

No Chance 1891

[Chapter 1891 Slaves or Followers?](#)

Elisa did not answer Anna but focused on the wall as if she did not hear her.

But Anna did not mind. Since Elisa did not speak, one of her followers responded eagerly, "It must be that man called Gareth. Who else could it be?"

Anna laughed. Her eyes gleamed with mischief.

She turned to Elisa and said, "My people cannot accept him because he is with you. If he were with me, things would have been much easier for him, yet you're unwilling to let him go."

Elisa remained silent. Even her expression appeared calm.

She knew Gareth did not need to assimilate into this village or want the villagers to accept him.

All that mattered was that Mrs. Kella accepted him.

With that in mind, Elisa turned to Mrs. Kella.

Mrs. Kella gave her a comforting glance.

Thus, Elisa blinked and continued staring at the wall, thoroughly ignoring Anna.

Anna was on the verge of losing her temper, but she suddenly thought of a way to punish Elisa, allowing her to calm down.

She looked at Elisa with a smirk, waiting for the right time to teach her a lesson.

Soon, break time was over. All the contestants rushed out of the yard.

Anna stared at the crowd, hoping to find Gareth before Elisa did.

On the other hand, Elisa was not in a hurry. She crossed her arms and observed calmly like an unaffected spectator.

Once most contestants left, Elisa approached the gate and coincidentally met Gareth's gaze as he came out.

Neither spoke, but both understood each other perfectly.

Elisa stood still and looked at Gareth for a long time until he left her sight. Then, she looked away and returned to Anna's side.

Anna was furious and wanted to hit someone.

She raised her hand and brought it down, only for Elisa to stop it halfway.

Anna found herself staring into Elisa's eyes. Somehow, they always made her feel guilty.

Elisa held Anna's hand and asked coldly, "May I know what my mistake is?"

Anna shrugged and gathered courage before shoving Elisa's hand away. She craned her neck and said, "Have you forgotten what you promised? I can hit you whenever I want. Why? Do you regret your decision?"

Anna's clique voiced out in Anna's support. "Can you not be so shameless?"

"That's right. Stop pretending."

However, Elisa smiled.

She looked so beautiful that Anna and her clique could not help but be stunned.

They felt intimidated by Elisa's beauty. She looked glamorous and gorgeous from any angle.

Yet, her expression softened considerably when she smiled.

Furthermore, her skin was smooth and flawless. It was unblemished despite being exposed to the sun.

One could not help but feel jealous and exclaim that God was unfair.

Elisa tucked a loose strand of hair behind her ear and replied calmly, "If I'm not mistaken, I only agreed to be your follower. You never said you treat your followers like slaves. Do you mean all these girls behind you are your slaves?"

The girls in Anna's clique had grim expressions upon hearing that.

No one wanted to be treated as a slave.

These girls were around seventeen to eighteen years old and were easily influenced.

Anna wanted to explain but did not know how.

She had no choice but to say, "It's not what you think. I didn't."

However, the girls recalled Anna's behavior and realized they had been treated like slaves...

[Chapter 1892 What Do You Want?](#)

While Elisa instigated Anna's clique against her, Gareth moved quickly on the mountain.

He managed to find twenty kinds of herbs in less than twenty minutes.

It was a combination of luck and skill.

As he searched for more herbs, he bumped into Sodo and his gang.

Unexpectedly, Sodo managed to find at least a dozen herbs.

However, Gareth noticed the people around Sodo were empty-handed and instantly understood why.

Sodo and his gang knew none could pass the test if they worked separately. Thus, they decided to give one person all the herbs they collected.

However, Gareth shook his head and could not determine why Sodo was chosen to represent them.

Sodo saw that Gareth was about to leave and said, "Stand there."

Gareth ignored him, but someone stood before him and blocked his way.

Gareth paused but did not do anything.

He looked at Sodo sternly. "What do you want?"

Sodo snorted disdainfully. "Gareth, do you think you can pass the test simply by grabbing a few herbs?

I see you have quite a lot."

The men behind him laughed as soon as he finished speaking.

Gareth did not bother to talk or defend himself.

He waited for them to finish laughing so that he could leave.

"Gareth, you're only an outsider. Do you think you're better than us? How dare you plan to steal Nomadic Odyssey?"

Gareth stood still. He was not sure how Sodo found out that he wanted Nomadic Odyssey.

Could it be...

No, no way.

Gareth quickly rejected the notion.

He suspected Sodo had hidden behind the wall at Mrs. Kella's house and listened in. However, it did not matter at this point.

After all, Gareth's goal would eventually be revealed after the tournament. All Sodo did was reveal it earlier.

Gareth walked away from them.

He warned without looking back. "Sodo, you ran out of chance."

Gareth had promised Mrs. Kella he would give Sodo a chance, but Sodo had wasted it.

Sodo was puzzled and mistook it as a challenge. Fury rose within him, prompting him to charge toward Gareth.

However, his friends stopped him.

They told him they needed to focus on finding herbs for now and would have ample time to beat Gareth up after the tournament.

Gareth did not know what Sodo was shouting at him.

He only noticed that Sodo's words prompted everyone in the vicinity to look at him differently.

A few people even glared at him with animosity.

Nomadic Odyssey was the village's treasure. Thus, they viewed any outsider seeking it as an enemy. Furthermore, the said outsider sought to take away their treasure through the warriors' tournament.

An outsider winning the warriors' tournament?

Such a thing had never happened before.

It would be an immense humiliation to the village!

Gareth knew he would be facing even more enemies.

...

Time passed gradually. There was little sand left in the hourglass.

Gareth returned right on time.

The referee announced the end of the test when Gareth arrived. It meant anyone who came after Gareth failed the test.

Gareth looked around to see who had arrived before him. There were more than thirty people, including Sodo.

Sodo glared at him viciously like a viper waiting to strike.

However, Gareth ignored him and handed over the herbs to the referee.

He had finished gathering the herbs much earlier. However, he deliberately delayed returning.

[Chapter 1893 Foul Play?](#)

"Hmph, do you not feel embarrassed to return with only some wild plants?" Sodo snorted and mocked Gareth.

But Gareth did not care and ignored him completely.

He proceeded forward and gave the herbs he gathered to the referee.

Sodo was angry that Gareth ignored him and tried to argue. However, his friends persuaded him to quiet down.

A few people winked at Sodo and laughed. "Let's wait a bit. He's going to humiliate himself soon."

Sodo calmed down and smirked mockingly.

He too, did not believe that Gareth would pass this round.

In other words, Elisa was the only person who believed in Gareth.

Even Anna pursed her lips and said regretfully, "I didn't expect the first test to be this. It seems Gareth will lose this round. What a pity."

Even Mrs. Kella broke out in cold sweat.

Still, Elisa refused to doubt even after hearing Anna. She had complete confidence in Gareth.

The referee took the herbs from Gareth and counted them in public.

"Galangal, culantro, cinchona, woad, crow-dipper, star anise, agarwood, lotus..."

Sodo's expression darkened whenever the referee named the herbs.

There was a total of fifty medicinal herbs. It meant Gareth had met the requirement.

The referee's voice shook as he announced that Gareth found all the required herbs and passed the test.

How is this possible?

Everyone was shocked. Only Elisa was happy for Gareth because she had believed in him from the start.

Gareth looked at the people gathered. His eyes were cold and emotionless.

He stood there calmly, yet everyone could not help but look at him.

Furthermore, he remained unfazed throughout Sodo's taunt and when the referee announced the result. It felt like he was an unrelated spectator.

The only time he showed any emotion was when he looked at Elisa. His gaze softened like snow melting in spring.

It was a lovely sight.

"I trust you." Elisa mouthed those words.

Gareth nodded.

However, something happened at this moment.

Sodo stood up and pointed at Gareth fiercely. "Speak up! How did you cheat?"

Gareth frowned but did not speak.

Elisa knew he was angry.

Gareth hated people pointing their fingers at him. She feared something terrible would happen.

"Argh!"

Sodo screamed in an inhuman voice.

Gareth had snapped his fingers.

Sodo gritted his teeth in pain. He wanted to yell at Gareth but was too afraid.

Gareth glanced at him from the corner of an eye. He could not be bothered to face him.

"Sodo, remember I've warned you that you ran out of chance. I have a good temper, but there's a limit to how much I can withstand."

Elisa frowned as she listened to Gareth.

When did Gareth have a good temper? His employees were so frightened of him that they could not speak. I wonder what they would think if they were to hear this.

The village chief immediately took control of the situation and arranged for someone to check on Sodo.

Even as a doctor treated Sodo's injured hand, Sodo refused to back down and glared at Gareth.

If looks could kill, Gareth would have died many times.

Unfortunately for Sodo, that was impossible.

Gareth ignored Sodo.

The referee wanted to start the next segment, but Sodo objected.

Elisa could not help but worry.

Her concern was not about Sodo but Mrs. Kella.

Sodo stood up and glared at Gareth. He looked at the medicinal herbs on the table and said to the referee, "I think Gareth cheated. Many men from our village failed this test. How could an outsider like him be able to find the required medicinal herbs in such a short time?"

[Chapter 1894 Schemes](#)

"Who would believe that he found these herbs by himself?"

A voice broke out from among the crowd.

Many local participants failed this round. Furthermore, Gareth's status as an outsider made him suspicious.

In other words, Sodo was not the only person suspecting Gareth of cheating. Many other villagers thought the same but did not bring it up.

However, since someone mentioned it, everyone voiced their doubts and dissatisfaction.

"That's right. That outsider has only been here for how long? How could he find all these herbs so well?"

"I agree. I saw Sodo's grandmother bringing Gareth to pick herbs this morning. I've never seen him there before. How could he remember where all the herbs were after going there one time? I don't believe it."

"This can't be right. He must have cheated. The warriors' tournament will not condone cheating. We will not have a fake warrior."

"We must kick him out and disqualify him!"

Many people voiced their anger under Sodo's lead. They demanded for Gareth to be disqualified.

Mrs. Kella was worried as she saw this. She felt conflicted.

On the one hand, she was proud of Gareth.

She knew better than anyone that she did not help Gareth to cheat on this test.

On the other hand, she was ashamed of her grandson. He would stoop so low as to attack a stranger with malice.

Seeing Mrs. Kella's pained expression, Elisa stepped forward to argue with Sodo.

Sodo did not conceal the desire and possessiveness in his eyes. He looked at Elisa as if he had ownership over her.

Elisa ignored his ravenous gaze and asked, "Sodo, do you think Gareth cheated on this test?"

Hearing her asking about Gareth's matter, Sodo concealed his glee and adjusted his expression before saying, "Of course."

Elisa pretended to be surprised. "Do you mean someone collected the herbs and gave them to him?"

Somehow, Sodo could not help but feel intimidated as he looked at Elisa.

His forehead and back broke out in cold sweat.

The sea breeze felt cool as it blew at him.

"Of... Of course."

Sodo knew he could not back down or cower. He had no choice but to press forward stubbornly.

Elisa suddenly laughed as if she had heard a joke.

She bent over from laughing and pointed at Sodo.

"Since you claimed someone helped Gareth to gather these herbs, who was it? Was it me or Mrs. Kella?"

Elisa and Kella were the only ones close to Gareth in this place.

Furthermore, Elisa was also an outsider.

However, both stayed in the tournament venue since the tournament started.

Of course, these people had no idea Elisa was skilled in medicine. She was familiar with all these medicinal herbs.

Gareth had probably heard about those herbs from Elisa. That was likely one of the reasons why Gareth could learn them so quickly.

But the villagers knew nothing about her medical skills. Therefore, Elisa had no plans to reveal her trump card to them.

The only person who left the venue and had any form of connection to Gareth was Anna.

Sodo looked at Anna gleefully, thinking that victory was at hand.

"It must be Anna. Anna likes Gareth, so she decided to help him."

Suddenly, the crowd turned their attention to Anna.

Anna looked at Sodo and Gareth before turning to the village chief.

She suddenly found herself in deep trouble.

Her mind kept replaying what her father had said.

It's best to disqualify Gareth in the first round. He is too dangerous. We can't let him take Nomadic Odyssey from us.

[Chapter 1895 Valiance](#)

Anna wanted to speak, but Elisa beat her to it.

"Anna had only left for a while to use the washroom. Since you suspect her, doesn't it mean you don't trust the village chief?"

Anna looked into Elisa's eyes with conflicting emotions.

Sodo was indignant, but there was nothing he could do.

Thus, the matter came to an end.

Later, Anna glanced at Elisa. Her gaze appeared turbulent with complicated emotions.

Meanwhile, Gareth successfully passed the first test.

The second test was called 'Valiance.'

Since there were thirty-three participants, one got to sit out the first round. The rest would have to fight their opponent in a battle similar to a wrestling match. They would proceed a few rounds until only eight participants were left.

The participants would also draw a lot at each round. The person with a blank lot got to sit out the match.

Thus, everyone rubbed their hands, hoping to draw a blank lot on the first round.

Ultimately, an ordinary-looking man obtained the blank lot.

Gareth glanced at the number he drew. It was twelve.

He glanced at his opponent, a kid of around fifteen years old. Outside this village, this kid would still be in middle school.

Gareth was speechless. He got onto the stage and looked at the boy whose height only reached Gareth's chest. Gareth tried his best to appear friendly.

He suggested, "Perhaps you should forfeit."

The boy widened his eyes and felt humiliated.

"No! I participate in the warriors' tournament and am not a coward. You don't have to hold back. Let's fight!"

After saying that, the boy dashed toward Gareth to attack him.

He fought with all his might and punched Gareth relentlessly.

However, Gareth easily dodged his every attack.

He did not want to hurt the kid but would not stop the battle.

The kid paused his episode. He realized Gareth had been holding back. Thus, he said fiercely, "Don't look down on me just because I'm small. Fight me with all you've got. That's the respect I want!"

Gareth opened his mouth but did not know what to say.

Meanwhile, Elisa smiled as she watched from the side. She was pretty impressed with the boy.

The boy knew he could not defeat Gareth. Yet, he refused to back down and asked Gareth to fight him with full strength as a sign of respect.

Gareth nodded and began to stretch his muscles.

The boy did not use the chance to attack Gareth but waited patiently for him to be done.

While sounds of brawls and painful groans came from other battle stages, Gareth's stage was surprisingly peaceful.

Soon, Gareth was ready and charged at the boy.

The boy also stepped forward to meet the challenge.

Gareth's attacks were quick and decisive.

Although he held back a little to avoid endangering the boy, his attacks were not to be underestimated.

Thus, the boy was soon defeated.

Gareth brought a punch and sent the boy collapsing on the floor.

The boy groaned and lay on the floor. He had no strength to stand back up.

Gareth did not continue to attack him but offered his hand.

The boy saw Gareth's hand and accepted it.

Thus, Gareth was able to pull him back up.

"It's your turn to attack."

Gareth got into a stance, waiting for the boy to fight back.

However, the boy shook his head. "I lost."

He jumped down from the stage after saying that.

His eyes glimmered as he turned to Gareth and grinned. "My name is Monani. Please remember it."

Gareth was briefly dazed as he looked at Monani's smile. He looked so innocent that it reminded him of someone.

Gareth glanced at Elisa and saw her waving and smiling at him.

Anna had ceased to bother Elisa ever since Elisa defended her. She even allowed Elisa to watch the tournament.

[Chapter 1896 Putting an End to It](#)

Sodo was Gareth's opponent in the second round.

When Sodo knew about this, he was so happy that he nearly jumped from excitement.

He stared at Gareth viciously and looked eager to bring him down.

However, Gareth did not care.

Sodo was not alone in eagerly waiting for this fight. Gareth, too, wanted it to happen.

He felt it was time to end the matter with Sodo once and for all.

The referee announced the start of the second round, and the two would have to get on stage soon.

Elisa called out to Gareth before he went on stage.

"Be careful later."

Gareth looked at her with confusion.

"You don't believe I'll win?"

Elisa rolled her eyes and explained, "I'm worried about you accidentally killing someone in a fight. Don't forget Mrs. Kella is here."

Hearing her, Gareth glanced to the side of the stage and saw Mrs. Kella looking anxious. He nodded to indicate that he understood.

After they got onto the stage, Sodo said with a hint of jealousy. "You should enjoy it while Elisa is nice to you. You won't get the chance once the warriors' tournament ends."

Gareth did not respond. He did not even look at Sodo.

He got into his battle stance, and the fight began.

They seemed evenly matched, but Elisa knew Gareth was holding back his abilities.

At the same time, the spectators began to predict the outcome.

"Who do you think will win?"

"Sodo, of course."

"I think so too. Although Sodo is a bad influence, he has never lost a fight since he was young. Otherwise, why would he have so many followers? Gareth is unlucky to have to fight him."

Elisa listened to the people around her looking down on Gareth's capabilities but did not argue with them.

Instead, she smirked and quietly watched the fight.

The battle was getting intense.

The more observant spectators would notice Gareth becoming more skilled as he fought. On the other hand, Sodo began to look tired and fought recklessly.

He attacked without strategy and paid no attention to defense.

Thus, Gareth found a weakness to hone in on.

When Sodo waved his fists again, Gareth hit him in his ribs, causing him to howl in pain.

Gareth placed a foot firmly on Sodo's head.

He kicked Sodo's head between his feet like a football.

Sodo did not even have the chance to surrender.

Mrs. Kella watched anxiously from among the spectators.

Although Gareth hit Damien hard, he did not forget his promise to Mrs. Kella.

Thus, Gareth finally stopped when Sodo looked on the verge of dying. He stepped on Sodo's chest, almost knocking Sodo out of consciousness.

Then, Gareth looked down at Sodo, saying, "Sodo, you should be thankful you're Mrs. Kella's grandson. Otherwise, I would never have forgiven you after all that you did. You should behave from now on and cease your grandiose delusions. How can you hope to astound everyone with your talent when you have nothing and refuse to work hard?"

He kicked Sodo off the stage before Sodo could comprehend what his words meant.

Mrs. Kella looked away and could not bear to continue watching.

Apart from Elisa, everyone at the scene was stunned. No one expected such an outcome.

Gareth even had to remind the referee to announce that the match was over. Then the referee came to his senses and loudly declared Gareth the winner.

Gareth jumped down from the stage and hugged Elisa.

Mrs. Kella watched from nearby and felt conflicting emotions.

Initially, the third test was set to proceed today.

Strangely, the village chief came onto the stage as the referee explained the tournament rules and said there would be changes to the plan. He announced that the final round of the warriors' tournament would begin the next day.

[Chapter 1897 The Final Test](#)

Although everyone was confused, they chose to go along with it.

Gareth did not mind having a day to rest and recuperate his energy.

He held Elisa's hand, and they walked home together.

The two looked like a pair of lovers and were well-matched.

Meanwhile, Anna stood at the back and observed them. She secretly made a decision.

Thus, she met Elisa and Gareth that night and told them something. She remained there for a long time and left late at night.

Anna walked softly but quickly after leaving Elisa and Gareth's place and quietly disappeared into the night.

All participants who passed the previous tests gathered in the village chief's compound the following morning.

The referee arrived late only to tell everyone not to leave the yard and that he would return soon.

Everyone waited for a long time, but the referee never returned. He seemed to have abandoned them.

They kept waiting from morning till night.

Three people could not stand the wait and left the yard.

Gareth arched his eyebrows and listened to people around him discussing their situation.

"How could they leave us here and forget about us? We are final round candidates."

"They can't have forgotten us. Could it be a test?"

Gareth looked at the person who spoke. The person could not help but shudder when he sensed Gareth's gaze and forced himself to smile at Gareth.

Then, Gareth looked away and ceased to listen in to the crowd's discussion.

He sat at a spot and meditated, allowing him to recall many memories.

People outside the village chief's compound had no idea what was happening inside. They wondered what was so exciting that no one was allowed to watch.

Many people waited from day till night. Elisa was among them.

This time, she remained with Mrs. Kella and not with Anna.

On closer observation, one would notice the absence of animosity between Elisa and Anna. Instead, they seemed strangely harmonious.

Elisa smiled and waved at Anna. Although neither of them spoke, the air between them was no longer tense.

Only the three of them knew why.

The sun rose and set again. Someone finally entered the yard in the evening.

By now, many people were seated or lying down from hunger. It was a messy sight.

Only Gareth sat straight and calmly looked ahead.

Unexpectedly, the village chief and not the referee came to them.

A smile appeared on his wizened face. He immediately instructed his servants to serve high-quality food and wine.

"Sorry, everyone. I'm late due to some matters. You all must be hungry, so I've prepared some food. We will continue after the meal."

The village chief smiled kindly after saying that.

The smile calmed everyone's suspicion.

Only Gareth astutely noticed something off about the village chief.

He recalled what Anna said yesterday and suddenly understood everything.

Gareth looked at the table covered with delicious cuisines but did not touch them.

He observed the other contestants while they ate.

Apart from Gareth, everyone ate like starved men.

The village chief was surprised and angry as he looked at Gareth.

He was astonished that someone could resist this test.

Furthermore, he was furious that the only person who could resist was an outsider.

Once everyone had their fill of food and wine, the village chief's expression turned solemn.

He said, "Since everyone is done eating, I'll announce the winner of the warriors' tournament."

His words triggered a massive reaction from the crowd.

Everyone exchanged glances in confusion. Some were stunned.

They could not determine how he could choose a winner over a meal.

[Chapter 1898 Champion's Triumph](#)

Could it have been about who ate more?

This was too absurd.

As the spectators watched in disbelief, the village chief snorted and spoke slowly.

"Let it be known to all that the Warriors' Tournament varies yearly, but this year marks an exceptional departure. For the champion of this year's competition, a unique honor awaits. Not only will they have

the privilege to make a personal request of me, but they will also win the hand of my beloved daughter in marriage. In other words, this victor will become the next village chief."

Although Gareth had been previously informed, he still felt a sharp shock as he grasped the situation.

"Everyone has shown commendable performance, at least based on the first two rounds. However, in this round, except for him who did not finish the meal." The village chief's finger pointed at Gareth.

He stood confidently, unaffected by the crowd's scrutiny, as if accustomed to being the center of attention.

The village chief's stomach flipped as fear slowly crawled over his body.

"Why, Village Chief? Why is he the exception?"

"Could it be because Anna likes him, and the Village Chief set up this scheme for him?"

"I suspect so. Otherwise, why choose him? What's the justification for his selection? I must admit I fall short if they were seeking a handsome face."

The village chief's mouth twitched as he listened to those squabbles.

On the other hand, Gareth remained composed, as if he wasn't the subject of discussion.

He seemed like a bystander, observing with a cold and distant gaze.

The more indifferent Gareth appeared, the more the village chief found himself impressed by him.

He was a stark contrast to the other brash men in the group.

The village chief sighed softly and said, "Before the referee left, they instructed everyone not to depart, but three individuals did so anyway. This demonstrates disobedience, making arbitrary decisions, and displaying unwarranted arrogance!"

The three individuals who had walked out lowered their heads as they left.

The village chief looked around and continued, "After the food was served, you didn't even question it before indulging yourselves. This is the second mistake! A small amount of oleander has been added to the food."

When the village chief's words fell, several individuals clutched their stomachs and wailed in agony.

The oleander had already taken effect.

Not lethal, yet potent enough to catapult anyone into an abyss of agony.

The village chief looked at the group of people writhing on the ground, shook his head, and walked over to Gareth's side. He carefully assessed him, taking his time to examine every detail.

Gareth remained stiff and silent as the village chief scrutinized.

Their eyes locked, and they continued their silent exchange.

Eventually, the village chief extended his hand, placing it gently on Gareth's shoulder.

"Good lad, I'm entrusting the village and Anna to you. I can rest easy."

The village chief appeared genuinely pleased, an uncommon sight for his reserved demeanor. His smile deepened the creases on his face.

However, Gareth took a step back and shook his head.

"Apologies, Village Chief. I may have to disappoint your expectations. I can't take over the village, and there's no way I can marry Anna."

The village chief's face darkened instantly, a fiery wrath and disdain clouding over his features.

"What are you implying? Are you perhaps still fixated on that woman of yours? Elisa, is it? Given her history with you, she could serve as a concubine," the village chief scoffed.

The village chief stood tall and imposing as if Elisa should be grateful for the opportunity to become Gareth's concubine.

Gareth's fists were clenched tightly; his knuckles turned white as his frustration and tension intensified.

He might have assaulted him if it weren't for the fact that he needed something from the village chief. Thus, he had to maintain a respectful demeanor even if the chief's words had angered him.

Oblivious to Gareth's growing anger, the village chief continued, "I don't know where Anna falls short compared to that woman. Your eyes have been deceived; a true wife needs someone to support you."

[Chapter 1899 Forced Marriage](#)

The village chief snorted coldly, "Not someone with a mere ornament, a vase, or a porcelain figurine."

"She's not an ornament," Gareth retorted sternly, barely containing his disdain which visibly irked the village chief.

Finding a suitable candidate with a romantic inclination willing to accept the arrangement had been challenging.

Despite all the persuasions and urges, Gareth remained steadfast.

They circled the same argument, yet it all boiled down to that one sentence.

"I acknowledge my shortcomings. Therefore, I am unworthy of Anna."

A vortex of anger swirled inside him, and the village chief was about to explode with rage.

Gareth stared at him and said earnestly, "Before the finals, I already knew this time would be different. It was Anna who told me."

The village chief's fury softened as soon as he heard Anna's name.

Could it be that Anna informed Gareth about today's examination?

No, there was no way...

He kept it from everyone to ensure the fairness of the competition.

Even the referee only learned the test questions right before today's event, resulting in impressive outcomes.

So, how did Gareth know about this?

Gareth smirked and continued, "Princess Anna didn't mention the content of the competition. However, she mentioned a task you assigned her beforehand."

The village chief's heart dropped and went cold at the statement. Even though Gareth didn't explicitly mention what it was, they shared an unspoken understanding.

The plan was for Anna to frame Gareth at an opportune moment, disqualifying him from the upcoming matches.

However, the scheme failed due to Elisa's ingenuity and Anna's troubled conscience.

As a result, Gareth managed to advance to the finals.

He caught a whiff of something suspicious.

Why would someone resort to unethical means to disqualify themselves?

Was it solely to avoid borrowing from Nomadic Odyssey?

On what grounds did the village chief assume Gareth would advance to the finals?

Ultimately, Elisa snapped Gareth back to reality from the ordeal.

The village chief had aged, and his age was catching up with him.

Could it have been that he intended to identify a successor through this competition?

Someone who could both marry Anna and assume his role.

If so, being an outsider, Gareth would likely not have been a suitable candidate.

If Anna had framed Gareth, he wouldn't have only lost this opportunity. Their relationship would have been entirely severed.

Anna would have been more open to considering other promising young men if she hadn't insisted on marrying only him.

The village chief didn't anticipate that, at the very last moment, Anna wouldn't follow through with his plan.

He thought Anna couldn't let go of Gareth, which allowed Gareth to go into the finals.

However, it was more than that.

Anna had actually had a change of heart.

She didn't want to interfere in their relationship or act against her conscience.

After hearing Gareth's explanation, the village chief scowled.

He was still determined to make Gareth yield.

At that moment, Anna pushed the door open and knelt before the village chief.

"Father, I've never asked you for anything in my life. Please don't push Gareth, and don't push me into this, either. Gareth and Elisa love each other deeply, and Elisa is a remarkable person. I won't be happy marrying someone who has already given his heart to another. They are destined to leave," Anna's voice quivered as she spoke, tears welling up.

The village chief's heart ached as he embraced her.

"Dear child, please stand up and talk," he said, his voice taking on a gentle tone.

Tears stained her face as Anna was gently lifted to her feet by the village chief. His heart ached as he looked at her.

He looked up and saw Elisa walking close behind, standing beside Gareth.

They were indeed a match made in heaven.

They locked eyes in a meaningful exchange, confirming their safety. This unspoken connection eased their anxieties and allowed them to breathe a sigh of relief.

[Chapter 1900 Not So Fond Anymore](#)

"That's alright. Let it out."

He looked at the couple across from him and then at his tearful daughter in his arms.

Everyone in the village knew that the chief loved his daughter dearly.

In the end, he finally gave in.

"I believe my body can withstand another Warriors' Tournament, and my precious daughter will wait for a hero to come and marry her," the village chief stated as he gently patted Anna's hand.

Anna sniffled and nodded.

She had made up her mind.

Anna realized she had been naive, spoiled and lost.

On the other hand, Elisa shone with her courage, intelligence, and compassion.

In fact, Anna's perception of Elisa changed after she cared for an injured wild rabbit.

Could a person who showed kindness to a helpless creature indeed be wicked?

And if not, what drove Anna to stand against Elisa?

As she watched their perfectly matched silhouettes, a question arose in Anna's mind that evening: Did she truly like Gareth?

It wasn't solely about affection; she wanted to be possessive.

Longing for something she couldn't have, Gareth became her fixation—a matter of conquest, nothing more.

Now that she had let go, her affection waned.

She wished she could be friends with Elisa instead.

With that in mind, Anna smiled at her.

A reciprocal smile from Elisa immediately dissolved the rift between them.

"Then, what do you want?"

The village chief inquired about Gareth's winning aspirations with the courtyard empty except for a few.

Despite their unspoken understanding, Gareth took a deep breath and met the chief's gaze with unwavering determination.

"The Nomadic Odyssey."

The request didn't surprise the village chief much, and he raised an eyebrow.

Gareth had anticipated a refusal and was ready to try to convince him.

To their surprise, the village chief readily agreed.

"Okay," he replied without hesitation, leaving even Anna shocked.

The excuse was swallowed down.

However, it was widely known that the "Nomadic Odyssey" was a treasure in the village, an item entrusted solely to the care of the village chief.

Was he suggesting it be brought out immediately?

Unusual circumstances often had hidden motives.

Indeed, the village chief's seemingly straightforward response to Gareth's demands was not so simple after all.

"However, the Nomadic Odyssey was merely on loan to you and must be returned," the village chief asserted.

"Of course," Gareth nodded firmly.

The village chief sneered like a cunning old fox.

He pointed at Elisa, "So she'll stay here, waiting for your return to exchange the Nomadic Odyssey for her."

"No way," Gareth refused without hesitation.

There was no way that he would leave Elisa behind.

Elisa remained silent as she waited for the village chief's following words.

If her hunch was correct, he had another trick up his sleeve.

True enough, the village chief's smile grew deeper.

"Since you don't want her to stay, you must stay. Otherwise, I won't lend you the Nomadic Odyssey. You have to give me some assurance, right?"

"No."

Elisa finally spoke.

They came together, so how could one of them possibly leave alone? However, this time, Gareth didn't outright refuse. He requested some time to think it over.

The village chief shrugged, signaling them to do as they pleased.

He turned around with his hands behind his back. As he was about to leave, he muttered, "After all, it's not me who's in a hurry."

This statement skillfully encapsulated both parties' sentiments.

The village chief grumbled, "This isn't a cooperative attitude. Agreeing to some things and not others—how can we have a pleasant collaboration?"