

## **No Chance 1881**

### [Chapter 1881 A Tacit Understanding](#)

"We will go home together. I promise." Gareth looked at Elisa firmly. His words were not only to comfort her but to encourage himself.

Elisa wanted to say something but changed her mind. She did not continue with the topic again.

After that day, they went on with their lives as usual. Anna and Sodo never showed up again. It was likely because Mrs. Kella stopped them from coming in.

Thus, no one came to bother them again.

Elisa and Gareth were relieved.

Lives went on in the village as usual. They helped Mrs. Kella with farm work by day and went fishing in the evening. At night, they sat around the fire, sharing stories.

This place had a significant difference in temperatures between day and night. The hotter it was during the day, the colder it would be at night.

They stayed around a fire every night to keep warm and keep the darkness at bay.

Sometimes, Mrs. Kella would tell them stories. Other times, it was Elisa.

They talked about their experiences in life. Each women's experience sounded unique and exciting to the other.

On the other hand, Gareth spent most of the time watching Elisa and was reluctant to look away.

Mrs. Kella smiled upon noticing it.

She did not know who Elisa and Gareth were outside the village, but she could tell they had interesting lives.

Sometimes, they shared funny incidents, and the three would laugh together.

It was quite a pleasant life.

However, Mrs. Kella's expression would change whenever they mentioned going home. She would try to change the topic.

Even Mrs. Kella knew there was only one way to go home, and it required them to obtain the compass.

Therefore, she was unsupportive of it.

Elisa could see Mrs. Kella did not want them to join the warriors' tournament.

Apart from concern about the dangers Gareth would face, she also knew what he wanted if he won the tournament.

Elisa and Gareth lay on the reclining chairs the night before the warriors' tournament to discuss the matter.

Elisa kept looking at the glittering stars in the sky.

The sky was clear and free from pollution. It looked like a dark canvas scattered with numerous diamonds.

Their chairs were so close that Gareth could see the stars reflected in Elisa's eyes.

A thought flashed in his mind.

The moon and stars don't shine as bright as your eyes.

"It's beautiful." Elisa could not help but sigh.

Gareth looked at Elisa unwaveringly. He replied, "Yes, truly beautiful."

No one knew whether he was talking about the sky or Elisa bathed in the moonlight.

Elisa turned to him and realized they were too close. She awkwardly put some distance between them.

Gareth did not say anything. He appeared disappointed but quickly concealed it.

After a moment of silence, Elisa said, "Are you sure about this? Mrs. Kella said it will be dangerous if you go."

Gareth looked at her and saw himself reflected in her eyes. He wished time would stop at this moment.

"Do we have a better plan?"

Elisa wanted to suggest stealing the compass.

But she remembered the village chief's house was in the center of the village. Even if they managed to steal it, they would be discovered before they could escape the village.

Severe consequences awaited those who dared to steal the village's treasure. They would even drag Mrs. Kella into trouble.

Mrs. Kella generously let them stay with her for so long. They could not repay her kindness with evil.

Elisa wanted to say something but could not find the right words. In the end, she said, "You must be careful... Don't force yourself."

Gareth nodded. His eyes crinkled as he smiled.

The two gazed at the stars, sharing a secret between them. It was a secret they could not tell anyone else.

#### [Chapter 1882 Convincing Mrs Kella](#)

Once they left the village, they might never have the chance to see such a beautiful night sky again.

The following morning, Gareth woke up early and dressed up to join the warriors' tournament.

However, he realized he could not open the door.

Mrs. Kella appeared in the yard and looked strangely calm. She said evenly, "Don't waste your energy. I've locked the door, and the key is with me."

Elisa frowned and turned to her, wanting to ask why she did this.

Mrs. Kella sighed. "I know you two haven't given up and still wish to join the warriors' tournament. However, it's too dangerous. Furthermore, Nomadic Odyssey is linked to our village's fortune. I can't let you take it from us."

"The registration for the warriors' tournament will end by noon. You two will stay here and keep me company until then."

Elisa had predicted Mrs. Kella would try to stop them but did not expect her to take such an extreme measure.

The disappointment in Elisa's eyes likely saddened Mrs. Kella. She could not resist explaining, "You can get angry and hate me, but this is for your good. Since you have come here, why not settle here permanently? I know there are issues with Sodo and Anna, but I'm respected in this village. No one can force you to be with them if you're unwilling."

Mrs. Kella tried hard to persuade them to stay.

Elisa was not surprised or thought her words were absurd. She had expected this.

She replied calmly, "Mrs. Kella, would you be worried if Sodo disappeared?"

Mrs. Kella opened her mouth but could not bring herself to speak.

She knew what Elisa meant.

On the other hand, Elisa was not bothered by her lack of response and continued, "Even though Sodo caused much trouble, he's still your grandson and your flesh and blood. Therefore, you would be anxious if he were missing and would do everything to find him. Mrs. Kella, our friends and families are waiting for us..."

Mrs. Kella stared at Elisa. Sadness and unwillingness warred within her eyes.

"Mrs. Kella, the truth is Gareth and I are married. Our grandmother is waiting for us to come home. At the moment, she doesn't know whether we are alive... Grandma is weak and sickly. I fear she would collapse from worry."

Elisa choked slightly as she spoke.

It was not an act to persuade Mrs. Kella. She was voicing the concerns she had hidden within her all this while.

Gareth had been listening quietly beside her and tentatively held her hand.

Elisa did not try to break free this time.

Gareth was pleased and squeezed her hand to comfort her.

He was also thinking about his grandmother.

He could only imagine how sad and helpless his grandmother would feel after discovering that he and Elisa had fallen into the sea.

Mrs. Kella's gaze flickered with uncertainty. She hastily looked away.

Elisa knew her words had moved Mrs. Kella's heart.

Mrs. Kella had a good heart. Otherwise, she would never have saved them.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Kella lived in a secluded society all her life. It made her ignorant, close-minded, and cling to useless traditions.

However, she had a conscience. Elisa did not doubt that.

Thus, Elisa wanted to awaken it to their cause.

She stood at the doorway with Gareth. Although she looked smaller in comparison, she had an aura that made her seem strong and mighty.

Furthermore, she stood straight and refused to give up.

She wagered in her heart that she could make Mrs. Kella change her mind.

#### [Chapter 1883 Registration](#)

After some time, Mrs. Kella turned around and entered the house.

Elisa's eyes dulled with disappointment.

Sensing her despair, Gareth held her hand tightly, quietly channeling his strength to her.

Elisa's grim mood disappeared instantly.

She had always been like this.

Like everyone, she would sometimes stumble, get hurt, and find herself stuck. However, she would never back down.

It was because there were too many things weighing down her shoulders. She could not bear to rest or stop.

Gareth had always admired her perseverance. At the same time, seeing her pushing herself like this hurt him.

"It's okay. I will think of another way. However, our relationship with Mrs. Kella... might have to end."  
Gareth turned to Elisa and comforted her softly.

Elisa nodded and looked at him. Her gaze was spirited, and her expression calm. She appeared unaffected.

"It's okay. Perhaps our friendship is never meant to be."

Gareth knew from those words that Mrs. Kella's rejection hurt Elisa. It seemed Elisa cared about Mrs. Kella and saw her as her grandmother.

It must have been a blow to be rejected by someone she was growing close to.

"What do you mean we are never meant to be?"

A voice prompted Elisa and Gareth to turn around.

Mrs. Kella pursed her lips in mock fury. She held out a pair of keys.

Once they turned around, she threw the keys high up into the air.

The keys fell and landed securely in Gareth's hands. Elisa and Gareth let out an inaudible breath of relief.

Mrs. Kella said, "Go if you want. You will find a way to go even if I don't let you. It's not like I can tie you two up."

With that, Mrs. Kella snorted softly and returned to the house.

Suddenly she paused and hesitated before saying, "If you see Sodo, tell him to stay safe and not be reckless."

Elisa was stunned. "Aren't you going?"

Mrs. Kella waved her hand but did not turn around. "I'm not going. I'm too old for this."

She entered the house after saying that.

Elisa looked at the keys in Gareth's hand and felt conflicted.

Mrs. Kella and Julia had similar temperaments.

They were stubborn but kind and loving.

Furthermore, they were a little difficult at times.

Elisa and Gareth could not afford to delay. They did not have a watch and had no idea what time it was. Thus, they did not know when the warriors' tournament registration would end.

The two rushed out of the gates and ran to the village chief's home.

Unfortunately, the registration period had just ended.

Gareth grabbed the person handling the registration by his shirt, prompting the person to look at him strangely.

At the same time, Gareth was panting slightly from running. He calmed his breath before pointing at the name list and said firmly, "I want to register for the tournament."

The person gave Gareth a weird look and shook his head. "Sorry, the registration period is over. You're too late. Please wait until the next time."

The person tried to leave, but Gareth gripped his shirt and would not let go.

"Next time? That's another three years," Gareth said through gritted teeth. "I'm only asking you to add my name. Is that so difficult?"

The person was frightened by Gareth's intimidating demeanor.

Gareth tried so hard to get here, only for it to be in vain. How could anyone expect him to remain calm?

Furthermore, it was not only for himself that he wanted to join the tournament. He also carried Elisa's hope of going home.

The commotion attracted some onlookers. Anna was among them.

#### [Chapter 1884 Get Yourself Together](#)

Meanwhile, Bella finally got out of detention due to Julia's bail.

The two women embraced and cried profusely the moment they reunited.

The inspector looked at them and said, "Madam Smith, please calm down, or you'll cry yourself sick. You must take care of your health. Otherwise, your grandson will be sad if he sees you like this."

Julia glared at the inspector. The loving gentleness from when she embraced Bella disappeared without a trace.

She knew all too well why she had only received news about Bella's detention now, causing Bella to suffer for so long. It was because this inspector received a bribe.

Therefore, she had no obligation to be nice to him.

"No matter what, it's still not as damaging as a public servant collecting incentives. Don't you agree, Inspector Zander?"

Inspector Zander broke out in cold sweat. He could only nod.

Julia did not waste her breath on him and left the police station with Bella.

After they entered the car, Bella explained the whole matter to Julia. She made sure to tell her every detail.

She also did not forget to tell Julia about the message.

Bella covered her face with her hands and blamed herself for what happened.

"It was all my fault. Liz must have gone to the deck because of that message. I wasn't too concerned then, even though I lost my phone. I thought I would find it in my room later. Who knew..."

Julia was anxious, but she knew Bella felt much worse.

Bella likely blamed herself for everything that had happened and was tormented by guilt.

However, none of it was her fault.

Julia gently patted Bella's head. Although she was worried, she believed Gareth and Elisa were still alive.

There's no way they would die just like that.

It's impossible!

Having faith in Gareth and Elisa, Julia tried her best to comfort Bella. "Don't worry, Bella. I'm sure they will be safe. However, you have an urgent task. You must get yourself together. Liz and the company need you."

Julia was right.

The company had been a mess ever since Paul Grayson took over.

He handled company matters based on his whims, and the management was riddled with nepotism.

Furthermore, who knew he had brought in how many corrupted people or people involved with the underworld?

If this went on, even a company of Benett Corporation's scale would go bankrupt.

Bella pulled herself together after knowing these. She wiped her tears and muttered, "Yes, I must snap out of it. I will help Elisa to take care of Grandma and the company. I won't let her come home to this mess."

#### [Chapter 1885 Obstruction](#)

Bella held on to that resolve and returned to the company.

Julia offered to go with her, but Bella shook her head and refused.

She said, "Grandma, please leave this to me. I can deal with it. You should stay at home and rest."

Bella smiled at Julia after saying that and left.

Julia kept watching Bella with concern until Bella disappeared into the company building.

The driver turned to Julia and comforted her, "Don't worry, Old Madam Wickam. Although Ms. Benett is not in the company, her reputation remains. Therefore, Ms. Wickam will not experience too many difficulties."

Julia remained tense even after hearing that.

"I'm worried about how easily a person can change," Julia mumbled as if to herself. It also sounded like a response to what the driver said.

What happened was as Julia expected. Bella came across problems at the company's ground floor.

As usual, she scanned her face to get in. However, the face recognition device kept warning, "Face undetected. Please try again."

Bella furrowed her brow. Benett Corporation incorporated the latest technology in its building. This face recognition device was the newest on the market.

Errors were extremely rare for this model.

Bella had a bad feeling about this but refused to delve into it.

She preferred to think that something was wrong with the device.

Suddenly a security guard came over and stopped her.

"I'm sorry, miss. Do you have an appointment?"

Bella looked at the security guard and was dumbfounded. She glanced at the face recognition device and the security guard before saying, "I work here. I'm the head of the project department."

The security guard was briefly stunned before his expression turned to derision. He glanced at Bella and sneered, "Ms. Matterson, the head of the project department, has left this morning. May I ask who you are?"

Bella opened her mouth but could not bring herself to speak.

Rochelle has been reinstated as the head of the department.

Why didn't anyone inform me?

Bella shook her head. No, I should have expected this.

They used connections to keep me under police detention. That, indeed, wasn't simply for revenge.

Paul and the others used her absence to take control of the company!

Bella was filled with regret. She hated herself, only realizing this now, and wasted a lot of time. Otherwise, she could have stopped this from happening.

She needed to enter the company immediately to find out what had happened.

The security guard saw the myriad of emotions on her face and decided she was an intruder trying to break in.

Therefore, he said sternly, "Miss, if you have an appointment, please go to the receptionist to confirm it." The security guard scrutinized Bella's appearance and continued disdainfully, "Otherwise, please leave. Stop loitering around, or I'll call the police."

The security guard waved his handphone threateningly.

Bella sensed a crowd watching her after he said those words.

She felt angry and humiliated.

However, she could not and refused to back down.

Seeing Bella was still not leaving, the security guard pushed her to chase her out.

Bella did not want to leave, but her strength was no match against the security guard.

Thus, she was on the verge of being driven out of the building.

Suddenly, a voice sounded, "Stop."

The crowd turned to it and saw Rochelle sashaying in her high heel shoes.

[Chapter 1886 I Agree](#)



Bella saw Rochelle and recalled the night Elisa and Gareth fell into the sea.

She knew Rochelle and Paul were the masterminds behind everything.

Thus, she hated them so much that she desperately wished to tie them up and drown them in the sea.

Unfortunately, she could not do that yet.

Rochelle took off her sunglasses after entering the building. She regarded the security with disdain and asked, "What's going on? What's with the ruckus?"

The security guard nodded and answered eagerly. "This crazy woman was unreasonable and insisted on entering. She even claimed to be the head of the project department."

Hearing those words, Rochelle looked at Bella as if she had just noticed her. She ignored the hatred and fury in Bella's eyes and acted surprised. "Oh my... Aren't you Ms. Wickam, the department head?"

Rochelle turned to the security guard and nodded. Her behavior was unbearably pretentious.

"She's right. She was the head of the project department."

The security guard broke out in cold sweat and tried to explain.

However, Rochelle continued before he could speak, "But that was in the past."

Rochelle looked at Bella smugly. "I nearly forgot. Ms. Wickam, I hereby dismiss you from your position on behalf of Benett Corporation. We will arrange for your salary and personal items to be delivered to your home, including your dismissal notice."

Then, Rochelle put her sunglasses back on and turned away to enter the company.

"What's your basis?"

Bella forced out those words through gritted teeth.

Rochelle covered her mouth and sniggered as if Bella's words were a joke.

"Ms. Wickam. No... Bella."

Bella clenched her fists in the face of Rochelle's insult. Her body trembled with fury.

"Benett Corporation has no use for a person who stoops to unscrupulous means for fame and fortune. Bella, you're heartless. You even killed people to achieve your aim. How could you kill Ms. Benett..."  
Rochelle squeezed out a few fake tears.

Those who did not know better would think that Rochelle and Elisa were close.

Rochelle burst into tears as if she was grieving.

A few employees who did not know the situation began criticizing Bella.

Bella felt immensely helpless and despondent.

She finally understood how it felt to be unjustly condemned.

People hurled accusations at her without mercy. No one would believe her even if she explained.

On the other hand, Rochelle was delighted to see Bella in a state of despair.

She could not resist humiliating Bella further. "What about this? I'm not heartless, and I can help you return to the company if you wish. However, you can give up being the head of the department. After all, the company needs people with real talents, not those who got in through connections. Still, I'm willing to help you plead your case to the higher management and make you an employee under my charge."

Rochelle smirked after saying that.

She thought Bella would never agree to this.

After all, it was blatant humiliation.

Why would someone like Bella accept being shamed this way?

Furthermore, Rochelle only made that offer to improve her public image.

She left without another glance.

However, a voice sounded behind her.

"Yes, I agree."

Rochelle turned to Bella in shock and disbelief.

At the same time, Elisa also said those words in the secluded village.

Anna was shocked, but Gareth frowned in disagreement.

"No." He refused immediately.

#### [Chapter 1887 We Are a Team](#)

Gareth pulled Elisa's hand to drag her away. He refused to let her suffer mistreatment.

However, Elisa stood still and stared at Anna.

By now, Anna had gotten over the initial shock and looked at Elisa suspiciously. She asked, "Are you sure? You're not playing with me, right?"

Gareth wanted to speak, but Elisa beat him to it. "I'm sure about it. Can he register now?"

Anna nodded proudly. "Of course."

She glanced firmly at the person handling the registration.

As expected, the person did not dare to disobey and added Gareth's name immediately.

Elisa breathed a sigh of relief when she saw Gareth's name on the list.

She looked away and found Anna watching her.

Still, she was not afraid and met her gaze squarely.

Anna mouthed a few words inaudibly. "I'll be waiting for you."

She gave Elisa another firm glance and left.

The crowd of onlookers dispersed after Anna left.

However, a little girl approached Elisa tentatively.

Elisa remembered her. She stood at the side all this while and looked at Elisa worriedly.

Despite her young age, she scrunched her face like a worried old lady.

Elisa stooped down to her level and smiled as she patted the girl's head.

"What's wrong? Is there something you want to tell me?"

The little girl gulped and hesitated before whispering, "Miss, you must be careful during the warriors' tournament."

Elisa's gaze darkened slightly. The little girl ran away before Elisa could say anything.

Elisa stood up and watched the little girl run away. She considered the matter and fell into deep thoughts, completely ignoring Gareth, who was standing beside her.

Gareth snorted with dissatisfaction, causing Elisa to emerge from her thoughts and stare at him.

"Even a kid could see it was a ploy. How could you agree to it so easily?"

Gareth was fuming. He was angry that Elisa agreed to Anna's condition despite knowing it was a trap.

Furthermore, he was furious that she ignored him.

Gareth looked so childish that Elisa could not help but laugh.

However, her laughter angered him even more.

He left the village chief's house without another word.

Still, he deliberately slowed down when he noticed Elisa had not followed him.

Elisa knew he was waiting for her and caught up with him.

She looked at him and fluttered her lashes innocently. "All right, Mr. Wickam. Are you angry with me?"

Gareth squinted and replied coldly, "Why would I dare to be angry with you? We... are a team. How could you decide without discussing it with me? Don't you respect my opinion?"

Elisa was stunned. She knew she had angered Gareth.

Thus, she stopped teasing him and answered solemnly, "I know I was wrong for not discussing the matter with you, but I have a good reason. It was necessary for our goal. Furthermore, I'm perfectly able to decide for myself."

Gareth was still furious after hearing that.

He was angry that Elisa agreed to Anna's unreasonable request despite being able to reject it.

Elisa understood what he was angry about.

However...

Elisa asked, "Gareth, what kind of person do you think I am?"

Gareth looked at her and was confused by her question.

"Why do you ask?"

Elisa smiled.

### [Chapter 1888 Loneliness](#)

Elisa laughed. She looked so radiant under the sunlight that he could not look away.

Gareth suddenly realized how fortunate he was.

Not because he was born into the prominent Wickam family or the high position he achieved.

Instead, he was thankful to have met Elisa.

The two returned to Mrs. Kella's house together.

When they opened the gate, Mrs. Kella happened to walk out of the kitchen.

She saw their expressions and knew Gareth managed to register for the tournament.

Although she was happy for them, she could not help but feel sad.

Thus, she did not say anything but returned to the kitchen to make dinner.

She looked lonely.

Elisa and Gareth exchanged glances and understood each other.

Mrs. Kella lived alone before they arrived.

Once they left, Mrs. Kella would be all alone again.

If only things did not have to end up this way.

They had dinner in the yard, listening to the sounds of cicadas and birds as they ate. The cool breeze blew at them, bringing a hint of the saltiness of the sea. It was pleasant.

Unfortunately, they could not disperse the depressing mood hanging over them.

After dinner, Gareth offered to wash the dishes.

Mrs. Kella initially refused, but Gareth insisted.

She waved her hands in surrender. "Fine, you can do it. You won't be able to help out much longer anyway."

Then, she got up to return to her room.

Elisa stood up immediately and said, "Mrs. Kella, can I have a word with you?"

Mrs. Kella paused and stood still for a while before turning around.

She saw the persistence in Elisa's eyes and could not bear to refuse.

Thus, she nodded.

Elisa smiled and carried a bench to sit with Mrs. Kella in the yard.

The sky had darkened. Numerous stars covered the deep blue sky, twinkling unceasingly.

Elisa said, "Mrs. Kella, the sky here is beautiful. I've never seen such a beautiful sky before coming here."

Mrs. Kella was surprised. She did not expect Elisa to be talking about this.

Furthermore, she was stunned by the compliment.

After all, she could tell from conversations with Elisa and Gareth that they were well-traveled.

Therefore, her compliment was significant.

Mrs. Kella smiled sincerely.

"Is that so? That's good to hear."

"Not just the sky. The people here are also kind. There's a kind lady who saved us, the gentleman who helped us spearfishing, and the lady who taught me to do laundry..."

#### [Chapter 1889 Cameron](#)

"Mrs. Kella, even if we go home, Gareth and I will never forget you or this place."

Mrs. Kella stiffened.

Elisa's words hit straight to her heart. She could not help but be moved.

Mrs. Kella feared being alone in her old age.

Elisa continued, "If possible, we will return to see you and take you on a short vacation."

Mrs. Kella did not speak. She fought hard to rein in her tears.

She feared she would lose control if she opened her mouth.

Elisa gently held Mrs. Kella's hands. She noticed Mrs. Kella's eyes were glittering with tears. They looked like the stars in the night sky.

"Mrs. Kella, can you give Gareth and me a name according to your language."

"Yes..."

Mrs. Kella stopped resisting and let tears flow from her eyes.

Her tears felt warm as they landed on Elisa's arms.

Elisa grabbed a tissue and lovingly wiped Mrs. Kella's tears.

Gareth finished washing the dishes and came out to this scene. He decided not to disturb them and quietly returned to his room.

Although Mrs. Kella did not say anything, Gareth knew she missed Sodo.

Likewise, he also knew how much Elisa missed Julia even when she did not say anything.

Thus, Elisa and Mrs. Kella found comfort in each other.

After some time, Elisa supported Mrs. Kella and brought her to her room.

The following morning, Elisa woke up at the break of dawn. She went to Mrs. Kella's room and did not find her there.

She was confused and searched the house but could not find her.

Then, she went to Gareth's room and found him missing too.

Still, Elisa was strangely calm.

They left together. It meant that they had arranged it beforehand. Therefore, Elisa knew they were not in danger.

With that in mind, Elisa began to prepare breakfast.

As expected, Gareth and Mrs. Kella returned around twenty minutes later.

Gareth brought back many herbs.

Elisa glanced at them and put down her tea before greeting, "Where did you go? You should wash your hands and eat breakfast. You have to get to the tournament site soon."

Mrs. Kella smiled and sat down. "I brought him to the mountains and taught him about herbs. Although the warriors' tournament doesn't prohibit outsiders, the challenges they issue are disadvantageous to outsiders. That's why I brought Cameron with me. Apart from giving him a final revision on the herbs, he can help me collect them to keep at home for emergencies. I've done my part. It's up to him to remember them."

Elisa smiled.

Cameron was the name Mrs. Kella told Elisa before entering her room. It was the name she gave Gareth.

Elisa had yet to tell Gareth about it.

Thus, Gareth likely had no idea he was given this name.

Elisa could not help but smile as she listened to Mrs. Kella.

She detected their influence in Mrs. Kella's words.

In some ways, their stay in this village was considered a cultural exchange.

After breakfast, the three headed to the warriors' tournament.

The warriors' tournament participants were required to gather in the village chief's compound.

However, non-participants were not allowed to enter.

It meant Elisa and Mrs. Kella could only accompany Gareth until they reached outside the compound.

Mrs. Kella kept reminding Gareth to be careful. At the same time, she could not resist looking into the compound from time to time.

Gareth knew who she was looking for and understood her concern.

Therefore, he smiled and promised, "Don't worry, Mrs. Kella. I'll remind Sodo to be careful and will help him when needed. I'll also give him a chance to escape if I meet him during the tournament."

### [Chapter 1890 Remembrance](#)

Mrs. Kella replied awkwardly, "Who cares about him? He's nothing to do with me."

Gareth smiled quietly. He had noticed Mrs. Kella had been distracted ever since they came here. It meant she was concerned about Sodo.

After all, Sodo was the only family she had left.

Her son and daughter had passed away, leaving her with only a grandson. Thus, how could she not care about him?

She only denied it out of pride.

Having understood Mrs. Kella's concern, Gareth decided to give Sodo a chance to escape if he were to meet him during the tournament.

However, if Sodo continued to scheme against him or get in his way, Gareth would not show mercy.

Gareth readied his things to go in.

Before entering, he turned to Elisa to look at her.

By now, Elisa had kept her promise and stood by Anna's side.

Elisa smiled at Gareth when she noticed him looking at her.

"Please take care."

Gareth mouthed those words.

Elisa smiled and mouthed back. "Please be careful."

Neither spoke aloud, but each understood the other.

They had grown closer during this period, allowing them to communicate secretly without fearing interference from others.

Gareth entered the village chief's compound.

It was usually spacious but was now crowded with people.

Gareth looked at the people gathered and estimated more than fifty people.

Still, Gareth was one hundred and eighty centimeters tall and was eye-catching even as he stood among them.

The village chief glanced at the contestants and paused at Gareth. He seemed to be thinking about something.

Gareth was puzzled but did not say anything.

The village chief soon looked elsewhere and announced the rules of the tournament.

There were a total of fifty-eight participants in this warriors' tournament. Gareth was the only outsider.

The tournament had three rounds. Each round would test them on different skills.

The first round was called 'Remembrance.'

The participants were required to find fifty types of herbs on the mountain, timed by an hourglass.

It was to test the participants' knowledge about their village.

Furthermore, the herbs gathered would be given to the medical center.

Then, those from the medical center would not have to go to the mountain to gather herbs for some time.

Of course, Gareth learned all these from listening to the discussions of people near him.

The challenge was relatively easy for the locals who had made enough preparations.

However, it posed a challenge for outsiders like Gareth and a certain delinquent who wasted his time fooling around, dreaming of getting lucky one day.

It was now a break. After his speech, the village chief left the participants to their own accord.

The participants gathered in small groups and began chatting with their friends.

Most of them asked about herbs they were unsure about.

It was similar to last-minute cramming before an exam.

At the same time, a few people, like Gareth, chose to be alone.

Gareth revised the herbs in his mind, matching mental images of the herbs with their names.

Sodo noticed Gareth did not talk to anyone and could not resist mocking him. "Others chose to remain alone because they were confident about this test. But why isn't the outsider conferring with anyone? It must be arrogance."

"Sodo, why do you say that? Isn't it clear that he has no friends to discuss with?"



At those words, Sodo and his delinquent friend broke out in laughter.

Their voices were so loud that those on the other side of the walls could hear them.

Elisa heard it and guessed what it was about.

Anna squinted as she looked at Elisa standing straight. She said, "Although conflicts are inevitable daily, everyone would still be united when given a cause. Can you guess who they are laughing at?"