

Slap! Just as Avril's arm was about to rise, Matthew preempted her, delivering a resounding slap that left her in a daze.

This scene sent a collective gasp of shock through the onlookers. How daring of him to lay a hand on the Stubber Family's jewel!

"This guy is doomed! The Stubber Family won't let him get away with this."

"Yeah, he even dared to strike the heiress of the Concordia Stubbers."

"Tsk, tsk, shame. Such a talented young man, but he's probably going to meet an early end."

Matthew paid no heed to their criticism.

"Miss Gavell, let's go back. No point lingering in a place like this."

He turned around, put Ivy down, and took off his coat to drape it over Elara.

The latter was utterly bewildered, and her makeup had been ruined by her tears. She nodded slightly, and Matthew helped her to her feet. However, since there were no departing ships, and Matthew had offended Avril, there was no way for them to leave, considering how the Stubbers would hold a grudge.

Just then, it hit Matthew that Shawn's transport ship should be nearby. So, he took out his phone and contacted the latter.

On the other side, about ten nautical miles from the cruise ship, a massive amphibious transport ship was speeding across the sea. Despite being a transport vessel, it was equipped with antimissile systems and attack capabilities. Standing atop the ship with a grin was the Crown Prince of Mightwater.

"This is a man's ultimate dream! Hahaha, who'd have thought this day would come for me!" He exclaimed, full of excitement, and patted the shiny gun barrels. His behavior resembled that of a man with his lover.

Since Matthew had requested artillery support, Blake and Rhett had called for an emergency Elder Council meeting overnight. The Martial League held the most control over powerful individuals for the safety of the population.

Additionally, Matthew had requested an exceptionally large quantity of heavy weaponry, and even as the Grand Elder of the Martial League, Blake did not have the sole authority to grant it. At the Council meeting, they quickly reviewed the situation in Hulwin and considered the broader context of Seraphis. Matthew's request was unanimously approved, and the necessary supplies were swiftly prepared.

As for Shawn, Levi Quirk had vouched for him and assumed command of the strategic materials' transportation. This was how the situation had unfolded.

"Your Highness, after passing through the Maire Strait, we will arrive at the Hulwin region."

Upon receiving the report from the Martial League personnel, Shawn nodded gravely. Though he was known for his love of leisure, he also understood the gravity of the situation.

"Pay attention to the surroundings! Continue forward."

Just then, the phone at his waist vibrated.

"Shawn, have you reached the Maire Strait?"

"We're about to enter the strait. What's up, boss?"

"That's perfect. Do you see a cruise ship on the west side of Maire? Give me a lift."

After ending the call, Shawn immediately went to the lookout tower, identified the target, and issued a command.

"All crew, we're going to pick up the Summit Warden. Full speed ahead at 66 degrees toward Western City."

The next second, the steel behemoth beneath Shawn's feet rumbled, and after changing course, it swiftly powered through the waves, making its way toward its destination.