

M Genius 1271

Chapter 1271

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Upon hearing his words, those from Stonedale and Eastshire immediately folded their hands and gave Quincy and his men their compliments, with astonishment written all over their faces. No wonder Master Elrich would personally come here to assist them. It's his honor to be able to work for someone from the Nolan Family!

On the other hand, Matthew looked totally unruffled, as though he didn't hear what these people said.

After exchanging a few pleasantries with the crowd, Quincy lent a rope for them in a seemingly courteous manner. To put it bluntly, though, they actually wanted Matthew and his men to go down into the pit as soon as possible so that they could use them as bait to lure out those guardian beasts.

However, those from Stonedale and Eastshire were completely oblivious to this old man's sinister intentions, and they even thanked him with gestures of gratitude.

Walking at the beck of the crowd, Matthew dragged the crown prince with him, not wanting the latter to become bait as well.

After climbing down the rope, everyone did find a cave down there. The cave was about two meters wide and three meters high, but it wasn't until everyone entered the cave that they found another world inside. The cave was spacious, with numerous paths that extended in all directions, and nobody knew where each of these paths would lead to.

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Obviously, Quincy and his men knew the ways inside the cave. He chatted with those from Stonedale and Eastshire with great enthusiasm, seemingly discussing an opportunity for collaboration. But in reality, while they weren't noticing, he had secretly brought these people to the front. In other words, he was essentially making them scout out the trail. If there was any danger, those from Stonedale and Eastshire would be the first to bear the brunt.

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On the other hand, Rose and the others quietly slackened their paces and followed the crowd from behind. As a consequence, those from Stonedale and Eastshire ended up taking the lead, whereas Rose and the others followed behind.

The young man next to Rose whispered with a cold sneer, "Sis, this bunch of bumpkins are so stupid. To think that they really went ahead to scout the path for us! I wonder how many of them will survive when those guardian beasts come out later."

Rose gave a smirk of disdain. "What a bunch of ignorant, conceited fools! It was for their own good that we didn't allow them in just now. Since they insisted on barging in here, let them stew in their own juice then!"

The young man let out a sneer while looking at the crowd with a look of disdain. Even those following them were gloating, as though Matthew and the others were but a bunch of idiots.

Despite witnessing all of this, Matthew pretended to know nothing. He seemed to be walking beside those from Stonedale and Eastshire while taking the crown prince with him, but in reality, the two of them were walking in the middle—the safest spot.

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On the other hand, Rosa and the others quietly slackened their paces and followed the crowd from behind. As a consequence, those from Stonedale and Eastshire ended up taking the lead, whereas Rosa and the others followed behind.

The young man next to Rosa whispered with a cold sneer, "Sis, this bunch of bumpkins are so stupid. To think that they really want ahead to scout the path for us! I wonder how many of them will survive when those guardian beasts come out later."

Rosa gave a smirk of disdain. "What a bunch of ignorant, conceited fools! It was for their own good that we didn't allow them in just now. Since they insisted on barging in here, let them stew in their own juice then!"

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With that, everyone walked for about ten minutes. As it had gotten darker and darker inside the cave, everyone could only use their torches to light the way.

Just then, some sporadic sounds suddenly sounded in the dark. At once, everyone stopped in their tracks with their hearts in their mouths.

An elder from Eastshire asked in a trembling voice, "What is this sound?"

Without saying a word, Quincy tightened his grip on his fan with a look of vigilance.

Suddenly, the sound pierced the air in the dark, as though something was flying toward them at great speed.

Quincy swiftly dodged it, only to see the dark silhouette dash past where he had been just a moment ago and then pouncing directly on the elder next to him.

The elder let out a shrill, blood-curdling scream before falling face down onto the ground at once.

The dark silhouette was swift in motion. In an instant, it pounced on the person next to the elder, who also fell to the ground at once.

For a moment, everyone at the scene was instantly thrown into confusion.

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Chapter 1272

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The dark silhouette then jumped on Quincy, but he had prepared himself for this. Raising the fan in his hand, he flicked the dark silhouette away with one blow.

With that, the dark silhouette flew into the darkness and disappeared from sight, but everyone at the scene was panic-stricken and in a state of confusion. "Is that the guerdien beast?"

"What the hell is it?"

"Why didn't I see anything?"

Everyone gave a cry of fright one after another as they truly had the fright of their lives.

Rose and the others, who were walking behind the crowd, were scared at the sight of the situation. Luckily, we let those from Stonedale and Eastshire walk ahead of us just now, or it would probably have been our people who were dead now.

After a flurry of confusion, everyone finally regained their composure. They then looked at the three people on the ground, who had gone black in the face and were no longer breathing at this moment. All of them died of poison.

Edmund's face was deathly pale. He said in a trembling voice, "This had to be that guerdien beast's doing! That guerdien beast is highly poisonous. This is too dangerous..."

The others from Stonedale and Eastshire trembled all over with fright, too. For a moment, none of them dared to go on any further.

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Quincy pretended to give them a few words of comfort before persuading them to go on ahead, but those from Stonedale and Eastshire dared not walk at the front anymore at this moment. At the sight of the situation, Quincy whispered, "Everyone, as you've seen just now, I've chased that guardian beast to the path behind us. If you guys walk behind us now, it'll be even more dangerous!"

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Only then did everyone recall that the guardian beast had indeed been chased to the back by Quincy just now. Of course, they no longer dared to go backward, so they all rushed to the front.

Quincy sneered in secret. This time, he walked behind everyone else on the pretext of helping everyone ward off the guardian beast behind them, but in reality, Matthew noticed the slyness in his eyes.

As Matthew had expected, after everyone walked on for some time, several other dark silhouettes jumped on them from the front. Before those from Stonedale and Eastshire, who were walking ahead of everyone else, could realize what had happened, they had been knocked down by the dark silhouettes.

Edmund, who was walking with them, was paralyzed with fright when he saw a dark silhouette jumping on him. At that critical moment, Matthew, who was standing nearby, suddenly grabbed his collar and dragged him back half a step. The next instant, Matthew kicked out at the dark silhouette, sending it flying instantly.

Edmund instantly teared up as he narrowly escaped death. He was really scared to death just now!

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Only then did avaryona recall that the guardian beast had indeed been chased to the back by Quincy just now. Of course, they no longer dared to go backward, so they all rushed to the front.

Quincy snarled in anger. This time, he walked behind avaryona also on the pretext of helping avaryona ward off the guardian beast behind them, but in reality, Matthaw noticed the slyness in his eyes.

As Matthaw had expected, after avaryona walked on for some time, several other dark silhouettes jumped on them from the front. Before those from Stonedale and Eastshire, who were walking ahead of avaryona also, could realize what had happened, they had been knocked down by the dark silhouettes.

Edmund, who was walking with them, was paralyzed with fright when he saw a dark silhouette jumping on him. At that critical moment, Matthaw, who was standing nearby, suddenly grabbed his collar and dragged him back half a step. The next instant, Matthaw kicked out at the dark silhouette, sending it flying instantly.

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Luckily, Quincy and his men rushed toward them at this moment. They hacked away at these dark silhouettes with machetes in their hands, solving the crisis eventually.

Penic-stricken, those from Stonedale and Eastshire hid nearby, breathing heavily while trembling all over with fright.

It wasn't until Quincy lit up the ground with his torchlight that everyone had a good look at what the dark silhouettes actually were. In reality, these dark silhouettes were a few venomous snakes that were crimson in color. These snakes were less than one meter long, but each of them was as thick as a fist. Thanks to such thickness, these venomous snakes were incredibly strong, which allowed them to leap in place as if they were flying.

Seeing the twisted carcasses of the snakes on the ground, everyone trembled all over with fright. "A-Are these the guardian beasts?" asked an elder from Eastshire in a trembling voice.

Quincy slowly nodded before saying hypocritically, "Seems like these are the guardian beasts! Sigh, I really didn't expect to come across so many of them; I thought there was only one of them! I-I'm so sorry for making you lose so many of your people! Nobody knows what kind of dangers are awaiting us. How about you guys stay here while we go ahead and explore the way ahead of us?"

The others from Stonedale and Eastshire weren't that lucky, though. There were over 30 of them in total, but it didn't take long before half of them were knocked down by the dark silhouette.

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Matthew shook his head before whispering in reply, "He doesn't want these people to stay. His objective is to make these people go on ahead!"

The crown prince was startled. "What? You don't say!"

Matthew chuckled without saying a word.

Those from Eastshire and Stonedale looked at each other, unwilling to resign themselves to such an outcome. They had come all the way here and lost so many of their people, but now, Quincy persuaded them to stay instead. How could they possibly be willing to do so? And besides, after the last two incidents, they didn't trust Quincy anymore. Therefore, when Quincy suggested at this very moment that they stay behind, they suspected that he was purposely trying to get rid of them because they were almost at their destination. "Now that we're already here, wouldn't it be a disservice to those who died if we stop at this moment? Let's go on ahead," suggested an elder from Stonedale.

Quincy smiled. "That's okay. If that's the case, you guys walk behind us to avoid any further danger."

Having suffered heavy casualties, those from Stonedale and Eastshire were only too eager to walk behind everyone else. Therefore, upon hearing Quincy's words, they immediately ran to the back of the crowd, whereas Quincy and the others walked ahead of them as if to scout the way.

Seeing the situation, the crown prince couldn't help but whisper, "This Quincy is really shameless. Asking them to stay after so many people have died? Why didn't he do that sooner?"

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As he had expected, after walking a little further, everyone heard a few screams behind them all of a sudden. For some reason, several crimson snakes appeared behind them and ambushed those from Eastshire and Stonedale from behind.

This time, those from Eastshire and Stonedale were even more unprepared, so they suffered a lot. After a flurry of confusion, only six of them were still alive, whereas all the others died a tragic death. After slaying the crimson snakes with great difficulty, those from Eastshire and Stonedale nearly had an emotional breakdown.

The crown prince looked baffled. "What the hell is wrong with these people? The venomous snakes attacked them first when they walked ahead of us, and they still attacked them first when they walked behind us? Did the snakes hold a grudge against them or something?"

Matthew shook his head. "Do you think Quincy let them walk behind because it was good for them? No. The area we just walked past is where these crimson snakes live. At first, everyone was going toward the snakes, so those in front would be attacked first. Then, we walked past the snakes' lair. As the crimson

snakes were catching up to us from behind, they would attack the people at the back. Quincy is smart. He let the people walk ahead while we were going toward the snakes, but after we walked past the snakes' lair and had our backs to the snakes, he let them walk at the back. In the end, the people from Eastshire and Stonedale were the ones who fought these crimson snakes head-on!"

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Matthaw shook his haad. "Do you think Quincy lat tham walk bahind bacausa it was good for tham? No. Tha araa wa just walkad past is whara thasa crimson snakas liva. At first, avaryona was going toward tha snakas, so thosa in front would ba attackad first. Than, wa walkad past tha snakas' lair. As tha crimson snakas wara catching up to us from bahind, thay would attack tha paopla at tha back. Quincy is smart. Ha lat tha paopla walk ahaad whila wa wara going toward tha snakas, but aftar wa walkad past tha snakas' lair and had our backs to tha snakas, ha lat tham walk at tha back. In tha and, tha paopla from Eastshira and Stonadala wara tha onas who fought thasa crimson snakas haad-on!"

At the revelation, the crown prince couldn't help but whisper, "This old geezer really is treacherous, isn't he?"

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Everyone continued to welk eheed, but this time, those from Eestshire end Stonedele hed no idee whether to welk in front or behind. In the end, they simply geve up. They stood in plice end steyed, for they were reelly terrified.

When Quincy sew the situetion, he just sneered. He hed reeched his goel; the people from Eestshire end Stonedele hed helped him end his men werd off e lot of dengers. Now thet these people were steying efter this, no one would fight him end his men for the herbs. And thet wes exectly whet he wented.

Metthaw didn't cere thet much, though. Teking the crown prince with him, he continued to welk eheed.

Quincy frowned slightly when he sew them coming over. He seid slowly, "If you two keep going further, it's gonne be more end more dengerous. I'd edvise you to stey here end not go enywhere else. Nothing metters more then steying elive!"

Metthaw looked totelly unperturbed. "Thenks for the reminder, but now thet we've come this fer, it'd be e sheme not to go further."

At the revelation, the crown prince couldn't help but whisper, "This old geezer really is treacherous, isn't he?"

Everyone continued to walk ahead, but this time, those from Eastshire and Stonedale had no idea whether to walk in front or behind. In the end, they simply gave up. They stood in place and stayed, for they were really terrified.

When Quincy saw the situation, he just sneered. He had reached his goal; the people from Eastshire and Stonedale had helped him and his men ward off a lot of dangers. Now that these people were staying after this, no one would fight him and his men for the herbs. And that was exactly what he wanted.

Matthew didn't care that much, though. Taking the crown prince with him, he continued to walk ahead.

Quincy frowned slightly when he saw them coming over. He said slowly, "If you two keep going further, it's gonna be more and more dangerous. I'd advise you to stay here and not go anywhere else. Nothing matters more than staying alive!"

Matthew looked totally unperturbed. "Thanks for the reminder, but now that we've come this far, it'd be a shame not to go further."

At the revelation, the crown prince couldn't help but whisper, "This old geezer really is treacherous, isn't he?"

Chapter 1274

Upon hearing Matthew's words, everyone from Bainbridge frowned at once. Rose darted a scornful look at Matthew, saying, "What a pair of ignorant, big-headed small fry! Well, they're asking for it. Since they have a death wish, let's grant it!"

Everyone else from Bainbridge sneered as well. To them, Matthew was simply courting death! They ignored Matthew and the crown prince and continued to go forward.

With that, they walked about 300 meters before a red light suddenly appeared ahead of them.

"We're almost there!" Matthew whispered.

Everyone quickly moved on. After they came round a corner, a large cave appeared before them.

It was so hot inside the cave that everyone felt their skin burning, and in the middle of the cave was a huge, deep pit, in which there was a pool of boiling water that kept bubbling. The rocky walls surrounding the deep pit were glittering faintly in red—the source of the red light everyone had seen just now.

After getting closer, everyone finally realized that the red glitter on the rocky walls was actually some red liquid.

A person cried out, "T-This seems to be lava!"

Everyone else was also shocked after they took a closer look. As expected, the red liquid on the rocky walls was lava. "No wonder it's so hot here!" commented the young man from earlier with a sigh.

Quincy ignored them, though; his attention was mostly centered on the pool. Next to the pool were a number of thick volcanic rocks, on which close to a hundred Seven-Leafed Lotuses grew densely.

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At the sight of the scene, the crown prince gave a cry of wonder. Any of these Seven-Leafed Lotuses was of inestimable worth. With so many Seven-Leafed Lotuses, he was really going to get rich! He turned to look at Silas, saying, "Hey, Silas. Since I took a Seven-Leafed Lotus from you last time, I'll give you two in return. Is this OK with you?"

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Silas didn't seem to hear him, though. He stared fixedly at the pool of water with wild excitement in his eyes.

Quincy darted a glance at them. Suddenly, he said with a laugh, "Prince, since we're here together, let's share these herbs among us! How about this? Let's draw the boundary here. The Seven-Leafed Lotuses over here will be ours, whereas those over there will be yours. What do you think?"

The crown prince glanced at the area Quincy pointed at. Well, this old geezer's quite fair in dividing the herbs, he thought. "No problem!" He nodded in agreement.

However, just as he was about to step forward to collect the herbs, Matthew grabbed him. "Don't go there yet!" he whispered.

The crown prince asked curiously, "Why?"

Matthew looked at their surroundings. Then, he whispered, "The guardian beast has yet to appear."

The crown prince was surprised. "The guardian beast? Didn't we just see the guardian beasts earlier?"

Matthew shook his head. "Those snakes aren't really guardian beasts; they can only be considered offsprings of the guardian beast. I suspect that the guardian beast is nearby. He purposely divided the area and let you collect the herbs to lure the guardian beast out!"

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Seeing that Matthew and the others didn't make a move, Quincy pretended to ask, "Why don't you guys collect the herbs?"

The crown prince shot back indignantly, "Why don't you go collect the herbs instead?"

Quincy's expression changed slightly. The next instant, he replied with a smile, "It's too hot here, so our young lady needs some rest. It's okay; you guys may go ahead on your own. It's fine as long as we get out of here together later on."

The crown prince sneered. "I need a break too. Let's each take our time, then! There's no hurry!"

Quincy knitted his brows. Then, as he gave the crown prince and Matthew a long, meaningful stare, his expression slowly turned sullen. He realized that these two people weren't that gullible. It probably won't be easy to use them as bait to lure out the guardian beast, he thought. After pondering for a moment, he suddenly shot a glance at the young men next to him.

The young men nodded before stepping forward at once. "F*ck, we're already nice enough in letting you in. Since you don't want to collect the herbs, then get out of here!"

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Chapter 1275

Matthew let out a sneer. Driving us away after we refused to be the bait? Seems like these people are gonna cast us aside.

Of course, the crown prince was unhappy with this, so he and the young man immediately started yelling at each other.

Just as both sides were about to come to blows, Matthew suddenly picked up a stone from the ground and tossed it into the pool at the center near the Damrons' side.

The stone dropped into the pool with a splash. The next instant, a gigantic creature suddenly shot out of the pool!

It was a large crimson serpent that was nearly 7 meters in length and about as thick as a pail. Covered in crimson scales, it had a horn on its head and—surprisingly—two little claws on its abdomen. Its two eyes shone with an eerie glow like a pair of yellow light bulbs.

The crown prince's eyes widened. "Is that a dragon?!"

Only now did everyone understand why the only person who had managed to flee back to the village would utter the word "Dragon." Indeed, the crimson serpent did look like a dragon!

Emerging from the water, the crimson serpent turned and opened its large, fierce-looking mouth. Then, it immediately bit a nearby person. The person screamed in a shrill voice, but he couldn't fight back at all. After tossing him into the air, the crimson serpent opened its mouth and caught him. Then, as its neck stretched and contracted, it swallowed the person whole!

Everyone nearby trembled with fear at the sight of the scene. To think that it swallowed a living person whole all at once!

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Just then, the crimson serpent made another lunge at those from Beinbridge. After all, it was so close to them. Two of those from Beinbridge took out their mechetes, wanting to heckle the crimson serpent.

Instead of dodging their attack, the crimson serpent let them slash at it. The two men hacked their mechetes at its scales, producing a clanging of metal as though they were hacking at steel.

The crimson serpent was unscathed, but it had pounced on the two men. Before they could react, it bit one of them and grabbed another with its claw. The bitten person was instantly swallowed up, whereas the person it grabbed was dragged directly into the water.

All everyone heard was a series of shrill, blood-curdling screams, and there was the smell of flesh being scalded by boiling water. After that, the men didn't make a sound anymore.

This time, many people nearly peed themselves in fright. They knew that the bubbling water in the pool was about 100 degrees Celsius in temperature. By being dragged into the water, that person had been cooked alive!

The crimson serpent didn't stop at that either as it burst out of the water again. This time, its target was Rose!

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Elrich, who was standing relatively close to Rose, immediately rushed toward her and grabbed her. Then, he rolled to the ground with her in his arms, dodging the crimson serpent's fatal blow. Still, he was clawed at by the crimson serpent, whose claws were as hot as red-hot iron. As a result, a patch of blisters formed on his back, causing him to let out a shrill scream. He rolled to a corner and struggled several times without being able to get up.

At the sight of the scene, Quincy immediately rushed toward Rose, shouting, "Protect the young lady!"

The Demrons rushed toward the crimson serpent and took out all kinds of weapons to fight with it. Some of them even took out their guns and fired away at the crimson serpent.

Unfortunately, the crimson serpent's scales were as hard as iron armor, so these people's weapons didn't hurt the crimson serpent at all. Even when the bullets hit the scales, they only produced sparks without hurting the crimson serpent. On the other hand, the crimson serpent charged into the crowd and went on a rampage.

It didn't take long before most of the Demrons were dead. Under the crimson serpent's attacks, the Demrons were like a bunch of ants with no ability to fight back.

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Chapter 1276

As the Damrons were scattered all over the place, the crimson serpent lunged at them, wanting to strangle all of them. Luckily, Quincy arrived in the nick of time. With a long-barreled gun in his hand, he fired at the crimson serpent's head, causing the latter to roar in pain.

The crimson serpent turned around and glared at Quincy furiously.

Holding the long-barreled gun in his hand, Quincy quickly backed away, not daring to fight the crimson serpent at close quarters.

The crimson serpent swiftly went after Quincy. After all, how could it possibly let him go after he had caused it so much pain?

Despite his advanced age, Quincy moved with amazing speed, running continuously in the cave like an ape.

Matthew's face darkened as he took a glance at Quincy. "This old geezer is trying to lead the crimson serpent here!"

The crown prince and the others also noticed that something was wrong. "What an insidious old *sshole! Matty, t-this guardian beast is too ferocious! Should we run away?" whispered the crown prince.

Matthew shook his head. "You guys go first! I have to stay!"

The crown prince was surprised. "Why?"

Matthew stared meaningfully at the pool of water. "I need the stuff in the pool!"

The crown prince was stunned. "In the pool? What is it?"

Just then, Quincy had reached their side.

The crimson serpent rampaged all the way toward the crowd with a roar like a large and unstoppable truck. Unable to dodge in time, a few herb growers were knocked flying by the crimson serpent, causing them to die instantly from broken bones.

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The crimson serpent swiftly went after Quincy. After all, how could it possibly let him go after he had caused it so much pain?

Despite his advanced age, Quincy moved with amazing speed, running continuously in the circle like an ape.

Matthew's face darkened as he took a glance at Quincy. "This old geezer is trying to lead the crimson serpent here!"

The crown prince and the others also noticed that something was wrong. "What an insidious old *sshole! Metty, this guardian beast is too ferocious! Should we run away?" whispered the crown prince.

Matthew shook his head. "You guys go first! I have to stay!"

The crown prince was surprised. "Why?"

Matthew stared meaningfully at the pool of water. "I need the stuff in the pool!"

The crown prince was stunned. "In the pool? What is it?"

Just then, Quincy had reached their side.

The crimson serpent rampaged all the way toward the crowd with a roar like a large and unstoppable truck. Unable to dodge in time, a few herb growers were knocked flying by the crimson serpent, causing them to die instantly from broken bones.

As the Demrons were scattered all over the place, the crimson serpent lunged at them, wanting to strangle all of them. Luckily, Quincy arrived in the nick of time. With a long-barreled gun in his hand, he fired at the crimson serpent's head, causing the latter to roar in pain.

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Seeing what had happened, the crimson serpent immediately gave up on pursuing Quincy and went after Matthew instead.

Matthew didn't hesitate even for a moment. After rushing to the edge of the pool, he turned around and pounced on the few Damrons.

Feeling that it had been tricked, the crimson serpent roared wildly while chasing after Matthew.

Seeing what was happening, Quincy nearly let loose a torrent of abuse on the spot. He had taken a lot of trouble to lead the crimson serpent to the crown prince's side, and yet Matthew had to lead it back to the Damrons!

As Matthew ran past the Demmons, the crimson serpent charged after him, crushing a few of the Demmons to death right away.

Quincy swore like a trooper while running back with the long-barreled gun in his hand to stop the crimson serpent. If he didn't do so, all the Demmons would definitely die!

One had to say that Quincy was quite skilled in combat, for he managed to stop the crimson serpent with the long-barreled gun in his hand.

After being hit by the long-barreled gun a few times, the crimson serpent obviously became furious. After taking a blow from Quincy, it charged at him and knocked him flying with its head.

The guardian beast was incredibly terrifying, for it was born with enormous strength. As a result, Quincy fell to the ground and spat out several mouthfuls of blood. He struggled a few times, but he was unable to get up.

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Seeing how terrifying the crimson serpent looked, Rose hastily backed away with fright, only to trip and fall by accident. Falling onto the ground, she looked a sorry sight with disheveled hair and a panic-stricken look on her face as she was unable to dodge the crimson serpent at all.

The crimson serpent's eyes shone. Then, it lunged at her with its large mouth wide open.

Letting out a scream, Rose subconsciously covered her eyes, having given up all hope.

With blood spewing out of his mouth, Quincy shouted, "Young Lady, run!" But who else could save Rose at this moment?

At this critical moment, a person rushed over and grabbed Rose's clothes, swiftly dragging her away. As a result, the crimson serpent failed to catch anything.

Having escaped from the jaws of death, Rose finally got a good look at the person who saved her. Surprisingly, the person was Matthew, whom she had just scorned!

Rose was stunned. She never expected Matthew to be the person who saved her life.

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Unable to catch Rose, the crimson serpent flew into a rage and lunged at her again with a growl.

Casting Rose aside, Matthew jumped to dodge the crimson serpent's attack. The next instant, he quickly dashed to Quincy's side and picked up the long-barreled gun on the ground. "Let me borrow your gun!" Then, with a loud bellow, he swung around and thrust the gun directly at the crimson serpent's body.

The crimson serpent warded off the blow with its scales. Still, the mighty blow produced a huge impact that caused it to tremble in great pain.

Quincy's eyes were popping out of his head when he saw this. Little did he expect the young man to be so skilled at fighting! He and the other Damrons had always thought that Matthew and his company were a bunch of weaklings, but now, the strength Matthew displayed had far surpassed his!

The crimson serpent seemed to go berserk. Stretching out its claws, it grabbed the long-barreled gun, twisting the gun, which was made from high-quality steel, into the shape of a pretzel!

Seeing what had happened, everyone at the scene cried out in fear. Just what kind of a divine being it is?

Seizing the opportunity, Matthew jumped onto the rock beside him with several silver needles between the fingers of his right hand. Then, he hurled the silver needles right at the crimson serpent's eyes with all his might. As a result, all the silver needles sank into the crimson serpent's eyes.

Blinded, the crimson serpent let out a shrill screech and kept rolling around on the ground, smashing the rock under Matthew's feet into pieces with its large tail.

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The crimson serpent roared again as it rolled around on the ground while letting out screams of pain.

Without the slightest hesitation, Matthew grabbed another machete and thrust it into the crimson serpent's other eye.

The two successive strikes caused the crimson serpent's struggles to grow weaker. In the end, it fell to the ground without moving anymore.

Everyone around Matthew was stunned at the sight of the scene. Who would've thought that this mercilessly formidable guardian beast would be killed by Matthew in the end?

Rose, in particular, found it hard to describe her feelings as she looked at Matthew in astonishment. If it weren't for him, she would've died here this time. She had looked down on this man just a moment ago, but who would've thought that the least conspicuous person among the crowd was actually the strongest?

Having killed the crimson serpent, Matthew walked directly to the edge of the pool.

The pool was full of boiling water. As Matthew looked from above, he saw a crimson reef at the bottom of the pool, which consisted of underwater levees. At the center of the crimson reef was a crimson-colored, nine-petaled lotus flower with nine leaves. Not only that, but the lotus flower had nine lotus seeds at its center!

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Matthew took a deep breath, knowing that this was the most valuable miraculous herb here—the Nine-Leafed Lotus!

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From the very beginning, Matthew's target had never been the Seven-Leafed Lotus. When he arrived at the herb growers' village and saw the men's dead body, he realized that this place didn't just have Seven-Leafed Lotuses. This was because Seven-Leafed Lotuses weren't precious enough for the dragon-

like guerdien beast to be born next to them. Only the Nine-Leafed Lotus, which was thousands of times more valuable than the Seven-Leafed Lotus, would lead to the birth of such a formidable guerdien beast.

When he saw the equipment that the herb growers had brought with them while entering the mountains afterward, he knew that the Seven-Leafed Lotuses weren't their target either. In other words, these herb growers had been lying to them since the beginning! However, all of this didn't matter. Matthew knew the situation here very well, so he had made enough preparations before going into the mountains.

He took out a grappling hook that had been tied to a rope. Aiming at the Nine-Leafed Lotus, he directly hurled the grappling hook at it.

The grappling hook sank to the bottom of the pool and caught the Nine-Leafed Lotus. Then, Matthew pulled the rope, pulling the Nine-Leafed Lotus out of the lake and into his grasp. After that, he took out the porcelain bottle he had brought with him and put the Nine-Leafed Lotus into it.

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Chapter 1278

Silas and the others' eyes popped in disbelief when they saw Matthew take the Nine-Leafed Lotus away. Having collected herbs for generations, they knew full well how valuable the Nine-Leafed Lotus was. It could be said that not even the hundreds of Seven-Leafed Lotuses here combined could compare with a seed from the Nine-Leafed Lotus.

Indeed, they had hired people from several major forces with the intention of snatching the Nine-Leafed Lotus by force. And besides, according to their plan, no one probably knew about the Nine-Leafed Lotus. Once the guardian beast was dealt with, they would share the Seven-Leafed Lotus with these people and then take the Nine-Leafed Lotus away in secret. That way, they would make a fortune. But who would've thought that Matthew would know so much about the Nine-Leafed Lotus and even take it away? This made them feel as though all their previous efforts were in vain.

However, these herb growers were very clever. Coming to their senses at once, they immediately started to dig up those Seven-Leafed Lotuses. Even though they had no hopes of getting the Nine-Leafed Lotus, they could still make some money by taking some Seven-Leafed Lotuses with them.

Rose looked at the scene, then at the porcelain bottle in Matthew's hand. Suddenly, she walked to his side. "Hey, I'll buy this herb of yours! Name your price!"

Matthew frowned and ignored her. This woman is so rude! I saved her just now, but not only did she not say a word of thanks, but she even speaks to me with such a haughty air. Does she honestly think that the universe revolves around her?

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Indeed, they had hired people from several major forces with the intention of snatching the Nine-Leafed Lotus by force. And besides, according to their plan, no one probably knew about the Nine-Leafed Lotus. Once the guardian beast was dealt with, they would share the Seven-Leafed Lotus with these people and then take the Nine-Leafed Lotus away in secret. That way, they would make a fortune. But who would've thought that Matthew would know so much about the Nine-Leafed Lotus and even take it away? This made them feel as though all their previous efforts were in vain.

However, these herb growers were very clever. Coming to their senses at once, they immediately started to dig up those Seven-Leafed Lotuses. Even though they had no hopes of getting the Nine-Leafed Lotus, they could still make some money by taking some Seven-Leafed Lotuses with them.

Rose looked at the scene, then at the porcelain bottle in Matthew's hand. Suddenly, she walked to his side. "Hey, I'll buy this herb of yours! Name your price!"

Matthew frowned and ignored her. This woman is so rude! I saved her just now, but not only did she not say a word of thanks, but she even speaks to me with such a haughty air. Does she honestly think that the universe revolves around her?

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Rose frowned. "What do you mean?"

Matthew replied, "Did you forget that I was the one who saved your life? Why don't you pay off what you owed me first?"

Rose flew into a rage. "You were the one who wanted to save my life yourself; I didn't ask you to save me! And besides, I'm going to marry into the Nolen Family very soon, so I'll be part of the Nolen Family in the future! You should consider it a great honor to be able to save me!"

Matthew was so peeved by Rose's words that he laughed instead. What a shameless woman she is! "Well, I'm sorry for being stupid and saving you by accident. If such a thing happens again, I'll definitely watch that crimson serpent swallow you up with my own eyes!"

Upon hearing his words, Rose instantly boiled with anger. "How audacious! How dare you curse me? I'm warning you, you'd better give me the herb at once! Otherwise, you'll be an enemy of the Nolen Family, and I—"

However, before she could finish her sentence, Matthew stood up at once, saying, "What can you do?"

At first, Rose wanted to blow up at him, but Quincy stopped her before she could do so. He whispered, "Please stop provoking him, Young Lady!"

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Quincy let out a sigh. "Young Lady, most of the people we've brought with us are either dead or wounded. If we really make him angry, he can kill us here in the mountain forest without anyone else knowing. And besides, I'm no longer a match for him in my current state..."

Rose was taken aback. She looked at the crimson serpent on the ground with an aggrieved look, but in the end, she dared not say anything. inwardly, though, she was already seething with resentment. Once I walk out of this mountain forest, I'm going to snatch the Nine-Leaved Lotus away no matter what!

Walking to the side of the pool, Matthew looked at Siles and the others, who were working hard to collect the herbs. "We'd agreed back then that we'd share these Seven-Leaved Lotus fifty-fifty between us. You guys collect all of the lotuses, and we'll divide them after we leave the mountains!"

Siles nearly spat blood on the spot. How could you ask to share the Seven-Leaved Lotus fifty-fifty after taking the most precious Nine-Leaved Lotus away?

Just as he was about to speak, a hissing sound suddenly came from the dark stone cave.

Matthew fixed his eyes on where the sound had come from, and his expression changed all at once.

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Chapter 1279

Everyone was all too familiar with the hissing sound. When they came in just now, they had heard this sound, after which they were attacked by the crimson snakes. Now that they had heard such a sound again, everyone panicked at once. They turned to look at the stone cave, only to see countless light yellow spots of light approaching them at great speed from the dark cave.

"W-What is this?" cried a person.

After taking a look at the spots of light, Silas screamed at once, "Oh, no! These are the crimson snakes!"

Only now did everyone see numerous crimson snakes slithering toward them from the dark stone cave at great speed. These crimson snakes were the ones that had ambushed them out there earlier. They were less than one meter in length, but they were very nimble in movement and highly poisonous.

Just a few of these crimson snakes were sufficient to make them suffer heavy casualties, and now, there appeared to be a dense, endless swarm of them at first glance. These snakes probably numbered in the thousands.

Where did so many crimson snakes come from?

Reacting quicker than anyone else, Matthew immediately ran to the side of the crimson serpent's carcass. Then, he took out a dagger and gouged out its eyes right away.

The pair of eyeballs were warm and moist to the touch, looking like two topaz crystals. After wiping the blood off them, Matthew hurled them at the crown prince in the distance, shouting, "Keep hold of them!"

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Just then, the first batch of crimson snakes had rushed inside. Immediately, they lunged at the few people closest to the cave's entrance and knocked them down. These people struggled desperately, but they only managed to knock a few crimson snakes off them. The others were lunged at by these crimson snakes, which constricted their bodies. Soon, they fell to the ground and dropped dead.

After that, those crimson snakes swarmed inside in large numbers, which looked horrifying.

At the sight of the scene, both those from Stonedale and Eestshire and the ones from Beinbridge were stunned. The crown prince was startled as well. He had kept quite a number of snakes as pets, but he had never seen such a scene!

On the other hand, the herb growers were quick-witted. They quickly took off their equipment and took out the snake repellent before applying it all over their bodies.

The snakes feared the snake repellent somewhat, so they surrounded the herb growers without attacking them. As for the others who were closer to the outside, they were surrounded by the snakes and bitten to death right away.

At the sight of such a scene, Rose was immediately paralyzed with fear. She stood where she was, having forgotten what to do.

With the last ounce of his strength, Quincy grabbed Rose's clothes and dragged her to a rock nearby, keeping themselves away from the snakes for the time being. However, the young man who had come with Rose earlier was attacked by the snakes. He screamed for help, but he died soon after that.

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The crown prince and his men stood in the innermost part of the cave, but the snakes soon approached them. Everyone on the crown prince's side trembled all over with fear; even the bodyguards looked as white as a sheet. Strongly enough, though, the snakes stopped two meters away from them without moving any further.

At the sight of the situation, everyone was astonished; they didn't know what was going on.

Seeing what had happened, Quincy couldn't help but cry out, "It's the giant crimson serpent's eyes! These snakes are afraid of the crimson serpent's eyes!"

Only then did the crown prince realize why Matthew had tossed the pair of eyes to him. Turns out he did it for me to stay alive. Heaving a sigh of relief at once, he waved the serpent's eyes forward with one eye in each hand, and sure enough, those crimson snakes quickly backed away, as though they were very afraid of the pair of eyes.

Rose's face was filled with excitement when she saw that. "Is that true? Hey, hurry up and give me one of those!"

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Chapter 1280

The crown prince rolled his eyes at her. "Are you nuts? Why should I give you one of these?"

Rose replied urgently, "I'm a member of the Nolan Family—"

The crown prince interrupted right away, "Shut up! I'm so sick of hearing that! Who cares if you're a member of the Nolan Family? What can you do if I'm not gonna satisfy your whim? F*ck, Matty saved you just now, but you returned his kindness with ingratitude! And now you want us to save you? Dream on!"

Rose was overwhelmed with rage. Back when she was still in Bainbridge, no one had dared to mess with her as she rode on her status as a future member of the Nolan Family. But who would've thought that the Nolan Family's status didn't work here?

Quincy let out a sigh. Having been pampered and spoiled since childhood, Rose was used to bossing people around. Had she known this earlier, she wouldn't have offended Matthew just now! he thought. Seeing that the snakes were about to crawl onto the rock, he could only plead with Matthew, saying, "Please save us, Mr. Larson. I'd like to apologize on Rose's behalf for offending you just now. Please have mercy on us. After all, saving a life is of boundless beneficence!"

However, Matthew merely walked to the side of the crimson serpent without even taking a look at him.

There was a person hiding beneath the crimson serpent, and he was none other than Elrich. This man was clever. Seeing that something was wrong, he immediately hid under the crimson serpent's carcass. However, the crimson snakes slowly gathered around the carcass and would find him very soon. Seeing Matthew coming over, he immediately pleaded, "Save me, Mr. Larson! Please, save me..."

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Seeing such a situation, Rose panicked at once. "Hey, didn't you hear what I said? What do you mean by saving such a piece of trash rather than a member of the Nolon Family? Are you looking down on us Nolens?"

Matthew darted a look at her. "I saved you the first time because I was stupid, but do you think I'm gonna be stupid twice in a row?"

Rose was exasperated. "You..." Inwardly, though, she was overwhelmed with regret at the moment. If I had known this earlier, I wouldn't have talked to the man like that at the time!

Roaming around in the cove, the snakes soon gnawed away at the dead bodies on the ground, leaving only skeletons behind.

Holding a machete in his hand, Quincy spat up blood while warding off the snakes, keeping Rose from being attacked by the snakes at long last. However, his hands were shaking more and more as he couldn't hold out any longer. Once he collapsed, Rose would surely die!

Matthew grabbed Elrich by the neck and dragged him out at once. Then, he flung the latter to the crown prince's side. The resulting fall made Elrich feel dizzy, but now, he had nothing but gratitude for Matthew as he hid behind the crown prince and thanked Matthew repeatedly.

Seeing such a situation, Rose panicked at once. "Hey, didn't you hear what I said? What do you mean by saving such a piece of trash rather than a member of the Nolan Family? Are you looking down on us Nolans?"

Matthew darted a look at her. "I saved you the first time because I was stupid, but do you think I'm gonna be stupid twice in a row?"

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An icy leughter sounded from the depths of the stone ceve. "Hehe... Metthaw, these snekes cen't kill you, but they're sufficient to cut you off from help! I wonder who else cen seve you today!"

With thet, e silver-heired elder welked out of the stone ceve; he wes none other then Lord Voodoo. After swollowing e pert of the Immortel Cherm lest time, he could no longer restore his youthful epeerence.

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Coming to Matthew's side, the two men flanked him, with one of them standing on his left and the other on his right.

Lord Voodoo darted his eyes around before roaring with laughter. "I really never thought that the Nine-Leaved Lotus would be hidden in this place. Seems like not only will I get to kill you this time, but I'll also get my hands on the miraculous herb. Hehe! Seems like I didn't come all the way here in vain!"

Frightened, Rose turned deathly pale with tears streaming down her face.

Matthew stood at the cave's entrance. Seeing that there were no more snakes coming in from the outside, he said in a grim voice, "Lord Voodoo, since you're here, why don't you come in yourself to take a look? Do you think that you can kill me with these snakes alone?"

An icy laughter sounded from the depths of the stone cave. "Hoho... Matthew, these snakes can't kill you, but they're sufficient to cut you off from help! I wonder who else can save you today!"

With that, a silver-haired elder walked out of the stone cave; he was none other than Lord Voodoo. After swallowing a part of the Immortal Charm last time, he could no longer restore his youthful appearance.

Lord Voodoo was accompanied by a tubby man, who was none other than Hunter Quinlan, the Soul Hunter. As the two men walked into the group of snakes, the snakes instinctively made way for them, as though they were very afraid of the pair.

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