

## Level 0 Master - Chapter 21

“As a successor of the throne... I need to protect the kingdom and the people... and that keeps me busy... but one day... I wanted to go on a picnic... someone nice... and enjoy the nature... and...”

Ereka couldn't say the words she had in mind; the lover and secret rendezvous in nature, and looked down.

“Sorry, Sungjin. I organized it for you, but it was my dream as well.”

She dreamed of going on a picnic with a guy she likes or with her friends.

She gave up the dream a long time ago, but now, her dream already came true.

A royal princess of a kingdom.

The princess knight who protected the people.

But underneath her gown and armor, she had a tiny hope of an ordinary girl.

“Great. Let's do it again after this battle.”

“Huh? Re....really?”

“Why not? Let's do this again.”

“I... really... wish... we could...do it again.”

Ereka prayed.

Walking next to Sungjin, sitting next to him to enjoy a little picnic lunch together in nature...

That would be real happiness for her.

Not a short break before a battle like today, but I would be amazing if she had no worries and simply enjoy the moment.

Also...

If she could finish the unfinished task of the day would make her the happiest person in the world.

“Let's defeat the blood ruler to come back. I promise.”

“Yes...Sungjin... Let’s do that. I can’t wait.”

Ereka showed a bright smile.

That was not the face of a strong and graceful princess knight, but an ordinary girl who was dreaming of a picnic.

No, a girl who was less than ordinary who couldn’t even enjoy that kind of simple picnic.

“Well. Let’ go then. We will be back.”

“Yes. Sungjin.”

Ereka’s steps were light and delightful on her way back.

Wow... It was... my first time.

She tried to protect her kingdom by all means. She was pushing herself because there was nobody else. It was the first time she felt protected by someone after her late king father.

I’ve been dreaming of... having someone... who would protect me and love me?

Love... was an unclear part, but at least she was protected.

Sungjin swallowed hard.

That was close.

It was very close. He couldn’t count how many times he was imagining having her.

That was not something crazy for guys in his age, but today, there were so many chances he almost lost his control.

When she was leaning on him, he almost took her and kissed her

If he did, I was not sure if he could have stopped with a kiss.

Huh. That was really close.

What if he didn’t control himself.

She is too nice to reject me.

She thought she had to pay back his help, and the other day, she told him she would serve him in bed if he wanted it. He rejected it though.

Because that is the worst of the worst, he thought. If he helped someone in danger and ask their body as a payment, that couldn't be a help.

People think she is a strong princess knight, but she is just a fragile and young girl when I see her like this.

She was just a girl who wanted to go on a picnic with everyone. But in reality, she had to wear armor on that slender body and had to hold a weapon to protect everyone.

She was the shield of the people, but who would protect the shield.

Sungjin wanted to be the one who protected her.

Rest when you are in my arms.

She made him dream something different from the earth.

On earth, his dream was to become a world champion by defeating all his strong enemies fair and square. And let the audience cheer for the game. That was it.

On earth, the game was just sports. It was nothing more than sports with money, honor and pride at stake.

But here, there was a kingdom at stake.

And the happiness of poor and cherishable people.

How he acted and what kind of result he brought could really change things and made him a real great legend.

Or the opposite.

I will protect them.

So that I could be proud of myself.

If he couldn't protect this lovely girl, there would be no glory in his victory. Saving this poor girl had to be another priority along with the glory of defeating the strong enemy.

So I wouldn't take this beautiful and charming body just to satisfy myself. Because I want to protect her not just from the villains but from myself as well.

He told himself and didn't even touch her when he let Ereka sleep in his arms.

He kept promising himself. To come back for a picnic.

Because he was determined that he would make it possible again.

\* \* \*

The picnic ended peacefully and joyfully. But that night, maids surrounded Ereka to ask her what happened. Jenna set in a corner pretending she was not listening

“Did you make it happen?”

“I don’t know what was wrong but Sungjin didn’t take me.”

“Really?!”

“Yes.”

“Oh my god...”

Jenna’s tail sword sharpened.

What?! He didn’t take her while she did all that?

“Maybe he didn’t feel it because I was not charming enough.”

“We thought you made it because you looked so happy.”

“But...”

Ereka blushed with shyness.

Dig it up! Now!

Jenna signed to the maids with her eyes.

“Would you like to share with us? So that we can plan for the next time.”

“Ok.”

Ereka explained everything from the start.

“Humm. So that is what happened.”

“Yes. It was a bit far from our plan, but he said he enjoyed and wanted to do it again. I was just so happy. But maybe I am not a woman enough for him.”

“That is...”

The maids looked at each other. They didn't know how to understand his actions.

Jenna strongly grabbed the empty bottle.

What is going on?

Sungjin oppa didn't like the princess... was not the case.

He refused his level and social status to protect her. It is impossible that he doesn't like her.

And well, it was more than just clear that the princess was head over heels for Sungjin.

Then why nothing happened in their secret rendezvous.

When Sungjin didn't call the princess to his bed at first, he had his philosophy that he wouldn't do it without love. But this time, what was the matter?

A guy and a girl at their sudden age, if liked each other, wasn't it end of the story?

Even without a picnic, wasn't it normal to knock on the girl's window at night?

But why. Why.

Unfortunately, Jenna didn't grow up in an era of the culture of Romeo and Juliet.

Jenna was smart and wicked but was too young to understand the difference between dating and marriage.

"I was just happy to hear that he wanted to do it again. Was too naive?"

Ereka revisited her memories to cloud her face.

Jenna's tail sword stiffed.

Sungjin oppa, what the...! You can't make a girl hanging like this!

But she couldn't let the princess worried and sad like this. She quickly whispered to the wind spirit stone on the other end of the hammer.

And the maids followed her order.

"No, your highness. In our opinion, it was not that Sungjin didn't want you."

"R...right?"

Ereka's face became slightly brighter.

"He.. he didn't... take you... because..."

"Because...?"

Jenna's tail sword was spinning rapidly.

"Maybe there is a custom not to take a girl before a huge battle?"

"I heard there's such a tradition in a faraway land."

"Or since he is level 0 now, maybe he thought it was a little too early for that."

"I think that makes sense. He needs a victory to take his power back, and then he could make a baby who is properly strong."

"Ah... that makes sense."

Ereka nodded saying that made sense.

"Either way, he said to go back after the battle against the blood ruler. We believe he meant to do it when it is time after the battle."

"Ok!"

Ereka found her bright smile again.

There were so many reasons she had to defeat the blood ruler.

Now there was one more added.

She wanted to go back on a picnic with him to make real love.

That dream filled up her heart.

That's what you meant.

She thought he just wanted to do another picnic and was already happy enough.

This time... after defeating the blood ruler...

Ereka touched her cheek, closing her eyes.

She thought of the moment when she fell asleep in Sungjin's strong arms. She felt shy but also very very happy.

Just that much made her so happy.

What kind of happiness she would feel when she really becomes his lover and loved by him passionately.

The maids showed teats looking at excited Ereka.

Jenna hid tears behind the pillar.

Oh my princess. I'm so happy that you are happy.

Her tail sword rolled into a fist shape.

Count on me. I will make you two work.

The princess needed happiness.

I have no idea why Sungjin oppa didn't take the princess today though...

The story she told the princess was to make the princess feel better. But when the battle against the blood ruler is over, she would get rid of all obstacles and to find their happiness.

She could follow after that.

## Chapter 14

The battle day has come.

Sungjin, Ereka, Rittier and Jenna departed to the battlefield. This time it was quite far, so they activated a portal stone. A portal stone, that helped them to move a long distance in a second, was expensive but was very useful in these cases.

The people cheered for them crossing the portal.

"Your highness...defeat the enemy."

"Please defeat the blood ruler."

"Don't let me be a slave of the blood ruler again. I will pray for your victory."

A woman shouted with tears, holding a child in her arms.

"My oldest daughter was sacrificed for the blood ruler's bath. And the second daughter was abused and killed by the three knights. Help me... to ... save ... this youngest child...."

Among them, there was Nania, who was saved right after their battle against the three knights.

“Please win.”

She couldn't even imagine becoming a prisoner again.

They were rather begging than cheering.

“Sungjin. Please let us win.”

Said Ereka, made Sungjin smile.

“I promise. Anyways winning is my thing, but this time, there are more reasons to win.”

“Yes. Sungjin.”

Ereka smote off her head as a gesture to give him her everything.

\* \* \*

There were flocks of crows on the way to the temple.

The unpleasant smell of blood from 20 dead bodies dropping blood upside down into the mobile bathtub was filling up the air.

There was Raid and her sword in it, next to her, three knights were standing like servants.

Blood queen who was full of magical power and S\*xual power.

At the same time, she was the disaster and despair of the people.

She was the strongest despair

No, since she was strong, it was such deep despair.

“Finally.”

“Ah. Yeah. Finally here to defeat you.”

Eyes of Riad and Sungjin sparked.

“Hahaha. A weak extra like you will defeat me?”



Riad stood up laughing. Blood drops rolled down following her curvy magical body to show the destructive and enchanting charm of darkness.

“You will be miserably failed by awakened king.”

“Sure. That confidence. That’s what my prey looks like.”

Sungjin grinned without stepping back.

Her arrogance was the weak point that Sungjin could attack with his intelligence.

“A prey? Hahaha. There are millions of dead bodies and losers I took as prey.”

Riad held her magical sword. Blood in the tub sucked into the magical sword at once.

“On the other hand, you didn’t even take the princess who volunteered to become a sacrifice.”

“Hut. Lions don’t take every meat. Only hyena eats everything even if it is rotten.”

Sungjin snapped his fingers.

“Lion? Power is power! Your weakness is those theories. I will eat you alive!”

“Dream on. Until I wake you up.”

Both assured their victory, walked into the waiting room

They were all in for today’s battle anyways.

The winner would take the kingdom, while the loser would become a prisoner to be on the winner’s mercy.

And this battle would decide if the future would be a heaven or hell for the extras.

This was the final battle. There was going back.

But they were only equal in their confidence. The princess team couldn’t hide their anxiety. While the three knights on the blood ruler side showed confidence.

Moreover, the people who came out to cheer for the princess predicted the result which was far from their wishes.

“But... do you think she could win?”

“Ha... probably not.”

“But still... she is fighting for us.”

“She is our only hope”

They wanted to clutch anything even if it was a straw. So people at the extra level wished the victory of the princess.

But a straw was just a straw. That wouldn't let you float. That was reality.

And all the related people who were able to analyze the forces and abilities of each side shared that cold reality.

Not only hero levels were certain for the victory of the blood ruler.

“Haha, your kingdom sent you as well?”

“Well, this is the best chance to build up a relationship.”

There were ambassadors sent from other countries.

Other countries looked into this internal war and they were sure that the blood ruler would unify the kingdom with her awakened power, so they sent out ambassadors to celebrate the blood ruler's victory in advance.

“Haha. That is true. We brought a set of huge diamond necklace and earrings..”

“We prepared more. We prepared a golden status of the blood ruler in her real size.”

“Ugh...”

“Hahaha. You both are not really prepared. We brought both the golden status and diamond accessories!”

They competed to see who could suck up to the blood ruler better with money and presents.

It was not their money but was squeezed out tax.

It was a pathetic competition.

Although they thought it was a patriotic strategy.

Anyways, it was certain that the blood ruler will rule the world.

The princess had the princess of level 6, Rittier and Jenna of level 5 Jenna and Sungjin of level 0.

On the other hand, the blood ruler had three level 6 knights. That already showed the advantage of the blood ruler. But the blood ruler had defeated the three knights with one blow. The military power was absolutely imbalanced disadvantaging the princess team.

Last time, 'the princess used a gimmick and defeated the three knights...

But that was against the three knights, their tricks have no chance against the blood ruler

There were big differences between dominating with level and winning with tactic once.

Level was an absolute power whenever and wherever, while tactic didn't work twice to the same opponent. There was no way the three knights would make the same mistake again, while there was no hope on the princess's side.

\* \* \*

[3... 2... 1... 0.]

With the declaration of Valkyrie, the battle started.

Southern territory map was 4:4. There were paths on the upper and lower side of the map where puppet soldiers were marching. And there was a huge forest between two paths where there were many neutral monsters. The big frame of the geography was not too far from the battle for the capital.

But the forest was wider, the neutral monsters were stronger, there was a crystal generator where they could just pick up crystals. Which meant The forest was important for the team who took the forest could have the upper hand with items using a large amount of crystals.

Sungjin ordered in the base of Team blue.

"Ereka. Head to the upper path. The blood ruler will go where there are more puppet soldiers with a shorter path.

"Yes. Sungjin."

"Jenna. You take the lower path. Hold out as much as you can around the turret."

"Yes. Sungjin oppa."

"Rittier와 나는 the forest. 최대한 crystal을 모은다. 전체적으로 이미 어제 설명한 작전대로."

“Yes, sir.”

Everyone answered while they couldn't hide their anxiety in their eyes.

“Sungjin... But can we really make it? They are much stronger... can we win?”

Ereka asked again to make Sungjin smile.

“Well, they are absolutely stronger. I get it.”

He was facing reality.

“But there was an expression called throw that we used to use in games on earth.”

“Throw means throw the spear?”

“No, Throw the victory in a game. It's slang when an advantageous team off their guard with arrogance or become greedy to show their weakness to be defeated by the disadvantaged team.”

“Ok. I've got one expression from your world.”

“Yes. And our enemy will throw the victory. Trust me.”

Sungjin assured her. And Ereka slowly nodded.

Yes. Sungjin. I give everything to you.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 22**

“Vitium Successio!-Vlad Tepes et Overpower!”

If one had massive power, that was a hero.

Good and evil didn't matter in this world.

Both good and evil spirits could achieve that power.

Succeeding the tyranny under the name of blood, the blood ruler sucked up all the bloody mist around her.

[Ughhhh.]

Screaming ghosts sucked into her.

A tyrant.

Because no one could fight against her.

Because no one could disobey her.

With her power, she ruled everyone.

The one who was standing there was a blood queen with her destructive beauty.

The magical sword showed an even bloodier color.

“Hunt down the disloyal! Then you will enjoy the glory of the victory.”

“Yes, Your Highness!”

The three knights got the order. The victory was upon their king.

The blood ruler headed to the upper path. The three knights discussed how to make their moves.

“The forest is important but that doesn’t make sense to abandon the paths. I’m sure the princess had separated her team to cover each path.”

They were the experienced knights. They already figured out Sungjin’s lineup.

“The extra wouldn’t just watch, he would at least head to the forest to collect some crystals to try to get one or two items.”

“We need to decide if two of us would head to the forest or send two to the lower path.”

“Let’s make it safe. We don’t want the anger of the blood ruler again by making mistake like last time.”

“Sure, if we are being safe, winning is not a problem. We can let them have some crystals in the forest.”

“Then two of us should head to the lower path. Then, we can avoid 2:1 fight even if they suddenly attack the lower path from the forest.”

On the other hand, even if they had to face Rittier and the extra for a 2:1 fight, level 6 can dominate the fight against the joint attack of a level 5 and a level 0.

“Then if they disappear from the paths, we should contact enough using wind spirit stone.”

That was also order from The blood ruler.

“Yes. We shouldn’t take any suspicion lightly.”

There was a saying that the side who has superior military strength shouldn’t try to use tactics but should simply follow the rule calmly. Trying to have a bigger or better victory can show the opponent their weakness, so they should keep their strategy safe and press the weak opponent to defeat.

The three knights decided to take the worst possible strategy for Sungjin, who had absolutely inferior military power.

The three knights might be intellectually inferior to Sungjin, but they accepted the fact and try not to show any weakness rather than being arrogant to make it more difficult for Sunjin.

Sungjin said they could win if the enemy threw the victory. But what if they didn’t throw the victory?

“Let’s not jump into the turret even if they try to lure us.”

“Yes. The blood ruler told us to earn some time to activate her magical sword. So let’s be really really careful.”

We wouldn’t be tricked by him again.

They promised themselves.

The audience watching the battlefield was sure who would win this battle. How could anyone defeat an opponent with absolute superior military strength while they also trying to be careful and safe? A great strategy to turn over the situation was something that was only applicable to a rushing and careless opponent. It was clear that the blood ruler was going to win.

While hunting monsters In the forest, Angrasil found Sungjin wondering around.

The extra. Is he looking for some crystal that should be generated soon?

Even a level 0 extra could pick up crystals on the ground to get an item.

It should be a tiny achievement if I catch that level 0.

Moreover, the blood ruler thought the extra was important regardless of his level. Maybe it wouldn’t be counted as his credit but he was sure there would be a separate reward for this.

Angrasil stopped with anxiety, before attacking him.

No. Let me think to be safe.

He has been tricked before and got into trouble.

So there's Jenna on the lower path and the princess on the upper path, so there's only Rittier in the forest.

Even in a 1:1 fight, Rittier was not a problem.

Ok. Even if he tries to ambush, it should be fine.

But let's be 100% sure. Let's set up a solid principle

Moreover, even if he tried to trick me into it, I would never jump into the turret.

Angrasil repeatedly told himself on the agreed principles before attacking Sungjin.

"Huh?"

Sungjin started to run fast as soon as he heard the step of Angrasil.

[Rittier! Where are you!]

[I'm hunting triants on the upper end of the forest.]

Unfortunately, that was the furthest position from Sungjin.

[Help me! I was spotted by a knight! I'm running toward the lower path.]

Angrasil was able to hear Sungjin for help through the wind spirit stone.

I will get you before saved.

The manhunt has begun.

Sungjin was fast from his martial art training. It was beyond the abilities of high school students and nearly the limit of human.

But Angrasil was much faster.

The level 6's skill to adjust their physical ability was beyond the limit of human. Sungjin had no chance.

Sungjin started to calculate to fight against the situation.

Bushes, branches, roots, rocks and the condition of the ground.

He was calculating all the geographical factors and objects to find the optimal route to retrieve. And that made the effectiveness of his movement to the next level.

If he had the similar physical ability, it would have been easy for him to lose Angrasil. But Angrasil's ability was way above Sungjin's effectiveness. Angrasil came closer and closer slowly.

But Angrasil was surprised that it took so much time.

He is not just a regular extra.

Angrasil understood the carefulness of the blood ruler.

But then, that's just one more reason to catch him.

Angrasil dropped his arrogance came with his level.

Angrasil used the wind spirit stone to call two knights.

[Firgrine. Nart. Drop the lower path for a second and come up. If you come up now, you would block the extra that I'm chasing now. Let's siege him from three sides..]

[Ho? You are asking us to drop a path to catch one extra?]

[Do it.]

The blood ruler cut in.

[Hat. Yes. Your Highness. We will follow your order.]

Two knights stopped arguing.

Angrasil smiled. He was happy that he came up with an idea that the blood ruler liked.

I knew that the blood ruler thought highly of him.

And The blood ruler had the princess Ereka. Even if Rittier tried to ambush or Jenna chased Nart while he was chasing Sungjin.

If we don't walk into the turret, there's no reason we three level 6 knights can't defeat two level 5 enemies. We finish him here.

It was not decided but Angrasil would get the best credit if he would eliminate Sungjin. Since the commander princess team was Sungjin, they would become helpless without Sungjin.



When Sungjin arrived at an empty lot, the bush in front of him moved. As soon as he saw few leaves flying, suddenly a strong wind started to bend and break its branches. The knight of the wind appeared with broken trees by swirling wind.

“Haha.”

Rittier was not there yet, while the spear of ice was chasing him and the double sword of the wind stopped him. Sungjin had to stop when he tried to run to the last remaining path on the left.

A burning heat made him realized that it was not a path for life.

“Haha, you are not tricked. You little rat.”

Firgrine walked out with burning chains with flame.

A perfect siege by three sides.

Sungjin quickly calculated and came up with his conclusion.

There was no way out.

Well, the three knights had already come out with the same conclusion a while ago.

Without throwing the victory, being careful, they were clearly the best and the most experienced knights of the kingdom.

“Now, die!”

The only way out for Sungjin was to be saved by Jenna and Rittier. But the three knights knew that so they didn't waste any time and was closing in from all sides.

Sungjin calculated the remaining time for the arrival of Jenna and Rittier. It was unclear but considering their less than clear report, 19 seconds+/-5 seconds. Give or take.

Did he have enough time to wait?

9.8 seconds left. That was the time for him.

0 second had passed. The three knights came closer and ran into him.

Sungjin tried to run across the three, but the three knights didn't give him a chance.

4.1 seconds had passed.

Sungjin tried to go through Nart using paints.

“Nice try!”

Nart laughed at him and swung the double swords.

The wind surrounded Sungjin’s body.

The sword started to slice tumbling Sungjin.

5.3 seconds had passed.

Sungjin made it out of the first attack, but the second blow cut his left arm from his shoulder.

The pain that was cutting flash, cutting the blood vessel, crushing the bone.

Sungjin ended up on the ground screaming. His blood spurted and covered the ground.

“Hahaha. You look like a warm wiggling.”

Nart laughed sadistically and slowed down. That gave Sungjin 0.5 more seconds..

“Wait. I will take the final blow!”

Angrasil attacked him with his spear of ice.

8.5 seconds had passed.

Sungjin rolled on the empty lot to avoid the attack, but that was not enough, he didn’t manage to roll one more time and lost the 0.5 seconds he got from Nart’s attack.

Firgrine threw the flame to Sungin. The three knights had one thing in mind.

I will catch him!

I will catch him!

I will catch him!

An extra was an extra regardless of his intelligence. An extra was just like a warm when facing heroes on a sword fight.

“Wind cutting!”

“Ice flower.”

“Flame punishment.”

They all threw their skills and were certain of their victory.

We got him!

It was exactly after 9.8 seconds later.

That moment, suddenly something surrounded Sungjin.

It was not Ereka.

Neither Jenna.

Nor Rittier.

It was a giant spider.

“Kiaaaahhhhhh!”

The giant spider stroke by a kill screamed.

The name of the giant spider was the Daughter of Arachne.

It was the second strongest monster in the forest.

The spider attack back with rage. The magical spider web tied up the three knights. And the poisonous spit dropped their defense and immune abilities.

“Where did it come from!!!”

The three knights couldn't understand this irrational turn over. It was an empty lot until a few seconds ago. Where did this random spider come from to stand between them?

“Ahh. That was the perfect timing for its revival.”

Sungjin kindly explained while standing up. He made it clear that he let them cut his own arm by picking it up calmly.

Sun Tzu mentioned using nature and geography. But Sungjin knew better. In this world, neutral monster was also a part of nature.

Usually, monsters were used to attack the enemy while the enemy was chasing the monster, but Sungjin understood the principle enough to apply it according to the situation.

How to win an enemy who wouldn't throw while they are much stronger?

Make them throw.

Six Secret Teaching and Three Strategies of Huang Shigong said [make a careful enemy become arrogant, and a thorough enemy becomes tired.]

“What? What are you talking about...”

The three knights were confused.

Did he lure us?

Did he lure us to attack the spider?

No way.

If the spider was already revived, they should have been more careful. If the spider was revived a little late, Sungjin would have been dead. A plan depending on a miraculous coincidence was not a strategy. That was just an empty dream.

And then, Jenna walked into the empty lot with Rittier.

“Sungjin oppa! We are here as you told us yesterday!”

“We came following your order. Is everything ok?”

“Ah. Yeah, it was within the timing. Good enough.”

Sungjin greeted them with a grin on his face. Not everyone was a genius like him. It wouldn't be impossible for them to move by seconds.

A good commander shouldn't blame the soldiers who couldn't conduct the perfect operation perfectly. A good commander should have the ability to understand the capacity of the soldiers to plan his operation accordingly.

“Huh? Sungjin oppa, you lost your arm? Oh my god! That must hurt.”

Jenna had tears in her eyes holding Sungjin's arm.

“It was a necessary pain.”

Sungjin smiled and told her not to worry.

Actually, he was sweating with pain and shock, but he was standing still thinking that the dead children suffered more and he didn't want to worry your Jenna.

“The siege timing was 0.6 seconds later than planned, so I had to be caught slightly earlier.”

“W... w... what?”

For a second, the three knights were so shocked and forgot that they had to attack the spider.

The crazy idea of using the spider was out of the box thinking but not realistic. It was impossible to calculate the revival timing and make the enemy use their skill at the exact moment of the reappearance of the monster at the exact spot.

But what if someone did?

What if it was not a coincidence...

What if the extra lured them counting every second and even less amount of them to make them act as he planned?

What crazy coincidence was not a miracle of God...

But a trick of a devil.

That was it.

The 9.8 seconds Sungjin calculated was not how long he could hold up with the attack, but the revival time of the spider. And naturally, he called Jenna and Rittier on his planned time.

The feeling the three knights felt was beyond shock, it was fear itself.

This... this is not an extra!

Neither a human being.

It was a devil.

A devil that had everything on the battlefield on his hand to play with it.

“Ok. Finish them.”

“Ok, Sungjin oppa!”

Jenna stiffed her tail sword and threw a blow with her hammer.

Three layered magic square was spinning under her feet. The scream with the rage of Thor tore the sky.

It was the ultimate spell that destroyed the three knights once before, Mjolnir.

White lightning rained covering up their sight, sentencing their end.

In a normal situation, they could have stopped it or avoided it since it was an ultimate magic spell with a long casting time.

But now they were tricked by Sungjin and stuck in the spider web. The poisonous spit destroyed their immune power, just staying alive was a challenge.

Moreover.

“A joint attack is part of a fight. We didn’t promise a duel, so here we go.”

Rittier explained before attacking them with his gigantic sword and he was right. His joint attack was a clear final blow.

Varoom.

Thunder shook the air and the hammer of Thor crushed the ground. Lightning burned everything up while the gigantic sword of Rittier slew the three knights.

“Good job.”

When Sungjin complimented her work, Jenna jumped like a puppy.

“Wow. Sungjin oppa, you were right! Wow. They really attacked the spider on the perfect timing!”

“I had my doubts on counting time by 0.1 seconds, yesterday...”

Rittier lowered his head to Sungjin.

“I realized again that you are above my judgment.”

Rittier was astonished by the unreal situation.

Without him, he had no chance against the three knights. But under the pressure of the blood ruler, we won without any bloodshed. This is surreal and shocking.

[Sungjin. Thank you. I see that we really have hope.]

Ereka sent her message of gratitude from far with the wind spirit stone.

“Sungjin oppa, you are really really the best!”

Jenna flapped her tail sword dancingly.

“Hut. It is not over yet. I will take that when I get the blood ruler.”

“Ok. Sungjin oppa.”

“Now, we all return to the base and gather. There’s only the blood ruler left. Follow the position for the joint attack as practiced.”

“Yes!”

“Yes, sir.”

[I will leave the path to return to the base.]

Sungjin activated the return stone and clenched his right fist. The victory was on his hand.

\* \* \*

Outside of the temple, the extras were cheering.

Although they couldn’t do anything that affects the battlefield, they were all looking at the screen to learn what happened.

For them, it was not just a glorious moment of defeating the three knights.

It was a moment where they saw a glimpse of hope for their lives.

The moment where the darkness of tyranny ended to see the dawn of hope.

Now there’s only the blood ruler to kill!

Defeat the blood ruler, the princess wins!

Then that was the end of tyranny.

“Hurahhhh!”

The crowd went wild not only because of the impressive fine play but also for the savior who was saving their lives.

That’s why they were cheering for them more than in any sports game on the Earth.

Defeat.

Please defeat.

Take this momentum and defeat the blood ruler.

It was an enthusiastic and desperate cheering that none of the pro-gamer has got on the Earth.

Chapter 15

A moment later, Sungjin was cured by Valkyrie back in their base.

[God. Bless this hero and let him fight again.]

After her prayer, Sungjin's arm recovered without any trace.

"Ok. Perfect."

Sungjin moved his arm to check and confirmed.

Now I can fight without any issue against the blood ruler.

Next to him, Jenna, Rittier and Ereka were rearranging their items following his order.

"You all remember the position to fight against the blood ruler?"

"Yes. By heart!"

Jenna shouted with her flapping tail sword to make sure that Sungjin could trust her. Her cheerfulness lifted up the heavy air before the final battle.

Sungjin had already explained everything.

[The blood ruler is clearly strong. The power from her ultimate skill that destroyed a whole mountain is almost shocking. But we can defeat her if we make it a 4:1 fight.]

[4:1 fight? Can we eliminate the three knights without getting damage ourselves?]

[Yeah. I will explain that later, just focus on how to fight against the blood ruler. The blood ruler's ultimate skill is strong enough to slay the three knights at once but we have a counter. Ereka, you probably need to sacrifice yourself while the other two deal with the blood ruler.]

[I was thinking about that. But other skills from the level 8 are massive...]



[That also has a solution. Listen.]

To win, they had to catch the three knights without any damage to them. And then endure the skills of the blood ruler without getting damaged. When she uses her ultimate skill, sacrifice Ereka and the other two kill the blood ruler.

They already practiced the scenario many times. Their victory was 99.9% sure.

“Ok. Let’s do this.”

Sungjin and his team were confident.

On the other hand, the heroes supporting the blood ruler were in panic in the waiting room. Were they in a nightmare? How come the three knights couldn’t do anything and dead.?

Is this... really....

Is the princess doing to win...?

The blood ruler was strong. She was strong enough to defeat all the three knights alone. But the team who defeated the three knights so easily, maybe the blood ruler was not strong enough to defeat them

Were we supporting the wrong team? What is... what is this situation where the stronger team was careful just to be defeated? What should we do?

They thought they could see their grim future.

Sungjin and his team marched to the upper path.

The blood ruler Riad was standing there like a king. She was holding the bloody the magical sword with a bloody cloud surrounding her like a bad omen.

“Finally, you are here!”

She only looked at Sungjin, didn’t even care about the other three.

“Yeah, I cleaned up those three. Now it’s just you.”

The fight started at 4:4 but now it became 4:1 siege.

“Haha. Those three. They were useless anyway.”

Riad answered with laughter.

“All I need is this sword!”

She lost the three knights, but during that time, she collected enough crystals to activate her magical sword.

“Your tactic is enough to get three dogs with the princess rabble.”

The magical sword roared.

The air vibrated.

Bloody mist filled up the area and the scream of ghosts echoed all around.

“But that is useless to me! Bee Despaired in front of my power!”

“She’s coming. Get ready.”

Sungjin felt her murderous temper and had no intention to argue.

Her ultimate skill right away? Even better.

Anyway, he didn’t want to return her skills, it was way too much work. It was time to destroy her level 8 power gained by numerous victims with his military intelligence.

“Bloody Reign!”

Blood spurted from the bloody magical sword.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 23**

“Aegis!”

Her golden shield shone like rightful rulership as an answer to the abusive tyrant to protect her people.

According to the legend, the blessing of light was impenetrable.

“This stupid shield!”

The blood torrent of the blood ruler clashed with the shield.

Which one would be stronger.

An awaken the ultimate skill of level 8 versus a regular ultimate skill of level 6.

Level 8 would be stronger.

If it was a normal shield.

But the Aegis that the princess was holding was not a normal shield. That was an artifact given by Athena, goddess of protection, war and wisdom, to her royal household after making an oath to protect the people.

It was a power of god beyond artifacts of saint or heroes.

It was beyond the level of a Divine Weapon that god made for humans, but was God's Dignity that God created for himself.

That also meant the absolute protection blocked the power of level 8 enemy.

"That is just a gimmick made with a weak heart. Someone who sacrifices herself for th w lives is not suitable to become a king! Die!"

The blood ruler was left with only one choice.

Bloody torrent swallowed Ereka. Holding the shield to protect everyone, her body torn apart.

When a savior is protecting her enemy, eliminate the protector was the blood ruler's rule, but Sungjin had already understood that. Ereka's sacrifice was not in vain.

"Now!"

Sungjin shouted at the perfect timing.

Jenna and Rittier were ready to attack.

Thor's hammer shook the sky.

While the old knight rapidly ran toward the blood ruler.

That short amount of time after she used the ultimate skill. They didn't miss that chance to attack her with their best skills.

They had more head counts, so even though they lost one, but still, they could win. They worked hard eliminating the three knights to get this advantage.

The victory was in front of them.

But at that moment that bloody magical sword roared again.

"I will show you the real color of my sword."

Another blood torrent spurt from the magical sword.

The red body of the sword spurt blood and showed its real shape.

That was...

A sword made of a bone.

Not steel, not meteor but a bone. Not even a bone of a monster or magical creature but a bone of a lamb.

It was not a bone of a regular lamb.

“The First Blood! The curse that contains all the bloody sins after you. Bring out your blood!”

An artifact. The First Blood.

It was a weapon that contained the original sin of Cain who killed his brother Abel at the beginning of the world.

That was screaming in the hand of a girl who was trying to kill her sister.

The magical sword; an artifact made of a bone of holy sacrifice, covered with the sin of murder.

That was the cause of murder committed by humans.

The absolute power of the blood torrent from the sword came from the blood containing the weight of the sin.

So the power as an artifact,

It was as strong as the ultimate skill of the blood ruler.

“The...second attack?”

Sungjin froze. The blood ocean swallowed Thor’s hammer.

At the end of the day, the blood ruler was level 8. While Jenna was in level 5.

Jenna didn’t have a chance.

“Ughhhhhh!”

The blood torrent easily stopped the attack and crushed Jenna into pieces. And headed to Sungjin to tear him up in million pieces.

“Iron Faith!”

That moment of danger, Rittier threw Sungjin to his back and blocked the power with his whole body.

“You can’t! Break my faith!”

The old knight shouted out his iron faith, but the bloody power was way too strong.

“Cute. There’s no faith broke by power. It’s only the question of which one first, spirit or body.”

“Ugh.”

Rittier swept away by the blood wave while the blood ruler laughed at him.

The blood torrent did stop. The tsunami of blood came back to take Sungjin.

His cold mind calculated that he couldn’t run away from that tsunami with his speed.

Despair swept him before the tsunami.

But then, a little shape in light came out from the blood ocean, it was Jenna.

She became running energy by using her skill, her body was grounded by the bloody ocean and almost invisible. But still, she used her last force to push Sungjin’s body out.

The blood gnawed him from behind, but Jenna pushed Sungjin out. She wanted to save him.

“Ahhhhh.”

With a shout mixed with her scream, Jenna pushed Sungjin out of the blood. The tsunami died down behind them.

“Hehehe... Sungjin oppa, you are ok, right...?”

When she became herself from the shape of the energy, she had only her upper body. She was shivering with pain but tried to smile for him. But the next moment, her body scattered and disappeared.

Sungjin couldn’t do anything but watch.

That was the best position using all their forces.

He used all the information he gathered, studies them and prepared.

He already thought that there was something more than just the ultimate skill of the blood ruler that she showed to the princess on the mountain.

He predicted there would be more skills.

He studied various cases of the ultimate skill in various battles in numerous locations to understand the possibilities.

And he was sure that he would defeat her when he looked at the ultimate skill alone.

Another variable was a counterattack by an artifact.

And he was prepared.

He checked all the existing artifacts and planned the solution for each case.

That was why he was 99% sure.

But he was in the 1% situation now.

An artifact that could duplicate the ultimate skill.

His team had not enough force to return that.

He did everything he could.

The remaining 1% of possibilities, the rarest artifact that could make everything powerless in the hand of the blood ruler.

[Man proposes and God disposes.]

Sungjin felt the same regret that of Zhuge Liang when he succeeded in his fire attack yet failed to catch Sima Yi.

If there was only the blood ruler, he should have won, but fate was not on his side

Fate protected level 8 blood ruler from the level 0 extra.

An artifact that duplicates of...the... ultimate kill?

Sungjin had to accept his failure in front of the absolute power

He saved all his team from any damage.

And attacked her with their optimal tactic.

Only to be defeated.

“Hahaha. How you understand what you are facing.”

Riad laughed arrogantly, but Sungjin couldn't argue.

He was alone.

His team was annihilated.

He couldn't even find the trace of their body.

All of them.

No, that was not it. His promise to take out the tyrant, the blood ruler, to free this world and the hope of people swept away with them.

Now the blood ruler would take over the kingdom to sacrifice everyone for herself. Countless people would be abused and die miserably.

The oppression of the Ministry of Gender Equality was smaller than a needle in a haystack.

What should I do?

Sungjin's brain calculated his situation and all the possible possibilities in this desperate situation. The answer was clear.

There was no answer.

There was no way to make it work.

The game was over. He was defeated.

“Now, you know how stupid you are.”

Riad put her sword on his neck.

“Using the power you have is not the only way to set up a strategy, but having power itself is always one. Your weakness that didn't kill the princess to obtain power is the reason for your misery.”

To fight against the tyrant who killed everyone to accumulate her power, his choice not to sacrifice a girl that he liked was a sign of his weakness.

“Ugh...”

He couldn't argue, knowing she was right.

Is it... over?

Was I someone who couldn't defeat the blood ruler, far from becoming an Arc Master?

Heroes were chanting in the waiting room.

“Our blood ruler!”

They were stupid to fear Sungjin.

He had the intelligence of a devil?

Maybe.

But the absolute power of the blood ruler was of the great devil.

Sungjin's military intelligence multiplied what they had,

While the blood ruler's absolute power crashed more than what they could imagine.

The winner was the power of level 8 not the creative mind of level 0.

Not a gimmick of an extra but the absolute power of a hero.

Level was the only measure of power and privilege.

The people fell into despair again.

“Ahah... your highness....”

“We... are done....”

“Your Highness... Sungjin....”

Nania was among people who lost their spirit and fell down on the ground. Their hope was killed by the blood ruler's absolute power with the princess.

Ereka, back in the waiting room, put her hands together.



“Not yet. Sungjin is still out there.”

She told herself that she wouldn't let him lose because she protected not only her rightful rulership but also her life.

She wouldn't let the blood ruler abuse people with tyranny

She had her final method.

She pulled out her dagger.

The sword made of gold with an ominous red ruby decorating it looked like bad news.

“Your Highness...”

Rittier's face became dark because he knew that the dagger was to kill herself to finish the ritual and give Sungjin all her power.

“My princess!”

Jenna cried, but none of them could stop her.

That was the only way to stop the blood ruler

“Don't!”

Shouted Sungjin from the faraway battlefield.

He couldn't see the waiting room but he knew.

“Sungjin. But you know this is the only way.”

Ereka answered, knowing there was no way he could hear her.

“Don't! I... I will...”

Sungjin couldn't promise that he would win. He couldn't finish his sentence. His brain knew that there was no way.

He couldn't stop Ereka, while he couldn't even lie to himself.

“Don't blame yourself. You've been great. Just the blood ruler's power was too great to fight.”

They had to sacrifice something to fight back.

The princess smiled sadly looking at the sharp dagger.

She thought she was ready, but her hands were shaking.

She remembered her promise she made with Sungjin to go on another picnic.

Ah... yes... I always dreamed of a romance with a prince charming.

She tried her best to get approved by her father who taught her knighthood and martial arts to make her strong, but she couldn't meet his expectations.

Playing with dolls and talking about romance with princes or heroes always made her heart pounding.

She dreamed of falling in love with a prince charming, cooking for him, dancing with him and made her happy.

That's why she ran away from home saying she didn't want to become a king and hated martial art when her father stopped her going to a dancing party to greet a foreign guest.

After her father passed away, she stood against the blood ruler while other heroes stayed in silence. And she had to give up her dreams as a girl to become a knight...

But her childhood dream was still there.

Maybe that was why.

She was so happy when she met Sungjin and fell in love with Sungjin.

It was short but I was really happy.

She was happy just imagining the picnic with him.

She was shy but she daydreamed of being his lover.

She wished their life together.

Ah... Sungjin...

She sadly smiled looking at Sungjin.

She didn't regret her decision to become a king.

She was not regretting her oath to choose the kingship over love.

It was worth the try to protect everyone.

But... but...

She didn't know she had to abandon something that made her so happy and that she wanted to badly.

Only if I could fall asleep in his arms once more...

She wished and wished

If I had one more day, I would spend it in his arms.

If I had one more day, I would tell him how I felt.

But now it was the moment of choice.

No, she had already made her choice when she was holding her shield.

She had a million wishes but that didn't change her mind.

Bye. I give my everything to you.

She could trust him and give her everything to him.

Because she loved him.

She pushed the dagger into her heart.

There was no blood.

But the ruby sucked up her blood. The ominous red shined brightly and started to pound like a real heart.

The princess protected everyone again.

Although nobody protected her.

A flame of darkness spurt from Sungjin's body.

It was not burning or melting but simply annihilating everything and swallowed the ground around him.

"What?"

The massive power made the blood ruler step back.

Dark flame evaporated the blood ocean.

It looked like a gigantic dragon coiling up.

If the blood ocean of the magical sword was made of human sin.

The dragon of dark flame was evil itself came out from the deepest hell.

“Hahaha, so this is your power?”

The blood ruler laughed pretending she was cool, but she couldn't hold her sword still.

Even if the princess sacrifice herself to give her power to Sungjin, she was only level 6. She thought that shouldn't be threatening, but the dark flame with unimaginable power pressed her down.

She understood if she fought this being, her, her level and her everything would become ashes in a heartbeat.

The real magical creature from another world.

A power beyond any measurement.

It was impossible to measure him with level, now the ritual has been completed, his power was next level.

The princess was just a catalyst, was not a power given to him.

The princess Ereka's spirit whispered Sungjin.

She was reaching coma, her spirit was dragged to the battlefield by the power and saw the burning flame of darkness.

So this is your true power, Sungjin?

As her life faded away, the evil dark flame started to show its shape.

I'm glad. With this power, you could fight the blood ruler.

Her sacrifice was not in vain.

It must be difficult but take my life.

Sungjin understood her.

Realistically, that was the best way.

He meant it when he said he wanted to protect her. But it was what he wanted, the reality didn't allow him.

The reason for power ruled the world. It didn't matter who was right. The Strongest was to be the winner.

Took everyone as her sacrifices or not didn't matter. As long as she got the power, the blood ruler was the strong winner.

What they needed was the power to fight back.

Not a justice. Justice was the last thing they needed.

This was an irony that a girl became unhappy to make everyone happy, but that was how it worked in this world.

When fighting against a weak enemy, he could talk about a perfect victory, following his dream kind of bullshit to look cool.

But when he had to fight against a strong enemy, there was no place for vanity.

To become strong enough to fight back, a sudden level of sacrifice was a necessary evil.

He had to take the power from the princess

This was the only way to win.

He came up with his conclusion.

That was the best way for the princess as well. Although she lost her life and her happiness she would keep what she wanted to protect as a king.

The dragon of dark flame coiled around him to become united.

A dragon brand started to appear on his chest around his heart.

[The person who followed the forbidden ritual to join the battle watched by gods. I was fallen from the light. I was light but became darkness.]

The deep and dark voice echoed.

[The king of those who fights against God. The great king of kings who rules hell.]

Sungjin was full of power.

The blood ruler in front of him was nothing to fear.

He was sure. Once he took this power, there was no need to even fight.

[My name is the morning star abandoned the light. The despair that abandoned the hope.]

The dark flame dragon roared. The air heated up and all the clouds in the battlefield evaporated.

[Lucifer.]

When he revealed his name, a circle of pact appeared under Sungjin's feet.

The name and the weight of the name agitated the battlefield and the waiting room.

Heroes succeeded only in the name of spirits.

A superhuman who overcame the limit of human.

They were successors of various spirits from different worlds beyond Valhalla  
Superhuman was still the name of a human

But the king of hell.

Not a wizard who serve the king but the king himself.

The king of the king.

An extra, no... a magical creature from elsewhere will succeed the great name of the king of hell?

Now people understood why the power was to be beyond levels and was above any existing measurement.

[Now. Answer. Just one word. You give me your first encounter to be my successor. With your answer, I will become your power.]

On the moment of defeat, the king of hell offered the victory. It was a great offer.

[Answer. You shall rule this world.]

He wasn't promising one victory.

[There will be no human who could fight against you. You will be beyond them.]

It was a glory beyond humans. He had to accept it.

Sungjin answered.

“I don’t need it!”

The black flame disappeared. The imprint disappeared with the flame.

The power of the princess went back.

He didn’t need it.

He didn’t need a cheap victory using her as a sacrifice.

I will fight without that shit.

His head understood the impossible reality and accepted it, while his heart couldn’t.

Sungjin drew his sword with his pounding heart.

He ran toward the blood ruler with his rushing blood.

He ran toward level 8 that was like a wall of despair.

It was not an act of courage with no fear.

It was a step with a bone-crushing fear on his shoulder.

It was a clear reality that Ereka had to sacrifice herself in order to fight back the evil.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 24**

After his father went to the championship match after had injured by an assault with knowing it would be difficult and it was also scary. But he decided not to run away from his dream.

He stood still like a man until the end.

So Sungjin told himself he wouldn’t abandon Ereka and ran using the reality as an excuse. Others might have understood, but he refused to take that excuse.

[You are hanging on the light for nothing. God wouldn’t give you a miracle.]

The king of hell left a curse and disappeared.

Sungjin...

In the waiting room, the princess had tears in her eyes.

The ruby on the dagger stopped pounding.

Oh... What are you doing...

The blood ruler found her confidence back and started to laugh at him.

“Ah haha. You came until this point to just give up to keep your princess! That is the weakness I will use to defeat you!”

Victory is a victory.

The sword of the blood ruler was coming toward his neck.

Sungjin followed his heart and stabbed in silence.

Not because he thought he could do something to win.

There was no solution in his head.

Just he couldn't accept that, so he was fighting with all he had just to fight against the absurdity.

It was unlike him.

But it was just like him.

Chapter 16

A level 8 was attacking with the artifact; The First Blood.

A level fought back with a mass production magical sword.

The result was quite clear. Level 0 should die in a second.

That is the common sense of the world.

But the fight was not following the common sense of the world.

It was a fierce fight.

It looked like a perfectly balanced fight. It was so close.

People nearly got confused if Sungjin had taken the dark king's power.



But no, he didn't. The blood ruler was dominant in power and speed.

Although it was a pure sword fight without using skills, level 8 had an absolute advantage on physical abilities.

But Sungjin was managing a close match.

But how?

Was it another trick of the devil?

The magical sword attacked Sungjin's heart. But Sungjin's sword arrived earlier to block the sword.

The magical sword went wide but moved back to attack his waist. But Sungjin pushed the center of the swing with the edge of his sword to miss the aim.

The blood ruler held up the magical sword with anger, but Sungjin predicted it. He twisted his body while avoiding the attack to kick her knee to her fall down.

The blood ruler started to move faster. But Sungjin read it already and he was already there.

The blood ruler was stronger. But Sungjin used her power to return the attack.

Sungjin's swordsmanship made it possible by calculating and predicting everything; the movement of both, new power she was about to use and the geography between them.

"I heard you trained in a martial art, but this is ridiculous. How come this is possible?"

The blood ruler expressed her admiration in the middle of the battle.

The three knights in the waiting room watching the scene with admiration.

The blood ruler was also a master of swordsmanship. But how come it was possible to fight her back overcoming the difference of eight levels?

"His sword..."

"There's no rhythm."

That was it.

Sword fight was where people read the opponent's muscle movement, respiration, and their sights. To make movement, humans needed rhythm in their movement.

That wasn't the case of Sungjin.

He moved only when and how he needed to but no one could read his movement.

It seemed like the blood ruler was playing card open while Sungjin played with his card hidden.

That was not just it. It wouldn't have been enough to defeat a level 8 for a level 0 even if he could hide his movements.

Sungjin's other secret was...

"He has no movement."

In general, swordsmanship came from various schools of martial art and train its people to get used to a few dozen of movement so that they could use one according to the situation. It was natural for human beings. If the movement was not learned by one with muscle memory so that it became one's reflex, it was impossible to use the movement in a real battle. Thinking of a movement would kill him during a fight.

But not Sungjin.counter-attack

He read all the circumstances and situations to react with the best movement. He was not depending on his sword but used a kick, knee, elbow and every part of his body. Every step he made had been calculated. He reacted to every move of his opponent with the best counter attack.

That was what Sungjin trained by training both his body and soul in balance. With his strong will to win and impeccable intelligence too his training to the next level and created his own form of martial art.

He thought that would be useless in his world, but it was working here.

Was that really possible? It was beyond the astonishment, people wanted to deny what they were looking at.

"Losing one arm was... just an act."

"Such a devil... but..."

Although they admired his ability the blood ruler and the three knights were still sure of their victory.

While Sungjin started to show anxiety and pressure.

The fight looked fierce but it was not...

Because...

“High-level hero’s ability is not just physical ability.”

Nart laughed at Sungjin.

This was just a show.

If it was just a sword fight, the three knights should have defeated the blood ruler by attacking her together. The reason why they couldn’t was the physical ability.

The reason was the skill.

The miracle beyond the rule of physics given by God who blessed heroes with heroic power. That was the real difference between a hero and an extra.

“He is good enough not to give the blood ruler a chance to use her skills though.”

But that didn’t really matter.

Because there was the ultimate skill.

After some time of a sword fight, the blood ruler bursted out laughing.

“Too bad. The time’s up!”

She stopped her sword. Bloody mist raised around her.

Sungjin stabbed her with his sword. But his sword bounced back. He tried a few more times, but his attacks kept bouncing back. Bloody mist surrounding Riad didn’t allow any attack to touch her.

“Your baby wizard’s ultimate skill made her vulnerable while using her ultimate spell. But mine makes me even stronger.”

The three knights started to laugh at the scene. They knew why they couldn’t do anything but slew by the blood ruler with a single blow. It was quite simple.

The blood ruler’s ultimate skill protected her with the bloody mist while she activated the skill.

It was a real ultimate skill without any false.

“Now, be gone. Bloody Reign.”

Screaming of ghosts echoed on the battlefield.

Bloody mist sucked into Riad.

And then she shouted the blood torrent. The sentence of destruction.

Facing that despair, Sungjin stretched out his sword like a predator running toward a prey.

His sword penetrated the blood ruler's body.

"Ugh. I didn't know my ultimate skill had such a weak point."

Riad's face became dark. She shivered with pain.

Her ultimate power looked flawless but there was a very short point of weakness when the bloody mist disappears before the torrent. She didn't know and then the three knights didn't see. It was an instant moment of weakness.

"But I'm more surprised that you pointed it out to use it."

The blood ruler Riad praised.

That was right.

Sungjin knew, no only Sungjin knew.

When the blood ruler annihilated his team against his calculation, his eyes observed everything calmly.

And his brilliant brain spotted it out.

The tiny weakness at that very moment.

It was his real ability.

Observing everything to understand how to use it when needed.

Riad found her smile back.

"Ugh."

But Sungjin had sorrow in his eyes.

His sword missed the heart of the blood ruler and just stabbed her. It was a big wound, but not big enough to finish her. It was one inch far from her heart. That was the one-inch gap he couldn't fill in although he did everything all at once.

Level 8 had physical ability beyond humans. Even though that was the moment when she used her heroic power and had low defense ability, she was able to avoid the attack with her reflex.

Sungjin couldn't stab her heart because the speed of her reflex was above Sungjin's maximum speed.

He had calculated this despair knowing his limit and it was impossible to win even though he found out the weakness.

His eyes had seen the unseen.

His brain calculated the unknown.

But he didn't have enough power to defeat her.

That was the limit of level 0.

"If you are not going to be mine. Die!"

The blood torrent spurted.

Sungjin sight covered with blood.

This is the end...

He couldn't hold his sword firmly.

He promised a cool victory. But this was it.

He couldn't keep his promise to protect his girl. No need to mention the arc master.

Should I have accepted Ereka's sacrifice?

Was it a mistake not to follow his head but followed his heart?

He knew everything Ereka tried to protect with her life would be in vain, but he couldn't do anything.

Was I...

In front of the power of level...

Nothing but an extra...

Ereka was watching him.

Her spirit was watching the moment Sungjin defeated by the blood ruler Riad.

No. Sungjin. You can't lose.

She wanted to help him win.

He protected her by refusing the power from Lucifer, now she wanted to make him win.

I want to protect him now.

I want to fight for him with everything I have.

People's life was depending on his fight.

As a protector of people, I want to fight with him.

And...

Above all...

I love him.

I want to be his shield.

Light surrounded Sungjin.

The golden light that was blocking the flow of the bloody ocean.

Princess Ereka's ultimate still and an artifact that made her take all the attack while giving absolute protection to her side.

Shield of all People.

The light of protection born from the oath to protect everyone covered Sungjin.

"What is this!"

The miracle shocked the blood ruler and made her lose her calm.

Ereka was dead and exiled from the battlefield. There was no way she could protect Sungjin with her power.

That was an impossible miracle.

But while practicing the forbidden ritual, Ereka killed herself and her power left the waiting from to be with Sungjin. Although Sungjin refused to take the power, her power was still wandering around him which made this miracle possible with her wish.

No. That was not it.

This miracle happened because Sungjin protected Ereka from sacrificing herself.

That was why her spirit was able to cover him to protect him.

Sungjin... fight... I will help you.

Sungjin felt the silent whisper of Ereka's spirit.

"I got it!"

Sungjin stepped forward answering.

There was a strength gained with merciless abuse.

But...

There was a heart gained with everything.

God wouldn't bless with miracle even if we dream of an ideal world. If he did, there was no reason to live in a world of despair.

That was why there was a strong heartfelt bond among people who tried to overcome reality and build up their own legend of happiness.

If the blood torrent was the crystalloid of the abusive power of the blood ruler

The shield of light was the ultimate support of the girl who Sungjin tried his best to protect.

Two forces confronted.

The power of the First Blood destroyed everything.

But the oath of Shield of all people kept people safe.

In the middle of the bloody ocean, Ereka's heart was protecting Sungjin.

And Sungjin didn't miss this tiny chance made by Ereka's support. His brain calculated everything again.

The flow of explosive powers. The physical condition of the blood ruler. Decreased amount of blood. Her vital spots. His own physical ability. Action and reaction made by the flow.

Every factor changes rapidly.

Sungjin stretched his sword again.

For the victory.

And for the girl that he wanted to protect with this victory.

“Ugh.”

The blood ruler twisted her body to avoid the attack.

But Sungjin already took that movement into account.

The sword accelerated using the speed and power of the blood torrent was powerful enough to cover the difference of 8 levels.

Finally, a level 0 sword penetrated the heart of the tyrant.

“Ug...Ugh.”

It was not the blood from the magical sword but from the blood ruler’s body. While the mad blood torrent disappeared.

The blood ruler’s body started to scattered from her fingertips.

Sungjin won.

He overcame the violence that used reality to abuse people.

The man who tried to protect a girl finally made it.

For a moment, the silence swamped the battlefield.

Riad raised her hand slowly to reach Sungjin’s cheek.

“Haha. I knew that it was worth to take you as my man.”

She looked at him with her eyes with desire.

“You tied yourself up with restrictions and defeated me. You are a guy that I should take.”



She held his arm.

“I will take you whatever I need to do. I will make you my man and liberate you to conquer the world together.”

The blood ruler declared while her life was fading away. But Sungjin pushed her hand off his arm and answered with his sword.

“I don’t need it.”

\* \* \*

[Team Blue won.]

Valkyrie declared to ensure the victory.

The light came down from the sky and cover him.

Three in the waiting room were covered with light.

“Sungjin...”

The ruby shattered. Ereka came back to life and opened her eyes.

She started to cry.

She wanted to thank Sungjin in his arms.

This time, she wouldn’t worry about tradition or custom.

“Wow! We won! Sungjin oppa did it!”

Jenna jumped around with her flapping tail sword.

“Haha. Hahaha.”

Rittier couldn’t find words but laughed with happiness.

“Hurrah!”

“The princess won!!!!”

“The extra defeated the blood ruler!!!”

People outside of the temple cheered with happiness.

“The blood ruler is gone!!!”

“We don’t need to become sacrifices anymore.”

“Ah...ah.... the princess. Thank you. Thank you, knights.”

Who is that knight who defeated the blood ruler?

People looked at his name.

Cha Sungjin.

Everyone remembered the name from a different world.

It was the name of a real hero that would be praised from generation to generation.

He saved the princess and the people of this kingdom from the bloody nightmare.

Epilogue

One week later, there was a coronation of queen Ereka.

The warehouse of the castle was open to sharing wine and food with everyone. The people sang and danced with happiness.

It was not only at the castle.

Everyone in the country and in a slam in the corner of a city celebrated the victory.

The tax was reduced.

It was forbidden for heroes to kill or rape extras.

Queen helped people who couldn’t support themselves.

“Mon!”

“My son!”

The reunited family cried tears of happiness all around the kingdom.

Extras wished a long reign of the new queen who was the opposite of the blood ruler. The whole country was in a festive mood.

But the real hero of this war was not the queen.

It was Sungjin.

Level 0.

An extra.

But he was a magical stranger from the other world beyond those words.

The man who defeated the blood ruler Riad.

The man who owned the half of the kingdom.

The news shocked heroes from other countries.

A mere level 0 extra. A level who deserved to be a slave ruled a kingdom?

They thought maybe it was a wrong intel or maybe he was just a schemed puppet and tried to ignore his existence. But they couldn't get rid of the feeling that Sungjin brought into their mind.

While the reaction of the people was the opposite.

An extra like them but a real hero who defeated all the heroes.

He was a symbol of hope and a subject of praise.

"They told me he is super handsome?"

"He can fire from his eyes?"

"He is 3m tall?"

While crazy rumors were spreading, Nania, who saw the fight share the truth about him

"That is not true. He is very charming, but he looks like all of us. But... yes... He had some kind of an extraordinary halo around him."

The truth sugar coated by a girl who had a crush on him.

"He understood the miserable reality of extras like us and shared all his gold he has got from the battle. He was strong but also sweet."

There were kids next to her swinging branch like a sword.

"I'm Sungjin. I'm invincible."

“Yeah. Now I want to be Sungjin. It’s my turn!”

He became a dream for kids, an idol for girls and a real hero for the people.

His name was praised in faraway lands started from the low class people by merchants and wandering musicians.

The fairy tale that a level 0 hero appeared in the kingdom of Sevrantina who defeated the tyrant to make the princess who loves the people a queen. But it was not a fairytale. It was a real story.

They envied Ere’s kingdom. They wanted to see the real hero. The real hero was nothing to do with their abusive heroes.

He had a glorious debut in a God made a league of Valhalla.

In the middle of a feast of coronation, Sungjin stepped out onto the terrace to enjoy the night breeze.

So I’ve done my job for this kingdom

Past week, everyone was extremely busy to take care of the aftermatch after taking back the kingdom and to prepare the coronation. They would be busy for a while.

But now they don’t need me anymore.

The magical sword was taken away from the blood ruler and the blood ruler was sealed and imprisoned for eternity. The three knights sentenced guilty of abusing and massacring women and sent to the prison.

They also ordered the forfeit of other heroes’ lands and formed a new type of bureaucracy where the state paid a part of the tax as wage. Since other heroes became rebel prisoners, they couldn’t complain about any of the state decision.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 25**

“Three? Wow. Sungjin oppa are you going to become level 3 right away?”

“Haha. I’ve never seen anything like this before.”

“But we have never seen an achievement Sungjin’s before neither. A level 0 defeated a level 8. He totally deserves.”

Sungjin drank the nectar with all three of them being happy for Sungjin.

“Finally, Sungjin’s class will be revealed.”

“Sungjin oppa would be a unique class?”

“Humm. He refused the offer from the king of hell, maybe he is one of six classes we have...”

“Even if he is in a regular class, Sungjin must be dominantly strong.”

Sungjin was also curious about what his class would be like.

Probably a worrier or a knight. But whatever it is, doesn't really matter

But once he got a level, he would be one step closer to becoming an Arc Master

But...

[System Error.

Name: Cha Sungjin

Class: Undefined

Without class information, the level cannot be granted.

Without class information, skills cannot be granted.

Without class information, status adjustment cannot be granted.]

Valkyrie repeated the same words over and over again.

“Class undefined... I've never seen anything like this before.”

“Sungjin oppa what should we do?”

“Is it because I didn't complete the ritual... Sungjin can't upgrade his level although he leveled up...”

Ereka was blaming herself again but Sungjin stopped her with his cool smile.

“It's ok. Without a level, it is easier. I don't need it.”

“But... without a level, there will be no reward for your achievements...”

“Haha. Don't even think about it. A level with your sacrifice is...”

Sungjin lightly tapped her shoulder and continued.

“I don’t need it.”

“Ok...”

“And Valkyrie changed the phrase. Now she tried to give me the level but she can’t? And the class also became undefined from unclassified.”

Sungjin’s instinct was telling him that there must be another way.

“I will find the way in time so don’t worry about it.”

“Yes. Sungjin.”

So, even after his victory, he is still a level 0.

Well, it’s not that I want a level, but I can fight without a level anyways.

I have my brain and body that I’ve been training.

I have no time to beg God to give me a level. I will find my own path.

And I’ve got more than just a level.

He concentrated on his arm for a second. A crest came up with light that represented the southern land of the kingdom.

At the same time, a mechanical voice reported him.

[Status report of your land.

Population: 10,250,000

Area: 120,000 km<sup>2</sup>

GBP: 25.204 trillion Dilent

Tax rate ...]

That was the information on his land, the southern part of the kingdom of Sevrantina, It was telling him he became a ruler of a kingdom

It was difficult to compare dilent and currencies on the Earth, but it was more than enough to have more wealth compare to any owner of big corporations on the Earth.

Although he let Ereka rule the kingdom, he still owned the kingdom and was a king.

And unlike a president or an owner of a big corporation, a king owned power and wealth of the next level.

For example, a corporation owner had approximately 1 trillion won, it was less than 20 trillion won even if the family wealth combined.

That sounds like a huge amount of money, but the state budget of the Korean government in 2014 was 350 trillion, government-owned companies excluded.

That was how your budget looked like when you rule a country.

But the president could stay only a few years, while the king rules for a lifetime.

It was beyond the imagination of people living in modern society.

It was the greatest success. What he gained was good enough to live a comfortable life, but he didn't have any intention to stop here. His kingdom was a starting point for his next steps.

Who and where the next fight will be, and who will be next to me. I can't wait!

His heart pounded.

Ereka looked at Sungjin from a corner.

Sungjin...

She needed to bring out all her courage to tell him what she had in mind.

If she couldn't tell him because of her shyness and fear, she knew she would be regretting it for the rest of her life.

I will tell him.

Ereka approached him slowly.

"Sungjin."

"Ah? Did you come out for fresh air as well?"

"Yes."

"Congratulations on your coronation. Should I call you the queen from now on?"

"Oh no. Call me Ereka. Just like you used to."

Ereka strongly refused to change how he called her.

I will live as a queen. I will protect my kingdom as a queen.

And I will be the queen for everyone.

But...

I want to stay being Ereka for Sungjin.

She wanted to be just a girl in front of the man she loved.

“Haha, ok. I will keep that in mind.”

Sungjin laughed and Ereka held his sleeve with all the courage she had.

“Actually... I didn't come out for fresh air, I came out to talk to you.”

“Tell me.”

Sungjin was listening. Ereka breathed in and out a few more times. She needed more courage than ever.

“Will you... will you... marry me, and become the king of our kingdom?”

“Huh?”

“Become a king and take over the kingdom. I will support you behind the scene.”

“I had enough reward. Take over the kingdom is a bit much.”

“It's not a reward.”

She shook her head.

“Sungjin...”

Ereka breathed in and out a few more times.

“I love you.”

She said it, finally. It was not easy. People said a girl saying I love you were not appropriate but she did it. She was scared that he would leave if she didn't tell him now, so she said it.



Her maids told her that Sungjin wanted to have the next time with her, but she was not sure about that. Ereka was anxious.

“Ah? Ha. Humm.”

Sungjin’s eyes showed his surprise and then came back to normal.

Ereka waited for his answer in silence.

She would be really happy if he said yes.

She was ready to give up everything to support him with everything.

She thought of this so many times.

The answer was always the same.

She wanted him next to her.

She wanted to be with him for always.

It was natural that Ereka wanted to marry a guy like that.

And moreover, he was a better king than she was.

When the blood ruler attacked us, there was no one who would fight against her. So I decided to take the kingdom as a king... but...

She tried to find the best way to protect the people. But she didn’t have the power to defeat enemies and charisma to overpower the aristocrats.

Without Sungjin, the kingdom must have fallen.

I will let him take the kingdom he saved and support him behind.

Sungjin looked at her and smiled gently.

“Thank you. Really, thank you. I am so happy that a girl like you loves me.”

With his sincere appreciation, Ereka’s hand shivered.

“I will take your mind.”

Sungjin whispered with Ereka in his arms.

He was really happy.

A beautiful, graceful and strong Ereka.

Beloved queen of the kingdom.

He was overwhelmed by her love.

Behind his promise to protect her, he imagined having her as well.

“But I’m really sorry, I can’t accept your offer.”

He had to reject although he knew that will hurt Ereka.

“I will become an Arc Master. I will keep fighting without an end. And those fights would be a tough and challenging one, nothing to compare to those on the earth.”

Fierce and cool fights.

But that also meant he would need to fight against strong and evil enemies worst than Riad.

“I can’t put you in that kind of danger.”

She is so lovely.

So I wouldn’t love her.

I wouldn’t follow my desire, but let her be happy.

My mom loved my father anyways, but I don’t want her to suffer.

“You should take care of everyone in peace as a queen. And you have to be happy as well.”

“Sungjin...”

Ereka tried not to cry. She had already known he wouldn’t answer that he loved her too.

So, I wouldn’t cry.

She didn’t want to hurt Sungjin, who was trying to take care of her.

She was happy that he refused but was grateful for her love.

“We are walking a different path. Please understand me.”

“Sure. I know Sungjin has to be an Arc Master. So I understand.”

I will not cry, I will not make it difficult for him. I will just wish him to get what he is trying to have.

Ereka wiped her tears and stood strong out of Sungjin's arms. Her body language was saying that he didn't have to try to protect her in his arms anymore.

"That was my confession a girl, so now I should talk to you as queen."

"Sure."

Sungjin was emotional that she had to move on so quickly, but respected her and listened to her.

"First, I have a question. Once, you told me you didn't decide how to become an Arc Master yet."

"Yeah."

"Can you tell me, how you decided now?"

"Sure."

Now he could answer that.

"I will work to get the title of Arc Master. And."

Sungjin gripped a fist.

"On my way, I will protect people who need protection and defeat those who abuse people."

That was the path Sungjin decided to take to become an Arc Master.

"It was not just here but many countries all around Valhalla are suffering from similar war and tyranny."

On the front, it was a great world where heroes fight with their still on the battlefield but behind the scene, they were also using their power to abuse the people called extras.

In Valhalla, power was distributed to few heroes while only a few of them believed that they need to protect the weak with their power. The majority of heroes believed in divine birth privilege.

So I will become an Arc Master.

He wanted to become an Arc Master because he enjoyed the process and the fight itself of fighting against strong enemies.

But that didn't mean doing everything for the victory could be justified.

Ally with anyone to abuse everyone was not the way.

It was the opposite.

"I will share my victory with people like you while defeating people like Riad."

That was what he had to do on his way to become an Arc Master

"And when I become an Arc Master and have the power to reorganize this world..."

At the final point... then...

"I will set up a new rule that everyone has the divine right to pursue life, freedom, and happiness."

I will make sure there will be no woman dead to fill a bathtub with blood.

I will make sure there will be no child who dies miserably into pieces.

He felt misery and anger when the Ministry of Gender Equality abused its power.

So he empathized with people who were abused more than his experience. And impressed by Ereka who was fighting against it.

And all those experiences had drawn him into his own conclusion.

I will become an Arc Master to protect everyone's rights.

That's why he had to refuse Ereka's offer.

If it was just to conquer the world, it should have been easier. For heroes, it didn't really matter who was the king.

But limiting their right to use extras as they wish to was a serious matter, heroes would strongly resist.

He couldn't get Ereka into that.

"Everyone... right..."

Ereka murmured with surprise.

She wanted to practice merciful rulership and protect the people. But she never had thought of everyone had equal divine rights.

There was an absolute difference between the abilities of heroes and extras.

“What ... is that?”

“Natural Human Rights.”

In the world where Merciful Rulership of princess clashed with Divine Birth Privilege, that was what Sungjin wanted to achieve as an Arc Master.

I will grant natural human rights as God of the new world. It was a common sense on the Earth, but a revolution in Valhalla.

“Natural Human Rights. That is the ideology that you pursue?”

Ereka’s question of ideology made Sungjin smile.

“No, just my taste.”

His taste pursuing the cool victory.

“What you wanted to keep was your taste even when you faced your death by the blood ruler and refused the offer from the king of hell?”

“Yeah taste. Because when I don’t want to I really don’t want to.”

Follow the rule for a fair match. But never accept the rule where the strong can abuse the weak.

“Ok. I got it.”

Ereka held her hands together and looked up to Sungjin.

He is saying it was just his taste, but he would save this world.

He was not a person who would be done with saving just her and her kingdom.

He would be done neither even if he unified all kingdoms

He was someone to become a new God, saving people on the way.

Her heart pounded.

He was the man she loved.

It was more than just love but also respect.

I will not hold you back.

Because this was the guy who will change this world.

He was the guy who would open a brand new world beyond her imagination.

I wouldn't hold him in the name of love.

I will not tie him down, because I love him.

I will just respect and support him.

"But to become an Arc Master, you will have to fight numerous fights that you can't fight by yourself. You will need a trusted team."

"Yeah, you are right."

"Let me do it with you."

"No, as I told you."

"That I should be the queen of this kingdom?"

"Correct."

I knew that's what you would say.

Ereka smiled. If she said she wanted to help him, Sungjin would stop her to protect her. So she told her differently.

"But Sungjin. That's why I want to go through your path with you. Putting my emotion apart, considering my situation as a queen, I have only a few supporting people while heroes are complaining behind my back. If not a revolt, other countries would try to attack us anytime."

"If you need me for that, ask me anytime."

Leaving, but abandoning and forgetting. Sungjin's promise made Ereka smile.

"Thank you. But as a king, I can't keep depending on outer forces. I should be fought with you and upgrade my level through achievements to protect the kingdom."

Sungjin understood the logic right away.

She is right.

In this world, all power was given to heroes. The people, extra support was nothing more than moral support. To have power, upgrading her level by achievements in battles was the best way for Ereka.

But, it must be difficult to be with someone who rejected her... but I'm not in a position to ask.

"Moreover, you need a team. I will be a great help.."

"Huh. Well. Without your help, I couldn't have defeated the blood ruler. I really appreciate your help."

Sungjin sighed briefly..

She was a weak girl that he wanted to protect but was also a strong queen the people were depending on.

"Ok. I was wrong. Please join me."

"Thank you. Sungjin."

They shook their hands.

"Thank you."

"I appreciate it. To what you wish to do. I..."

Ereka looked down.

"I will be your shield."

Taking the danger that comes to Sungjin to support to let him achieve his dreams.

What was her wish?

But that does not mean I gave up my life, Sungjin.

She smiled.

I wouldn't keep him next to me.

I will be next to him.

I will be your shield.

And...

I will be your bride.

It's ok if you can't accept it now. I will make you take me later by trying.

I will stay next to him and support him to get his heart little by little.

Once she gave up love to be the king.

But now she decided to love him as a king and as a girl.

Because he was the savior of her and her kingdom.

He saved her as a princess and as a girl as well.

And he would save this world.

I will keep loving him.

"But Sungjin. Now you own a kingdom, while you kept me as the king. How should I address you?"

"Humm. Just call me by my name like now."

His answer made Ereka's heart pound.

Friendly... just name... I'm happy...

"But you will need a title on official documents, especially when you get more kingdoms."

"You are right. Not a king but own the land. Ok. Since I want to become an Arc Master, I will use the Master as my title."

"Master. I will let everyone know."

The name came out like that.

The name that would be spread all around the world.

"But I will keep call you Sungjin."

"Of course. I will keep calling you Ereka."

A boy and a girl looked at each other and smiled.



\* \* \*

The next day, Sungjin declared that he would pursue his way to become an Arc Master while Queen Ereka declared that she would be his ally to join his path.

“Whaaaaa! So we can stay with Sungjin oppa! Oh my god! That is great!”

Shaking her tail sword, Jenna dancingly jumped.

“Great judgment. Our security will be stabilized by this.”

Rittier praised.

This old man, he doesn't know that is not the most important thing at the moment.

Jenna swung her tail sword.

“Let's go on a picnic and have dinner together to have fun!”

But she strongly gripped her fist.

And I will make you his wife. I will do my best. Trust me, my princess! No, my queen!

Without knowing the conversation between Ereka and Sungjin, she promised herself. Even if she knew Sungjin wouldn't change his mind.

Ereka smiled as well. Another picnic, another dinner, those small things would make her so happy. And... slowly Sungjin might change his mind to tell her to stay with him...

It would be an explosion of happiness.

I need to work hard to make it come true.

The queen was able to dream as a girl again.

The boy protected it and gave it back to her.

On the terrace, Sungjin's eyes gazed beyond the horizon.

There was the center, a place full of awakened heroes like Raid.

After the center, there was the scared territory where two Kaisers, the strongest in the history who defeated all the awaken heroes, couldn't pass.

And then, there was the Arc Master.

Let's deal with them one by one.

What kind of enemy I would face on the next battlefield.

What kind of treasure I would get.

What kind of person would join my team?

Whoever and whatever the future will bring me, I will find the victory that can be the hope for the weak.

I will collect those victories to write a beautiful legend to change the rule of the world.

His heart pounded.

He was more excited about this than the world championship on the earth.

<The end of Level 0 Master Vol.1>

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 26**

Her body was perfectly fit, without any flaws. Under her soft skin, all the tiny muscles were toned and placed flawlessly. He confirmed that when their bodies touched each other.

Her prominent nose and bright eyes showed her confidence, and her cherry lips looked powerful. Her tiny breasts under her elegant shoulders were graceful and elegant.

And such a beauty was sticking her body to his. His blood started to boil with uncontrollable desire.

His instinct was like a wild animal that was starved and caged up. The desire to have her was burning him up.

Two young and fit bodies kept colliding roughly.

Their instincts were telling them that they both were attracted to each other's body. They both had fit bodies with a perfect shape that was desirable.

That made him drive both up and down.

It was a difficult situation for him to keep calm with a rational mind.

I know that I should control myself.

This was not a situation where he could follow his desires.

His head knew that, but his body refused his reasons.

A young lion roared passionately and roughly.

His brilliant mind couldn't work when every single cell in his body was burning with desire. He was trying to control his mind, but it was not easy since he was already caught off guard.

What happened to cause me to be in this kind of dangerous and thrilling situation?

He started to remember what happened.

Two months ago, he was summoned to this world 'Valhalla' by the princess, Ereka. In those two months, he defeated the Blood Ruler, Riad and became co-ruler of the Kingdom of Sevrantina. Now he was living in the castle served by countless servants with the ability to use trillions of won, but he was training himself.

Every day, he studied the wars in this world and trained himself with his sword.

Although he was a level 0 without any Heroic Power, that was why he worked hard on his physical training. His intelligence was his strength, but he didn't have enough manpower to just sit down and command.

And he enjoyed moving his body as well.

The trouble had begun when he went to a mountain behind the castle to meditate under a waterfall to wrap up his day. There was no one who would invade the backyard of the king. So he took off his clothes and walked into the water...

In the waterfall, there she was, shining in silver like a distant moon. The water drops that fell from her hair were more glamorous than pearls.

Yeah... that's when the trouble started.

He faced a naked beauty in a deserted place, only wearing his underwear.

The trouble started from there.

When he tried to remember what happened next, her arm pushed against his chest again. It felt like he was seared with a hot iron called desire, and it stopped his thoughts.

His head was spinning due to a lack of blood. All his blood was rushing toward his lower region, and he felt like it would explode soon. The thin underwear that was barely covering him was not an obstacle.

If they changed their angle slightly, they could have easily joined together.

He felt thirst and a burning desire.

She is beautiful. I want to make her mine.

His head understood that this was not what the situation was presenting.

But his body wanted her so badly.

They both knew they would be competing for dominance with their fit bodies.

Wake up... this is not that kind of meeting.

He tried to remind himself what happened right after encountering her.

He was extraordinary but still a virgin in high school. Seeing a beautiful naked body off guard made him lose his control.

When he short-circuited and didn't know how to react, she shouted sharply, "Who is that!"

With a shout, she attacked her.

Her movements of kicking the water and pushing him down with her knee while pressing down on his neck with her elbow were beautiful.

Sungjin forgot to defend because of her beautiful movements that were as fast as a flying eagle and beautiful like windblown flower petals.

Before he knew it, his body was on the floor by her force.

After a brief, rough encounter, they started to fight. He tried to get free, but she tried to keep him under her control.

That was what happened.

And level 0 Sungjin couldn't fight back against her physical power and speed.

"Ambushing me during my bath. Who sent you?"

Sungjin had to give a deep breath before answering her.

He was completely subdued, and they were so close. His excited body ruined his ability to think, but he didn't stay that way for a long time. It wasn't because he didn't want to touch second base. It was because he would rather take a girl than be taken by a girl.

Anyway, his expression relaxed.

“This is a misunderstanding. Why don’t we step back and talk?”

“A misunderstanding? You approached me dangerously while I was bathing.”

“I am the one who was surprised because I didn’t expect to see anyone here.”

“Hmm. That’s how you answer, but how can I trust you?”

“I also thought you were hiding to attack me, but now I think that is not the case.”

“Hmm. You don’t have any Heroic Power. You are an extra.”

“Well. I am level 0 for sure,” Sungjin answered with a grin.

“A mere extra can’t ambush me for sure. Okay. I will take your excuse that you didn’t know I was here.”

She let Sungjin go and stood up.

“But this is the private property of the royal family. You, an extra, are not allowed to be here without permission.”

“That is true but then why you are here?” Sungjin returned the question.

“Hmph. You thought there would be no one here and trespassed? That is bold. But I forgive you. Anyways this is not even land.”

Then suddenly, there was a voice behind the bushes and sounds of people approaching.

“Your Highness. Is everything okay?”

They were probably some kind of bodyguards.

That moment, she took Sungjin and jumped into the water.

She made him roll his body under her knees to hide.

“Nothing. Leave me alone!”

“But you just shouted ‘who is that?’”

“It was just a wild animal. Leave me now.”

Under the water, Sungjin was having a hard time

This position is... quite... provocative...

He knew it was an accidental position to hide him. But their body position looked like a position for some kind of S\*xual play, and it excited him again.

Every time her silky, strong thigh pushed against his shoulder, he felt a thrill that made him forget the current circumstance.

If it was not an accidental position but a position they intended to have, he would have become a wild animal and attacked her.

Self-control... self-control...

He had to control himself. But maybe this was the side effects of his intelligence.

He was calculating and imagining how it would feel if he really took her tight body, unintentionally. He had to try even harder to control himself since his brilliant intelligence gave him quite detailed visuals.

In the meantime, her communication with her bodyguards continued.

“Will you be alright?”

“Is that your excuse to see my naked body?”

“No! I will leave you to it!”

The sound behind the bushes started to fade. Then the silver-haired girl pulled Sungjin out of the water.

“Pwa!”

She laughed at him as he breathed in deeply

“Good job on holding your breath.”

“I didn’t want to get caught. Thanks.”

His answer was cool, but she retorted, “If you think so, look away before anything. How long are you planning to stare at my body?”

“Ah, okay. Sorry about that.”

When Sungjin turned around, she used her Heroic Power to summon simple, white armor.

“Now you can turn back around.”

When he turned back, she was a female general in a simple robe.

Her skin tight armor was made for a rapid movement while her sword had a vortex around it that showed how special it was.

A prominent nose, sharp eyes, and a gentle smile—everything worked well together and gave her a different kind of confidence and beauty from her erotic beauty when she was naked.

It was obvious that she was not just a soldier but a general of some kind.

“I will head north with my bodyguards; you head to the South. We’d better not encounter again on our way out.”

“I agree.”

“Do you get it? If people found out you saw my naked body, people will kill you even if I don’t want them to. I’m sure you’ve heard of honor killing?”

“Honor killing...”

Sungjin murmured the words in a low voice.

It was slightly different from the meaning on earth, but in this world, honor killing meant killing an extra who humiliated a hero to keep their honor.

The humiliation was not anything like S\*xual harassment. It referred to this kind of accident of seeing a naked body or any small incidents like that. Yet, it was not a sin to kill someone for such minor things. Instead, it was seen as justice.

It was not right or wrong but common sense in this world, and this kind of common sense didn’t suit Sungjin’s palate.

“It would be a pity if your life ended because of an unintended mistake. So forget about today’s incident and tell nobody. I will do the same.”

“Got it.”

“Hmm. Now you know I’m above you, yet you still don’t have the manners to speak to me. I guess you are mentally challenged although you don’t look like it. Be careful when you are with other heroes.”

After giving him advice, she turned and left abruptly.

Sungjin looked at her leaving for a while.

Whatever was the reason, showing a man her naked body would have been unpleasant, but she had mercy on him, an extra. She protected him from her bodyguards and gave him advice before letting him go.

Everything started with a misunderstanding, but she had a good heart to resolve the problem.

So, that is her.

She didn't know him, but he knew a bit about her. He learned about her while he was studying about powerful people from other kingdoms.

But he was able to see how she treated extras now, which he couldn't find in the documents about her fighting on a battlefield.

So her being merciful to her people is not a lie.

People show their true colors when no one is watching. He started to like her a little.

I will see her again soon. I hope the next time will be a proper meeting.

He rubbed the crest shown on his hand. She didn't know it, but he was a king.

He had the power to exile anyone. This power was given to kings, and even a level 0 could activate the power. So if he wanted to, even when she had control over him, he could have exiled her in a heartbeat...

Thank god, I didn't.

That should have solved his tricky situation, but then, she would have to show her naked body to other people.

Embarrassing her by making her be seen by more people was not a polite move as a gentleman. That's why he bared the awkward physical touch.

Oppressing his own S\*xual desire was an unnecessary evil....

Well, she showed her generosity by not taking my life.

In addition, he collected clear data on the touch and feel of her body; it was quite an exquisite feeling.

Let's delete that, just to be polite.



And like that, Sungjin got rid of another thought that came up.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 27**

“Hm, hm. Good. Very good. This is it.”

He was satisfied with his work and kept on writing.

His tyranny didn't stop when he took away land from the heroes; he also prevented them from using extras for labor or from collecting tax from them. The temptress, Ereka, took over Sungjin's tyrannical rule while Sungjin overpowered the heroes, forcing them to live in despair. But the darkness couldn't last forever, for there was a hope growing without anyone knowing.

He protected the extras by preventing the heroes from stealing them and enslaving them. He reduced the tax rate by half, while also using those taxes to build charity hospitals, like a real Merciful Rulership should. The great Queen Ereka supported him as a lover and a partner. His unconventional rulership caused the resistance of the privileged, but the new era had already started.

He closed his book after finishing both manuscripts.

“Good. Now I need to keep them safe until I decide on which one I will publish.”

At that time, it was clear that Sungjin owned the Kingdom of Sevrantina. But no one knew if he could keep raising it or if it would start to fall.

In a time like this, I need to be prepared.

He would publish the book that suited the trend when the clear winner came out.

“Sir Todam, isn't it a bit inefficient to write your manuscript while knowing the other half will become useless?” standing next to him, Mr. Gunan asked him carefully. “Maybe it is better to start writing when you know

“What are you talking about! With that attitude, you can't publish a good book at the right time. You have to be ready to through two away in order to publish one book just so that you can revise and edit it enough. Which means you need to start editing today.”

“But, wouldn't it be better to start editing when you know which one...”

“If you start editing, then it will be too late! Start today!”

“Do I really have to?”

“When you are done, I will prepare a plan for the next volume for both cases, so let’s discuss right away.”

“Wh... what... the next volume for both cases...”

“Listen. Everything looks different from a different point of view. What Sungjin is doing is no different. We don’t know which one will become mainstream yet, so we need to prepare both cases to make a best seller. So do it.”

Sungjin was a tyrant from the privileged heroes’ point of view but a savior from the extras’ point of view. The heroes who used to abuse the extras to achieve their luxurious lifestyles now suffered from their luxury being taken away.

On the other hand, the extras who used to starve and had to die if they were sick were happy for the new world where they could live a better life.

Sir Todam looked at the hospital out of his window. There was an old woman and a child with her who were showing gratitude by bowing to the hospital staff. The hospital staff was shaking her hand.

“Thank you. Thank you so much.”

“No, it is thanks to the princess... no, the queen who built this hospital.”

It was Nania who was imprisoned to become a sacrifice of the Blood Ruler but was now freed and back in the hospital for her job. Nania smiled

She was able to come back here because Sungjin had saved the queen, and now sick people could get treatment.

“Don’t worry, but don’t skip a day when you give this medicine to your daughter. When it is running out, come and take more, okay? If you don’t, it can be dangerous.”

“Yes. I got it. I will remember,” the child answered to ensure her.

“I will take care of her, Nania.”

Sir Todam closed his window.

That could have been a beautiful scene or a waste of money.

The point of view depended on if Sungjin would become a final winner or a one-time-wonder. He would publish his book faster than anyone else.

“So start editing, okay?”

“Okay.”

Mr. Gunan wanted to punch him in the face, only if he weren't a noble. His level was the only thing that stopped him from punching Todam.

At the same time, Sungjin and Ereka were discussing the matter of either “tyranny” or the “wise rulership” according to Sir Todam.

“Sungjin. This is the complete report on the new hospital that was reported once before.”

Ereka reported to him with a map.

“These blue circles are the local hospitals where the extras in the region can come when needed. One healer and a sub healer in general, but we have more staff in the areas with a denser population.”

Then she pointed to a dozen green circles scattered on the map.

“These green points are bigger hospitals for patients who can't be treated at the small ones. They have more experienced healers and have beds for patients.”

“It's very well organized.”

“And for the last, these two red circles in the North and the South are the grand hospitals with Heroic Power healers. To build them, it took 832 billion dilents, and the annual operational cost is estimated to be 150 to 200 dilents.”

“Great. This system takes care of poor people. Really great.”

Sungjin really thought it was great.

In the country where he used to live on earth, they had a system of medical insurance, but the system had a lot of holes. Many diseases were excluded from governmental support. Ereka's system was better organized to help people in need.

If she lived in a country like this, my mom would have lived longer. Maybe.

He couldn't change what happened in the past, but he could change this world. Sungjin was emotional about it, and Ereka shared his concerns.

“But I still have a concern.”

“What is it?”

“If it’s 100% free, then people with light issues that can be easily healed naturally or people with fake illness can come and make the real patients who need medical help wait for a long time.”

“Ahah. That’s why communism has broken down.”

“Huh? What-ism?”

Ereka blinked like a rabbit checking out a new object. She was so cute that it made Sungjin smile.

“Ah, Sorry. It’s a word from earth. Don’t worry about it. Let’s solve the problem this way. When someone goes to the hospital for the first time, charge them an affordable fee. If they can’t afford it, they can work temporarily at the hospital instead. Those patients who have grave illness are the exceptions.”

Even if it was something small, if it wasn’t free, people would think twice before doing it. The fee had to be there so that not just anybody could get treatment.

Ereka smiled at that idea.

“That sounds like a good idea. You are brilliant, Sungjin.”

“No, you are working on all the details. I’m just helping you with the big picture.”

“You are too modest. I didn’t do much.”

“No, I really think you are doing great.”

Sungjin meant it.

He didn’t want to be abused or watch others being abused. He didn’t want that nasty feeling again. That was the truth. But what he wanted was not what he could actually do. He couldn’t take care of all the state affairs in details, and he had to work on military tactics for the upcoming battles with other countries. That took most of his time.

Without Ereka, he couldn’t take care of the other state affairs. Ereka took care of the complicated part of the work whereas he had to set up the budget, manage the officials, build the hospitals, set up tax rates and establish the legal system so that he could concentrate on the tactics for the battle.

“It’s all thanks to you. If I did it myself, it would have taken me ages to understand the situation of each region.”

He was just a high school student without any governing experience, while Ereka was the ruler of a kingdom.

“I’m flattered. I could do what I am doing thanks to your protection and help.”

Ereka blushed.

“That’s not true. Internal affairs are the base of a country more so than foreign affairs. Thanks to you, I am concentrating on the upcoming battles. I’m the one who has to thank you for letting me not worry about the war.”

Ereka smiled and said that they were a good team. Then Sungjin held Ereka’s hand.

“That’s why I wanted to ask you to not just to take care of this country but also our family.”

“That means...”

“Be my wife. You are my soulmate.”

“Sungjin...”

Sungjin took Ereka in roughly when she nodded with blushing cheeks and tears in her eyes. His deep passionate kiss tasted her lips and started to go down.

Sungjin’s burning desire didn’t wear off.

“You shouldn’t. Before... dinner...”

Ereka locked the door with her left hand for privacy while hugging Sungjin’s waist with her right hand.

“Ereka?”

Ereka opened her eyes at someone calling her name. It was Sungjin holding her hand.

“Oh. The hands.”

Sungjin holding her hand was not her imagination but a reality? When Ereka blushed, Sungjin didn’t know what to do and let go of her hand.

“Ah... not what I intended... I called you, but you didn’t answer.”

He could have called her once more without holding her hand.

I can’t trust myself in these situations.

“Huh? Did you say something?”

“Yeah, the hospitals are already set, so I hoped you could take care of something else.”

“Oh. What is that?”

Ereka lowered her head.

She was hoping Sungjin wouldn't know about her imagination.

Sungjin smiled.

She has a strong habit of spacing out in the middle of a conversation.

That only made her cute though.

He rejected her marriage proposal, but he felt more and more that she was a cute and charming girl. Moreover, being with her made his life comfortable. She was taking care of the internal affairs as the queen while taking care of his daily life at the same time.

Sometimes, he wanted to bite her ear to tease her.

Sungjin realized his hand was moving again and stopped. He was about to hold her hand again...

He knew his instinct was a dangerous thing. He knew that much. Just when he was off his guard, the lion who desired the girl tried to take him over.

Jenna was next to them, trying not to pay attention, but her knife tail straightened suddenly.

Hmm. When the queen spaces out, Sungjin Oppa smiles as if he thinks she is cute.

She quickly wrote down another line in her brain.

She found out that Sungjin rejected Ereka's proposal, but that didn't stop Jenna from working on her plan to make Ereka his wife and herself his concubine.

It motivated her even more.

I will find out everything about Sungjin Oppa to change his mind.

“After the hospitals, not all over the country...”

When Sungjin finished, Ereka's eyes became big with surprise. Rittier's face became hard, and Jenna's tail stiffened again.

“Would you mind telling me again?”

“Let’s establish schools so that everyone can become literate and get a basic education.”

Ereka was silent for a while. She couldn’t understand why schools were needed.

But I’m sure Sungjin has a good reason for it.

“Huh? Sungjin Oppa, why do you need schools?”

“I don’t understand either, Master Sungjin.”

The hospitals were necessary; they could save sick and dying people.

Ereka and Sungjin fought to protect the people from the Blood Ruler who tried to sacrifice them. And the result was that there were now charity hospitals all around the country.

But why a school?

In this world, there were two factions of heroes: The majority believed in Divine Birth Privilege and thought that the heroes could use and abuse the people who were the extras. The minority believed in Rightful Rulership and thought the heroes should protect and take care of the weak extras.

Ereka was a part of the latter faction, and she risked her life to protect her people. But even for her, a school was not an easy idea to understand.

Jenna and Rittier opposed the idea.

“Sungjin Oppa, shouldn’t we do something else with that money?”

“I agree. Throw a party... pave the roads... build a dike...”

“No. We need schools.”

“I’m sure you have your reasons; can you explain your reason to us?”

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 28**

Sungjin wanted to open that opportunity to everyone.

Of course, not everyone could achieve their dreams, just like how it was impossible to have two Arc Masters.

But wanting to live a life you wanted was different from living an obedient life that had been already decided by others.

That's it. Sungjin... in your world... others tried to stop you from achieving your dream to become a gamer. So you understand the pain.

Sungjin smiled because he was trying to build schools, but back on earth, he used to be a rebel who was against the school systems on earth.

Life is unpredictable. That's why life is interesting.

In this country with a 99% illiteracy, they needed schools.

To make one's life better, one needs not only a dream but also knowledge.

Not everyone needed to learn rocket science, but basic knowledge was essential. Throughout history, letters and mathematics helped to improve human rights.

Ereka murmured, that she finally understood him a little.

"That's right. If they learned their letters... they could read... write letters... learn new methods of farming... and if they're talented, they could learn how to use herbs and become a low-level healer. They could read stories too... You are right. I love novels but I didn't think about that."

Between the Divine Birth Privilege and a Merciful Rulership.

Sungjin decided to pursue a third way—natural human rights.

He wanted to create a world where the people had their rights and were not abused.

Sungjin, you are already thinking a step ahead.

Ereka lowered her head in respect.

"Sure, Sungjin. I will work on the plan to establish schools all over the country. I will take care of budgeting, recruiting teachers and land, building and all the other matters."

"Thanks."

Sungjin smiled.

\* \* \*

## Chapter 2

Nania was greeting Lute who came to get some medicine in one of the hospitals that Sungjin and Ereka had built.



“Here you go, medicine for one week.”

“Thank you, Nania.”

“No problem. But is everything okay?”

Nania looked at Lute with pity.

The patients were supposed to get their medicine, but Lute’s mother fell down from a cliff and couldn’t stand up or move, so Lute always came to the hospital to get the medicine for his mother.

His father ran away after the accident. Nania felt so bad when she found out that the young boy was taking care of his mother, along with his grandmother.

“I’m fine. I can take care of my mom. I want to become a healer like you when I grow up for my mom!”

Lute’s dream made Nania sad.

“That’s... impossible. I’m not a healer but an assistant.”

“Why?”

“Extras can’t become healers. Only minors can study to become a healer.”

Minors were the third class born from a hero and an extra.

The heroes slept with many extras with or without their consent, so there were a lot of “bastards.”

If they are not abandoned by both parents, minors could study things to become low-level healers, clerks, accountants, or artists.

But that was impossible for extras.

“I can’t...? I can’t help my mom?”

Nania tried to cheer Lute up.

“There’s no way. We can’t even read those books. You need to know all about those things if you want to become a healer.”

“Ah...”

The kid lowered his head, realizing his limit as an extra. They didn't know of Sungjin's plans to build a school.

\* \* \*

The next day, the rulers of the three countries around the Kingdom of Sevrantina gathered: The Kingdom of Cariana, the Kingdom of Rufidi and the Kingdom of Sharsha.

"Did you know that a mere extra is ruling the Kingdom of Sevrantina with the queen?"

"I heard the news. Ha. That is such nonsense..."

"I thought it was a rumor but... it's true."

"I thought he was an undercover high-level hero from another continent who was pretending to be an extra."

"If that was the case, then we wouldn't need this meeting."

The three kingdoms stayed neutral during the war between the Blood Ruler, Riad and Princess Ereka. Although they supported Riad behind the scenes, they were never hostile towards Ereka.

Anyways, Ereka was a royal princess who had a right to become a queen. But...

"A mere extra from nowhere having a title is already against the universe!"

"I totally agree. We can't face such a low life in a meeting room."

King Leoric from the Kingdom of Rufidi and King Alkandi from the Kingdom of Sharsha didn't hide their anger.

"We need to punish him to set things straight..."

The heroes were above the extras, and the kings were above the heroes. That was an absolute rule of their world. They couldn't damage the rule by accepting a "level 0 king."

A mere extra has no right to become a king.

Until now, there was a power balance among the four kingdoms. The Kingdom of Sevrantina had only half of the military power compared to the other kingdoms. If the three kingdoms allied to attack the Kingdom of Sevrantina, they could take it over easily.

This was the trinity of anger, justice, and greed.

This is an opportunity...

That was what Leoric and Alkandi thought.

King Seyzo II from the Kingdom of Cariana broke his silence. His blue beard showed a hint of blood and looked purple around the tips. Sitting next to his cat, his hollow, yellow eyes showed a dangerous level of nobility.

His messy, grey hair didn't look like that of a king. He looked rather like a mad man than a king.

"I agree with you two. The low needs to serve the high..."

He held up his cat.

"Things that don't respect their master need to be punished."

Then he tore up the right paw of his cat.

"Meowwww!"

The cat screamed as its skin and bone were torn apart. It was bleeding from the wound.

"I fed this creature with mercy, but it didn't show me enough respect."

Then he tore up the left paw this time.

Crack.

The cat lost its forepaws. It cried in agony and tried to bite the hand of King Seyzo II.

"See. It is not asking for forgiveness but is trying to attack me even after the punishment."

King Seyzo II twisted the cat's neck.

Its neck screwed off like a bottle cap and separated from its body.

Blood spurted, and the cat stopped moving.

"This was a light punishment, but that extra needs a proper punishment. And we need to punish those who are following him as well."

King Seyzo II's eyes were glaring like hellfire.

His fingers grabbed the dead cat's body and broke all its ribs. The broken ribs made a cracking noise.

If this was not a proper punishment, then what would he do to them?

Those who were following him meant all the extras from the Kingdom of Sevrantina.

“I will punish them ten times more than this cat. I will break their every finger one by one and skewer them on a stick to leave them to die, bleeding in agony.”

“Ah... Hm...”

The two kings tried not to shiver at the terrifying idea. They couldn't show any weakness; they were kings.

It is true that he is completely crazy.

I wish I could tell him that this is quite inappropriate but...

No benefits could come from confronting a mad man.

It was better to let the madman focus his madness on the enemy, to kill Sungjin and share the land.

It didn't matter if this mad man killed all the extras from his share of the land.

“Haha. This is a meaningful meeting. Let's get rid of the dead cat and let's discuss a little more.”

\* \* \*

One day after the secret meeting of the three kings...

This was the day that Sungjin had an embarrassing yet thrilling experience during his “morning training.”

Rittier stopped Sungjin and Ereka from heading into the dining room at noon.

“Your Highness, and Master Sungjin.”

“What is it?”

“The great General Eustasia from the Kingdom of Cariana is entreating you to a discreet meeting.”

“Eustasia?”

Ereka's eyes became big with surprise.

It was customary to announce and schedule a meeting in advance when an important person from another country wanted to meet her.

“I know she was your childhood friend, but now you are the queen of this country. I think her requesting for a meeting is highly inappropriate...”

Ereka showed a warm smile and told him that it was okay.

“Don’t. I’m sure there’s a reason she wanted to have a discreet meeting. However, it is the rule to ask for permission in advance. Probably, she didn’t want to let anyone know by asking for permission. Right. Sungjin. Would it be okay to invite Eustasia for lunch and listen to what she has to tell us?”

Sungjin smiled while looking at Ereka, who was not exerting her authority as a queen.

“Sure.”

He wanted to meet her anyways.

“I will send the message to her.”

Rittier left.

“Sungjin, you’ve never met Eustasia. She is my childhood friend. We live far away, so I don’t see her very often, but she is a good friend of mine.”

“Hm... I’ve met her before...”

“Huh? When did you meet her? Oh, right. You’ve been studying all the important figures from each country,” Ereka reasoned.

Sungjin didn’t know how to explain his encounter just yet.

I can’t tell her that we had a naked encounter.

If it was not her but a guy friend, he could have told her about the encounter and exchange some silly jokes. But it was uncomfortable for Sungjin to even bring up such a topic to a S\*xually inexperienced Ereka.

“She is the best general out of the four kingdoms.”

“Yes, that is what I heard.”

She was a general he would have to face on his way to becoming an Arc Master. That was the reason why Sungjin had been paying attention to her and why he recognized her right away.

Sungjin couldn't wait to meet her at an official occasion.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 29**

"Your Majesty, the Queen of Sevrantina, I am Eustasia from the Kingdom of Cariana. Thank you for accepting to meet me without a request in advance."

"Eustasia. It's just us, be yourself."

"I won't. Now we have different statuses..."

"Don't. We have been friends for a long time."

"Okay! If you say so."

Eustasia hugged Ereka. Her hug was so strong, Ereka felt her breasts being squeezed.

"I'm so glad you survived the Blood Ruler!"

"Ouch! That hurts!"

"You are so stupid. I told you not to provoke the heroes," Eustasia commented.

"I'm sorry."

"No, it was my bad. I couldn't help you because of my king's orders."

"No, I understand. Like a great general, you had to follow the king's orders," Ereka replied.

"I'm so happy to see you again."

Eustasia smiled while looking at Ereka.

"And..."

Her eyes turned to Sungjin.

"Ha. So that was you. I was totally fooled," Eustasia said.

"I didn't mean to! It was just a coincidence," Sungjin apologized.

"Ha! You didn't mean to? You didn't tell me who you were. Well, I should have known better with an extra who didn't show any fear when in front of me. I was too slow to realize."

“Sorry, but the timing wasn’t right to tell you who I really was.”

Ereka wondered what had happened between these two, who were talking as if it was not their first time.

“Sungjin, did you already meet Eustasia?”

“Yeah. Something happened.”

Sungjin smiled it away.

He couldn’t tell Ereka that he went to the waterfall in his underwear and saw Eustasia naked, only to have an incident of very close body contact.

“Ha. That was your own territory. I used it for old times’ sake. I should be the one apologizing.”

The waterfall used to belong to the family of Ereka. So when Eustasia, a friend of Ereka, came around, she used to take a bath without permission. But now, she quickly deduced that the waterfall belonged to Sungjin.

As he watched her calculate all this, Sungjin knew that she was not a great general for no reason.

“Don’t worry about it. It was just a misunderstanding.”

“You are cool. Good. Let’s keep it that way.”

She laughed while sharply looking at Sungjin.

“But you really look like this...? I guess I need to punish the painter. He shouldn’t have changed your face that much.”

That’s why she didn’t recognize me.

Sungjin guessed that the portrait Eustasia received of him was quite doctored. Listening to their conversation, Ereka felt uncomfortable.

There is... something... between you two that I don’t know...

She thought she was the closest girl to Sungjin, but they never had their own secret.

Ereka felt like pins were sticking into her heart.

“Haha. Let’s keep it that way.”

Sungjin smiled.

It was not a “minor” incident for a girl to show her naked body to a man, but Eustasia was not just a girl—she was a general.

Well for Sungjin, who was a guy, it was a pleasant experience at that moment. The touch of her fit and soft body trained by martial arts was a thrilling experience. On top of that, her glamorous body was real eye candy.

Well, Ereka has a great body as well.

He had never seen her naked body, but he saw enough when her dress got wet from her falling into some water.

Sungjin was now imagining two naked bodies.

One is a graceful moon, and the other is a blessed sun.

Ereka’s golden-ratio body was a blessing. Sungjin was not the only one who had her as a heroine in his dreams.

It would be a real heaven to have both in his bed...

That’s enough.

Sungjin stopped his thoughts. As soon as he was reminded of Eustasia’s naked body, he couldn’t stop imagining the dangerous scenes. This meeting was too important to go sideways with some dangerous imaginations.

Control yourself Sungjin. Control yourself.

“That’s enough for greetings; what brought you here?”

“Good. I hate to waste my time. But let me show enough respect and give you a present.”

Eustasia took out a bundle of paper. They were promissory notes.

“This is my present to you.”

“Huh? What is this?”

“These are dishonored promissory notes with extremely high interest from the heroes to the extras. Real dishonored bonds.”

A dishonored bond was a loan that was impossible to be paid back.



Under the ruling of the late king and Ereka, who were trying to pursue a Merciful Rulership, the heroes tried to find “lawful” ways to exploit extras. One of them was to loan out money with interest that was a few times more than the principle.

But that had a limit as well. The people who had no money couldn’t pay anything, and the heroes couldn’t trade the extras as slaves under Sungjin and Ereka’s rule. So those were loans that had no means of getting a paycheck.

“Huh? Did you buy those?”

“Yeah. My butler negotiated in advance, and I met him and bought these yesterday.”

Debt was a suffocating pressure that made people lose their motivation to get back on their feet again. So Eustasia bought those promissory notes for only a part of their written value.

The heroes didn’t see any possibility to get more money from extras, and it took too much time and effort to take the money back. So they were all sold to Eustasia at the minimum price. But on the other hand, these things were suffocating shackles to the people.

Eustasia tore the notes into pieces.

“Here’s the list. You can tell them they can live their lives without it.”

That was a real liberation.

She spent the minimum to buy out the promissory notes to force the heroes to give them up. This was a wise solution with no opposition.

Confidence was not her only charm. She was also wise when dealing with sensitive issues. That was why she was a great general. Her intelligence was not only on the battlefield; it was all around.

Sungjin nodded unnoticeably.

I like her.

He was interested in her ever since he read about her for the first time.

That ability of hers gave her the title of the “greatest general of the four kingdoms.” She was the pillar that held up her kingdom who supported an incompetent king. She was a generous hero who took care of the lower class.

He experienced her generosity when he met her.

She was attractive in every aspect, and Sungjin wanted to keep her on his team.

Her hot body was a plus.

No. Not that.

Sungjin smiled awkwardly when he was reminded of Eustasia's body under her clothes.

"Thank you, Eustasia."

Ereka smiled with gratitude.

"I'm sure you've got enough jewelry and dresses, so I tried to be creative..."

"You took care of the part that I didn't have a chance to look into. Thank you."

"Haha. Don't mention it."

It was a beautiful scene to have the blessed sun and the glamorous moon standing together.

"So let's get to the chase."

"Let's chat over a cup of tea."

Ereka poured out a cup of fresh tea.

"Thank you. But isn't it a bit boring to just chat over a cup of tea?"

Eustasia looked at Sungjin as if she wanted to provoke him.

"Do you play chess?"

"Oh. That is not my specialty, but I'm not too bad. I've studied the principles and how to play it," Sungjin answered with a grin.

The game of chess from this world and his world were the same as if it came from the same origin.

"Good. It's a good game to play out military plans. Shall we chat over a game?"

Her sharp eyes showed she didn't intend to play it casually. She brought a "present," but it was not as a friend.

"Let's move to the game room."

\* \* \*

“I’m not too bad. I won’t go easy on you,” she said while arranging the chess pieces.

“Haha. Don’t worry, I won’t underestimate the greatest general of the four kingdoms and think that she wouldn’t be good at such a game.”

Ereka felt anxious while looking at these two being fiery.

I’ve never seen Eustasia interested in a guy.

She used to say that guys were boring when Ereka told her of her dream to meet a guy and fall in love.

You said guys were boring... and now!

Ereka realized why.

Sungjin was not a “boring guy.” He was a great and charming one.

That’s it. It was not that you were not interested in guys.

Eustasia was just not interested in guys who were not compatible with her.

Oh... What should I do?

She had yet to capture Sungjin’s heart, and now Eustasia was also interested in Sungjin. It seems like they had already met before when she was not there...

Moreover, Eustasia’s beauty was highly reputed. She was such a confident beauty.

Ereka became a queen to “protect the people from the greed of the heroes. Ereka didn’t have any prominent abilities, whereas Eustasia was the greatest general of the four kingdoms.

She must be better at conversing... with Sungjin... what should I do...?

The four kingdoms included the southern four kingdoms below the Kingdom of Sevrantina.

Eustasia was not called the greatest because of her family background. Two years ago, when General Gareth, a close associate of the Golden Wise King, attacked them, the alliance of the four kingdoms was in a panic after a crushing defeat.

The alliance didn’t know what to do.

Some wanted to surrender while they were not sure if the Golden Wise King would treat them as the owners of the land if they surrendered.

Then she stood up.

She said that they still had the military power to fight against the Golden Wise King, and if they did, new allies would make their move to fill into the power balance.

When the people said that they should send a messenger to their new allies, she flatly responded with a “no.”

She said that if they did, their new allies would ask for treasure but still want to keep the power balance among them. So until their new allies made their own moves, she said that the only thing the four kingdoms needed to do was to defend once or twice.

When the people argued they wouldn't be able to fight back the fierce General Gareth again, she said she had a plan and later commanded the army.

With her brilliant plans and heroism, she defeated Gareth.

I think her military intelligence is the best of the four kingdoms, apart from Sungjin.

Ereka thought that the one she loved was a better general. She also thought that Eustasia had more connections with Sungjin as compared to herself.

Confident, intelligent, driven, and charismatic—they were the perfect match.

What should I do?

Ereka watched their game restlessly.

## **Level 0 Master - Chapter 30**

“My king won't accept an extra sitting in his spot. Any plans to step back?”

“He won't?” Sungjin answered with ease as if he expected her question.

But Ereka cut in with anger.

“What are you talking about? That is nonsense.”

It was rare to hear Ereka elevate her voice like that.

“As I said. A king has to be an honorable hero. A level 0 extra is not allowed to be one.”

Ereka's hand trembled with anger.

“That doesn’t make any sense. When this country was under threat of the Blood Ruler, no one tried to help us except for Sungjin. He brought a miraculous victory for us.”

Ereka articulated every single word.

“Isn’t the person who fights back against injustice when all the other heroes are looking away the most honorable person? Sungjin proved himself and his qualifications to be in his position.”

Ereka moved the pawn to the end of the chessboard to make the pawn the queen, the strongest piece of the game.

“A pawn that reaches the end of the chessboard can become any piece but the king.” This was the rule of promotion in chess.

“Sungjin started as a level 0 extra but promoted himself with his own abilities.”

“Yeah. You are right.”

Eustasia didn’t try to argue with Ereka.

“Right? And then, I approved him to rule this country with me as I am the rightful ruler of this kingdom. Moreover, people are praising Sungjin because he is a merciful ruler who makes their lives easier. Your king has no right to discuss or approve of my decision.”

“You are right. That would be an interference in your domestic affairs.”

Again, Eustasia agreed.

“Then do not provoke me anymore.”

Ereka made it clear that she wouldn’t accept any insults to Sungjin, even if they were friends. That was Ereka’s responsibility to the one who saved her.

Looking at Ereka biting her lips with anger, Eustasia put a tiny smile on her face.

She knew that her friend, Ereka, was someone who always tried to find the right way to do things. Killing the dog after the hunting was over was not an option for her.

Ereka was happy that a hero came to save her people.

Her pure heart was beautiful, but the world was not pure.

“But Ereka, a pawn can’t become a king.”

When Eustasia picked up the pawn that was in the queen's position, the pawn became a pawn again.

"That... that's a chess game you are talking about."

"In the real world, it is more strict. A pawn is just a pawn. An extra is just an extra from the heroes' point of view."

"Sungjin saved this country from the Blood Ruler."

"I know, but the heroes see otherwise. An extra is just an extra. If it was just my king who found it unpleasant, I would have found a way to convince him, but..."

Everyone knew that that was not the case.

"Even the heroes from this country are unhappy about it. If you keep going like this, all the countries will stand against you."

That sounded cold, but it was also a cruel reality.

"Do you remember when there was an epidemic? I stopped you from building hospitals to save everyone."

"I remember. You told me that you would get strong opposition from the heroes. Instead of hospitals, you advised me to isolate the infected and control traffic to prevent additional infections."

"But you didn't listen, telling me you couldn't leave the infected to die in misery."

"I couldn't... leave them."

Ereka's voice was shaking. That was a painful failure.

"As a result, the heroes turned their backs on you and gave the Blood Ruler a chance to take over. It would have been different if you convinced them by telling them that losing the extras would result in losing tax income and that the epidemic was for their own good."

"That is true."

Ereka recalled that day.

Eustasia told her the solution step-by-step from how to grasp reality to finding the best possible solution.

She was not just good at military tactics; she was good at politics, socio-economics, and understood how to lead the heroes without opposition.

On the other hand, Ereka was...

"You were noble to save everyone but also reckless. Even though you intended to do good, the result was still doomed. Most of the heroes are worried about their own benefit and not necessarily what you think is right."

"Ugh."

"We are the rulers. Keep your noble heart to save everyone but keep your head cool so that you can find the best way."

"I... I can't, Sungjin has to..."

"You should do more than that."

"What do you mean by more?"

"You revoked the heroes' rights to use, punish, and tax the extras, right?"

"Yes. I made it impossible for the heroes to abuse the extras."

That would be a world where the people had rights like Sungjin said.

"Set a limit and give back their rights. The other countries are considering your policy a threat."

"I can't. The people need to have a bit of protection."

"That's why I said to set a limit. It has to be a realistic one. And cancel your plans for a school."

"Why should I!?"

"People learn how to read and get knowledge. For the heroes, that sounds like they need to open their sacred areas to the low-lives. Who would like it when someone walks into their bedroom with muddy shoes?"

"Are you saying that Sungjin has to give up his dream and that I need to stop protecting my people and take away their rights to have knowledge?"

"But still, the people will live a better life compared to their lives before," Eustasia responded. "If you don't do this, you will relive the life when there was the Blood Ruler. An extra is just an extra. It is clear that the heroes think they are entitled to be the

heroes, and it is impossible to change their fixed ideas on it. We need to adjust ourselves to it.”

“The Blood Ruler...”

That incident clearly traumatized Ereka and made her look down.

“I know, I failed.”

Her friend was praised as the greatest general of the four kingdoms, while she was just an incompetent successor who almost lost her own country.

It was not that Ereka didn't like Eustasia, but Eustasia made her look so small.

But Eustasia was telling her to cancel everything that she was trying with Sungjin. Sungjin was the real hero who saved the country. Why was he not allowed to have a dream?

People had their own lives. Why couldn't their lives be respected?

Couldn't people dream a little? Why were their dreams unacceptable?

But am I really making the same mistake again and reliving the Blood Ruler failure? Am I ruining everything by trying too hard? Am I trying too hard?

Ereka felt a pressure on her chest and covered herself with her arms.

“That's not how I see it.”

A strong voice came out to cut off all the chains that were pressing on her.

“Huh?”

“Sungjin.”

“Ereka alone, it is a bit risky for sure. She always tries to save others, even if that puts her in danger. But that is why...”

That could have sounded diminishing, but Sungjin was looking at Ereka with admiration.

“I wanted to protect her.”

“Sungjin...”

Ereka turned away, blushing.



You are right. You defeated the Blood Ruler to help me build hospitals for everyone.

“A king has to be excellent himself but also has to make other excellent people stand by his side. She made me stand by her side to defeat the Blood Ruler and saved everyone. What she tried to do didn’t become a reckless idea but the best solution.”

Eustasia laughed, realizing she got dealt with.

Ereka’s pursuit was noble, but the ruling class wouldn’t accept that. That was the cruel reality.

But if there was a power beyond reality, her pursuit would be seen not as a reckless attempt, but the “best solution.”

“Hah. Correct. But you came to her by accident. That was just a miracle that doesn’t happen in real life.”

“Don’t worry. This miracle won’t be an accident but a reality.”

“How?”

“Because I will stay with her and stand by her.”

Eustasia laughed when Sungjin confidently said that Ereka would make it just because he would stay with her.

“You will make it happen?”

“No. We will make it happen as a team. She will make this country for the people, and I will become an Arc Master.”

I’ve never seen such a spirit from a guy. This guy is charming.

He was more than what she heard.

“Haha. People said your plans were quite good, but do you think that will work in the future as well?”

“Try me.”

“Sure. Let’s try.”

Eustasia moved her white piece.

It was a close game.

Sungjin was moving his pieces quickly, but Eustasia strictly played by the book.

Her moves could seem boring since she was following the rules, but the rules were called the rules for a reason.

While playing the game, they both respected each other.

This guy. This girl.

A formidable competitor.

They could discuss the game while striking back confidently.

Meeting a person with great ambition and an ability to fulfill your ambition was rare.

They felt connected during an intense game. They both were excited like wild animals to be able to face such an opponent.

But it's time to finish the game.

He didn't plan to finish in a tie. Sungjin suddenly made a provocative move as if he was saying that he stopped playing by the book.

He moved his bishop to an unexpected and unconventional position that looked like a waste.

But Eustasia was not laughing at him. Au contraire, she was impressed.

How did you know this move?

Sungjin's move was invented by the Grand Master of chess 300 years ago. It was a trapping move that looked like a mistake, but if the opponent tried to react by the book, it would trap the opponent's pieces.

It was an unconventional rule that nobody had thought of until the Grand Master invented it.

It was a move that was saying he didn't care if the heroes hated him or not. Eustasia was deeply impressed by Sungjin who knew of this forgotten move from 300 years ago.

He is really good.

But...

"The kings from the other three kingdoms are meeting behind your back, Ereka."

The air in the room became heavy.

“What...!”

“Soon, they will make a joint attack, justifying it by the fact that you let an extra become king.”

“Wh... what! Where is the faith of the alliance of the four kingdoms!”

“According to their justification, the Kingdom of Sevrantina broke the faith first when you coronated an extra.”

That was why Eustasia talked about the past and the Blood Ruler. She wanted to make Ereka realize, by her past experiences, that her honor would bring destruction to her kingdom.

“While fighting against the Blood Ruler and the three knights, Sevrantina exhausted its power, and coronating an extra made many people angry. Also, the greed to divide your country in three has also ignited the plan. Soon they will declare war.”

That was the real risk the Kingdom of Sevrantina was facing.

The harsh wall of reality.

“The heroes will stand against you. I was not warning for the future. You need to make your decision today. A joint attack by the three kingdoms will destroy your country. You will become a prisoner.”

Eustasia looked at Sungjin and Ereka.

“When the war starts, I need to hold my sword against you as a general. But I don’t want you to be destroyed.”

“Hm. Is this for Ereka?”

“Half of it is.”

“What about the other half?”

“I felt bad for your people who just got away from the Blood Ruler. Even if you compromise, I know they will live a better life under you guys.”

Sungjin’s ideal dream was impossible, but destruction was also a sad ending.

“But there’s nothing we can do about their harsh feelings against you. You should step down. Then I promise you, I will prevent this war.”

There was the law of inertia once something had started. Even if they lost their justification, they still had their greed. It was not a simple task to stop it.

But Eustasia promised to save her friend from destruction and have the people live their lives.

She brought the best possible solution with a compromise.

Then Eustasia moved her rook.

That was her answer to Sungjin's trap move. The perfect move that made the Grand Master's trap move disappeared.

The move that destroyed the trap move.

It was just like an extra who rode high against the heroes for a while only to be destroyed by them.

A joint attack from an alliance of the three kingdoms....

The strength drained out from Ereka's legs.