

MEMORIZE

Chapter 16

Split in Half. (6/8)

I have said it once before, but in Hall Plain, Deadmen don't even qualify as monsters. Whatever ability they had was a little intelligence and ability to spread contagions. An adult man with a steel pipe can defeat a Deadman 80% of the time, to prove his mettle to enter Hall Plain. (Assuming a one-to-one ordinary situation with nothing else happening.)

An-Hyun was now equipped with a sword and shield and had an overall good base Attributes. If he had a willing heart and knew how to wield a weapon, he would go far. As far as seeing the Deadman as a joke.

Once the dam had burst, An-Hyun became more resolved, his slashes no longer had a roughness to it. An-Hyun was a prodigious and gifted fighter. It seems he still had to overcome his fear, as he still attacked with a simple block and counter. If he became more confident, he could easily dispatch a couple of them with just his sword alone.

And like that, break straight through. We were swiftly making our way out of the forest. Grasping for a way to escape, Kim Han-Byeol found hints of a forest trail, and there was hope that we could escape this forest by following this path. The party's speed increased with our renewed hope. However, we could not disregard the fact that as we walked further down this path, it was more likely Deadmen would start appearing. Since we were in this situation, I decided it was good of An-Hyun to gain battle experience as he was already taking charge of most of the battles.

With their mouth wide open, four Deadmen howled irritatingly as they sniffed our scents. More and more, it seems that An-Hyun's confidence was nothing more than bloodlust. Seeing her brother lifting his sword and shield, An-Sol spoke in a hushed voice.

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"Oppa.... Be careful...."

"Yeah. Just wait for a few minute. Hyung, protect Sol and the guys please."

"Don't worry about it. I will protect everyone."

Smiling back at hearing, "Who's a guy?" from Lee Yu-Jung, he ran out with a fiercely toward them.

Though he had defeated two of these things before, it was his first time facing four at once. I notched my bolt on the crossbow and prepared for any possibilities.

With just a meter left between the dashing monsters and An-Hyun, he deftly stepped left away from them. While a human's body was flexible, these monster were not. With the Deadmen's joints were hardened, and in their straight rush to rip him apart, they had to stop to change direction. In this instant moment of vulnerability, An-Hyun stab one of its head. One out. He immediately pulled out his sword and faced the remaining three.

Seeing An-Hyun dispatch them so easily, I felt that trash was trash. Though what I really did like was how An-Hyun preyed on their weakness, rather than falling back on the simple block and slash attack. I wanted to commend him for taking advantage of Deadmen's vulnerability to turns.

I heard something shatter and saw one of the monsters stepping back. Deadman only had one method of attack, and that was to rip their opponent with their teeth. The most effective counter with a shield was to lift it just above the chest. Without ever being taught that, An-Hyun had instinctively

used said tactic. Deadman bared its teeth as An-Hyun plunged his sword like a meteor. With the plunge, that was two out!

Sending the two packing, only half of the original four was left. An-Hyun held his shield more loosely on his left arm, the ease at killing the first two monsters must have made him more relaxed. One of the monsters attacked, looking for any possible way at least take one bite, but An-Hyun calmly watched the approaching monster with his sword held in reverse stance. Watching this, my eyes were tinged with surprise. Could it be.... A sword drawing technique?

An-Hyun estimated his sword point and judged his timing. I was a master in the art of unsheathing the sword and knew the principal that An-Hyun was attempting. The gaping Deadman entering the strike zone. Within that instant, I saw An-Hyun grasping his sword tightly. The time was now!

Sheeek!

The sound of flesh being cut rang clearly through the air. While rough, the single slash was superbly done and sent the Deadman's head flying. I saw pure pleasure on An-Hyun's face. But I frowned again, there was still one left.

Another Deadman immediately lunged at An-Hyun's back as the one in front of him fell. An-Hyun promptly raised his shield, but with it being held loosely, there was no way it could hold back the charging Deadman. I quickly readied my loaded crossbow and waited as I saw the two collide.

Bang!

"Kuk!"

As expected, An-Hyun's shield flew off. His left arm, rather than his whole body as before, had faced the brunt of the impact. His hand must be jittering right now. With that collision, An-Hyun became defenceless, and the Deadman didn't miss that opportunity as it lunged towards his chest like a

striking snake. Seeing this I immediately fired my crossbow. An-Hyun was too precious to become monster food.

With a sharp ringing in the air, the bolt flew and struck exactly on the Deadman's head. An-Hyun slumped and looked on like he lost ten years of his life as the Deadman that tried to rip out his neck collapsed seamlessly.

"Hu...."

"Boss, nice shot!"

Lee Yu-Jung joke, as if she seemingly forgot about the danger we were in just now. While An-Hyun was good, he still wasn't able to be one step ahead in the fight. Well, this much was quite good already, it might be impertinent of me to expect more of him. Rubbing his neck while looking shell-shocked, An-Hyun thanked me.

"You saved me. Hyung, thank you."

"Nah, I only helped with one of them. Everything was thanks to you."

With a look of disbelief, he shook his head and muttered idly.

"I never expected it to attack like that. If it wasn't for Hyung, I might just have been...."

Glancing at An-Sol, she was pouting and looked like she was about to cry again. An-Sol was quaking, looking like she didn't want to hear anything more on the issue.

"There was nothing you could do. Your strike was excellent, in situations like this, I can support you as...."

"Uwaah!"

Before I could finish my sentence, An-Sol couldn't wait any longer and ran towards her brother in tears. It was a tear-jerking brother and sister

relationship. Feeling awkward, I unloaded my crossbow and put the bolts back in my pouch. The militaristic of the two, Lee Lee Yu-Jung eventually spoke with an envious tone.

“This is me speaking only from observation, but it looks easy enough, I think I can do it as well.... Che. I should have also brought a weapon along. Han-Byeol, do you have anything?”

Kim Han-Byeol responded by delving around her bosom and withdrew a short knife. I am not sure if it could be used as a throwing knife, but overall it was an ineffective weapon, as the person had to be very close to the enemy to inflict a telling blow. In the hands of a master like me, it was a different story, but an ordinary person had a bigger chance of getting bitten than managing a successful strike against a monster’s head.

“I am not sure if that will be much help. Why are you carrying that thing around?”

“Just in case. If something bad happens, I rather kill myself.”

“.... Are you some kind of virtuous Joseon woman.... Chaste till death?”

Kim Han-Byeol’s calm voice cowed Lee Yu-Jung. Shaking her head, she looked at my left arm. Lee Yu-Jung looked at the crossbow on my left arm enviously. Unable to hold herself back, she babbled disappointedly.

“Don’t you have another steel pipe like that bastard had? Han-Byeol. Can you look around and see if there is anything I can use?”

“There’s nothing.”

Lee Yu-Jung’s babbling and talking however she please left Kim Han-Byeol looking uncomfortable. I wondered what happened to Park Don-Gul and his party? Compared to the Rite of Passage in my first life, we were having a much easier time. Back then.... The first two-day was nothing but running. I

wondered how they were faring. Would they be running for their lives? Who knows. It might be possible they were already cut up and were being digested inside a Deadman's stomach.

That wasn't my problem, so I promptly erased it from my head. I am not sure if it was the effect of the battle, or from An-Sol's comforting, but An-Hyun walked toward us tiredly.

"Hyung. I saw the trail becoming more distinctive. I think we are almost there, let's continue."

"Yeah, let's go."

Having listened in on our conversation between me and An-Hyun, Lee Yu-Jung seems to be full of regret at her weaponless state and started throwing a tantrum.

"Che. Amusing, very amusing. If you keep this up you might just snuff it. Be careful."

"It's better running about then getting eaten standing still. Anyway, let's get going."

"I know too. This forest is wearing on me as well. I would be out of here in a second if I could."

Like this, we defeated the four Deadmen and quickly went down the path. This path would certainly let us escape this forest. But I was becoming concerned about the increasing number of Deadmen lurking about on the outskirts. I could already detect twenty Deadmen with my detection skill, and the number was rising. No matter the route, I had a feeling that it would be no different than this one.

Comparing four Deadmen to a mass of twenty was like Heaven and Earth. If it was like this, and excluding a frontal charge, there was only one way to create

an opening for an escape route. Sighing loudly to myself, I tried to come up with a good argument to persuade the party.

As expected, the outskirts of the forest were crowded with the Deadmen. No matter how you saw it, there were over twenty of them scattered all over making Geureung noises. That was just the number of them in front of us, but if we caused a disturbance here the number of monsters that could pop out from the everywhere couldn't be ignored.

Far off a stone wall could be seen, pointing to evidence of civilisation. Over it, a rough hewn thing resembled a beginning of a road. Just one more step and we would be out of this forest. Everyone seems to be gripped by this realisation. No matter how excellent An-Hyun is, it was impossible for him to handle twenty Deadmen at once. But to leave here like this, we were rooted in place by this drawback.

“Shit.... How do you expect to go through that?”

Lee Yu-Jung's absentminded comment drilled through our ears. There was no guarantee that a different path would yield a different result. An-Hyun and Kim Han-Byeol lowered their heads silently, unable to come up with any good idea. There was only one method left. Lightly sighing, I decided to help them out a bit.

“I have an idea.”

As they heard my words, their ears tilted up. I decided to get straight to the point.

Chapter 17

“Lure. We are going to lure them out.”

“What? We are going to lure those monsters?”

Similar, but slightly out of context. I shook my head uneasily. Everyone watched me with blank eyes, but Kim Han-Byeol seemed to roughly understand me when she raised her eyebrows. Anyway, it seemed necessary to explain a little more.

“No. Rather than luring them out, it’s one of us becoming bait for these monsters.”

I stopped for a moment and pointed my finger towards the forest. I spoke as I watched everyone’s gaze turn back into the forest.

“If you make a commotion, the monsters will surely run towards the bait. If we maintain the aggro we can lure them into that forest. Afterwards the party can cross through the gap and climb over the wall. Then we will be out of the forest.”

On purpose, I spoke with a hopeful tone that we could escape the forest but everyone’s face turned sceptical. It was not a positive response. They were not happy by any means. Nevertheless, as they had nothings to say, they must have all thought it was a valid plan. Of course, there was one essential problem in finalising this plan.

It was obvious, the thought on everyone’s mind. Who would be the bait? If those Deadmans walked slowly like Zombies, it might be doable. But once a Deadman finds a prey, they start sprinting. At just one moment of hesitation, the person acting as bait would be instantly surrounded and become food.

For a while, everyone just looked at each other. Again, it was the fast thinking Kim Han-Byeol that asked the main point.

“This means that one person has to sacrifice himself, isn’t it?”

“Of course.”

“Who will do it?”

Silence. With the end of the forest in sight, anyone would hesitate in this situation. I already had considered such thoughts, and with a light sigh, I lifted my hand. I would feel the lot more comfortable doing it myself, rather than letting someone else doing this hard task.

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"The person who came up with it should do it. So I will do it."

"Absolutely not. It's too dangerous."

"Oppa. Han-Byeol is right. Let's just hide a while longer. Un?"

Kim Han-Byeol instantly was opposed to the plan, with Lee Yu-Jung trying to persuade me otherwise. Still, this much was within expectation so I presented them with my answers I prepared beforehand.

"We can't wait forever. We don't know when those things could find us."

"We could always head out to a different direction."

It was Kim Han-Byeol again refuting me. I shook my head, as I told them my rebuttal.

“Moving will take time and it’s almost evening. If we want to escape, this is the last chance.”

“But....”

Kim Han-Byeol still seemed sceptical, so I spoke with more force than usual. Of course, I still remembered the discomfort on Kim Han-Byeol’s face when Lee Yu-Jung spoke impolitely, so I had yet to talk to her.

“If there is no opening, we have to make one. There is no guarantee the situation would improve if we move to another area.”

Seeing no way to refute this, Kim Han-Byeol closed her mouth with a heavy scowl. There was a moment of silence. I am sure they felt relieved at the fact that they didn’t have to act as bait, with one part feeling sorry for me. This was the difference between them and Park Don-Gul.

Park Don-Gul had called this hypocrisy. If we had the same conversation this moment, I am sure Park Don-Gul and I would have similar thoughts, to a point. The past me would make a show, telling everyone to stop trembling but right now this party needed a silent Hyung who always had their back. If Park Don-Gul could have controlled himself, or if he had some use, I wouldn’t have sent him away like that. I chuckled at myself at this impossible dream.

“Then.... Ah.... Su-Hyun Oppa will be in danger.”

When I turned my head, An-Sol was mumbling with a red face. Was she worrying about me? I wanted to kiss her admirable heart, but An-Hyun was just an arm’s length away so I was satisfied with just smiling at her. I spoke while pretended to look around and alert.

“We can’t just throw away this chance to escape the forest. I always thought a time will come when we have to put up with this much danger. That time just came earlier than expected. That’s all.”

“But...”

“It’s laughable that a twenty-three year old like me will talk about this, but I’m the oldest here. If I don’t volunteer here, when else would I be able to?”

An-Sol’s face seemed to be a little brighter as I spoke cheekily. An-Hyun, who kept silent until then, opened his mouth for the first time. It was a face of resolve after thinking about something deeply.

“Hyung.”

“Hmm?”

“That time when we faced the monsters. They usually walk around, but when they find a person, it’s like they start running. There is a chance you will get caught acting as bait.”

“Even then, it looks to me like they were just walking faster. I’m confident that I won’t get caught when I run at full speed. I just need to think of it like the usual run we do during the morning roll call.

“Even though if we manage to escape...b..ut.. Oppa Later... How will you escape?”

Kim Han-Byeol, who was silently listening on, tacked on an utterance. Why is she like this all of a sudden? This she just called me an Oppa just now? Did I mishear? Tilting my head, I retorted.

“I will figure something out when I get there. Anyways, I think this is the only way. Han-Byeol, and everyone, I am only thinking about how all of you can leave this forest right now.”

“Then let’s do it together Hyung. We can’t let Hyung do everything. I shall go with.”

He should just stay where he is. As An-Sol's eye became wide and grabbed tightly onto An-Hyun cloth. With an exaggerated expression, I gave a loud sigh and spoke to An-Hyun.

"No. You have to go with everyone."

"Why? Hyung doesn't need to face the dangers alone."

"You never know if those things are beyond the wall. We need one person to protect the party just in case. Also, it's better for just one person to act as bait."

"Still..."

"And you have a sister."

When I mentioned An-Sol, An-Hyun immediately shut up. An-Sol was looking at me with a complicated expression. Gratitude. Worry. Remorse. Usually, I hate kids like An-Sol, but strangely enough, she wasn't as detestable.

After some time had passed, An-Hyun nodded his head with some effort.

"... I got it. I leave it to you Hyung."

"Of course, I want to live as well. Just have faith."

"Yes. I will."

"Trust me. There is no time like the present, so I am going to head off now. Everyone, keep low. When you think I have lure them far away, Hyun you lead the party and run. Never look back. Don't be foolish and look backwards. Just look straight forward and run. Understand?"

The women had nothing to say. Everyone had mixed feelings on their face. Relief that they might just live, mixed with the guilt that they didn't stand up to act as bait. When I was loading the crossbow to prepare myself and head out, I could hear Kim Han-Byeol, Lee Yu-Jung and An-Sol say their one piece.

“... I am sorry.”

“Oppa... Thank you. Please don't die.”

“Be safe....”

At their heartfelt worry, I responded with a strong voice.

“Good Luck.”

I moved off immediately. Of course, it didn't mean that I started off making a ruckus as soon as I came out of hiding. If I started making noise right now, we could be unlucky and the party could be caught as well. I looked around quickly and saw a pile of rocks on the uphill. If I climbed it, I could observe the situation and all the Deadmans will be able to find me. There were no tree with much girth, but if I was alone, it was enough for me to hide and move undetected.

Keeping as low as possible, I moved from tree to tree. I tried my best to keep my breathing and footsteps as quiet as possible as I moved undetected. I had plenty of experience in stealth, so it wasn't difficult. In that moment, I remembered my first time in the Rite of Passage.

In the clearing, Park Don-Gul and Lee Yu-Jung was fighting, and the rock he kicks brought a swarm of Deadman. At that time, I tried to survive alone and escaped alone. I didn't even manage to get a proper direction as I floundered in the forest for two days, trying to flee. It was laughable comparing then and now.

I could have been more composed. There might have been another way. Those regrets suddenly floated up.

Reduced my breathing, and deaden my footstep. In this state, I steadily moved from tree to tree, avoiding detection. The pile of rocks as my target,

though it wasn't tall, the rocks were round so the Deadman would not be able to climb so easily. I also thought that I might see a village or buildings beyond the wall at that height.

I moved through about twenty trees, and not once was I detected. In not time, I had arrived in front of the pile of rocks and gave a quick glance at my surroundings before prompting climbing it. With the open view, I could clearly see the situation below. Unfortunately, there were no village or buildings beyond the stone wall. However, that wasn't much of a concern as I would find them as I head to the centre.

I thought it was a good thing that I gave up on a full frontal charge. The judgement made through magical sense was not off its mark. Seeing all the Deadman in the surroundings, I slowly stood up atop the pile of rocks. Looking at the side where the party was hidden, An-Hyun's head peeking up as if looking for the perfect timing. From now on, I had to be the perfect bait for everyone. I exchanged a look with Hyun and took a deep breath.

And with all my strength, I screamed out loudly.

"Ah ah ah ah ah ah!"

My voice rang loudly all around. The effect was immediate. Literally in an instant. All of the Deadman down below turned their heads toward me. Before long they all cried out and I could see them run towards me. Step one was a success, but there was no sense of lacking.

More and more Deadman were coming out of the forest as I vigorously swung both my arms and made a loud noise provoking them. To draw in all the Deadman on the far right side, I had to hold on for a while on the pile of rocks. I cried out again.

"Wah ah ah ah ah! Monsters!!!! I AM HERE! Come look here!"

Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung.
Gureurung. Gureurung.

As soon as my shout ended, I could hear their cries multiply. At the same time, I could feel the monsters moving towards me in mass. The Deadman closest to me had already reached the pile of rocks I was on and was struggling to climb it. It looked like it didn't need to scream anymore. As if they were starving for prey, the Deadman screeched as they came running towards me.

I somberly spat out, "This reminds me of old times."

I bore a dark smile towards the approaching monsters. I lifted the crossbow on my left hand and took out 3 arrows. The crossbow I had on hand now could load up to three arrows at once. Once loaded, it could fire three arrows.

Before aiming at the forehead of the struggling Deadman in front of me, I looked once again at the place the party was hiding. Strangely enough, I could not stop laughing.

T/N:

Was on hiatus trying to finish my Degree. Chapter 18 will be out tomorrow. Editing usually takes 1-2 hours, just doing light grammar check with Grammarly and going to use editing time for translation. If you detect errors, please put it on the comment.

Should have EP. 18 tomorrow.

Chapter 18

Split in Half. (8/8)

Numerous Deadman corpses littered the ground in front of the pile of rocks. I counted about 7, 9 arrows embedded on each of their foreheads. However, there was still many more Deadmans to dispose of. Seeing them stepping on their fallen comrades to get to me, it was like they really want to take a bite out of me.

“They are trying hard, really hard.”

Humming to myself, I let my hand reach into the arrow pouch for more, but I couldn't feel anything. In the dark pouch, I only stirred the air inside before managing to scrape 2 arrows from the very bottom. I should really collect the spent arrows on my way back.

So far, not all the Deadmans have gathered yet. I could still see more Deadman in the distance, huffing and puffing to get to me, but I thought this was enough and it was time to leave. Even if three or four of the beasts were left to harass the party, An-Hyun will be more than be able to handle it.

Yet looking below, there were still Deadman with their mouth wide open, shaking their head as they howled ceaselessly. The sight was so funny, that I unconsciously copied its movement.

‘What am I doing right now?’

I reflexively covered my mouth, trying to cover my laughter at these things.

I think I am too restless. After I became a Sword Master during my first time in Hall Plain, I was emotionally dead inside. Especially before a battle, I tried to stay as cold as ice. Maybe that's why in the most difficult battle that could be chosen, the Retaking of Atlanta and the Ragnarok Annihilation, I managed to survive.

Really, it has been ages since I felt like this. The me who did not even blink in the face of the overwhelming strength of combined forces was being swayed by this slaughter. Even now I couldn't seem to control my emotions. It was not

an unfavourable situation like back then, but this restless anticipation was melting all over me.

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The more that I gazed at the monsters on top of the pile of rocks, the more it seems to spur my emotions that I jumped down and leapt toward the forest. These Deadmans were patiently throwing their bodies and groaned their way to the top when I jumped off they howled in anger at having climbed for nothing.

“Guys. There are too many eyes to finish this work here. So let us go a bit deeper into the forest.”

Gureurung!

I don't know if they understood what I said, but the Deadmans followed with a loud shriek.

I intentionally slowed my speed as I headed inside the forest. The original plan was to run at full speed and create a distance between them, but I changed my mind. I made it so that now they would keep up and would be able to follow me.

Seems like they were a bit starved as these Deadmans dropped down from the pile of rocks with a thud. I shot my crossbow at them. Those Deadmans that climbed the pile of rocks with such effort was shot dead without satisfying their hunger.

Checking their slouched head, I immediately turned and walked towards the forest.

Gureurung! Gureurung! Gureurung! Gureurung! Gureurung!

Having heard this howl enough times now, I think I have gotten used to it. I controlled my tempo to seem just out of reach, making for a mortifying sight. The sounds of teeth clattering just behind me made for a novel thrill. Then.

Pak!

“Uh.”

I think I was a bit excessive with my merriment. Having been moving in an S for a while nonstop between the trees, I suddenly felt something bite tightly on my left arm. Shocked, I lifted my left arm and saw a Deadman making a strange face as it bit into my arm. This couldn't have been one of the bastards I dragged with me. Rather, it must have been one that was sauntering in the area and got lucky enough to sink his teeth in.

Truthfully, it wasn't painful. Rather, the shock of being bitten by this thing was greater. That shock was quickly converted to anger. The thing was lucky, but still, it damaged my pride. With a petulant voice, I spoke to the Deadman that bit my arm.

“What are you looking at.”

Gureurung.

“I was surprised.... You fuck.”

The Deadman that was biting on my wrist had an uncomprehending look in its eye. It was because even if it had bit me, its teeth hadn't sunk into the flesh. Wasn't this obvious. My Resistance Attribute was 92 points, did it think it could gnaw on my flesh? With profanity and anger, its head exploded as I slammed my right hand into it.

While I was wrangling with the beast, those Deadmans that were gasping at my heel had me surrounded. Few of these things grin at the thought that they

had caught their prey. Having judged that I had run a reasonable distance from the pile of rocks, I flexed my wrist.

Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung. Gureurung.

Howling filled the air around me, but I had no fear. Having fallen to the depth of hell before, these things were cute compared to the Hell Lions I tussled with. I merely desired and desired, that these things might sate my urge.

“I will be in your care.”

As I gave them a friendly greeting, the Deadmans' bared their teeth in response. Looks like these things didn't know basic manners. The Deadmans and I acted at the same time. I did nothing but simply stretching my fingers at the head of the Deadman, who were pushing to get at me. Right, let me get the first bastard that's in front.

Kaw!

How to describe the sensation of fingers piercing through the head, well, it's not like a person's soft flesh but more like piercing through a rotten log. Lifting Deadman that I pierced to the back of its head, it dangled on my fingers before it's body collapsed. Having witnessed such scene, the Deadman stopped completely for a moment.

Fear. Would these monsters that always preyed on humans know fear? That they themselves could be hunted. I happened on an epiphany. Do these things run on instinct or have some higher mentality? These bastards that ran mindlessly whenever they chanced on a prey, had momentarily stopped at the presence I was exuding.

Commendable, but I wasn't about to let them off. Lightly releasing magic on my hand, the monster's head shattered completely. I motioned with my fingers, signalling them to attack. However, the Deadmans took a step back.

I wasn't even going to use my long sword. I wouldn't have any problem without it. I could immediately break off a branch or pick up a blade of grass and turn it into a deadly weapon. But I was thirsty for a slaughter and to relieve the thirst, I want to feel it with my bare hands. Cracking my knuckles, and grinned. A thought passed by. I think I finally realised why I couldn't stop laughing.

I was suppressing my nature. Living by the sword for 10 years in order to survive, and repeatedly killing things seems to have bathed my character in blood. My mouth twisted as I saw these monsters slowly moving back.

"Hyung will pull through for us. Everyone get up, let's jump the wall quickly."

The forest that was prowling with monsters now became deceitfully quiet. Looking at the quiet forest, An-Hyun spoke with a spirited voice, however, the mood of the party had sunk. As An-Hyun stated, it looked like Kim Su-Hyun had successfully dragged these things with him. Just now, it had been swarming with them, but now, not a peep could be seen of these monsters. Apart from that, it seems like everyone was wrapped in hopelessness.

"Oppa.... Will he be alright? You know. We could right now...."

As Lee Yu-Jung spoke with a dead voice, An-Hyun felt prickly inside. But he could not show that. Su-Hyun had put his faith in him and told him to protect the party. He couldn't betray that trust.

"We can't. Stop saying nonsense and get up. What are we going to do if those things come back?"

"Aren't you worried about Oppa?"

"I trust Hyung to pull through. He said it didn't he, that he will definitely come back so don't do anything stupid."

Seeing An-Hyun reply confidently, Lee Yu-Jung closed her mouth. But seeing her devoid of energy, An-Hyun also felt helpless. However, he shook it off continued off with a comforting and strong voice.

“Let’s believe. I am going to believe in Hyung, who believes in us.”

Having finished saying his piece, An-Hyun stepped out and observed the surrounding. Fortunately, he could not see even one Deadman. As An-Sol cautiously followed suit, and Lee Yu-Jung stood up seeing no other choice. Just as Lee Yu-Jung was about to leave the hideout, she tapped on Kim Han-Byeol’s shoulder.

“Ya. Wake up. Why are you suddenly zoning out?”

”

Kim Han-Byeol had no answer. With a cold look on her, she looked at Lee Yu-Jung once and slowly got up. Having checked that everyone had come out of the hiding place, An-Hyun spoke as he looked to the stone wall.

“Everyone, cheer up. After we climb that wall, we are out of this dreadful forest. For now, we will move as one until we reach the wall. I will climb first as we don’t know what could be on the other side.”

An-Sol and Lee Yu-Jung looked uneasy as they nodded their heads At An-Hyun’s words. But Kim Han-Byeol was still tight-lipped. She was still staring at the forest that Kim Su-Hyun disappeared into. As if she felt An-Hyun’s blank stare she immediately turned her head and spoke.

“I understand”

What does she understand? An-Hyun held a deep sigh in his heart he didn’t show outwardly. When Hyung was here, everyone helped each other and moved well, but now that he was gone, things were unconsciously falling apart from the start.

“.... It’s not like I don’t understand your concerns. It’s the same for me. But if we go into the forest, than Hyung’s sacrifice would be in vain. Su-Hyun created this opportunity for us with his life. And Hyung asked me to keep you all safe. The only thing we can do now is to quickly jump over that wall and wait for Hyung’s safe return. Everyone come to your senses!”

Even after all those words, the heavy mood did not improve. A lie seen through once could not be covered up as easily.

Everyone knew that An-Hyun was trying his best, but they had all shut their mouth. The more The more An-Hyun tried to encourage everyone the more he realised how large Kim Su-Hyun’s presence was. A feeling of uneasiness that he did not know was slowly blooming up. An-Hyun finally closed his eyes in resignation.

The remainder of the party all remembered a composed man with a crossbow. It had only been half a day since they met, but he already had a place in their heart.

It was Kim Su-Hyun, who acted blazingly fast in the clearing, who saved the naive An-Sol from getting bitten by the monster. When the team was in danger of being divided by Park Dong-Gul. Fighting off the monster, and firing off his arrow in every dangerous situation. He was no different than a strong support that held up the fence in every importation situation

However, that fence was now gone. They didn’t know if he would ever come back. The survivors could all feel the emptiness that was left behind by him.

T/N: Merry Christmas, I will be giving away a random steam code to a random Disqus comment on this chapter. Draw closes on 23rd Dec, 2016.