THE ALMIGHTY LORD CASPIAN BY CATH NITFISCH

Chatper 521

Chapter 521 Foiled Plans

Desmond reported, "Astronia's and Vadesia's advance troops are currently 200 nautical miles away

from our range of fire. In addition, it seems that their peace talk with Necros has failed. Necros won't be

able to hold them off until our

reinforcements arrive."

"I see. We'll have to formulate a plan to assist Necros... Aside from that, we'll immediately launch the

operation the moment the enemy troops enter our range of fire!"

Desmond continued, "You should return to South Aridlands to monitor the entire battle, Chief

Commander. We'll be fine."

Caspian raised his hand and gestured at him. "Don't worry, I have my own plans.

He wasn't about to head into battle right away. He just wanted to show up on the front lines as the

Diatoranian God of War to boost the morale of the army.

He couldn't afford to play the hero and fight at the forefront as it could be disastrous for Diatoran if

something unforeseen were to happen to him.

It wasn't because Caspian was a coward, it was because his presence was needed to uphold the

troops' morale as well as the safety of Diatoran as a whole.

He remained calm as the enemy's advance troops inched closer and closer.

He surveyed the coastline of Southlake City to confirm that all the soldiers were ready.

Guided missiles were also placed around the coast.

Caspian's plan was to begin the attack at the exact moment the enemy's advance troops arrived to

catch them by surprise.

And as for Necros, he decided that dispatching a small army to assist them would be enough.

Caspian patrolled the coastline for around 30 minutes and was about to leave when Desmond ran up to

him in a hurry. "Sir, the enemy's advance troops have stopped moving!"

Caspian frowned upon receiving the news and asked, "Could it be that our enemies have learned of

our plan?"

Desmond nodded his head and answered, "It's possible!"

1/4

+15 BONOS

"Sylvia, I need you to stay here and finish the preparations for combat with Desmond. Macy, you come

with me back to South Aridlands!" Caspian ordered as he turned to face Sylvia and Macy.

"Yes, sir!" Both of them nodded their heads and answered in unison.

Macy then escorted Caspian back into the vehicle.

Sylvia had already been itching to fight on the front lines anyway, so the new directives were good

news for her.

Although Macy had also wanted to join the front lines, she much preferred being by Caspian's side as

protecting the Diatoranian God of War was also a matter of great importance.

Caspian had his own plans in mind when he issued the orders.

He believed that Southlake City would be in good hands as both Sylvia and Desmond were powerful

general officers.

Nobody knew what would happen now that the enemy's advance troops had stopped moving. He

decided to station Sylvia by the coast as insurance.

Macy was also a powerful fighter, but she wasn't experienced in being a commander. She would prefer

a mindless advance even in a large-scale operation. Caspian was also trying to protect her by bringing

her back with him.

Both Macy and Caspian got into the same SUV and headed back to South Aridlands while being

escorted by the armored battalion.

Macy spoke up, "Lord Caspian, I have some opinions regarding the war, speak."

"Just speak your mind," Caspian replied.

"The enemy must have figured out our plan if their advance troops have suddenly stopped moving."

"Yes, and?" Caspian asked as she was merely stating the fact.

if I

I may

Macy explained, "Robert and Viktor must have studied you closely and learned about your strategies.

They won't take such a risky move. And with the bulk of their army right behind the advance troops, I

believe it's not a good time to begin the war."

"Well said. Truly, our enemies aren't pushovers." Caspian nodded at her comments.

"The thing that I'm confused about is why their advance troops suddenly stopped

+15 BONOS

Diatoran?

"Their morale should be at an all-time high. Wouldn't the sudden halt confuse their troops? Do they

plan to keep dragging it out?" Macy was puzzled.

Caspian calmly explained, "They won't just continue marching onward if they've truly learned of our

plans. Otherwise, they'd just be walking into certain death for no good reason."

"It's the perfect window for them to strike now that Filren has launched an attack on South Aridlands. I

think that it's really weird that they're stopping at this moment, even if it's to wait for the bulk of their

army to catch up to them." Macy couldn't figure it out.

They could have started the attack and caused trouble for Diatoran right now, even if the bulk of their

army still needed time to arrive.

Caspian nodded his head. "You're right. I'm also curious as to what they're thinking."

"Could it be that they're just going to drag it out until much of our attention has shifted to the battlefront

at South Aridlands? Will they launch a surprise attack then?"

Macy had her own opinions regarding the entirety of the war.

Caspian explained as he came to a conclusion over the matter, "Perhaps they have secrets that they

can't reveal just yet."

Macy was confused. "They're still waiting for the right time?"

"Yes. Maybe they're waiting for the bulk of their army to catch up, or maybe they're waiting for Estrya to

launch their attack on us in order to force us into a four-way battle. It would render the entirety of

Diatoran in chaos, and their plan would be a success."

"So, that's it! Thank you, Lord Caspian!" Macy nodded her head as she came to a realization.

Caspian returned to South Aridlands as fast as he could and immediately held a meeting.

Benjamin, along with some senior officers of South Aridlands, were gathered to discuss their next

course of action.

"The enemy's advance troops suddenly stopped right before our territorial 3/4

+15 BONOS

One of the officers stood up. "I believe Robert and Viktor have figured out our plans and decided to

stay put,"

Another officer stood up and added, "Enemy spies may have already infiltrated Southlake City and

learned about our plans. Perhaps that's why they suddenly stopped advancing into our waters."

A third officer stood up to give his comments. "Or they've simply chickened out after learning that Lord

Caspian would be personally in charge of the war. They probably only intended to cause a distraction

to buy time for their allies."

Caspian nodded his head. He had already considered these possibilities.

He scanned the room once more and announced, "One more thing, Necros is currently in dire need of

our assistance. We need to help out our ally now, or we might risk facing Astronia's and Vadesia's full

forces simultaneously after Necros falls.

"I need all of you to be on high alert and prepare for battle!"

The crowd answered in unison, "Yes, sir!"

Caspian continued, "Have the intelligence department begin their investigation into enemy spies or

traitors leaking out information wsexithin Southlake City. They're hereby given permission to kill them

on sight!"

Chatper 522

Chapter 522 Strategic Mastermind

Benjamin declared, "Leave it to me, Caspian. I'll arrange for a group of special force members to weed

out all the enemy spies and traitors within Southlake City!

Caspian asked, "The inaction of the enemy's advance troops will be detrimental for us if it continues

dragging on. Anyone have any ideas on how we can incite the war to begin?"

The crowd looked at each other in confusion as no one could come up with an answer.

Benjamin explained, "I believe Astronia and Vadesia are just waiting for Estrya and Filren to launch

their attack before they join in the fight."

Caspian smiled and replied, "I think so as well. I plan to eliminate their advance troops now, before

Estrya launches their attack. After that, we can even divide some of the manpower from South

Aridlands to assist other places in need."

A general officer stood up to give his comments, "We can pretend to send reinforcements to West

Aridlands. Our enemies might fall for it, thinking that we're thinning our numbers. They'll then begin the

attack.

"With that, their submarines and battleships will finally be within range of our guided missiles!"

Caspian thought for a while and replied, "Our enemies wouldn't be so stupid to fall for that if we bring

out just a small portion of our forces.

"But then again, we can't afford to move a large enough number to make it seem convincing either. Or

we might not be able to defend ourselves when they do launch the attack."

"Then are we really just going to sit around and wait for our deaths?"

Caspian explained, "Of course not. There'll be a way out!"

"What kind of plan do you have in mind, Chief Commander?" Benjamin asked as he curiously scanned

Caspian.

"We'll move a portion of our troops away and convince our enemies to begin the attack!"

Benjamin asked, "Where will the portion of troops be moved to?"

Caspian smiled. "To Necros. They'll serve as the reinforcements that Necros has

+15 BONOS

He had thought about the matter long ago.

Benjamin asked, "But our enemies are already right at the doorstep of Southlake City! Can we really

afford to send our troops to aid Necros right now?"

"Don't worry. Their advance troops are only one—third of their total military power, and the bulk of their

army is still in Necros. We have plenty of hidden guided missiles to deal with their advance troops."

"Caspian, the enemy's advance troops may be lesser in number, but they're still a force to be reckoned

with. We might not have an absolute chance for victory if we pull away part of our troops for Necros,"

Benjamin explained his point of view as a fellow Champion of Diatoran.

Caspian spelled out his thoughts. "War is inherently unpredictable. It'll be far more dangerous if we wait

for Estrya to strike. Any single line of defense being broken will be disastrous for Diatoran."

He understood Benjamin's perspective and considerations, but war was never so simple to begin with.

Hesitation would only lead to worse outcomes.

"Estrya's forces will eventually appear on our eastern borders. East Aridlands. may be in danger

considering that their troops have been distributed to other places. We need to send reinforcements not

only to Necros but East Aridlands as well."

The entirety of Diatoran was in a pretty bad spot, and they needed to make sure every step they took to

protect the nation was the correct choice.

Caspian explained, "We can't focus solely on South Aridlands. The other borders also need our

attention. It's pointless to secure victory on just the southern battlefield alone; we need to make sure all

of Diatoran's borders never get broken into!"

Benjamin nodded his head. "Caspian is right."

"Anyone else that still has any questions?" Caspian asked as he scanned the room.

The crowd answered in unison, "No objections, sir!"

Caspian then ordered, "Very well! I hereby order to split our troops into two. One will stand guard in

South Aridlands while the other will be the reinforcements for Necros!"

All the military officers immediately went to work.

The next moment, the phone inside the command room started ringing.

+15 BONOS

The communications officer shouted, "Chief Commander, Ziko Granger, general of North Aridlands, is

urgently looking for you!"

Caspian stood up and answered the phone. "What is it, General Granger?"

Ziko hurriedly answered, "Chief Commander, Estrya's and Filren's combined forces have suddenly

launched an attack from the north!"

Caspian was stunned as he wondered why even Estrya and Filren had started working together.

It was bad news for Diatoran.

"What's the situation right now?" Caspian asked.

Ziko reported, "We're currently in combat with the enemy. They seem to be well prepared for the

invasion. Their elite forces are much stronger than we expected! I'm afraid we can't hold on much

longer without Champion Benjamin."

"Hold North Aridlands at all cost! Losing the north right now will be far too disastrous for Diatoran at this

moment. It'll be far too disadvantageous for the rest of the war!" Caspian ordered.

"Yes, sir!" Ziko answered without any hesitation.

Caspian may not be Ziko's direct superior, but he was both the chief commander of the current

operation as well as the Diatoranian God of War.

"Lord Caspian, may I ask if Champion Benjamin will be returning to North Aridlands? His appearance

will help bolster the morale of our forces. Or perhaps, you have other plans in mind to help us?" Ziko

asked.

Caspian turned to look at Benjamin before replying, "Tell me about the current situation over there."

"Both Estrya's and Filren's forces are mobilizing around our borders. I'm about to lead our troops here

to meet the enemies at the border for a fight to the death."

"Don't act rashly just yet and listen to me. Split your troops into three groups and personally lead one of

them to attack from the front. The other two groups will flank the enemies from the left and right.

"Form an encirclement around the enemy troops and drive them into panic to easily secure the victory!"

Caspian calmly explained.

"I understand now. Thank you for the insight, Lord Caspian! I was worried that we might not be able to

withstand the enemy's combined forces. But now with

+15 BONOS

Benjamin nodded his head as he listened to the conversation. He came to realize why Caspian was

hailed as the Diatoranian God of War.

Caspian was a natural strategic mastermind. His simple plans and executions were able to bring great

results in battle.

The enemy troops would surely begin to panic as they would assume reinforcements had arrived when

they watched Diatoran's forces come from three different sides.

Caspian hung up and turned to face the crowd once more. "I never expected Estrya and Filren to work

together to attack North Aridlands. Estrya might be targeting East Aridlands next. We need to be

prepared!"

Chatper 523

Chapter 523 Task Force Rose

Benjamin nodded and said, "Luckily, we've already sent some of our men back to East Aridlands, or the

cast might've been done for."

"it'll take our men at least 24 hours to make it to East Aridlands from sea. I'm afraid they might not

make it in time," Caspian replied with a worried expression.

"East Aridlands still have quite a lot of troops. Keith will be fine even without our reinforcements. You

don't have to worry too much, Caspian."

"Alright then. Give a call to Keith and inform him to begin preparations for war and to defend East

Aridlands until reinforcements arrive."

Caspian then looked back at Benjamin and continued, "Do you wish to return to North Aridlands? It's

your territory, after all."

Benjamin calmly replied, "There's no need for that. I believe in Ziko's abilities. Besides, I'm not worried

since he has received your guidance."

Caspian looked back at the crowd. "Now that North, East, and West Aridlands are all facing imminent

danger, we'll also need to be on standby at all times."

Everyone nodded their heads as they realized the urgency of the current situation.

Caspian decided not to return to Southlake City after the meeting and just remained in the command

room.

Macy remained by his side, as she would just follow him wherever he went anyway.

Benjamin went on to carry out Caspian's orders. He hand-picked a few special. force members to form

a team that would City to clean up any

go into Southlake enemy spies.

The team was named Task Force Rose, due to the team consisting of only women.

The leader of the team was a woman named Laina Barnes.

She was only 21 years old and had already become a general officer of Diatoran. Now, she was also

the leader of the newly formed Task Force Rose.

Meanwhile, in Southlake City, Kenzie, Richard, and Nicholas were having a conversation in a hidden

abandoned factory.

Kenzie didn't expect much from the other two as they weren't powerful

+15 BONOS

Both Richard and Nicholas were just simple playboys and couldn't possibly hold a candle to Caspian.

Not even a supreme grandmaster would be able to assassinate Caspian, so Kenzie never expected to

gain much information from the two of them.

But they still had their uses.

Kenzie had researched about the Stewart family and realized that Richard was Willow and Caspian's

brother-in-law.

"Oh yeah, you can bring in more people if anyone's interested. So long as they can contribute, of

course," Kenzie explained.

He also knew about Henry being Willow's cousin. With Willow officially distancing herself from the

entire Stewart family, Henry was the only person left who could approach her without rousing any

suspicion.

It was unfortunate that Henry wasn't here today to join in their conversation.

Being able to extract any information from Willow would help Vadesia with the war.

Richard and Nicholas looked at each other and nodded their heads.

The reason why Kenzie had sought out the two of them was due to their affluence. and power within

Southlake City. There was also the possibility that they might know other people who may prove useful

for Kenzie to expand the rebel force and dismantle Southlake City from within.

Kenzie immediately transferred ten million dollars to each of them as a show of sincerity.

Richard and Nicholas were both grinning from ear to ear when they realized just how generous Kenzie

was for giving them ten million dollars each before they even did anything for him.

They realized that working for Kenzie would have better benefits down the line.

20 million dollars was nothing for Vadesia. Even 200 billion dollars would have been worth the

exchange for important intel from the citizens of Southlake City.

Kenzie said, "Alright, you two. You should leave for now. I'll notify you if anything happens."

Richard replied, "Sure thing, Mr. Kenzie. We'll see you later."

Nicholas hurriedly added, "Oh yeah, Mr. Kenzie. You can't tell anyone else about

+15 BONOS

only hope that you can help keep this a secret for us."

Kenzie smiled and replied, "Don't worry. There'll be more to come so long as you do a good job."

Nicholas was overjoyed. "It's truly an honor for us to meet someone like you, Mr. Kenzie."

Richard laughed and added, "That's right! Mr. Kenzie, you sure are generous. With Vadesia protecting

us, of course, we'll work for you!"

"Your next task is to create negative public opinion to slander Caspian's reputation," Kenzie ordered.

Nicholas sheepishly replied, "We understand. But I was almost killed by Caspian's underlings today. It

was so scary."

Kenzie explained, "You can always hire some thugs to have them take your place. You won't be in

immediate danger if you designate them to lead the protest."

He didn't want Richard and Nicholas to die too early just yet after he had just turned them into traitors

of Diatoran.

Richard nodded his head. "Of course! We'll do as you suggest.

The three of them then left the abandoned factory.

Meanwhile, the streets of Southlake City were filled with protestors even though war was about to

erupt.

The crowd was protesting for Caspian to step down from his position.

They were disappointed that Caspian had chosen inaction even though enemy troops were creeping

toward their borders. He also sent reinforcements back to the east.

They felt that Caspian was making a stupid mistake.

His actions seemed as if he had abandoned Southlake City for good.

Protestors on the street gradually grew larger and larger in numbers.

All of this was actually because of Richard and Nicholas pulling the strings from the shadows by hiring

all sorts of thugs to stir up negative emotions within the public.

Most of the crowd was also just there to join in the fun without really

+15 BONOS

Both Richard and Nicholas never needed to show themselves. They could just remain in a safe place.

The thugs chosen to lead the protest never noticed that among the crowd they were leading were some

angry-looking women who had stared at them long enough to remember their faces.

The women were members of Task Force Rose who were assigned to remove all enemy spies from

within Southlake City, along with citizens who had been easily swayed into becoming traitors.

Chatper 524

Chapter 524 Assassination

Willow and Zoe had just learned of the chaos out in the streets and decided not to leave the house.

Some of the protestors had even found out about Caspian's address and began to surround Riverside

Villa.

Caspian had already assigned some of his armored soldiers to serve as Willow's bodyguards, and they

were keeping the protestors at bay.

One of the leaders shouted, "Bring Caspian to us now! We need an explanation!"

"Come out, Caspian!"

"Get the hell out, you good-for-nothing!"

"You coward, get out of the house!"

The crowd continued to shout from outside Riverside Villa.

The leader changed his chants. "Caspian is the Diatoranian God of War and yet he won't lead his men

into battle. He's more like the Diatoranian God of Disgrace!"

The crowd followed along and chanted in unison, "Caspian is the Diatoranian God of Disgrace!"

Willow and Zoe remained inside the house. They were frightened by the noise coming from outside.

They never expected that the public would dare to ridicule and insult Caspian even though he was the

Diatoranian God of War.

Caspian had just left the city yesterday under the protection and glamor of a fleet of tanks. And yet his

reputation with the public had completely shifted within a single night.

Willow was expecting that she would garner even more respect after Caspian's true identity was

revealed. She never expected that a protest would break out. instead.

The leader of the armored battalion shouted, "Leave, now! Anyone trying to cause trouble will be dealt

with accordingly!"

The armored soldiers wouldn't tolerate any troublemakers as they were assigned to protect Caspian's

house and his wife.

The leader of the protestors shouted, "You're soldiers, aren't you? What are you

+15 BONOS

"Yeah! You should be on the battlefield, not here!"

"Enemy troops are already outside our borders! And yet you're still pretending that nothing is

happening!"

"Bring Caspian to us! Or we'll burn down the entire house!"

The crowd seemed as if they were about to rush inside Riverside Villa to look for their target.

The leader of the armored battalion didn't dare to forcefully remove the protestors as they were simply

just innocent civilians.

He had no other choice but to make a report to Caspian.

Miranda was bored out of her mind now that Southlake Corporation office had become deserted.

She learned about the protests happening outside in the city and decided to stock up on necessities so

that she didn't have to leave the house too much.

Her only problem right now was none other than a man named Tom, who kept clinging to her.

Tom Forrest was an affluent young man from Southlake City. He had long been interested in courting

Miranda and had recently started to visit her at work.

Miranda impatiently explained, "Why are you following me? I've already told you that I'm not

interested."

She appreciated his efforts, but she felt that no man other than Caspian could be worthy of her.

Tom explained, "It takes time for feelings to blossom. Give me a chance, Miranda.

"I need to go and buy groceries from the supermarket, so stop following me already."

Tom waited for her outside as she entered the supermarket.

When she finally came out with her groceries, she was met with an SUV stopping right in front of her.

A pair of burly hands came out from within and pulled her into the car.

Miranda was so frightened that she couldn't even react in time.

+15 BONOS

The car immediately sped off, turned a corner, and disappeared into the traffic. after Miranda was

brought inside.

Miranda sheepishly asked, "Who are you people? Why are you doing this?"

A man dressed in black replied, "Shut the hell up! Any noise and we'll kill you right away!"

"Help! Anyone, help!" Miranda shouted with all her might.

Seeing that she didn't heed his advice, the man in black immediately knocked her out with a jab on her

neck.

Tom continued to wait for Miranda for a long time and eventually grew anxious. He didn't even notice

the SUV.

Suddenly, a man dressed in black approached Tom and patted him on the shoulder. "Come with me if

you wish to save your damsel in distress."

Tom turned around and was startled to find a foreigner talking to him. He took a good look and realized

that the man in black was Vadesian.

"Who are you?" Tom asked.

"Who I am doesn't matter. Come with me if you want to know where Miranda is."

Tom immediately sensed danger. "What do you mean? What did you do to Miranda?"

"Enough chatter. Juster

me if you wish to rescue her."

Tom willingly followed the man as he was worried that Miranda might be in danger.

The man in black pointed at the BMW next to him. "Get in the car."

Tom quickly arrived at the correct conclusion. "Did you kidnap Miranda or something? Why?"

"You're too noisy. Just come with me and you'll get to see your lover again."

The man in black's reply only further confirmed Tom's suspicions.

Tom had always wanted to court Miranda, so rescuing her would be a great opportunity to gain her

favor. With that thought in mind, he went into the car without any hesitation.

Miranda was brought to an abandoned house.

3/4

+15 BONOS

She was frightened as she was led to an unfamiliar space.

"What do you want?" Miranda sheepishly asked.

The man in black shoved her into a room. "Shut up and just wait here!"

Two more men in black stood guard outside the room.

Miranda quickly realized that there were a dozen more men in black waiting for her inside the room.

She began to sweat profusely as fear grabbed ahold of her senses.

Caspian was furious after he received the report from the leader of the armored battalion about

protestors attempting to break into his house.

He immediately laid down his orders. "Stop these thugs at all costs! Don't let any of them harm Willow!"

"They don't seem to listen, Lord Caspian. Please give your orders to fire so that we can drive them

away."

"Absolutely not. Opening fire at the protestors will only make the situation.

worse. I'll send out some special force members to deal with the protestors. You only need to stand

guard and make sure that Willow is safe."

The identities of the members of Task Force Rose were a tightly kept secret. They would be the perfect

choice to deal with the leader of the protestors without being found out.

The leader of the armored battalion answered, "Yes, sir!"

Caspian hung up and turned back to Benjamin. "Has Task Force Rose arrived at Southlake City yet?"

"Yes, they're just awaiting further orders."

"Very well. Tell them to make their way to Riverside Villa right now and deal with the thugs leading the

protest."

"Sure." Benjamin nodded his head without any hesitation.

Chatper 525

Chapter 525 Sudden Death

Meanwhile, at Riverside Villa in Southlake City, the armored battalion could only stand guard and block

any troublemakers from breaking into the house.

They didn't dare to open fire at the protesters.

Noticing their reluctance to strike back, some of the thugs leading the protest. became arrogant.

Suddenly, several women wearing black leather jackets arrived at the site.

They were all members of Task Force Rose.

They had rushed all the way to Riverside Villa upon receiving Benjamin's orders.

The women sneakily squeezed into the crowd of protesters.

"They won't hurt us! Don't be afraid, guys! We'll break into the house and burn it to the ground!"

"Caspian's a good–for–nothing! He doesn't deserve to be the chief commander!"

"Caspian is just a coward! We'll burn his house to the ground!"

The thugs leading the protest continued to fan the flames of the public.

The protesters were brought into a frenzy and even began to make a move against the armored

battalion.

The soldiers could only block the protesters with their bodies as they didn't dare to open fire.

With their strength alone, it would have been easy for them to deal with the protesters.

But they wouldn't harm a civilian without direct orders.

The thugs leading the protest noticed that the armored battalion soldiers had put their hands behind

their backs, so they tried to snatch away the soldiers' weapons.

The situation in front of Riverside Villa became a chaotic mess.

At the same time, the members of the Task Force Rose had already sneaked up behind the leaders of

the protest and brandished their daggers.

Flashes of cold steel appeared and dissipated in an instant as the thugs who were still shouting

suddenly froze up on the spot.

Blood soon poured out of their neck like a fountain.

+15 BONOS

The members of Task Force Rose had already disappeared from the crowd after they finished the

assassination.

None of the protesters managed to even see what had happened due to all the chaos.

A few seconds later, the leaders of the protest collectively fell to the ground.

Protesters nearby started smelling a foul odor as their bodies were splattered with blood.

They cried out in shock when they finally realized that their leaders had been. killed. "Hey, what the

fuck? What happened?"

"What the hell happened? How did they die?"

"The soldiers had their hands behind their backs the entire time. This doesn't make any sense!"

The crowd was horrified as they had no idea what had just happened.

The bodies lying on the floor were still flailing around with the last of their strength.

They were also as surprised as the crowd. They were still shouting their disapproval of Caspian earlier,

and in the next moment, blood began to pour from their necks.

"Are there traitors lurking among us?"

The crowd became horrified at the thought of killers lurking among themselves.

A man shouted, "Who is it?"

"I saw a bunch of women wearing leather jackets. Could it be them?"

"I saw them too!"

"What the hell are you talking about? Where are they?"

"They've probably escaped already."

"What did they want?"

"I have no idea..."

The protesters looked everywhere for the women wearing leather jackets, not knowing that they had

already left the crowd long ago.

The thugs leading the protest finally bled out and passed away.

+15 BONOS

They probably never expected to meet their end like this...

They were just thugs employed by Richard and Nicholas to make as much noise as possible. They

wouldn't have agreed to sacrifice their own lives.

It was unfortunate that their actions had angered Caspian, which only sealed their fate.

One of the protesters shouted, "Fuck! We need to get out of here! Any one of us could be next!"

The crowd began to disperse in all directions as they did not want to endanger themselves.

Thousands of protesters disappeared within two minutes, and all that was left were the corpses lying

on the ground.

The corpses served their purpose as a deterrent for the crowd. The majority of the protesters were just

there to join in the fun. They would no longer do it again now that the leaders of the protest were killed.

The armored battalion finally let out a sigh of relief as they watched the crowd disperse.

They had already noticed the members of Task Force Rose when they arrived.

Willow and Zoe became curious when they noticed that the noises outside had. disappeared.

They came out of the house to see only the armored battalion soldiers standing still while the crowd

was nowhere to be seen.

The leader of the armored battalion asked, "What's the matter, Lady Willow?"

"What happened here? Where did the protesters go?" Willow asked.

"They were all scared away."

"Why? What made them run away?"

"The leaders of the protest were killed."

Willow and Zoe took another look into the distance and finally saw the corpses. lying on the floor.

"Who killed them?" asked.

The leader of the armored battalion explained, "I'm sorry, Lady Willow. I have no idea who killed them

as well. Perhaps they were killed by their own men."

+15 BONOS

He already knew that it was the handiwork of Task Force Rose, but he didn't dare to tell Willow the

truth.

Task Force Rose had always been a secret among secrets within the military. Only a select few within

the military were notified of their existence, let alone the public.

He could not afford to reveal such sensitive information, even if it was to Willow.

Willow nodded her head and decided not to question him about it further. "Please move the corpses

away... It's disgusting to have them in front of the house."

"Yes, Madam!"

They realized that Joey must be busy handling the city's affairs as well, so they had to clean up the

corpses themselves this time around.

Meanwhile, Miranda was tied up by the men in black.

"Why did you kidnap me? If you just want money, I can pay!"

Miranda could talk her way out of this if her kidnappers just wanted to get some ransom money. She

had ample savings as the vice president of Southlake Corporation.

The leader of the men in black answered, "We're not doing this for the money. Don't worry, you'll find

out what we want soon enough."

A few minutes later, Tom was also brought into the room.

"Miranda!" Tom shouted the moment he saw her being tied up.

The men in black pulled out their handguns and aimed them at Miranda when they saw Tom come into

the room.

"Why are you here, Tom? No, never mind. Please get me out of here!" Miranda asked him for help.

"Relax, Miranda. I'll get you out of here!"

Tom had learned how to fight from traditional martial arts experts and was a tier -three fighter himself.

He surmised that he could probably take on the dozen or so men in black in the room by himself.

Chatper 526

Chapter 526 Distress

The leader of the men in black angrily shouted, "Stay where you are, or I'll shoot her!"

Tom didn't dare to make any drastic movements as he watched Miranda being held at gunpoint. He

wanted to figure out what the men in black wanted.

"Why are you kidnapping Miranda? Are you just trying to get ransom money?" Tom asked.

"We're not interested in money. We do it to force you to do our bidding."

Tom was utterly confused. "Me? What do you want me to do?"

The leader smiled. "I need you to bring Caspian's wife out of her house, preferably to us, all tied up."

Tom froze up as he already knew who Willow was.

Even Miranda was shocked upon learning about her kidnappers' true intentions.

It turned out they were going after Willow in the first place!

Tom asked, "Who are you people? What do you want with Willow?"

He knew that Willow and Miranda were good friends.

The leader explained, "I guess it doesn't hurt to tell you. We're special agents from Vadesia. I'm sure

you already know why we want to capture Willow."

Miranda's and Tom's eyes widened in shock upon hearing that the men in black were Vadesian special

agents.

They quickly realized why they were so thorough in their attempts to capture Willow.

They could control Caspian so long as they had Willow, the chief commander's wife, in their hands.

Miranda became agitated upon learning that they were forcing Tom to go after Willow. "Forget about

me, Tom. Willow isn't just my boss. She's also a great friend of mine! You can't do this!"

She might formally be Willow's subordinate, but they were good friends. Miranda didn't want to put

Willow in any danger.

Tom nodded and replied, "Relax, Miranda. I won't hurt Ms. Stewart."

+15 BONOS

Willow wasn't just Caspian's wife. She had also facilitated a new partnership between Southlake

Corporation and the Forrest family.

Kidnapping Willow would be akin to treason, and Tom wasn't stupid enough to go against his

benefactor.

Now that Diatoran and Vadesia were officially at war with each other. Willow being in danger or being

kidnapped would have a huge impact on Diatoran's

morale.

Tom couldn't allow his own personal gains to bring Diatoran into danger.

The leader of the men in black threatened, "Bring Willow here, or say goodbye to Miranda!"

Tom was stuck between a rock and a hard place. He didn't want to kidnap Willow, but he didn't want

Miranda to die either.

He couldn't complain about his presented options either, as angering the men in black might only put

Miranda in immediate danger.

He also wasn't given the choice to fight back, as Miranda was being held at gunpoint. Any sudden

movements and she would be shot.

Tom thought long and hard about it and decided to just drag it out for as long as possible until an

opportunity arose for him to rescue Miranda.

"Why do you even need to kidnap Miranda and force me to bring Willow to you? Why not just get

someone else?" Tom asked.

He decided to strike up a conversation as he waited for the opportunity to arrive. He couldn't afford to

put Willow in danger just to save Miranda, as Willow's life and death might very well impact Diatoran's

fate.

Tom decided to take the chance.

The leader replied, "Because we're sure they're good friends since Miranda works directly under

Willow. Just come up with an excuse and tell Willow that Miranda is looking for her. And then, she'll

follow you without any suspicions."

The agents from Vadesia had tri

multiple times to sneak into Riverside Villa and kidnap Willow directly, but they never succeeded.

Caspian had already stationed a lot of bodyguards around the house. They had no choice but to utilize

a friend of hers instead of kidnapping Willow directly.

They had also learned that Kenzie had tried bribing Richard, but that plan had gone to waste as Willow

wasn't close with the Stewarts nowadays.

+15 BONOS

Vadesia eventually came up with its current plan.

Tom explained, "Willow is constantly protected by bodyguards around her house. It's almost impossible

for strangers to approach her."

The leader replied, "Miranda and Willow are good friends, so just tell her that Miranda is in danger and

needs help! You'll have to come up with the full story yourself, of course.

"Even if I could convince her to leave the house, the bodyguards would be right behind her."

Tom continued to wait for an opportunity, but he couldn't manage to find any as the men in black were

constantly staring at both him and Miranda.

The leader explained, "Just kill her, then. It's up to you. Miranda will only be allowed to walk free once

your job is done."

Their main objective was to incite chaos within Diatoran, and the murder of the wife of the Diatoranian

God of War would be enough to cause the entirety of Diatoran to panic.

Tom was shocked as he was given the option to kill Willow directly. But he wouldn't possibly do

something like that.

"I wouldn't be able to kill her even if I wanted to. All of Willow's bodyguards are trained fighters way

beyond my capability."

Miranda watched as Tom continued to chat with the men in black.

She began to panic as she was convinced that Tom was serious about killing Willow to rescue her.

"You can't do this, Tom! Or I'll bite my tongue and kill myself right now!"

The leader immediately silenced her with a slap.

"Shut up!" the leader scolded her since he didn't want her to change Tom's mind.

Miranda held her hand onto her swollen cheeks.

Tom was furious as he watched his crush being beaten up.

The leader quickly realized that Tom had clenched his fists and was ready to fight to the death.

He raised his gun and pointed it at Tom. "Stay right there. You don't stand a chance against a gun, do

you?"

The other men in black still had their guns on Miranda.

+15 BONOS

Tom didn't dare to make any more sudden movements.

The leader declared, "You have two choices. You either bring Willow to us or kill her directly. Anything

else, and Miranda right here will be dead!"

"You can't do this, Tom! I'd rather die than have anything happen to Willow!"

Miranda didn't want to put her friend in danger just in exchange for her own life.

"I couldn't possibly defeat Willow's bodyguards and kidnap her, and I wouldn't want to send myself to

certain death either. And furthermore, I won't do anything that would endanger my country!"

A sly grin crept up on one of the men in black's face. "Very patriotic, young man. But have you thought

about what would happen to Miranda over here?

"I heard you're trying to court her, aren't you? How about my boys and I take turns enjoying her right in

front of you?"

Chatper 527

Chapter 527 Special Agents Eliminated

The other men in black rang out with similarly sinister laughter.

Miranda started panicking. She wasn't afraid of being killed, but she couldn't stomach being humiliated.

Tom clenched his fists in anger as he cursed out at the Vadesians in his mind for being animals with no

morals.

"You bastards! I'll kill you if you touch her!" Tom shouted.

The leader declared, "Then, do as I say and bring Willow over! You have no other choice if you don't

want to see her being humiliated!"

"Fine! I'll do as you say!"

Tom decided to agree with the conditions for now just to keep the situation under wraps and prevent

Miranda from being harmed.

He would have to ask Willow for help after he was allowed to leave.

The bodyguards looking after Willow were all powerful fighters and would surely be capable enough to

save Miranda.

They might also be able to secure some intel after they've subdued the Vadesian special agents.

Miranda panicked as Tom accepted the deal. "You can't do this, Tom! You can't put Willow in danger

just to save me!"

Tom decided to play along and make it sound convincing. "You know me, Miranda. I'd do anything to

make sure you're safe!"

It was just to convince them that he had really accepted their deal.

"Then get on with it, Tom. Bring Willow over to us, and we'll let Miranda go."

"I will. And you'd better keep your promise of not touching Miranda at all."

A sly grin crept up on the leader's face. "So long as you bring Willow to us. By the way, I'll have my

men following you just to be sure that you're not trying to pull any tricks on us.

"I have men stationed everywhere within the city, and they will be monitoring your every move. If you

were to do anything weird or ask for help, you'd be saying goodbye to Miranda forever.

They already had precautions in place to prevent Tom from outsmarting them.

+15 BONOS

They had gone to great lengths to perform their given task, after all.

Tom froze up on the spot as he realized that these men had already figured out his plans to ask Willow

for help.

Miranda started crying. "I won't forgive you if you actually kidnap Willow, Tom!"

Tom certainly wasn't about to do as he was told. He had only given his word for now and would think

about how to resolve the problem later.

It was just that he couldn't speak his mind out loud.

The leader impatiently shouted, "What are you still standing here for? Go get Willow here already!"

Tom was hesitating as he contemplated if he should just fight back right away.

"Go to hell!" Miranda shouted as she was worried that Tom might really go and kidnap Willow.

She immediately slammed herself into one of the men around her.

She didn't even flinch from the pain as she had already made up her mind to fight

to the death.

The men were shocked. Even their leader was stunned by the sudden outburst.

They couldn't kill Miranda just yet as they still had to use her to threaten Tom.

They wouldn't be able to control Tom to do their bidding if they had to kill Miranda right away.

But as Miranda was bound with her arms behind her back, she was quickly subdued back onto her

chair without any difficulties.

She continued to struggle, but the Vadesian special agents were far stronger than

a mere woman.

Tom watched as the scene unfolded before him. The men in black had their attention fully shifted onto

Miranda due to her sudden outburst, and he felt that this was the perfect opportunity.

He could only rely on himself now, as he wouldn't have been able to ask for help while being monitored

at all times.

The opportunity was slowly drifting away as he considered that he might have a chance of defeating all

these men right there and then.

Tom steadied himself as he clenched his fists. He then immediately rushed up toward Miranda's side

and launched a punch to one of the men in black.

+15 BONOS

The unfortunate target screamed out in pain as the sucker punch sent him flying toward the wall.

The others were shocked as they never expected Tom to suddenly fight back.

Tom picked up his pace and dished out a dozen more blows, one after another.

Some of the men didn't manage to react in time and were swiftly defeated by Tom.

Miranda had fallen to the ground amid the chaos. Tom was about to lift her up and escape when the

men finally came back to their senses.

"Kill him!" the leader shouted as he fired a shot.

The gunshot came from behind Tom.

Tom immediately ducked and rolled on the floor in order to evade the shot.

The shot flew past him and hit one of the men in black instead, thanks to the cramped space they were

all in.

Tom had barely managed to dodge the fatal blow.

The injured man screamed in pain as he fell to the floor.

Tom had lost the opportunity to escape with Miranda now that his opponents were focused on him.

The special agents all pulled out their handgun and aimed it at Tom.

They were also trained fighters who possessed quick reaction speed.

Dozens more gunshots rang out as Tom jumped off the ground to dodge the shots.

"Get out of here, Tom! Forget about me!" Miranda shouted as she watched Tom almost being shot.

Tom might be able to fend for himself, but it would be impossible for him to run away now from all these

armed special agents.

He would also forever be a target of the Vadesian special agents even if he managed to escape.

The men in black aimed at Tom in the air for another shot.

Suddenly, a woman wearing a leather jacket rushed into the room with guns in both her hands.

A quick burst of gunfire rang out across the room.

+15 BONOS

Blood-curdling screams followed as the men in black didn't manage to react in time and were gunned

down.

The mysterious woman's marksmanship was accurate and rapid, making it impossible for the men to

evade the shots.

They never expected that some stranger would suddenly barge into the room and immediately shoot

them.

The woman was none other than Laina, the leader of Task Force Rose herself.

Chatper 528

Chapter 528 A Beauty in Leather

Tom was overjoyed as he watched the men in black falling onto the ground after being shot. He had

assumed that his life would have been over.

Even Miranda was surprised that they made it out alive thanks to the sudden intervention from the

stranger, who killed all of their kidnappers.

The Vadesian special agents were all trained fighters, yet they still couldn't compare to Laina.

For one, Laina's sudden appearance had taken all of them by surprise. And secondly, her quick and

precise marksmanship easily eliminated all of the enemies within the cramped room.

Laina was an experienced fighter who had thousands of successful assassinations under her belt.

Every single shot she fired was aimed at the enemy's vitals.

And now, only the leader of the men in black remained.

Laina's sudden appearance had startled him. He finally snapped back to his senses and realized that

all of his men were killed as he prepared to counterattack.

He turned around only to be met with a beautiful woman donning a leather jacket with her handgun

already aiming at his head.

Two gunshots rang out across the room before the leader could make a move.

Both his head and heart were shot at the same time.

Either of those shots would have been fatal.

And now, Tom finally slumped to the floor.

Laina remained alert as she carefully scanned the corpses in the room to make sure that they weren't

playing dead.

It was Tom's and Miranda's first time seeing Laina. They had no idea who she was, but they assumed

that she must have been there to help.

Tom only had Miranda in his eyes as he ran over to help free her from her restraints.

Once he was done untying Miranda, he turned back to Laina. "Thank you for saving us, miss."

"Don't move!" Laina responded by raising her gun and aiming it at Tom.

+15 BONOS

Tom was frozen with fear as he wondered why his savior had suddenly started to threaten him.

Miranda was also utterly confused at the sight.

"I thought you were here to save us? What are you doing?" Tom asked.

Laina glared at him. "Do you think I could possibly let a traitor like you go after what you've said about

kidnapping Lord Caspian's wife?"

Tom was stunned as he realized that his savior had believed that he was serious about kidnapping

Willow when he had only said those words to ensure Miranda's safety.

Laina had been patrolling around the streets with her team and had coincidentally seen Miranda being

kidnapped.

Soon after, Tom was also brought away by the Vadesian special agents.

Laina continued to track the men in black all the way to their hiding place.

She had parked her car far away so as not to alert the kidnappers and had to walk all the way there.

She continued to track them alone and found a dozen men in black inside the old decrepit house.

Laina remained calm as she monitored the situation from the shadows, waiting for a chance to strike.

She also wanted to eavesdrop on whatever worthwhile information they would share.

She learned about the Vadesian special agent's objectives from their conversation. with Tom, as well

as their intention of forcing Tom to kidnap Willow to threaten. Caspian.

She quickly jumped on the opportunity to strike and took the men in black by surprise the moment Tom

began to fight back.

Regardless, Laina had clearly heard that Tom agreed to kidnap Willow.

It was enough to brand him as a traitor.

Laina decided she would deal with Tom right then and there to prevent anything bad from happening.

Miranda hurriedly explained, "Please listen to us, miss! Tom isn't a traitor! He had only said that just to

buy time and ensure my safety. Please don't accuse him like that "

+15 BONOS

"That's right. I was just trying to buy time while I waited for an opportunity to strike and rescue Miranda.

I'm not actually going to kidnap Willow," Tom added. "How am I supposed to trust you?" Laina couldn't

afford to take their words at face value because she had to ensure Willow's safety above all else.

"How... But regardless, I won't do anything to Willow, I swear! Willow is both the boss and a good

friend of Miranda, and I couldn't possibly hurt a good friend of the woman I love!"

Laina was still aiming the gun at Tom.

He didn't dare to make any movements after witnessing just how powerful she was.

"I don't need your explanation. But if you can't prove that you're not a threat to Willow, then I'll have to

kill you right now!" Laina declared.

Tom shouted, "I'm innocent, I swear! Ms. Stewart had also given my family a business opportunity.

"How could I possibly go against my benefactor and kidnap her? And I wouldn't stoop so low as to

betray my own country in the first place!"

He might not be the most useful member of society, but he was still patriotic about his country.

"That's right! I believe that everything Tom had said and done just now was just to appease the

kidnappers and to make sure that I was safe.

"You even saw that he fought back instead of actually leaving to kidnap Willow. You can't just blindly

murder the innocent!" Miranda explained.

She wasn't exactly fond of Tom, but she still didn't want to see him being falsely accused and wrongly

murdered after he had just saved her.

Laina thought for a while and realized that the two made a lot of sense.

Miranda had made it clear that she would rather die herself than put Willow's life in danger.

Laina believed that Tom wouldn't have been someone who would betray Diatoran as well.

"I'll let you off for now... But I hope you understand that I will hunt you down if you ever commit

treason," Laina calmly declared as she turned to leave.

Tom felt like an immense weight had been lifted off his shoulders after Laina left.

+15 BONOS

"Are you okay, Tom?"

Tom was genuinely still frightened. "I'm okay."

He finally realized just how much danger he had put himself into. He completely threw away his fear

the moment he decided to rescue Miranda,

He could only wonder who that woman dressed in a leather jacket was and why she suddenly

appeared to their rescue.

"We should get out of here... It's scary," Miranda sheepishly said as she looked around at the corpses

littering the floor.

"Yeah. Let's get out of here first." Tom nodded his head and brought Miranda back to safety.

Chatper 529

Chapter 529 Investigating the Mastermind

In the evening, the agitated protestors were still voicing their disapproval of Caspian.

The protest gradually grew more heated as more and more protestors joined the crowd gathering in the

streets of Southlake City.

Task Force Rose had spent the day investigating the protest leaders within Southlake City.

Laina issued her orders to immediately kill the protest leaders in order to stabilize the situation in the

city.

She also ordered her team to capture a few of them alive in order to extract information.

Task Force Rose split up into multiple smaller groups and began their mission. They sneaked into the

crowd and hunted their targets.

The team members weaved through the crowd and silenced the leaders with skillful movements.

Suddenly, multiple corpses were found across the streets. And the crowd was left utterly confused by

how it even happened.

News of the individuals who led the protest against Caspian being mysteriously killed had struck fear

into the crowd.

The crowd's passion died down in an instant.

Because of herd mentality, most citizens were just there on the street to join in the fun.

Now that the protest leaders were killed, they immediately realized that slandering the Chief

Commander of Diatoran was a major crime.

The crowd immediately returned home and stopped protesting, worried they might be killed next.

Meanwhile, on the outskirts of Southlake City, Laina stood atop a hill with a calm expression.

A few SUVs soon arrived and stopped right beside her.

Four male protest leaders were brought over by the members of Task Force Rose.

+15 BONOS

They had kept the four of them alive in order to extract additional information.

The four men were panicking as they found themselves brought into the wilderness.

They could tell that something bad was going to happen.

"Who are you guys working for?" Laina asked as she scanned through the four

men.

They looked at each other, and none had dared to give her an answer.

They weren't hesitating because they were loyal. They were simply afraid they would be of no use after

giving out the information and would just be killed at

once.

They realized they might still have a chance to-live so long as they remained silent.

Laina turned furious. "I'll ask you one more time. Who are you working for?"

The four men were frightened as they looked at Laina.

One of the men sheepishly asked, "Would you let us go if we tell you everything?"

"Of course. I'll let the one person who tells me everything leave this place alive. Just one of you,

though. You guys can discuss who gets to live."

Laina was simply employing a psychological trick that was very effective in ordinary folks to have them

rat out the truth for their own survival.

As the leader of Task Force Rose, she was well–trained in combat and mental battles.

But her choice never mattered as all these four men would only meet their end the moment they were

captured.

She never had any mercy for them in the first place.

Laina's trick had sent all four men into a frenzy as they tried to secure their survival.

"I'll say it!"

"No, wait! I'll tell you everything. Everything!"

"Fuck it. I'll say it! We're working for Rich-"

Four muffled gunshots sounded just before the man could spill the truth.

The next moment, all four men were dead.

Laina and the rest of her team members were shocked.

+15 BONOS

They quickly realized that there were people hiding in the shadows using silenced pistols.

Laina realized that her team must have been followed as the four men she had captured were silenced

before they could reveal the truth.

"There are enemies hidden around us. Be careful! Prepare to counterattack! Laina ordered as she

pulled out her own handgun.

The entirety of Task Force Rose immediately retreated to find cover as they carefully scanned the area

for abnormalities.

"Target sighted! Over there!" Laina ordered as she noticed movement from the bushes far away.

Dozens of gunshots rang out as the task force fired in the direction of the bush.

Three blood–curdling screams could be heard from beyond.

The bush shook once more. Soon, a single man emerged, standing up as he tried to escape.

Another round of gunshots rang out as the survivor was focused and fired upon until his body

resembled a beehive.

Task Force Rose remained vigilant as they resumed another round of attack just to be sure that no

more enemies were hiding within the bushes.

"Go and check," Laina ordered.

The rest of the team carefully approached the bushes.

They finally entered through the bush to find three corpses.

With one being shot down while he tried to escape, it would total up to four men who each shot the four

protest leaders that Laina had captured.

The four of them were all dressed in black and were distinctive of Vadesian origin.

One of the team members reported, "All four targets have been wiped out!" Laina nodded her head and replied, "Well done."

"What should we do next, Captain? We've lost our chance to extract any intel."

"We'll resume the investigation regardless. We'll have to find out the mastermind behind all of this!" Laina ordered.

The members of Task Force Rose answered in unison, "Yes, Captain!"

+15 BONOS

Laina continued, "One more thing. The man had mentioned that he was working for someone named

'Rich' or something before he was killed. We can resume the investigation from anyone whose name

starts with 'Rich.""

As the leader of Task Force Rose, Laina had quite sharp senses and had managed to hear the tidbit

the man managed to say before he was silenced.

Meanwhile, intense battle raged on in West Aridlands as Filren's forces launched their attack.

Balthazar himself was supervising the battle as hundreds of thousands of soldiers bravely marched into

war.

Dax, the Champion of West Aridlands, had also joined in the fight.

Over at North Aridlands, Vadesia and Estrya's combined forces also began their attack.

Ziko followed Caspian's orders and split his troops into three groups to launch the counterattack.

Meanwhile, a battle also raged on in East Aridlands with Estrya's forces.

Reinforcements from the south had yet to reach East Aridlands.

But luckily, Keith, the Champion of East Aridlands, had already made ample preparations.

The entirety of Diatoran was being attacked from all directions.

Meanwhile, back at the South Aridlands, Benjamin was slightly panicking. "Chief Commander, the

current situation doesn't seem favorable. Our forces in North, West, and even East Aridlands are

currently locked in battles with enemy troops.

"We've been making preparations here at South Aridlands for such a long time. already, yet Vadesia's

and Astronia's forces aren't attacking us at all! We should just send our forces to aid the west instead

of just idling around here!"

Caspian replied, "What for? Moving our forces from the south to the west would waste a lot of time and

energy!"

"His Majesty himself is currently supervising the battle in West Aridlands. I'm just worried that he might

be in danger!"

Chatper 530

Chapter 530 Intense Battles

"West Aridlands have His Majesty personally supervising the war, along with their champion, Dax,

leading the charge.

"They are currently locked in a battle, and Filren's forces wouldn't be able to make any breakthroughs

for the time being. You don't have to worry about His Majesty's safety," Caspian explained.

Benjamin retorted, "Diatoran is currently surrounded by enemies from all directions. And yet Vadesia's and Astronia's forces at the south alone had stopped all movements.

"I believe they are just trying to waste our time and prevent us from helping others. We're just sitting

ducks!"

"I think they shouldn't be able to hold back from attacking any longer as well," Caspian said

"What do you mean?"

Caspian began to analyze the current situation. "The current situation is clear. Now that our

reinforcements are on their way, it would be the best opportunity for them to strike.

"They would surely launch the attack from the south, and only then would the entirety of Diatoran be

under attack from all directions.

"If we were to send another batch of reinforcements to the west right now, we would not be able to

defend ourselves here in the south. Losing both Southlake City and Garthram would be disastrous for

us.

"It would not be wise for us to be surrounded by enemies from all sides. We have to retain our troops in

the south to defeat Vadesia and Astronia's combined forces before we divert our forces to help out the

others."

Benjamin nodded his head. "You're right. We should focus on defeating Vadesia and Astronia's

combined forces before we think of the others."

The next moment, an officer ran up to the both of them.

"A report for the chief! The advance troops at the southern territorial waters have finally begun to move

again!

"Just as I thought, they're going to attack us now. Get ready for battle! We'll immediately launch our

guided missiles the moment they enter our range of fire!

Caspian ordered.

"Yes, sir!" the officer answered and immediately ran off to relay the order.

Benjamin smiled and complemented Caspian, "You're such a wonderful strategist, Caspian. Our

enemies really couldn't wait any longer."

+15 BONOS

"Do you think we can still defeat the enemy if we send reinforcements to the east? "Caspian asked.

"Our troop's morale is at an all-time high, and we already have planted plenty of guided missiles

across the islands. We can defeat their advance troops as long as we follow the plan."

"Very well. Then, we shall notify Necros to allow Astronia and Vadesia's combined forces to come for us.

"We'll annihilate them once their troops enter our territory as well. Then, we'll finally be able to turn this

around."

Caspian decided it would be better to lure the enemies into their territory rather than block them off at

Necros.

Benjamin nodded his head. "Sure!"

Caspian then stood up to announce his decision to all the officers within the room. "Glory is upon us.

War is coming! We will fight to the death to protect Diatoran!

"Anyone trying to run away will be branded as a traitor and will be executed on sight! We can't afford to

lose this battle. Diatoran's fate depends on whether or not we can defend the south!"

The crowd answered in unison, "Yes, sir!"

At 3:00 am, the enemy advance troops had finally entered South Aridlands' range

of fire.

Meanwhile, the main troop of the Astronian and Vadesian armies had also begun their march through

Necros toward Diatoran.

Their advance troop attempted to breach through Diatoran defenses with a single -line formation.

"Fire!" Caspian ordered in the command room.

All the missile silos and hidden guided missiles began firing up at Caspian's order.

Some of the military bases on the islands had also launched their attack.

+15 BONOS

The next moment, missiles closed in toward the enemies from all directions.

Both Astronia and Vadesia had come prepared as they entered Diatoran's territory. They had already

expected to be bombarded with defensive artillery upon stepping in.

They had no choice but to march on because of how important winning this war was to them.

As such, they had already prepared ample defenses, including anti–missile systems within their

battleships that redirect the guided missiles away from their intended target.

The sky turned red as explosions burned bright above the sea.

Thunderous shockwaves emanated from all the explosive impact.

It was enough to send audible shockwaves all the way to Southlake City, even though the battle took

place a good distance away from the shore.

The citizens of Southlake City sought shelter in bunkers.

Meanwhile, the troops stationed across Southlake City's coastline prepared themselves for a battle to

the death in order to defend their country.

Astronia and Vadesia had also sent out dozens upon dozens of fighter planes to gain an advantage

through the airspace, to which Diatoran's forces responded with fleets of their own.

Meanwhile, back at Riverside Villa, Willow and Zoe had also heard the thunderous booms coming from

the war.

Zoe was frightened by the sudden noise. "What is it? What happened?"

Willow replied, "I think the war has started."

Suddenly, the leader of the armored battalion entered the house. "Lady Willow, please come with us to

a safer place."

Willow quickly nodded her head. "Okay!"

She followed the soldier into the bunker they had prepared without any hesitation.

Back at South Aridlands, Diatoran's fleet of battleships had joined the battle along with a fleet of

submarines.

+15 BONOS

The sea was lit up with artillery fire as battleships sank one after another. The sky above saw a

similarly hectic situation as fighter planes met each other in combat.

The war became heated in a very short amount of time. Meanwhile, Astronia and Vadesia's main

forces had also rushed over after crossing over Necros.

The enemy battleships were larger in numbers, but Diatoran's forces were able to hold their ground

thanks to the islands and terrains around the coastline.

Diatoran had also unveiled its latest military invention—a cutting—edge fighter plane.

Diatoran had an absolute advantage over its enemies when it came to the air force.

Meanwhile, an intense battle was also raging in West Aridlands.

Filren had deployed all of its elite combatants for their offensive charge.

Dax, the Champion of West Aridlands, led the Diatoran's forces and met their enemies on the

battlefield.

The only problem was that the Diatoranian troops were limited in numbers in the west.

It would be difficult for them to fight back against the full might of Filren's military.

Balthazar was personally supervising the battle at the west and had even requested reinforcements

from Central Plains.

Hundreds of thousands of reinforcements were currently making their way to West Aridlands.

Only two squadrons remained in West Aridlands at this moment as the rest of the troops were sent to

the border.

The two squadrons were led by General Officer Ferb Zonia and Senior General Quinton Hans,

respectively.

The remaining tens of thousands of elite fighters were all personal guards of the King himself.