

Level 0 Master - Chapter 16

Sungjin checked Ereka's forehead, and her face became even hotter and redder.

"You really have a fever. I know you are working hard, but why don't you take a day off?"

"Oh... no. It's not that..."

Ereka shook her hand.

"Ah, I need to go! I need to work! I also need to prepare lunch! Enjoy your training."

Ereka pushed Sungjin back to walk away quickly.

"You should take a break for at least one day."

She is cute when she is a bit off-guard, but I feel bad for her when I see her trying too hard.

Ereka stirred up his protective instinct.

"She seems to have a lot to do since she has to deal with the castle things... That makes sense. I can't stop her."

Sungjin nodded.

He wanted to tell her to take medicine but dealing with her period was something she knew better than a guy like him, so he decided not to tell her anything.

For a fight, he was an evil god who studied and knew everything, but all he knew about a girl was a few pages he read with no experience. Naturally, he had no idea what was wrong.

Jenna was moving her tail.

Wow. He really doesn't have a girlfriend. I like this guy more and more.

This kind of guy wouldn't try to get with endless girls but only a few that he loved.

He's passed. Hmm, no. Maybe, I should learn more about him.

At the same time. Ereka checked her burning cheeks as she ran.

Sungjin... so you are still single.

She couldn't believe he had no one.

That means you have been focused on your training. I was busy learning martial arts as a knight and studying on how to rule a kingdom as a princess, so I never had a boyfriend before. But I didn't think you were the same, Sungjin.

She was not feeling bad but was actually happy.

Oh, then maybe...

She didn't see a pillar in front of her, and she ran into it.

Ouch. This is not the time for this! I need to take care of the state affairs. The state affairs...

The kingdom is in danger. She couldn't understand what she was thinking.

But... it is good news that you never had one.

Her mind was everywhere in a second while she was running towards her office. She kept tripping over her steps.

* * *

Chapter 9

Unlike the flowery air on the princess' side, the Blood Ruler's side was experiencing a heavy and uncomfortable air.

As they lost the castle that they used to use as their headquarters, they all gathered temporarily in Rangrian Castle, the second castle in the South. The heroes were in fear of the punishment that would come from the Blood Ruler, especially those three who lost the battle.

"I came back awakened, you have given back the capital to that novice b*tch," Riad said quietly in a low voice. Her voice held much anger. The air of blood from the awakened Riad was even stronger. It was filling up the air and suffocating the heroes.

"Pardon us all to hell," the three knights begged for forgiveness.

"Then go to hell." Riad's answer was as cold as ice.

"Please... forgive us."

"Please, give us one more chance."

“A chance? You couldn’t even deal with the remnants, what could you possibly do with another chance?”

“Please consider our contribution and give us one more chance. This will never happen again.”

“Your contribution? Okay, if you want to prove your worth, all three of you fight against me, and if you can hit me at least once, I’ll forgive you,” answered the Blood Ruler.

The three knights felt relief.

Is she forgiving us!?

That makes sense. Although we made a huge mistake, without us, the next battle will be a problem.

It wouldn’t look good if she pardoned us like this, so she made this condition of only “one hit.”

Everyone knew the Blood Ruler was the strongest fighter, but there was no way all three of them attacking her together would not yield even one hit. Winning and hitting someone once were completely different conditions.

They were relieved to have a chance to save their lives.

“Come to the training hall. Do your best if you want to save yourselves.”

“May it please you, Your Highness.”

The three knights bowed and followed Riad into the training hall. The other heroes followed to see the match.

A few moments later... the three knights were passed out on the floor in a bath of blood.

They looked miserable with fractures all over their whole bodies, and torn flesh and ripped muscles.

They were barely alive only because the Blood Ruler didn’t want to kill them.

Their torn pants smelled like a disgusting mix of blood and urine, but the other heroes watching from a distance couldn’t laugh at them.

They were almost the same as the three knights—afraid. What they saw here was something incredible. Of course, It was the ultimate skill of the Blood Ruler.

The three knights couldn't hit or take a hit from the Blood Ruler. Out of the six classes, knights had the highest defense force, but one skill slew all three of them. This wasn't because they showed any weaknesses, but because this was the strength of absolute power that overruled everything.

No one would have believed this without seeing it. Even those who saw couldn't believe their eyes.

This is... the awakened Blood Ruler's new power.

Fearful. Scary. She was their ruler, but they were terrified.

For the princess and her team, their happiness from one victory will only last until next month. They will be destroyed in their next battle. The three knights will not be needed, for the Blood Ruler alone was more than enough.

"Useless things. Can't even take one hit," said the Blood Ruler.

The three knights used their last strength to beg for their lives.

"Sa... save us."

"You guys couldn't even defeat the remnants of the princess. You guys are useless."

Bloody energy spewed from the magical sword of the Blood Ruler.

"They used a trick!"

"Yes. They were so cunning and cowardly!" Firgrine and Angrasil shouted together.

"Huh?"

For the first time, Riad's face showed something other than anger. She was curious.

Realizing that this was their last chance to beg for their lives, the three knights started to shout out loud.

"That is the truth! If not, we would have won!"

"Tell me the details of the battle. According to that, I will decide what to do with you all."

"Yes, Your Highness."

The three knights described the fight with the princess. Of course, they added in how hard they fought with their loyalty to the Blood Ruler while how sly and cunning the acting of the princess and Jenna was.

“That is what happened.”

“Ho. Ignoring your useless flowery words, it was a fight with a very capable military strategist.”

Riad put away her magical sword.

“Are you forgiving us?”

“Although you guys were defeated this time, you’ve done some good in our previous battles. I will give you one more chance to be useful. Bring in the healer.”

“Thank you, thank you.”

The three knights cried with happiness.

After dealing with the situation, Riad sat on the throne and asked the heroes again, “There’s really no one new on the princess’ side?”

“The princess, Rittier, and the baby wizard were fighting in the battle. That was everyone in the battle.”

“Maybe there was a VIP guest who didn’t come out onto the battlefield.”

“We would have reported that you if there was another high-level hero.”

“What about a low-level one?”

“There was none.”

“That doesn’t sound right. It is impossible for them to come up with a brand new tactic like that. There must be someone,” Riad said with confidence.

Then one hero from the corner started talking.

“Ah... there was... Somehow, the princess kept the extra level, con man. They provided him a good chamber and food.”

“Why you didn’t you mention that until now!”

Riad’s angry voice shook the hall.

“Because he was a level 0 extra... rumor has it that the princess is keeping him because he is good in bed.”

“Stupid idiots. Blind with eyes. Def with your ears.”

Riad sat back on the throne.

“Bring in all the intel about this extra. Don’t miss anything. I will check everything, even the smallest details.”

“You don’t need to spend time to take care of an extra...”

“Bring it!”

“Yes, Your Highness!”

After getting intel about Sungjin from the heroes, Riad started to laugh.

“Ah, haha. So that’s it?”

Why is she laughing?

“Fun. Okay, I will go and see him.”

“What? Your... Your Highness. Why would you go see an extra...?”

“Idiots! Level 0, so what! If you can bring victory, that is an ability! Having an ability means you are useful!”

“B... but.”

“I will see him in person. If he was the real source of their plan, then it’ll be worth taking him.”

“Your... Highness.”

The heroes couldn’t stop her. They were deeply unsatisfied in silence.

I’m sure it was not the work of the extra. It was the three of them who struggled to find inspiration by chance.

A stupid, low, useless extra couldn’t know anything about a battleground meant for heroes.

People put their jewels in a jewel box, not in the trash can. God would put power, intelligence, and character in a hero’s body, not an extra’s.

They couldn’t understand why the Blood Ruler was ignoring common sense.

It was obvious that she was going to waste her time, but they decided to stay in silence as to not provoke her anger.

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Chapter 10

Sungjin was relaxing in a bathtub.

It was a good way to call it a day and to relax his muscles after sweating in the training room.

The bathroom in the castle was luxurious. Nothing could compare with it, not a single a sauna in the neighborhood or a spa from a luxury hotel on earth. Magic was controlling the water to change the temperature as he wished, and it created a new flow when he wanted a massage. And there were also various bath herbs lined up in stacks for him to use, and there were maids outside to serve him any time.

He didn't use them because he thought it was all a bit over the top.

I didn't look for luxury, but the reward of the winners in this world make the prizes of a pro gamer look like a joke.

That was why national heroes joined battles and put everything in their all. There were way stronger and cool enemies here than on earth.

One of them was Riad.

When I saw her through the screen, I felt the incomparable power equivalent to everyone on the world champion team.

That was before her awakening. She must be stronger now that she came back as level 8. A tyrant's bath of virgin blood—from a humanitarian point of view, she had to be eliminated.

But from a gamer's point of view, her ruthlessness and strength made her a great opponent.

What is she like?

Enemies had a very similar curiosity, just like lovers. One wanted to know everything their counterparts liked and hated. One can't stop thinking about their counterpart or thinking of making their heart beat fast.

Information on the surface was not enough. To set up a perfect strategy against her, he had to understand her inside and out.

Sungjin's head was full of Riad, the Blood Ruler.

That moment, one side of the bathroom wall started to crack. Bloody energy oozed out from the crack, and a heavy sensual scent spread out.

The next moment, the wall completely burst.

Standing there was a body with a confident posture and arrogant eyes that showed vigor. Her bouncy breasts and breathtaking body showed her fatal charm. Her red hair was glamorous and S*xy, and her toned arms and legs showed a peak at pleasure.

She looked like a spider queen who ate men, and also a bloody rose that made people want to be eaten by her.

It was the Blood Ruler, Riad. The owner of the magical sword. A witch queen who gained strength by taking a bath in the blood of virgins. She was the strongest in the kingdom, and even male heroes couldn't look her in the eye without kneeling.

Ereka was an edelweiss with morning dew, blooming on the side of a cliff. Riad was a bloody red rose that sucked up the blood of a thousand dead bodies.

Sungjin grinned towards her.

"Ho? Riad?"

Leaning in the bath, he relaxed. He was confident and didn't try to cover up his naked body. His attitude without fear or humiliation made Riad laugh.

"Haha. I just came to see you."

"You should have sent a note. Obviously, I'm not in a situation to greet a guest."

"Hmph. That is great. Being naked is the best status to have an unfiltered conversation. I will join you."

She stepped in confidently. She disarmed her armor and showed her naked body. Her charming mature body uncovered its charm. With every step, she revealed her private parts. She walked in and sat in the bath, facing Sungjin without any shyness.

"Why not. Have fun. I won't charge you," Sungjin greeted this uninvited guest nonchalantly,

Their gazes clashed passionately. Their fierce, burning eyes respected each other. Others might have thought they were a passionate couple.

They both scanned each other's body from head to toe, and neither of them flinched.

"Hahaha. Now I see. You've got the body of a trained martial artist."

Riad burst into laughter.

“Your eyes have the insight for fights.”

She pointed at Sungjin with her finger.

“You are ambitious. Hahaha. I thought there were no real men in this country, but you were here. You are from elsewhere. You are level 0 but not a real level 0.”

As a royal, she knew about the forbidden summoning ceremony hidden in the secret chamber.

“Hmph. You are better than I thought. You must be a fun opponent.”

Sungjin respected Riad. She was the real deal, totally unlike the three knights. She had to be defeated, but that wouldn't be easy for him. His blood started to pump faster at the excitement.

Their eye contact became even hotter. Then the door opened and Ereka rushed in.

“What are you doing, Riad! I knew you had no manners but don't you have a sense of humiliation? What is this... obscene...!”

As soon as Sungjin's naked body came into her sight, she turned her head. She became red and couldn't finish her words.

“This is a conversation between someone who knows about the fight for supremacy. You don't belong here,” said Riad. She didn't even bother to look at Ereka.

That provoked Ereka.

I also gave up being a woman and trained with a spear and shield. Nothing different from you! And that has nothing to do with... being naked.

She turned her head upon seeing Sungjin's naked body.

“The conversation between warriors is a battle. You are a novice to worry about such a thing.”

“E... e... eh. Do you think I can't? I can't let you talk nonsense to Sungjin. I will join you!” said Ereka as she walked into the bath so as not to look weak.

But she couldn't sit next to Sungjin and went to another corner. She wouldn't go in naked, so she covered herself up with a gown while avoiding eye contact with Sungjin by continuously looking at Riad.

Sungjin tried not to laugh out loud. It was in the middle of a fight with Riad, but Ereka trying hard was too cute for the situation. He wanted to tell her to go back outside and that he will take care of it, but that would hurt Ereka's pride, so he decided not to.

Riad ignored the princess and kept looking at Sungjin.

"I like you. Be mine."

"Ha?"

"I will give you more than whatever the princess offered. Refuse, and I will kill you."

"She promised half of her kingdom. You can multiply that?"

"Hahaha. That's a breeze."

The water in the tub made waves with her laughter.

"I will give you the world."

"The world."

"I will march you to the center to become the third Kaiser who conquered the world. I will let you stand by me. You can't compare that with half of a miserably tiny kingdom."

"The world? Hmph, now we are talking."

Sungjin showed a small grin.

His goal was not just becoming a Kaiser, the conqueror of the human world, but to become an Arc Master by conquering the sacred territory protected by God's guardians.

"Hahaha. Now we are talking? I like you more. I will take you. I'm the only one who can bring you to the top."

"Well, I'm okay with the princess."

"Bullshit. She can't embrace a man like you."

"Are you bragging your level? She can catch up to you if I let her win a few times."

"Don't play innocent."

Riad's red eyes shone sharply. Her eyes were piercing reality.

“The rule of the princess will limit you from taking all the measures you need to take. That will stop you from using all of your power. I’m not like that”

The bloody aura rose into the air from her body. Her bloody energy sucked up all the air and filled up the whole bathroom.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 17

They used government-patronized scholars and interest groups to transform lies into truth and spread these lies using the ass-kissing media to fool the people. They glorified their greed into justice to win.

Whatever they did, the winner took it all.

Ereka felt pressure on her chest. What Riad said was true. There were reasons why all the other heroes decided to stand on Riad’s side even though the late king nominated Ereka as his successor.

Merciful Rulership and the Divine Birth Privilege were two major principles of the world, the latter being the dominant one without exception. The scriptures said that the extras had been given to the heroes. The majority of people took the translation as if the extras were given to them to use rather than them being consigned for care.

Her rightful ruling was a lot of work for them while it was more beneficial to serve Riad. Moreover, Riad was stronger, which made everyone want to serve Riad. That was why Ereka was sincerely grateful to Rittier and Jenna who stayed with her.

She had to realize that her rightful ruling was not appealing to others.

Sungjin, are you... going to stand by Riad as well...

She wanted to ask him to stay, but she had no cards to put on the table to keep him. The Blood Ruler saw his abilities and wanted him. It was a losing game for her.

Sungjin grinned.

“But what should I do? I like those restrictions?”

“Ha. What are you talking about?”

“Your victory is just a forced one. Well, that is still a victory, but it’s not cool.”

“Victory is victory, defeat is defeat! The winner takes all, and the loser goes down. That is true victory and defeat!” Riad shouted as water from the tub spilled over.

“You are right,” Sungjin agreed.

At the end of the day, the winner took it all, and the loser lost everything. In the world of sports as well, champions were wealthy while the bottom ranks were miserable. The Ministry of Gender Equality took the prize while he and other gamers lost their dream. There was no need to talk about war.

“But there were some idiots in history who pushed the limit and kept their ideology until they couldn’t.”

If you couldn’t make it, people laughed at you, and in most cases, reality would beat them up, yet they still challenged reality. And in those rare cases where their dream came true... Their ideas that those wise men didn’t approve because they were too good to be true became a reality and changed the world.

The emancipation of slaves, the people’s revolution, the abolition of the caste system and dictatorship, independence... And the princess’ dream—Merciful Rulership to protect people’s lives and future.

This would be even greater when achieved after a difficult task.

Sungjin has been through the misery after being defeated. He has seen the enemy winning by using anything in their power just to win. But he despised that because that was a dirty victory, and he was angry because that was an evil deed. He told himself that he would never steal away a victory like them.

“It is much cooler when you keep to the rules and win. So I don’t need you.”

“I thought I knew you. I didn’t see your weakness of being chained to meaningless things.”

Riad stormed out of the bath.

“I will kill you with her.”

Pieces of the bathroom were scattered by her energy. Her blood energy evaporated the water in the bath. She turned around and walked out of the broken wall. Every step dented the ground.

In that heavy air, Sungjin noticed Ereka behind her.

“Hmph. Do whatever you please. It is more challenging to win against such an enemy.”

That was the end of their conversation; now there was a war waiting.

Sungjin refreshed the air.

“Well, the unwanted guest has left, so you can go first.”

“Thank you, Sungjin.”

Ereka thanked him and stood up. It was too much for her to be in the same bath with him.

Haha. What did I do? Jumping into the same bath with Sungjin.

Of course, it was to keep her eyes on the Blood Ruler, and she covered herself. That was too important to think of anything else, including manners. But... But... sharing a bath was something only between lovers. The word she had in mind surprised her.

Lovers...

Her cheeks were burning. Maybe she was in the hot water a little too long. But what if she and Sungjin were real lovers... So they really bathed together...

“I’m too shy.”

She rolled over and tried to hide, but Sungjin approached her with his hand. His hand had a strong grip and brought her over.

“It’s ok. Let me do it.”

“But...”

“Every inch of your body is beautiful. Show me.”

What... what am I... imagining?

That was impossible. That was all because of Jenna, who said some nonsense to make her imagine such things.

Lovers. Such a subject will make Sungjin uncomfortable.

But she couldn’t help herself from wanting to know one thing.

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After a little while, the princess invited Sungjin to the tea room. She hesitated a little while before she started talking.

“Sungjin, can I ask you something?”

“Ask me.”

“I rule rightfully to keep the legacy of my father and to protect my precious people. But why did you refuse such a good offer from the Blood Ruler for a complete stranger’s land?”

“Why? Did you want me to accept her offer?”

Ereka shook her head at Sungjin’s joke.

“Of course not. But... I was worried. I tried to become a ruler... but I don’t have the power or charisma like my father.”

“Hmph. I told you. You are a better partner for the awesome victory that I want.”

“What is this awesome victory... that you are talking about?”

“What is this awesome victory,” Sungjin repeated.

In Valhalla, victory and the defeat had completely different meanings compared to back on earth. On earth, this was just a type of sport he was playing as a professional player. So he had only one rule to be fair and square.

But in Valhalla, this was a war.

He was just an aspiring pro gamer. But in this world, Sungjin was able to control the rise and fall of a kingdom, and moreover, change the destiny of the world. In a world like this, what kind of victory would he pursue? What would his path to becoming an Arc Master be?

“At least a victory with your bright smile.”

To have an awesome victory, he had already decided to protect her happy smile. On earth, he pursued a fair and square victory to make the audience go wild and to make himself proud of becoming a world champion. In this world, he decided that the first step to becoming an Arc Master would be to protect this girl.

He didn’t need a destructive victory like the Blood Ruler.

“What? Ah... well...”

Ereka’s heart pounded.

If I smile... and cheer for you... would that be enough?

To see her smile, he refused the offer from the dominantly advantageous opponent, the Blood Ruler. That was a noble and honorable act of him.

“Is... is that true?”

“Yes.”

“Oh... right! I suppose you need to rest now. Good night.”

Ereka said goodnight and left. She was too shy to stay there any longer. But on the other hand...

I'm happy. I'm truly happy!

She was so happy to hear what Sungjin said. She felt like she was flying.

Thank you, Sungjin.

She was grateful that Sungjin decided to stay with her. She was truly grateful that Sungjin respected her rightful ruling, while all the other heroes laughed at it and abandoned her.

After her father, the late king, passed away, Rittier was the first person who said her restrictions were good and had worth...

Sometimes she imagined... It would be romantic and lovely if a charming knight handed her his sword under the moonlight as a promise to protect her.

Sungjin was not wearing shiny armor, and he didn't say his words in a rose garden under the moonlight. But Sungjin's words made her happier than any other story she had been imagining

Oh... Sungjin...

She was so happy that she almost cried. She had to abandon her dreams as a girl, but now, two of her dreams came true, both her dreams as a girl and as a ruler.

* * *

Chapter 11

The castle was full of tension after the Blood Ruler's visit. The pleasure from taking over the capital was only for a moment; now, they had to face the hopeless reality where they had to fight back against the awakened Blood Ruler.

After helping the people from the capital, Ereka called a meeting to set up the next strategy.

“The Blood Ruler came back stronger. Now she is level 8, and her ultimate skill is a great threat of mystery.”

Ereka explained the situation to Sungjin.

At level 8, your Heroic Power becomes stronger and upgrades your basic skills. But that was the least of their concerns. The real threat was the Blood Ruler’s new ultimate skill. They had no idea what her new ultimate kill would be.

“Rumors say she defeated all three of her knights with one blow, and the other heroes were in fear watching it.”

“Hm, at least that is a clue. At least it is not an anti-personnel skill.”

“Yes. The problem is how we can fight against them with our absolutely unbalanced power. I’m checking to see if we can get some help from other countries ...”

“There will be no country who wants to help us to fight the awakened Blood Ruler,” Sungjin said with a reason.

“You are right. I tried to remind them about our long relationship dating back to our ancestors, but it didn’t work.”

“It okay. We can do it by ourselves.”

Ereka found hope in his confidence, although the hope was as tiny as a tiny boat in a storm.

“Is it... possible?”

“Really, Sungjin Oppa?”

“Could it be possible?”

When all three of them asked him at once, Sungjin smiled.

“Yeah. They are dominant in power, but I have a plan.”

“Tell us.”

“Okay. The basis of our plan is that we are on defense.”

“Defense. Of course.”

“The battlefield in the capital has a 3:3 map, which will minimize our weakness of having only 3 leveled heroes, while the Blood Ruler can only bring two of her knights. Compared to a 4:4 battle, this is much more advantageous for us.”

“Correct.”

But that didn't make them feel comfortable. They already knew that much.

“And the real key is our right to build the base. Which means we can use the geographic advantage that we have created for ourselves.”

Sungjin's eyes sparkled like those of a wild animal.

“Geography?”

“Yes. I can think of hundreds of shapes in a second to make the base useful for us. I will pick only a few of them, but that should be enough to defeat them.”

“Surely... since it is you doing it, that would be possible.”

All three were filled half with hope and half anxiety. The Blood Ruler's incomparable power and name made them anxious while Sungjin's strategy that was beyond his level was a powerful tool.

There was a chance for them to win in a defensive battle where they could prepare for it.

“Only one thing that you guys need to do. Hold out until the Blood Ruler declares the war. If you can do that, I will make you win.”

“I will trust you and follow you.”

Ereka promised herself to trust and follow only Sungjin.

“Good. But keep one thing in mind. The Blood Ruler is not bad. She will be aware of the disadvantage of attacking and will try to do something to make us declare the war. Just hold out. Her ambition is not to take our country, so if we hold out long enough, she will initiate the attack to save time.”

Sungjin already looked through the Blood Ruler. She was careful and cool-headed, but her ambitions were much bigger. He knew what her move would be, so he articulated the importance of a defensive battle. If they were on the defensive, he was confident that they would win.

“If we win this time, the Blood Ruler will become our prisoner. That means that will be the end of this war,” Rittier endorsed.

“Then the princess will win, and everyone will be happy! I really hope that will come true,” Jenna said as she flapped her tail with happiness.

“Sungjin Oppa. Work on a perfect defense strategy! Then I will marry you!”

“Haha. I appreciate your gesture.”

But I mean it.

Jenna kept flapping her tail. Even if the princess married him as a first wife, there would be endless concubines who would follow him. She thought she had to get in to satisfy him where the princess couldn't and check on the other concubines.

That was the way for her to serve the princess and Sungjin who both helped her.

Well, I don't need to tell them now.

“But I promise us victory.”

Ereka's heart started to pound again as she looked at Sungjin's confident smile.

That confident and manly smile... very charming... I still have nightmares when I think of the Blood Ruler... Sungjin, you are a real man.

“That's it for now. Just remember to hold out whatever the Blood Ruler tries to attack.”

“Okay.”

That was the end of their strategy meeting. But they were not the only ones who had a strategy meeting.

At that time, the Blood Ruler was having a strategy meeting with her heroes.

“So what about the information I ordered?”

“Your Highness. Through the priest, we found out that the extra had a mock battle with the wizard kid against the princess.”

“And?”

“Surprisingly, the wizard kid won.”

“I know she has no experience, but how can a level 4 wizard defeat a level 6 knight?”

“How terrible a knight she is, even though she has level 6 power. Tsk.”

Riad stamped her foot hard to stop the heroes from talking down the princess.

Crash.

Even the ceiling shook with a loud noise.

“You silly things! It was not the weakness of the princess nor the strength of the wizard! It was he who made the wizard win!”

“But Your Highness, he is a mere ext... Ugh!”

The Blood Ruler pushed her magical sword into the hero’s throat. He fell down spouting blood.

“I approved of him after meeting him. You have insulted me.”

“Forgive us.”

All the other heroes bowed down flat.

“Report to me how well she did.”

“Unfortunately, the priest didn’t see everything, but it seemed like the wizard lured the princess into the forest and set the forest on fire.”

“Set the fire on the forest?”

“What... What is that... such a low...”

Battle was supposed to be a fight between heroes using martial arts, skills, and power given by God. But defeating the opponent by setting fire to the forest? That was a cheap and shallow trick of a cowardly extra.

The heroes were annoyed, but on the other hand...

“Ah, haha. As good as I heard. Okay. So a level 0 can use the geography for his plan. He is the next level up from the people who use the turrets.”

Riad laughed with satisfaction.

“Your... Your Highness.”

“Hmm. A level 6 knight didn’t fall for a fire for sure. I’m sure there was more to it. One clear thing is that he is better at using geography than me.”

“How can he be better than you, Your Highness!”

“That is nonsense! You are the strongest and the best! Please don’t compare your greatness with a mere extra.”

“All you can do is cover your incompetence with cheap, sweet-coated words.”

“They are not sugar-coated. We are telling the truth.”

“Hmph. Hmm. We should not initiate the attack.”

“What?”

Riad’s words shocked the heroes again.

“With your absolute power... perhaps you are too careful.”

“Hmph. A person who is drenched by the daydream of the princess not being a threat to me. Lions take unpredictable factors into account while trying their best to chase even if it is just a rabbit. I will make the princess initiate the fight.”

“Knowing your absolute power, would they try to initiate?”

“I might not be a master of geography, but I’m a master of human psychology.”

Riad’s smile showed her magical power. She sipped a virgin’s blood with her bloody red lips.

“All you have to do is to follow my orders and prepare things. I will do the rest.”

“Yes, Your Highness.”

Riad started to work on her own strategy.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 18

She was talking to herself and again was about to burn her pot when a man approached her.

“Your Highness.”

“What is it?”

She didn’t know the servant but she answered with a kind smile.

“This is... from the blood ruler.”

Said the servant and handed a wind spirit stone that would send not only the voice but also a video.

“the blood ruler? What is is about.”

“I do not know your highness. I just got the order to hand it to you, your highness.”

“Ok. You can leave now.”

Ereka looked at the spirit wind stone with a drawn face.

I don't want to deal with it... but I can't lose the psychological war.

She activated the stone and the face of the blood ruler Riad appeared.

“What do you have to talk about now?”

“I met the guy last time. Not we should talk.”

“Now what we should do is seeing each other for the battle.”

“Hahaha. Don't you want to have a chat as sisters? I came to the Brin mountain behind the castle.”

“A chat as sisters? That was over when you ignored the rulership of the late king and sacrificed people for the magical sword.”

“Really? I brought some entertainment for you. If you are not coming, I will enjoy it by myself.”

“And entertainment...!”

The video zoomed out to show around Riad.

There were 30 children tied up with ropes. They all looked like to be seven or eight years old. Swept by ropes, they were covered with scratches.

“What is this.”

“I told you this is entertainment. I will do a hide-and-seek. That supposed to be a popular play among children.”

“Hide and seek...”

Ereka's hair bristled up. The blood ruler wouldn't play such a children's play. She felt there was something terrifying coming,

“Ok, I will count to ten. And then catch one and then count to ten to catch another. If you want to join, come over.”

Said the blood ruler, pulling out her huge sword.

“Now run.”

The sword swung to cut the ropes. Frozen with fear children couldn't move. The blood ruler showed a cruel smile and started to count to ten.

And then...

“Stop!”

Knew what's next and shouted Ereka.

Zing.

She cut one's head off and blood spurted out. The huge sword pulled the blood and absorbed it.

“Ahahah... boo-hoo.!”

The children started crying and ran over all directions.

“One, two...”

The blood ruler started counting again.

Bang!

With a loud sound of an explosion, the kitchen door blew up. In a second the princess was in armor and ran with the maximum speed using her heroic power.

She had no time to tell others.

She didn't have time.

She had to be there as soon as possible to save the children.

Ereka arrived at the peak of the Brin mountain.

She had to witness the bloody madness.

A body without a head, a body cut in half, a body without arms and legs, all kinds of dead bodies were rolling around.

They were all children.

The lives who never even had a chance to live a life.

They were too young to die.

If there were no evil and violence, they were lives that were giving hope and happiness to families.

They were lives with endless possibilities.

Maybe they were meant to live a normal life, but this was not a way to end such lives.

The faces of bodies with fear and pain were showing how they were killed.

Only if... I was able to make it... earlier...

Ereka grabbed her spear firmly. Her heroic power from anger made wind ruffled her blond hair.

“You are late. We were almost done.”

Almost?

She looked around.

In the middle of this bloody madness where she couldn't protect children from slaughter, there was a child still alive. The tiny child was frozen with fear and rolled up his body without moving.

At least this child.

It was too late, but she thought she could save this one.

Ereka stood in front of the child and pointed her spear to the blood ruler.

“Ho. Will you finish up? Ok. As a sister, I will give it to you.”

“Bullshit!”

Shouted with anger, Ereka talked to herself.

I need to take this child to the castle to save this child...

The good thing was, it was forbidden to have a fight outside of the battlefield between heroes. Even if the blood ruler was much stronger, she couldn't attack the princess.

Ereka took her shield to her left hand and hold the child with one hand.

“I was being generous. It seems like I need to finish this.”

The blood ruler’s sword sliced the air.

“Blood needle.”

The next moment, blood from dead bodies on the ground became few hundreds of needles and shot up from the ground.

They all looked like needles but each one of them contained destructive spear power.

Ereka didn’t hesitate but protected the child with her whole body.

Ta ta ta tak.

Needles stroke her body, but Ereka held the child stronger.

“Baw.”

The child finally got the facial expression back and started crying.

The child thought there was hope to be saved and refound the emotion.

“It’s ok. I will protect you.”

Ereka promised and started to run with the child in her arms.

“Hut. Still so naive.”

“I’m not listening.”

When Ereka answered, the child suddenly showed pain.

“Ah...ahah...”

“What’s wrong?”

Ereka couldn’t understand because she took all the blood needles with her body.

“Bloody Bomb.”

The next moment, the child held the chest. And then the child exploited.

Pitter-patter.

Blood storm covered Ereka while scattered flash hit her. Her body became red with blood, and flash rained on her air.

“Hahaha. The kid was already dead.”

Riad’s laughter echoed around Ereka’s ears.

Ereka’s anger stopped her thinking.

Bam.

Heroic power spread out from Ereka’s body. The air swirled and her blond hair shined like a lion’s mane. Blood and stain from her body evaporated.

“I won’t forgive you!”

Powered by the death cry of the child who had a bloody death, the knight princess powered up

Her spear went toward the blood ruler.

I can’t forgive her.

She broke down everything my father protected.

I can’t forgive this tyrant.

She killed too many people for her power and beauty,

I can’t keep this witch

She killed poor children for her entertainment.

The blood ruler raised her arm to take the spear.

It was a crash of a second, but the power dented the ground.

“Ah haha. Thank you for attacking me.”

Said Riad, stepping back from her.

Oops.

The next moment Ereka realized her mistake.

A clash outside of the battlefield was not just a fight. Especially when the clash was caused by the head of an army.

“Now you declared your intention to attack, I accept this challenge and to take this into the battlefield! It is a fight between two kings, I accept your challenge with everything of my kingdom!”

The shout of Riad became letters in the air and blew away to the sky.

“Chuckle...”

Ereka started to shake her hand.

She just declared war by her action. On the next battle day, she had to head to the battlefield. If not, that would be a defeat by decision. Sungjin told her it has to be on the defense side, but she just ruined it.

“hahaha. That is why you are naive.”

Said Riad cruelly, but Ereka couldn't answer.

It was a clear trap, and she couldn't control her anger. She forgot that if they initiate the attack and fail, no one can be saved.

Ahah...

In this world, it was to save a child would be ridiculed as an excuse.

The blood ruler didn't initiate the attack. Life of the extras was in the Lord's hand. She just did what she wanted to do to her objects and Ereka interrupted her. And then attacked her to show the hostility.

That was a declaration of war.

Ahh... ahahah...

She had to stop the tyranny of the blood ruler.

She had to save the poor child.

But that was just her hope and dream. She had no way to make it while failed to control her anger to ruin everything. That was not a proper act of a king.

And now...

Today's massacre will...

Spread all around this kingdom.

It was her wrongdoing that caused the massacre.

It was her incompetence that didn't save children dying in front of her.

Maybe... that could be forgiven... considered to be the limit as a human.

But...

She was about to kill more people with her mistake.

"To celebrate the final battle between sister, I will give you a great present!"

The blood ruler shouted holding her magical sword up in the air.

Ereka couldn't hear the name of the sword. The blood power that has already become a torrent of heroic power and hit her eardrum.

Ereka saw endless despair.

Every single thread of blood power contained power as violent as a flood that swipes up everything around it.

The ground split with blood torrent.

A rock split into two pieces and drop into the crack on the ground.

A cliff broke down and the ground changed the shape.

A human-caused avalanche.

There was not even a trace of trees.

There was nothing that could stand between tangling blood torrents.

That was an absolute power that refused any resistance.

Awaken the blood ruler who sacrificed everyone was the fear itself.

It was not a surprise that the three knights fell down with one blow.

One level 6 knight alone was like a military unit.

But this torrent was something that can swipe a few units away. It was a natural, no human-made disaster.

After the torrent was gone, the peak that was there had disappeared. There was a destroyed crater instead.

Ereka's couldn't stand on her feet. She lost her power to stand.

This is the ultimate skill of the blood ruler

She felt it was impossible. It was impossible

This wouldn't be a winning battle.

Even if it was a defense battle, they had no chance.

It was impossible even to Sungjin.

"Suffer more with despair until the battle day."

Riad cursed her.

Hut. This means my victory.

The survivor of the fittest. Sungjin or Ereka who wanted to save the weak had no chance in front of her.

She realized it earlier when she was kidnapped.

The wizard who kidnapped her and other kids to awake the magical sword looked them all in a dungeon.

The wizard gave less and less food from the ceiling to make them fight to kill each other to survive.

But until then, she believed in her father who said the strong has to use their strength to protect the weak.

So in that despair, she believed it when the oldest and the strongest Aska said let's not fooled by the wizard and let's fight together.

But even after they swore, kids started found dead during nights when there was less and less food. They tried to find the killer but she didn't realize the cruel fact.

That Aska was the killer.

She realized that only when he tried to kill her at night.

He was acting because he thought if he showed his real color the weeks will gather to fight him.

And death is the only end for the weak.

The strong the weak was just a myth.

In reality, we all have to kill each other to survive.

Once she realized the truth, her power was awakened.

It was easy after killing Aska.

The fact that the more she killed, the stronger she became convinced her.

The day after she killed everyone, the wizard opened the dungeon door. The wizard said the ritual of solitude was completed and tried to unseal the magical sword, but that was a mistake.

She had already become stronger than the wizard.

When she killed the wizard, for her, it was neither out of anger nor was revenge. She was used by him because she was weak, and now that she is stronger, she kills the wizard and takes the magical sword. That was it.

The wizard was sacrificed and the magical sword was unsealed.

The magical sword accepted her as its master, with a condition that she will keep sacrificing the weak and become stronger. That was what she wanted anyway.

That was the birth of the blood ruler.

Riad left with cold bloody energy behind.

As the pact that I made with the magical sword, I will keep winning and keep plundering and become stronger. I will sacrifice everyone until I step on the top of the world.

Little sister is just a stepping stone on the way.

In the middle of the ruins, Ereka couldn't move or stand up. As the blood ruler's curse, despair ran over her.

I... I am sorry... everyone...

She couldn't protect anyone from this.

Chapter 12

Rittier and Jenna talked toward to Ereka who stood in the middle of the ruin.

“Your Highness. What is going on.”

“I am... sorry.”

Ereka dropped her head.

“Princess, what happened?”

“Jenna....”

Ereka held Jenna without finding a word to say.

The heavy bloody smell from the ruin and Ereka in pain showed them this was not a simple matter.

Then Sungjin arrived.

“The ruin with the bloody smell...”

At a glance, they found a shoe soaked in blood with foot lost the leg. Once they found one, they were able to see what happened.

¼ of a face.

An arm without any finger.

The horrible scene reflected the tragedy that had happened.

“Boo... boo... boohoo...”

Jenna fell down and cried out loud.

“What are these... this... the pain... poor... this is terrifying...”

“huh.”

Sungjin nearly threw up. He took cold and calm as his motto but he was still a high school student. He was shocked by such a terrifying scene.

He didn't break down because there was bigger than the shock.

The anger.

“What happened?”

“Sungjin... I’m sorry. I’m sorry.”

“Stop apologizing and tell me what happened. I need to know what happened to plan how to deal with this.”

But Sungjin already knew what happened. That’s why his anger was burning.

This was a trace of a massacre.

“Ok...”

Ereka told everything to Sungjin.

The blood ruler Riad took children as hostages to provoke her and she made a mistake and reacted as the blood ruler planned.

Rittier’s face stiffened listening to her story.

“Your Highness... That was a mistake.”

“Yes.”

“That was a huge mistake...”

Rittier looked into the sky and moaned.

“Yes. I understand.”

“Sungjin’s strategy was the only way to win while it is only possible when it is a defense battle against the blood ruler’s awaken power.”

“Yes. I knew... but forgot for a second.”

“You should have ignored at the first place. You knew if you are played by a hostage show, the opponent will take it as your weakness and use it against you.”

“Yes. It’s all my fault.”

Ereka couldn’t look into Rittier’s eyes who kept blaming her.

She didn’t have a word to say.

“Princess.”

Jenna called her with regretful voice, but couldn't find a word to defend her. Even young Jenna understood how serious this situation was.

"Your ... I understand you cherish the lives of extras as well. But you can't save everyone. If you try the impossible that will result in a bigger disaster that will kill everyone else. I told you so many times."

"Yes... you are right... you told me... I kept that in mind but..."

Ereka understood the magnitude of her mistake.

Killing children was not an acceptable act. But it was impossible to stop all injustice.

It was stupid to kill a hundred to save one.

Now the blood ruler will take over this kingdom and abuse everyone with tyranny.

No, not just this kingdom. She would use this as a stepping stone to conquer more.

Sungjin promised to make them win in a defense battle, but she lost control of a moment and ruined everything

A king had to be cold when necessary. A king needed the best judgment to know what was the best.

Sungjin stepped in.

"That's enough."

"But sir Sungjin. Now your strategy became useless."

"I know. You are right and it was clear that the princess made a mistake. But that was enough."

Ereka started to have tears in her eyes looking at Sungjin.

"Sungjin, be angry. I don't want you to take my mistake lightly."

"If you know yourself, that's enough. And moreover."

Sungjin picked up a bloody shoe from the ground.

There was a tiny foot with its leg cut off.

The bloody red shoe used to be a cute yellow one with little chicks printed on it.

Level 0 Master - Chapter 19

Hahaha. Ok, this is a nasty feeling beyond the incident with the Ministry of Gender Equality.

Children were not binary data in the computer. He couldn't reload human life.

That was miserably abused and scattered under his feet.

He just realized that kind of victory he could bring by defeating the three knights and save people. And also realized what kind of darkness was coming when he couldn't.

He promised to the children.

I promise. I can't revive you guys, but at least, I will take down the blood ruler to stop her doing this again.

"But...!"

"Yes. A king has to manage the anger more rationally. I was naive. I need to grow up. But the anger that made me lose my reason."

Sungjin lightly held Ereka's shoulder.

"I don't mind that."

"Sungjin."

"I will cover you up for this mistake. Trust me."

Sungjin smiled softly.

He articulated the importance multiple times, but the princess blew it up.

The defense strategy he planned became useless.

If he was something normal, he would have been angry that his work ended up in vain. It would be less annoying if a computer project prepared for a few months has been deleted by accident,

This was not a project but a war that they had to fight with their lives.

But he smiled.

To tell the princess to stop blaming herself.

He was a man who could embrace the princess of a kingdom.

“Would it be possible?”

“Trust me and wait.”

Sungjin promised.

“Hey. Let’s bury the children. And then I will work on an attack strategy. Stop beating yourself.”

“Yes. Princess. Sniff... woo... I will... I will help you! So... so... we will... we will...”

Jenna tried to stop her tears and raised up her tail sword.

“Yes, Sungjin. Jenna... thank you.”

Ereka stood up with tears in her eyes.

They collected pieces of the bodies and buried them. Although the blood ruler’s ultimate skill destroyed most of them and didn’t even leave enough pieces to collect.

Sungjin started to think about sitting next to the tomb of children.

‘The blood ruler Riad.’

Her strategy to kill a few dozens children to provoke Ereka was clearly valid and excellent.

She killed only a few dozens children in order to have an upper hand in a battle that could change the destiny of the country.

She deserved credit.

And so...

I will defeat you...

He was able to become a world champion fighting fair and square.

But what about arc master?

Yeah. Now I know.

In this world, the prize of the victory had nothing to compare to the sports on earth. He needed a much bigger vision to become an arc master.

Incomparably strong enemies would try to stop him with evil methods beyond imagination.

And the stake for his victory was much bigger and heavier.

Many people's life was at stake.

His first fight was to stop the blood ruler and Ereka. And now, he could see what has to be his next step and goals for his next fights.

His opponents were not a simple rival team.

His prize was not just a trophy and money.

Now I know.

We all want the victory, but the path he wanted to walk was far from the path of the blood ruler.

He wanted to win because he was competitive.

And then, he wanted to save Ereka's smile who abandoned her happiness as a girl to devote to her people.

Now there was one more reason.

He wanted to defeat Riad. Ereka had to be the king.

That had to be the first step of building his legend.

So it was ok if he couldn't use his strategies for the defense battle.

He didn't care that the blood ruler ultimate skill had absolute power.

He set a goal, he would make it.

The cool victory was not to find excuses, it was to achieve what one decided.

I will defeat you.

Sungjin promised to himself.

* * *

From that day, Sungjin started to work on new strategies. Ereka looked at him and started to pray.

Sungjin...

Every time she called him, Sungjin smiled and told her to trust him, but she knew.

Sungjin didn't need this much time when he fought against me or against the three knights.

When he promised to win against the blood ruler, it was not this long.

He already had a plan and he was adding up additional tactics. But this time was different. He said he would but he didn't yet.

And probably... no, almost certainly...

Sungjin was good, but this was not a situation where he could find an answer.

You haven't seen it with your eyes, Sungjin.

The ultimate skill of the blood ruler was more terrifying than what he had seen with the aftermath. Only Ereka who saw the moment she used the skill, the pressure, and intensity of the power

Even though you are good, This time would be impossible.

The blood ruler was way too stronger.

That was not it.

When she looked down to the training room, Jenna has dozed off with her hammer on the floor. Her tail sword started to do up and down.

"Humm... Yamm... Sungjin oppa, pat me."

"Jenna. Go to bed."

"Oh, Princess! Not yet! I want to practice more!"

Jenna woke up and held her hammer.

"Don't try too hard. Kids need sleep to become taller."

"Oh really?"

Jenna stood her tail sword but soon shook it.

"I'm fine! I can grow later. I want to practice more to attack."

Ereka couldn't stop here although she knew that Jenna always wanted to become taller.

"Jenna... take your time... if you get sick... that is a bigger problem."

"Yes. Your Highness."

Ereka dropped her teats knowing Jenna was trying to sound positive. She also knew Rittier was practicing harder than usual.

I can't make you do this impossible task.

They need to become stronger. But there was no a hero who would come to their side. There was only one way.

She called Rittier and Jenna.

"I've got something to tell you."

Rittier and Jenna held their breath, knowing Ereka was truly serious. The room was so quiet, they could hear their own heartbeat.

"I will tell how to finish the forbidden ritual to Sungjin."

"Please don't!"

"Princess!"

"I will let Sungjin decide if we need to proceed to finish. But if he has no other possibility, I will follow him."

"But your highness... that ritual... that ritual...!"

Rittier shivered his hand.

"No. Princess!"

Jenna held Ereka's leg and her tail sword shook rapidly.

"Yes. That was our last resort. I never wanted to use it. But I made a mistake, knowing the defence battle was our only hope."

"It was a mistake for sure! But Sungjin said he can cover it!"

"Do you really think it would be possible?"

"..."

No one answered.

“Even if that , it is the king’s duty to stand on the front line and give her life to save her people from the risk.”

She decided to become a king, not a girl.

“But...”

“So I will tell him that he can have power by taking me as a sacrifice.”

So that was how to finish the forbidden ritual.

To summon a demi-devil from the other world and sacrifice a virgin to use his power.

The sacrifice had a double meaning.

A sacrifice in bed to satisfy the demi-devil...

But also a sacrifice to make the demi-devil stronger.

The former had to sacrifice the virginity.

The latter had to sacrifice the body of innocence. The life itself.

If Ereka took her fate as a sacrifice and killed herself, all her power would go to Sungjin. Although Sungjin left all his power back on the earth, with the ritual, he would get the level.

That would awaken much stronger energy mixed with his own power.

The legend says, a demi-devil from the other world has a unique class, they had other regular power of the classes; knight, warrior, assassin, wizard, supporter.

“But...”

“What I want to ask you is to take care of Sungjin when I’m gone. Don’t blame him for my death.”

“But...”

“He is such a nice person, so he will suffer from my death. But if you help him to rule as a king, that will be a way to save me. Which will be much better than dying as a prisoner losing rightful kingship.”

Ereka showed a beautiful smile that only a person who gave up everything could show. His smile was sad, emotional and beautiful.

“Your... highness....”

“Princess...”

“I will let him take over after me. He is a strong, charming but also a nice person, so he will do much better than what I’m doing.”

“What is not true! Everyone admires you, your highness!”

Rittier said, but Ereka shook her head slowly.

“They appreciate my trying, but not an acknowledgment of what I’ve done.”

“Princess.”

“Ok? Take care of them when I’m done. Promise me.”

They stayed in silence. Ereka begged with her eyes to promise her.

“Yes... your highness...”

Rittier took the order.

He wanted to stop her but he couldn’t.

“Oh...oh... but I don’t want you to!”

Jenna ran out crying.

“Jenna!”

Ereka followed her.

Sungjin’s room crashed with a big noise. Jenna ran into his arms.

“Sungjin oppa! oppa! Stop the princess! Save her...”

She cried her eyes out in her arms. She grabbed him thinking there was no one else she could trust.

“What’s wrong?”

“Jenna, stop it.”

Ereka tried to stop Jenna.

“But the princess...princess!”

“Rittier. Take Jenna away.”

“Yes. your highness.”

Ereka ordered and Rittier took Jenna to take her out.

“No! Sungjin oppa, oppa. Save my princess...!”

Rittier dragged Jenna out while she was shaking her tail sword and struggle,

Ereka asked for Sungjin’s excuse.

“I’m sorry for this fuss from early morning.”

“It’s ok. But tell me what is this about.”

Sungjin’s eyes calmed down cold. He already knew half of the story deduced by Jenna’s words.

“Yes. I wanted to tell you something. Actually... there is the ending part of the summoning ritual that was used to bring you here.”

“The ending...”

They kept it from him until now, which means it was not good news. Sungjin understood right away.

“I decided to become a sacrifice and sacrifice myself to give all my level to you.”

He was right. It was not good news.

“The legend says that the Outlander will get a unique class called the 7th unique class, so the strength is over the range. That will give us a better chance against the blood ruler.”

“So you want to kill yourself?”

“If you think that is the only way, I will. And I told everyone that you will take over the kingdom. Please consider it.”

Sungjin’s brain started to calculate the benefit of Ereka’s offer.

The 7th class.

There were unknown factors but stronger than now.

Power to control his own power not just as commanding other.

And the kingdom.

It was useful.

It was very useful.

It would be useful even after this battle.

It was clear.

But...

“No need.”

Sungjin cut her.

“Please consider it as a last resort.”

“I said I don’t need it. End of discussion.”

“But the blood ruler is too strong. If we don’t make it, people will suffer. This is a fight we can’t lose.”

“I agree. We can’t let her win.”

For those kids they buried.

“So we need to consider my sacrifice as our last resort.”

“No. I wouldn’t.”

“Sungjin...”

Ereka sighed with Sungjin’s strong rejection.

She wasn’t happy to be dead. She didn’t really want to become a king. She had to sacrifice herself to fight against the blood ruler.

But she had no regrets, and if he could understand that, he would understand this sacrifice she was trying to make.

“I know you want an honorable victory. But as a king, this was my decision to protect what I believe in. It is not that you sacrifice me, but it is me taking responsibility for my mistake. I want you to understand.”

Ereka sincerely told Sungjin with her hands on her heart.

“I know, while I was burying the children, I promised myself to protect people from the greedy evil force as well.”

“Thank you.”

“But still I don’t need it”

Sungjin shook his head.

“Why?”

“Because you are on the top of the list.”

That’s why he refused her offer without hesitation.

As soon as he heard the solution, he understood the necessity of it. And how useful it was.

But didn’t want it.

War required sacrifices. Especially when the enemy was much stronger.

That was reality. Cold truth.

But he didn’t want that power logic to abuse others.

Moreover, he didn’t want the girl he wanted to protect the most, the girl who was trying her best to be sacrificed.

So he would beat the reality with his power.

“I want to support your dreams as a king, but I want to protect your happiness as a girl.”

Kill a girl that he wanted to protect to win the victory. That kind of nonsense victory was not his taste.

“What? What... what...”

“I’d rather want you to be a girl who cheers me up than a holy martyr and live a happy life.”

He wanted to protect her as a girl and as a king, not one thing or another. He wanted to embrace all of her and protect her.

Experiencing an abuse of greed and power once was enough. He didn't want her to experience it again.

And it wouldn't be a pleasant experience to see the girl that he wanted to protect experiencing that in front of him.

He didn't need it.

"Bu..but..."

Ereka blushed. Her heart was pounding. She couldn't look into his eyes.

[I want you to live.]

Sungjin's words echoed in her head. She answered.

"It's not... abuse... my choice... you don't need to try to protect..."

"Are you going to sacrifice yourself when the enemy is weak? No, right? If you don't need to, what do you want to do? Answer me."

"I... I...."

Ereka wanted to tell him what she was thinking.

[I want to live with you for a long time happily.]

I will be happy when he enjoys her food.

I will be happy when we go on a picnic.

I will be happy to wake him up in the morning.

I was really happy when he saved me in a desperate fight with the three knights.

That moment, she just realized.

Oh... I... I.... I love him...

That was why she was so happy to be with him. She was happy when she thought of him. And that was why she wanted to stay with him.

Although she knew how strong the blood ruler is and how much they needed her sacrifice.

She wished to have a longer time to stay next to him and love him

And to trust him with everything she had.

He was a great man who can be a real king, and that's why she loved him.

"Trust me and wait. I will defeat to protect you."

"Yes...Sungjin...I trust you."

Ereka nodded.

She knew how difficult it was but she wanted to trust him.

Because she loved him.

Thank you Sungjin.

Thank you so much for your promise.

I'm already happy that you are still going to protect me from this danger that was caused by me.

She felt so emotional.

"OK."

Sungjin tapped her shoulder with a grin.

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"Sorry for being immature."

Sorry that I knew that it was wrong but I had to ask you.

Sungjin pat Jenna as if he heard Jenna's thoughts.

"It's ok. You are a child, so be a child.."

'Ah...Sungjin oppa... you are... the best.'

He was someone who really deserved the princess and Jenna.

“How did you...? I told you that was it...”

“We didn’t mean to disturb, but we were way too worried...”

“Hehehe. Sungjin oppa is the best! You gave us hope.”

Her tail sword flapped.

Rittier nodded.

“That... that is... leave us alone! You are disturbing Sungjin to work on his strategy. Leave us now.”

Ereka shouted with embarrassment.

Did you guys catch that I’m in love with Sungjin...? I didn’t say it out loud, so you guys don’t know... right?

“Then Sungjin. Make yourself comfortable.”

Ereka ran out as if she had to avoid him.

“Thank you, sir Sungjin. I’m amazed that you are giving us hope while we thought it was all lost.”

She heard Rittier’s voice thanking Sungjin.

“Sungjin oppa. I count on you for the princess!”

Jenna’s word made Ereka blushed.

Count... count what....! Oh my god.

Her offer was refused. But she got home instead.

Chapter13

The next day, while cooking with Jenna and head maids, Ereka came up with an idea.

“So... everyone.”

“Yes, your highness.”

“Since Sungjin is working hard to find a strategy in this difficult moment, i want to find a way to provide some kind of entertainment, any idea?”

Entertaining a royal guest was nothing special. Jenna twisted her tail sword looking at Ereka blushing talking about such an everyday thing.

“Your Highness. Why don’t we take time and take a break to find an idea?”

“Oh, yes it is quite late. Let’s take a break.”

“I will go and wash my hands.”

Stepping out, Jenna gave a sign to the maids. Maids understood and followed Jenna.

After a moment after a break, Jenna stood in the corner, holding the handle of the hammer as if it were a microphone. A tiny wind spirit stone was on it. And on the other end, maids were listening.

Maids reported to Ereka.

“We were brainstorming, there were two things heroes enjoyed historically.”

“Two things...”

“The first is the glory of defeating strong enemies. But that is on the battlefield.”

“Then the second...”

“Wine and dine while enjoying beauties. That is the entertainment between battles.”

“Beau... Beauties...”

Ereka blushed even more.

“But... Sungjin... said he didn’t want to take me as a reward...”

“Not as a reward also means that he enjoys it. That’s why it can’t be a reward.”

“But... he said he was too busy training had no women.”

“That is a good thing. But that also means if he were not busy, he would have dated some. There’s no hero who doesn’t want beauty. It is just a question of his attitude to do what he wants or respect others.”

It was scripted but made sense. All maids agreed anyways. And they were royal maids, unlike regular maids, they had power.

“That makes sense.”

Ereka agreed and nodded.

“The late king who was told to be too busy taking care of state affairs to do anything else, yet he had five women.”

“Right... Unlike a king, he had only a few women.”

Five official queen and concubines. They had no idea how many he took just for entertainment.

“He is a rightful person to say he didn’t want a reward. But if you provide him out of your love, he would enjoy it as well.”

“Lo...love!”

Ereka suddenly shook her arms.

“No. Not like that... I just wanted to entertain him... as a king... because he is working too hard...”

“Them we will pick the young ones...”

“No!”

Said Ereka, but dropped her face when maids looked at her as if they already knew. Now her forehead and ears became red and she looked like an apple.

“What I mean... is...that...”

“It’s ok your highness. Strong and ambitious, but also who protects others, he is truly charming. And also he helped you a few times, it is natural that you fell for him.”

“... is it ok? We are at a risk... I need to protect the kingdom from the blood ruler... is it ok...a ruler falls in love...”

“That’s wrong. We want you to be happy since you are the one who always takes our happiness in front of yours. I always felt bad that you are always sacrificing yourself.”

“Humm...”

Ereka liked what she was hearing.

“It sounds calculated, but a strong man like Sungjin and the princess become lovers, which means it will be safer for us. It is great as a girl but also a great thing to do as a king. Don’t worry about anything else, but get his love.”

“Ok.. that... makes sense.”

Ereka nodded.

Jenna nodded her tail sword.

Great, everyone is following the script. Huh, my princess, don't worry. I will do everything to connect you, to make coincidences, to deal with other concubines... everything for you.

“I will tell you the secret, take Sungjin's heart.”

“What should I do?”

“Come closer.”

Maids whispered into Ereka's ear. Ereka became burning red. It almost seemed like her face was burning.

“How can I... do... such a thing!”

“Those are common knowledge as a royal princess. Since ancient history, taking men's heart to protect the kingdom was the best practice of the princesses.”

“That... that...”

“Your Highness was too busy training as a knight, we had no chance to tell you the truth. But now you are already 17. Half of the princesses from other kingdom are already married.”

“But I gave up being a girl to protect the kingdom...”

“To protect the kingdom, the wedding is more important. You need to understand it. Look.”

Maids dropped books from their robes. Some had titles only, but some had a naked couple making love on the book cover.

“This is from the east, this is Samatra's secret technique from the south. And this is from your ancestors. And this is...”

“Be .”

“People study discreetly but there's a reason why people called this bible or the secret bible and handed from generation to generation. In the east, they said the union of man and woman is a union of heaven and earth, and the genius writer Atres said heaven is

in the union of man and woman. Queen Artina said how women treat men can change the destiny of the world. It is important.

“But this is too much. Take it away.”

Ereka stopped them.

“Yes, your highness.”

Maids stepped back.

* * *

After 15 minutes, while cutting an onion in silence, Ereka asked a question.

“So...”

“Yes, your highness.”

“...but... really... something like that... guys... like... girls...do... so... Sungjin will like it... if I do...?”

Listening to stuttering Ereka, Jenna had tears in her eyes.

Oh... my princess. I was always worried. But you are showing courage in front of love.

“Of course.”

“Really...? He... would... like...?”

“Regardless of social class, nationality, race, age, enjoying women have been the biggest entertainment of men from ancient history.”

“Is... is it?”

“There’s no shame between lovers, and there’s nothing you can’t do for your lover.”

“Well... yes...”

“Without love between man and woman, you were not born, and there was no world. This is a discrete but very natural thing to do.”

“Yes... you... are... right... but... I’ve been swinging weapons in armors... I’m not sure if I can do such a thing...”

“Your Highness. You are old enough.”

“You... you are right.”

“Moreover, you love Sungjin, and you want him to love you back? The one who wants need to try hard.”

Listening to the question, Ereka stayed in silence for a while.

But finally, she nodded slowly. There was no way to lie to her true self.

“Ok. I will try.”

“You are making the right decision. But since it is your first time, you don’t need to know all the techniques.”

“Huh...? That... that is... It was difficult to make up my mind.”

“Being shy and unskilled is a virtue of a virgin. If too good, the man would be rather disappointed.”

Maids answered with smiles. Ereka realized that they tricked her and started to blush

We wanted to see how determined you were. Once it is done, come back to use. Thater is so many secret techniques we need to share with you.

“Oh... you guys....”

Ereka said almost crying.

“But I will tell you something else.”

“Something else?”

“How to make a man want you and show your mind to the man discreetly. You shouldn’t be too easy but not too difficult. You need to show him your mind discreetly, we will tell you how to do it.”

“...Can I trust you this time?”

“Yes, you can..”

“Are you sure...?”

“I promise you. But you should start your practice now.”

And it was a difficult and embarrassing practice for Ereka.

Oh my god... this is... already... this difficult... the secret technique would be...

Ereka blushed

But if we get married and... if... Sungjin likes it...

Then...

It would be a duty as a wife to learn the thing...

If that makes him happy... I want to do....

... But... that... I would think of it... then...

She couldn't think of it anymore so she washed her face with cold water.

* * *

The next evening, Ereka talked to Sungjin.

"Sungjin, I know you are busy making a strategy. But I think It would be helpful to take a break. Would you like to go out to enjoy the landscape tomorrow?"

"Huh? Humm... you are right. Maybe it is a good idea to take a break to start again. Let's do that."

"Ok, I will prepare everything."

"Ok, I will count on you. Thank you for taking care of me."

"Don't mention it. I'm glad I can do something for you."

Ereka smiled brightly.

Her bright smile like sunlight made Sungjin lost his words. When a girl said such a thing and was innocently happy like this, a guy started to imagine things.

Humm, I should be careful.

The princess who was naturally seductive was dangerous.

And today, she was more seductive. Just like a flower calling for butterflies.

* * *

The next day, Ereka packed lunch and left with Sungjin.

“Enjoy your time.”

Rittier and royal guards saluted together.

When they were out of sight, Rittier ordered the guards.

“Today, the princess is going to walk around the mountain with Sungjin to spend some time together. You all know what to do!”

Said with fierce eyes like a lion, guards answered all together.

“Yes, sir! It is our duty to protect the princess to enjoy her time!”

“Ok! I order the perfect performance!”

Following Rittier’s order, guards scattered to the path to the mountain. There were guards who had been there for their morning shift.

“Today, the mountain is a restricted area. The princess has an event for a royal guest.”

They blocked the path and stopped everyone so that only Sungjin and Ereka would be there. It was a mountain belonged to the king but usually, it was open to the public. People wondered what was going on but as soon as the guards explained, they understood.

A picnic with Sungjin was an event for the royal guest.

Rittier was satisfied by the perfect movement of the guards.

Your Highness. I will protect you. So enjoy your time as much as you want to.

The old knight made an oath that he wouldn’t let anyone ruin the mood by passing by.

Next, to him, Jenna softly flapped her tail sword.

Haha. The old man is trying to help the princess in his own way.

That was a great support.

Hehehe. But that is not enough

An empty bottle was shining in her hand.

Today, I’m glad Sungjin oppa is Level 0.

Usually, potions wouldn’t work on high-level heroes.

Sorry. Sungjin oppa. But there's no side effect. And Sungjin oppa is into the princess anyway.

Today was the day the princess' dream would come true.

The princess deserves happiness. For sure.

Jenna softly flapped her tail sword imagining Ereka happy with Sungjin oppa.

Ah... how lucky she is... I wish I could do it... with Sungjin oppa... no... the princess needs to enjoy first.

Jenna also had a crush on Sungjin, but Sunjin had to be the husband of the princess. Her crush on Sungjin couldn't shake her loyalty to the princess.

Sungjin quickly glanced Ereka while walking in the forest.

Big ivory hat and chiffon dress that dropped until her knees. Rattan basket that she was holding.

Her blond hair was reflecting sunlight and her beautiful smile on her face. And dancing like steps that she was making.

And her flowery body scent that he smelled with fresh forest.

Everything was in harmony to made her look lovely and cute.

Humm... really.

She was pretty when she was armed, and when she was wearing her royal gown as a princess.

But this kind of casual outfit was cute.

He was glad that he refused her offer to sacrifice. That was how he was enjoying this moment with her.

"Sungjin, why don't we stop here?"

Ereka pointed a spot with a blooming flower next to it where they could listen to the stream and birds. The winter was moving away slowly.

"Ok. This is good."

"Then let's eat..."

Ereka set and opened the basket.

Ereka opened her 5 layered lunch box. The food spread delicious smell that made Sungjin hungry.

“Oh. Looks delicious?”

“I would be happy if you enjoy it.”

Sungjin picked up a meatball without hesitation. While chewing, he realized there was something more inside.

“Huh? Is this... did you chopped vegetables and mix it with the meat?”

“Yes.”

“That must be a lot of work.”

“I tried to make it tasty for you while providing all the necessary nutritional value in it.”

Ereka said touching her cheek shyly.

At first, she thought it was important to let him eat good food even if he didn't like it. But now thinking she wanted to be loved, she worked more ideas.

“Thank you. I will enjoy it.”

“No. It makes me happy when I see you enjoying it.”

Ereka smiled but she wanted to jump with happiness.

Wow. I think she is happy. Making a new receipt with everyone was worth it.

Sungjin tasted everything. Ereka's dishes were always great but this time, she made them with love, they tasted even better.

Before her dishes were exquisite cuisines, whereas this time, it was customized to fit Sungjin's taste.

If I think of it... my mom used to mix veggies to make me eat them...

He had never thought he would have someone who thinks of him this much to prepare his meal like this. He was experiencing something he lost forever.

Sungjin finished lunch and thanked Ereka.

“Ah. I really enjoyed it. It feels different to enjoy a meal outside.”

“I’m glad you enjoyed it.”

“haha.”

“Do you have anything else you want to have.”

He finished the lunch including dessert and drinks. There was nothing left in the meal course, but Ereka asked if he wanted anything else.

“Tell me... anything. I will give you... anything.”

She said shyly putting her hands on her chest while blushing.

As if she was offering herself.

She subtly showed cleavage and her curvy body showed under her chiffon dress. Her scent was spreading like a flower inviting butterflies.

She said shyly but it was an invitation and a consent with grace.

If not excited, that would not be a man.

Moreover, Jenna added a potion in his food.

How... how would he react...

Ereka’s heart pounded

Sungjin stood up.

“Then... I want to have you.”

Said boldly, Sungjin’s strong arm held Ereka.

“That... that.”

“I didn’t tell you until now. But let me tell you. Now we are fighting against the blood ruler together, but even after the end of the war, I want to stay with you. Would you be my girl?”

He was too excited to be rational, but he was polite.

“Yes.. I... was... also... into you... Sungjin.”

She was too shy to look at him, but she answered.

The answer to her shy words was Sungjin's passionate kiss. As if the politeness was just a cover before this.

"Ah..."

Without knowing, Ereka made a sound like a moan.

He was taking her whole body as if he was able to eat her up.

Lips. and then ears, cheeks.

Then her neck. And they even lower.

He pulled the dress and kissed her breast and waist.

The burning mark of passion heated her up.

Everywhere he touches, she felt like her skin was burning, but mysteriously, she felt joy instead of pain.

Unfamiliar and scary, but made her excited.

Ah...ah...

It was good if it was Sungjin.

It was good because it was Sungjin.

It was good only good for Sungjin.

It was scary, but she wanted it more.

I want to be his woman.

I want to be in his strong arms.

I want to become one with him.

"It's ok. I'm really full. Should we take a walk?"

Sungjin answered to stop Ereka's imagination.

"Huh...yeah..."

Ereka jumped up and turned around.

Oh my god. What was I thinking...

But I did everything they told me to. They told me that was what should happen if I act as they told me to.

What was wrong...

Did I make a mistake? Was I unnatural? I was scared but was kind of waiting for it.

It's ok. I still have a chance.

But maids told her more methods.

Ereka told herself to try better.

After a while walking around the mountain, she worked on her second method.

"Sungjin. I will check if there are some wild fruits. Would you like to have a look on this side?"

"Huh? Sure.."

He answered as if it was a treasure hunt from his elementary school field trip. The only difference was it was not with school friends but with a beautiful princess

The time with here made this play special.

She held his breath after Sungjin disappeared through the forest. And...

She jumped into the water.

Splash.

"Ahhh!"

An awkward scream came out to all Sungjin.

"What's wrong?"

When she saw Sungjin running out to check, Ereka slowly stood up in the water.

"Sorry. I slipped and fell into the water."

Drip.

When she shook her blond hair, splashing water made a rainbow.

But the beauty of rainbow was tainted in front of her beautiful glowing skin.

Her wet dress showed her skin almost fully.

Her spotless skin and her perfect curve was an exciting invitation.

It was magic that she was wearing a dress but she showed almost everything.

Gracefully dressed, but seductively showed.

Even her underwear was wet and showed every shape that was hidden by it.

He blushed face was saying it was not her intention.

But the body was too charming.

The double charm excited man even more.

There was a natural question though.

Can a level 6 knight slip into the water?

Sungjin was beyond others, but he failed to ask that question.

“Well... if you look like that... I’m embarrassed.”

As if she was saying I’m a girl, Ereka blushed and covered herself with her hands.

Sungjin stopped her and pulled her.

“It’s ok. You are beautiful.”

“Oh...”

“I want to see more. Your everything.”

Sungjin moved impulsively.

He couldn’t think, he was following man’s instinct and pulled down her clothes that had already lost their function.

“Sung...Sungjin.”

“I want you.”

“That’s...”

“I was keeping it to myself but I can’t hide anymore.”

“... If... that... is what... you want...Sungjin... I would... love to...”

When Ereka consented, Sungjin started to move boldly.

When he undressed her, her bare naked body showed a beauty beyond description.

A pure fort that had never let a guy in.

But now, she was opening herself to love, and inviting him to come in to rule her.

It was fear but also a sensation

“Ah...”

His strong hand stopped her from covering herself.

“Don’t hide.”

Sungjin bite her breast. It was softer than freshly baked brioche, sweeter than strawberry jam.

“Yes... as you wish...”

She didn’t resist and followed Sungjin’s lead.

She wanted it if he wanted it.

But...

“Hum. You need to change. Do you have a change?”

Ereka’s daydream ended with Sungjin’s realistic question.

“Ah, I didn’t bring one. But the armor by heroic power has no limit in shapes... give me a moment, I can take care of it.”

“That is convenient. Ok. I will turn around”

“Ok.”

Ereka took off her wet dress. And sighed before she activated her heroic power to cover herself.

Even the second method didn't work.

I tried everything as practiced.

Ha... what was wrong.

Was it such a difficult task that she couldn't perfect it with few practices. Not having any reaction from Sungjin made her sad.

There was no hero who didn't like a beauty.

There was a little difference in how much, but all the heroes she knew enjoyed having women.

The problem was some liked it too much and raped extra level women when they refused. But it was clear they enjoyed it.

But how to understand this when she was approaching while he didn't react.

Maybe it was because Ereka was not a beauty.

Am I not good enough for you, Sungjin.

Now there's only one method left.

The boldest and the most embarrassing one.

I came this far... I should try...

She had a feeling even that wouldn't work though.

"I'm done."

Said Ereka, and Sungjin turned around.

And he realized.

She didn't have to wear a gown to be beautiful. She was beautiful in casual clothes.

A miniskirt that showed her thigh and a tight blouse that showed her breast line.

The clothing didn't matter.

Her body was the key. Whatever she wore, it was clear that she was beautiful,

"I'm not used to activate anything but armor."

“Huh? No. this looks lovely on you.”

“Thank you for telling me that.”

Smiled Ereka, approached Sungjin leaned on him.

“I’m cold and tired. Can I stay like this for a while?”

Her beautiful hair tickled his body. Her body scent embraced him. The touch of her skin gave electricity.

“Huh? Oh. Well. sure.”

He answered without thinking. It was a reflection.

“Thank you.”

Ereka approached him even closer.

“Hum... ok...”

Sungjin made a vaguely vacant voice, unlike his cool and intelligent self. He didn’t know where to put his hand.

Sungjin felt Ereka’s breath on his chest.

Is this working? Or not?

Ereka thought, maybe this time?

But Sungjin didn’t move his hand

Ha... ok... this is it. It’s not going to work.

When Ereka gave up, she suddenly relaxed.

All the fatigue hit her. After declaring war to the blood ruler, she didn’t have a chance to relax at all. And until today, she was training for this picnic, she didn’t have a break.

Once all the thought came to her, she fell asleep without knowing.

After a while, when she opened her eyes. she was sleeping on his legs. Sungjin was looking at her with a smile on his face as if he would protect her from any danger.

“Ha! I’m... I’m sorry!”

She quickly woke up and looked down.

“It’s ok. Rest more.”

“But I invited you for a picnic just to make mistakes and made you feel uncomfortable.”