his lonesome self inside a military tent. He had lost his young master status, but he was promoted to a company commander because of his feats in the last war.

"Commander, someone is looking for you." A soldier's voice echoed outside.

Alec Ward furrowed his eyebrows as he said. "Bring them inside."

Alec's subordinate brought a strong-looking Level 3 Esper inside the tent. He was wearing an armor with the insignia of the Lassiter Household on his left chest.

"Alec Ward, you have been summoned by King Aethelwolf and you are to follow me back to the castle in Barden Territory!" The Level 3 Esper muttered in a cold voice.

Alec's subordinate was scared by the aura exuded by the Level 3 Esper and his knees almost caved in from the pressure.

"The king has summoned me?" Alec revealed a look of surprise.

"That's right. Follow me now. This is urgent." The Level 3 Esper nodded his head.

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"Alright. Take me there." Alec followed the Level 3 Esper and they jumped on top of a Level 3 Gryphon.

The Gryphon soared to the skies and disappeared in a blink of an eye.

Alec Ward felt amazed when he saw the fortifications being built in Barden Territory. Even the walls looked sturdier and more durable than the ones in Lion City. He also noticed that the weapons on top of the walls were more advanced and intimidating.

"Strong!" He muttered when he saw the soldiers equipped with the latest weapons and armor. The elites of the Leone Empire were nothing compared to these soldiers!

The Level 3 Esper's expression flashed with pride the moment he heard this. "Those soldiers are just a small portion of the new recruits of General Ramiel's army."

Alec's eyes widened upon hearing this. "Those guys are just new recruits?"

The Level 3 Esper snorted disdainfully. “That’s right. However, any one of those soldiers could fight evenly against the elites of any forces!”

While Alec was still reeling in shock, the huge Gryphon slowly descended to the ground. Flying was forbidden near the castle grounds so they had to walk from here on out.

“Get down. We’ll take the carriage from here.”

Alec immediately got down from the Gryphon after hearing this. The defense in the area was so tight and he even saw numerous experts roaming in groups of three or four.

After a twenty-minute ride in the carriage, the Level 3 Esper said. “We are here. Follow me to the castle.”

Alec was brought inside the castle and he was led to a spacious room. Upon entering, he saw a group of intimidating people sitting inside. His gaze momentarily stopped to look at the young man in the head seat. It was Aethelwolf, the only Level 5 Esper in the Leone Empire.

“Greetings, King Aethelwolf.” He kneeled as he greeted respectfully.

“You’re finally here. I summoned you here because one of my people suggested to send you as one of the Leone Empire’s participants for the coming competition that would be hosted by the Mystic Island...” Aethelwolf didn’t beat around the bush and quickly told Alec the reason for the summons.

After hearing everything, Alec was overjoyed. He knew that it was a chance for him to redeem his noble status! Although he had already accepted his fate to become a soldier for the rest of his life, he still wished to gain back his former status. “Thank you for choosing me, King Aethelwolf! I promise that I will work hard to bring us victory in the martial arts competition!” He solemnly promised. He vowed in his heart that he will train well even if he had to sacrifice his resting time.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and smiled. “Good! Tomorrow, you will be training under me with the other participants.” He then turned his gaze to Rendell and commanded. “Rendell, bring him to his quarters.”

“Yes, King Aethelwolf!” Rendell stood up and led Alec to his room.

‘This is my only chance to recover the glory of our Ward Household! Father, please guide me...’ Alec prayed in his heart.

The next day, the five participants in the competition were brought to a training room. Everyone was familiar with each other, but they were surprised to see Alec among them.

“Alec, you’re here!” Janrose stared at Alec with a complicated look on her face. She had fought with this guy in the final round of the martial arts competition some time ago.

Alec glanced at her silently and nodded his head.

The atmosphere suddenly became awkward because of the silence.

“Everyone should relax. We are now teammates so we shouldn’t be wary of each other.” Michael, the spear prodigy of the Singler Household, said in a bid to defuse the tense atmosphere.

The five participants were Janrose Lassiter, Christopher Leone, Grace Urgel, Michael Singler, and Alec Ward. They were the best of the best in the younger generation of the Leone Empire.

Suddenly, the door sprung open and Aethelwolf entered the room together with Einar.

“Greetings, King Aethelwolf!” The young talents immediately bowed their heads when they saw him.

Aethelwolf waved his hand and said. “You guys have been chosen to represent the Leone Empire in the upcoming competition of the top talents of the Regalis Continent. From today onwards, you will be a team so you have to let go of your past grudges and work together to build a solid group. Today, you will be training under Einar. Good luck!”

Aethelwolf stepped aside and let Einar take the center stage.

“I will be your trainer for today and we will be training your individual battle abilities. You can choose any weapon from the rack over there.”

275 Weis and the Elven Warriors

While Aethelwolf was overseeing the training of the five participants, Aenwyn traveled with Ramiel and his elite army to the Kingdom of Aracan. They brought more than ten thousand Espers equipped with the latest weapons produced by the Lassiter Household. Each soldier was riding an armored battle steed. The entire army was brimming with a ferocious aura as they traveled to their destination.

“Look! Is that the army of the Leone Empire?! They looked goddamn scary!” A bandit who was hiding in the woods muttered in fear as he watched the army.

“That insignia seems to be the crest of the Lassiter Household! That’s the private army of King Aethelwolf! Do you see those flags? That’s the flag of General Ramiel!” Another bandit said with an incredulous look on his face.

“Dammit! Are they here to wipe us out? I heard that they are sending their new recruits to purge the large bandit groups! Shit! I’m out of here!” A bandit immediately ran away without hesitation, leaving behind his companions.

“Hey! Wait for us!”

Meanwhile, Ramiel already received a report that a small group of bandits was spotted spying on them.

“Let them be. They are just a bunch of ants. Let the empire handle them. Our mission is to follow Miss Aenwyn to the Aracan Kingdom.” Ramiel indifferently said. After eating the pills provided by Aethelwolf like candy, he had already reached the mid stage of Level 4. Coupled with the Unique-Rated items and Level 4 magical beast in his possession, he could even defeat a peak stage Level 4 Esper.

“Yes, General Ramiel!” The scout bowed his head and left with his mount.

Ramiel gazed into the distance with a serious look on his face. The elves were creatures known for their proficiency in controlling the power of elements. Furthermore, they are blessed with longer lifespans compared to other humanoid species. They could live for thousands of years!

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Ramiel was confident about the strength of his army, but the elven army was also strong so he didn't dare underestimate them.

After a few days of traveling, the army finally arrived at the borders of the Aracan Kingdom. It was in the middle of the forest, surrounded by towering trees and thick shrubbery.

Hundreds of elven warriors holding magical crossbows suddenly appeared on top of the trees and aimed at them.

"Stop your advance! This is the territory of the Aracan Kingdom! If you take another step, we will be forced to attack you!" The leader of the elven warriors warned as he glared at the human army beneath them. In truth, he didn't want to engage in a battle against the army because they were severely outnumbered. However, he had a sense of duty and he didn't want to let anyone step foot in their territory, especially the humans.

Ramiel raised his hand to signal his troops to stop advancing. He then eyed the elven warriors with a calm look on his face. Each of the elven warriors was a Level 2 Esper and their leader was a Level 4 Esper. If they engaged in a battle with these guys, his army would suffer some casualties. As a leader and the general of the Lassiter Household, he didn't want his subordinates to die needlessly. If he could avoid a battle, he was willing to compromise.

"What should we do, Miss Aenwyn?" He asked the elven woman who was riding a Level 4 Gryphon beside him. Aenwyn held more authority than him and Aethelwolf also commanded him to follow her orders. She was the highest commander of this expedition.

Aenwyn narrowed her eyes as she observed the elven warriors. "Leave them to me." She muttered in a cold voice. She then urged her Gryphon to walk forward.

Weis, the leader of the elven warriors frowned when he saw the Gryphon making a move. The elven warriors under him immediately pointed their arrows at the Gryphon. One word from their leader and they would release their arrows.

Aenwyn was wearing a hood so the elves didn't notice her presence. She removed her hood and the elven warriors gasped in shock the moment they saw her face.

"Your Highness!"

"Your Highness!"

Weis' eyes widened as she looked at Aenwyn. "Your Highness!"

"Weis, I want to speak with Her Majesty! This human army is working for me so I command you to let them enter!" Aenwyn shouted in a calm voice.

Weis immediately got down from the tree and knelt in front of Aenwyn. "This subordinate has been looking for you for a long time, Your Highness. I'm relieved to see you again." He muttered emotionally.

The elven warriors also kneeled as they greeted Aenwyn.

“Rise! I want you to lead me to the castle. Inform the other forest rangers not to attack this army.” Aenwyn shouted.

Weis stood up and forced out a smile as he muttered helplessly. “Your Highness, I can take you to the castle, but you can’t bring a large force inside. At most, you can bring a hundred of those soldiers with you. If you bring all of them, I’m afraid that the Aracan Kingdom would view them as enemies. This is the best that I can do for you. I apologize for my incompetence.”

Ramiel frowned when he heard this, but he remained silent.

Aenwyn’s expression didn’t change. She already expected this result. After her brother’s rebellion, many of her mother’s loyal subordinates were removed from the army. Only a few of them remained and they were forced to protect the borders of the Aracan Kingdom. Weis was among the lucky ones among her mother’s subordinates who managed to preserve their status as soldiers of the kingdom.

Aenwyn turned her gaze to Ramiel and said in a low voice. “Ramiel, choose 100 of our best soldiers to accompany us inside.”

Ramiel nodded his head and immediately called the names of his strongest subordinates. After choosing 100 soldiers, they moved behind Aenwyn, waiting for her next orders.

Aenwyn inspected the 100 soldiers behind Ramiel before turning her gaze back to Weis. “Lead the way.”

276 Aracan Family’s Internal Conflict

Weis led them to the deepest part of the forest. More and more tree houses came into view and the number of elves also increased. Ramiel and the 100 elite soldiers looked at the elves curiously.

The elves were also staring at them, but their gazes were filled with fear, anger, and contempt, and some even showed hostile expressions. The humans and elves were allies a long time ago, but because of the foolishness of one human who sold elves into slavery, the perception of elves towards the humans dropped to the lowest.

“Weis, why did you bring these humans into our kingdom?! Do you know what atrocities they did to our ancestors?!” A valiant lady wearing battle armor stopped them from entering deeper into the forest. Behind her was a group of elven women holding bows and spears. Each of them was a strong warrior who has the power of a Level 2 Esper! The valiant lady leading them was even more powerful. She was at the peak stage of Level 4!

Weis stared at the valiant lady nervously. She was a High Elf and the daughter of an Elder. Despite not having the royal bloodline of the Aracan Family, this valiant lady possesses an authority that wasn’t any less than

theirs. This was because her father was one of the four Level 5 Espers in the kingdom, Elder Dawon.

Before Weis could say something, Aenwyn stepped forward and uncovered her hood, revealing a devastatingly beautiful face.

Seeing her, Lucia's eyes widened in shock. "Your Highness!" She exclaimed. The elven women behind her also gasped in surprise as they stared at Aenwyn.

"Lucia, I want to speak with my mother. Please take us to her." Aenwyn muttered.

"This..." Lucia hesitated upon hearing this. Aenwyn's mother was the Queen of the Aracan Kingdom, Queen Irithel Aracan. She was the strongest expert in the Aracan Kingdom, but she was being held captive by her son, Aenwyn's elder brother, Callon.

"What's wrong?" Aenwyn's voice turned cold as she eyed Lucia.

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After a moment of hesitation, Lucia sighed and said. "Her Majesty is locked up in the cold prison by His Highness. I don't have the authority to take her out. Even the three Elders need His Highness' approval if they want to see her. If you really want to see Her Majesty, I'll take you to His Highness and help you beg him." She was close friends with Aenwyn, but everything changed after her brother's rebellion. This was because her father, Elder Dawon, is an avid supporter of Prince Callon.

"Your Highness, the prince might lock you up! I'm against this idea!" Weis immediately interjected in a solemn voice.

Aenwyn was silent as she contemplated deeply. "Fine. Bring me to see my brother."

"Your Highness!" Weis frowned upon hearing this.

"Don't stop me, Weis! There are more important matters than the internal conflict in our family! I have to speak with my elder brother!" Aenwyn muttered seriously. Aethelwolf told her about the calamity and it brought her a huge sense of pressure. She didn't want her family to suffer and the only thing she could do to save them was to have them work for Aethelwolf. The strength of the Aracan Kingdom alone wasn't enough to fight against the Underworlders. She believed that only Aethelwolf could protect them from the calamity.

Weis could only sigh in his heart as he stood behind Aenwyn.

“Lead the way.” Aenwyn said to Lucia.

Lucia glanced at Ramiel and the 100 elite human soldiers before turning her gaze to Aenwyn. “Alright. Follow me.” She muttered.

Under Lucia’s lead, no one dared to stop them. Even those elite elven warriors could only stare at the human soldiers with hostility. They didn’t dare stop them at all.

Soon, they arrived at the biggest tree castle at the center of the forest.

“His Highness is resting! Please leave!” The elven soldiers guarding the tree castle block them.

“How dare you guys stop me! Scram before I pull my sword!” Lucia angrily shouted at the soldiers.

The soldiers felt nervous when they saw her getting angry, but they still didn’t allow them to enter. “Please don’t make things difficult for us, Miss Lucia.”

“Let them enter!” A calm voice suddenly echoed from inside the tree castle.

When the soldiers heard this, they backed down and allowed Lucia and the others to enter, but they blocked the human soldiers from entering including Ramiel.

“Miss Aenwyn, just shout if you need our help.” Ramiel whispered solemnly.

Aenwyn nodded her head and followed Lucia and Weis inside the tree castle.

“You’ve come, my little sister...”

Aenwyn stared at the handsome elf who was sitting on the throne. It was her elder brother, Callon Aracan. Behind him were three middle-aged elves who emitted strong auras.

Aenwyn’s eyes flashed with hatred when she saw Callon.

“Give her a seat.” Callon commanded.

One soldier immediately grabbed a seat for Aenwyn.

Callon stared at Aenwyn and smiled. “My lovely little sister. I thought that you were captured by the humans, but it seems like you even made friends with them.”

“Callon, I’m not here to talk nonsense with you! Release Her Majesty and the others! I’ll bring them out of here!” Aenwyn said in an icy tone.

One of the Elders standing behind Callon frowned after seeing how disrespectful Aenwyn was. However, Callon raised his hand and prevented them from making a move.

“My dear little sister, to think that you would one day work for a human. I never thought that the Ice Princess would actually become a human’s lapdog. How intriguing...” Callon muttered in a disdainful voice.

Aenwy furrowed her eyebrows as she looked at Callon. “I have no time to quibble with you. Release my mother and we’ll leave the kingdom. I promise that we won’t come back again. You’ll have the kingdom and you no longer have to worry about my mother’s faction.”

Callon’s eyes glinted upon hearing this. “Interesting! Interesting! Are you really willing to go that far for a human?” He knew his sister very well since he had seen her grow up from a little girl to a valiant young princess. She wasn’t someone who was willing to admit inferiority to someone her age. He wondered what kind of human her sister has met for her to change so drastically.