

## Night Ranger - Chapter 251 -282

Chapter 251: Dark Hole

The Book of Nalu, a book full of mysteries.

Each page of the Book of Nalu contained endless possibilities.

It might turn one crazy, but it also might grant one unimaginable benefits.

Marvin kept a cautious attitude toward the Book of Nalu.

This was also the reason didn't read the 3rd page of the Book of Nalu, [Destruction], when he obtained it.

Because the danger from [Destruction] was far greater than that of [Rebirth].

The Book of Nalu could take over one's mind and make that person mad. But it was different when that rune appeared in her eyes.

That was a contract.

The rune Marvin just drew on the Book of Nalu represented a law of the God of Deception.

Marvin formed a mysterious resonance with that page of the Book of Nalu. In other words, he temporarily became the owner of the page of [Rebirth].

Thus, he was able to call out Madeline.

Marvin already inferred the ins and outs of the matter: Madeline actually didn't have the aptitude to advance to Legend. Even with the help of the Book of Nalu, she still couldn't cross this barrier.

But the woman's ambitions and desires constantly pushed her to seek the advancement.

Under the pressure of the Heavenly Deer and the Underworld, she made a crazy decision!

She opened the Book of Nalu and made a contract with it.

She would obtain power from the Book of Nalu, and advance to Legend. And the price was half her soul.

That rune was one of the runes for a contract, which Marvin recognized.

Thus he hesitated, but still decisively killed Madeline.

That was the most evil part of Madeline, or in other words, the evil side of River Shore City's City Lord. And the one remaining in the Book of Nalu was the kind side.

Right, even an evil existence would also have a kind side. And Madeline's kind side wasn't small.

Otherwise she wouldn't be River Shore City's City Lord.

The Madeline who had been summoned by Marvin from the Book of Nalu had all her previous memories.

There were only two differences.

First, her physical body was attached to the Book of Nalu, so she would have to completely obey Marvin. But from her actions, it looked like she actually liked it.

In a sense, Madeline originally showed some wickedness, like an overbearing queen. And the current Madeline displayed respect and kindness.

She would meekly obey Marvin's orders and be very delighted to do so.

Second, her strength had somewhat declined.

Even if she was still a Legend, she was probably the weakest Legend Wizard.

She was half dead after all.

Marvin's actions stemmed from a lack of better options. Madeline had signed a contract with the Book of Nalu after all, which guaranteed her doom.

He was already doing his best to help her.

After all, becoming the owner of the Book of Nalu was risky. Thankfully it was [Rebirth]. He had already passed this chapter's test, so he dared to become its owner.

If it was [Destruction]... He certainly wouldn't dare.

Regardless, Madeline's death and rebirth was actually good news for Marvin.

He could use her to control River Shore City.

Although he had killed Madeline in front of many of River Shore City's people, they could always explain that they had joined hands to put on a show whose goal was... obviously to handle hidden enemies. As for what the enemy was, they could randomly pick one when the time came.

In any case, no one would dare to go against Madeline's might in River Shore City, especially since she was the genuine City Lord.

After dealing with this, Marvin saw the extremely lovely Madeline wanting to stick to him and he hurriedly put her back in the Book of Nalu.

This matter... It was better if Hathaway didn't see it for now.

After all, he didn't know how to explain it right now.

...

Next day, after everyone woke up. Marvin quickly handled some matters.

First was to give the Time Molt to Owl so the latter could pass it over to Inheim. Marvin had faith in Mother of Creation's healing abilities. Inheim would surely recover.

And Time Molt was a treasure that all gods coveted. Keeping it was like lighting a fire in the darkness. It was better to hand it over to reliable people.

Second was to give the Red Dragon's corpse from the Thousand Paper Crane to Constantine.

Constantine's friend, Master Harvester Wall, was waiting for him in [Wooden Fort], a city in the southern part of the snow field. He apparently had an independent workshop there with ten assistants working for him. Something like harvesting a Dragon required patience and it was better to do something like that in the North's cold climate.

Marvin trusted Constantine. Since a Master Harvester would take care of it, this Red Dragon's body would be taken care of perfectly. When the time came, he would get his share.

Constantine hurriedly rushed south when he got the Dragon's corpse. He would return to White River Valley after dealing with this matter, as per his agreement with Marvin.

After all, the current White River Valley was different from the past.

Following Marvin's rise in reputation, more and more people started paying attention to this mystical piece of land.

A Legend powerhouse was needed to oversee it.

Daniela clearly wasn't enough.

And the others would split up to deal with their matters. Legends were also very busy after all.

O'Brien would go eastward, as his fight with the Molten clan wasn't over. Although he had removed the Molten Overlord's head, it was said that there was an evil force with equivalent power emerging from a large crevice in the North. He had no choice but to go deal with it.

As for the Azure Matriarch, completely dealing with her in the glacier wasn't possible, because it was a field where the World Ending Twin Snakes' power kept flowing. He only managed to rip off a few heads, and they would eventually regrow.

Shadow Thief Owl would go look for Inheim. Endless Ocean needed to report this matter to the Migratory Bird Council.

Lorant and Hathaway would return to the South.

Lorant was very grateful for Marvin's actions, especially saving his children.

He gave Marvin a badge showing that he was an honored guest of the Bai. He could get the Bai clansmen to help him in the Saint Desert.

Marvin didn't hold back after getting the badge and directly wore it.

After all, he could certainly use it. The Bai clansmen were numerous and spread through the entire Saint Desert. He might need their help at some point.

Or at the very least, he could take less detours.

Furthermore, most of the people in the Assassin Alliance were Bai clansmen. Even if the Assassin Alliance didn't have a Legend Powerhouse overseeing it, quite a few Legend Assassins came from of the Assassin Alliance, so there was a bit of a relationship between them.

This network might come in handy in the future.

...

After this short reunion, it was time to leave.

After Marvin bid farewell to everyone, he once again rode Hathaway's magic carpet, hurrying as fast as lightning toward the White Tower.

Hathaway still ignored the polite White Tower Wizard and directly used the long-distance Teleportation Gate.

The two soon returned to the Ashes Tower.

“Actually, I had something I wanted to talk to you about...”

At the top of the Ashes Tower, Marvin began talking when Hathaway suddenly interrupted him. “There is a very important spell I’ve been studying these days.”

“Don’t run around everywhere if you don’t have anything important.”

“Okay.”

She instantly opened a Teleportation Door and quickly ran away.

Marvin froze, before forcing a smile.

He actually wanted to ask about what Hathaway saw in the 6th page of the Book of Nalu.

He was very concerned about this.

But Hathaway was acting strangely, so he didn’t have the chance to ask.

He could only leave the Ashes Tower alone and return to White River Valley.

...

In the Ashes Tower, Hathaway quietly sitting on the soft sofa.

Her gaze was bright, but somewhat blank.

“He definitely wanted to ask what was the meaning of that kiss, right?”

“I avoided him this time, but how should I answer next time?”

“Ahhhhh... It’s so annoying!”

The 16 years old girl suddenly stood up.

She went to a secret room in the Ashes Tower and lifted a red cloth.

Behind was an old-fashioned painting, and on the painting was a kind old lady.

“Mother...”

A blank expression settled on her face. "Why did the curse of the Anzed Witches have to happen to me?"

"Why can my body only cycle through three different shapes?"

"I thought everything would clear up after I advanced to Legend. But now I am even more lost."

"I can't see the path ahead..."

Of course, the painting was unable to answer.

After a moment, she silently replaced the red cloth on the painting...

Not noticing the tear drop seeping out of the old lady's eyes in that last second.

The tear of an Anzed Witch.

...

Marvin hurriedly returned to White River Valley.

After confirming that everyone was in good health, he secretly summoned Madeline and had her return to River Shore City.

Regardless how complicated the process would be, it already wasn't his problem anymore. He believed that even the kind Madeline would easily be able to regain control of River Shore City.

After staying two days in White River Valley and learning that everything was going well, Marvin once again gave a reason and quietly left.

Anna and the others felt helpless about it.

But they also believed Marvin certainly had his reasons for leaving like that.

The only thing they could do was properly build this territory and carefully protect it while Marvin was away.

...

Three days later, in the Assassin Alliance secret ground.

"Sir, have a nice trip." A black clothed masked man told Marvin, "Sire High Priest already made proper arrangements. You can enter the Dark Hole at any time."

“But by all means, please be careful. The Underdark is a lot more vicious.”

Marvin faintly nodded.

He then squeezed into that pitch black cave.

He could faintly hear the roaring voices of monsters living in the depths of the earth!

His blood was boiling!

---

T/Reminder: Just in case, Witch is simply the female counterpart of Wizards. It has no negative meaning there. We simply use Wizard as a staple term unless it's specifically specified Female Wizard in the raw.

Chapter 252: Hot Spring

Shadow Valley, hidden training ground.

In a dense forest, a stiffly moving training dummy kept walking.

These training dummies were products of alchemy and were used to imitate a real person's movements.

A green radiance flickered on their bodies.

If they noticed an enemy approaching, the green radiance would turn red.

This meant the mission failed.

A black cloud slowly floated over in the green sky.

In a shrub, a small silhouette followed that floating black cloud and quietly began her actions.

A few minutes later, the black cloud finished passing over the forest.

And Isabelle's silhouette could gradually be seen, exiting the forest.

A military instructor was waiting for her at the exit.

He silently calculated the time and even with great effort, he still couldn't hide the shock on his face.

Sixteen low-level training dummies were all dispatched in seven minutes, and no alarm was triggered!

This strength is not what a 1st rank little girl is supposed to have?!

Then again, he had overseen countless Assassins taking this test before, so even though Isabelle's display was shocking, it wasn't unprecedented.

But what the military instructor didn't know was that the little girl hadn't used the Hammons' unique abilities because of Marvin's words.

She instead relied on her own Assassin talents to accomplish the training.

If she used the Hammon abilities to get rid of these training dummies, she wouldn't even need half a minute!

This was what made her most frightening.

"First training, passed. If I had to give you a mark, it would [Excellent]," the military instructor said in a heavy voice.

Isabelle looked up. "Why not [Perfect]?"

The military instructor's mouth twitched. "Because in the previous training camp, you injured too many promising trainees. Some of them even began to have a shadow in their heart. They might never have the confidence to be an Assassin again."

"That isn't my fault," Isabelle contended calmly, "They slandered Lord Marvin. They said he died. I should have killed them."

The military instructor frowned. The little girl's tone was dull, but it gave a strong pressure.

If not for the extremely strict orders from the higher ups, he would properly teach a lesson to this little girl who didn't know how high the skies were.

Unfortunately, he could only imagine doing so.

The little girl's background was pretty huge. It was said that she was closely related to the mighty Viscount Marvin.

"Well. Let's call it a day."

"In any case, you are all from the same batch of Apprentice Assassins, so you need to help each other."

“Go look for Lamar, he has something to give you. It’s something given to you by Viscount Marvin.”

Isabelle’s eyes suddenly brightened. “A gift from Lord Marvin?”

...

Marvin was cautiously progressing through a gloomy cave.

After the initial excitement dulled, Marvin began to stabilize his state of mind.

He knew he had to stay patient.

He was someone that liked taking risks. For many, darkness meant fear. But for Marvin, darkness meant endless possibilities.

He had repeatedly adventured to the cities of the Underdark in the past, usually alone.

He liked that feeling of solitude.

And the danger of the Underdark would excite him even more.

This was a place full of dangers.

You had to be cautious, or else you wouldn’t be able to leave the Underdark... Alive.

Marvin kept going forward. In less than half a day, he had already avoided a Carnivorous Plant, a Trapper and a Myconids tribe!

This was completely due to the Night Walker’s innate skill.

Darksight made him like a fish in water in the Underdark. This was more reliable than the Drows’ Infrared Sight.

Myconids tribes couldn’t be underestimated. A fight with those Fungus-men would never end. Their fighting strength was average, but they would easily attract the other monsters in the vicinity.

As for the Trapper and the Carnivorous Plant, they were very frightening lifeforms.

Trappers loved to pretend to be a flat part of the road, but if you accidentally stepped on them, you would find yourself standing in a devilish mouth!

It was similar with the Underdark’s Carnivorous Plant.

These lifeforms were extremely frightening and Marvin wouldn't take the initiative to provoke them. He didn't come to the Underdark for an adventure, but to reach his destination, Rocky Mountain.

If he went through the Saint Desert, even if he had a first rate guide, it would still take about a month to arrive to Rocky Mountain.

Marvin chose this path because it would greatly cut down the time.

Naturally, the dangers would also greatly increase.

In the Underdark, the strong preyed on the weak.

But the good news was that even if the path he chose was part of the Underdark, it was quite far from the true Underdark.

That underground river in fact directly crossed the Saint Desert.

In short, it was still safe as long as he stayed vigilant.

...

Following the small path of the Dark Hole, Marvin walked for approximately six hours before finally hearing the sound of water.

He followed the path he remembered and cut through a small cave.

In this process, he inadvertently disturbed a Poison Lizard's hunt and had to draw his daggers and fight.

A bit later, Marvin got rid of the Poison Lizard with his exquisite Blade Skills, not a single drop of poison falling on his body.

This was the benefit of fighting experience.

Naturally it was also due to his high Dexterity and his Demon Hunter Steps.

After killing the Poison Lizard, Marvin safely arrived at that underground river.

The river was actually very narrow, it was more of a rapids than a river.

This was also the reason it was safe.

If it was really a large underground river, there might have been terrifying [Aboleths] or other big underwater Aberrations.

These monsters weren't something Marvin wanted to come across at the moment. They were usually very troublesome because they were natural stalking predators. Even the early warning abilities of the Ranger and Night Walker classes might not be enough if they launched a sneak attack.

Marvin smoothly reached the river bank.

This small river would keep him company for a week. This would be a very boring period.

But it was a lot better than trudging through the desert.

He took a small golden bull from the Void Conch and then silently chanted an incantation.

In a flash, the golden bull became bigger and was more or less the shape of a small boat.

This was one of the golden bulls Marvin obtained from the Hidden Granary. He had asked the nameless alchemist to add a shrinking and enlarging ability to it. He hadn't been too hopeful about the result, but that guy unexpectedly succeeded.

Moreover, it was an enchantment that could repeatedly be used.

The food in this golden bull's belly had already been emptied so Marvin used it as a means of transportation. It would be very handy on the river at the very least.

He softly put the golden bull on the river and then hopped on!

Under the acceleration of the river rapids, the golden bull boat hurriedly drifted forward, and in a blink, it was already far in the distance!

...

The golden bull proceeded down the underground river while Marvin maintained his vigilance.

When tired, he would use the Wishful Rope to tie it to a rock and find a hidden place to rest and take a nap.

When hungry and thirsty, he would eat rations and drink water.

Marvin hadn't experienced days like that for a long time.

He cherished the memories of these solitary adventuring days. Even if it was dull, it made him more clear-headed.

Although there weren't huge monsters around the underground river, there were still many smaller monsters roaming about.

Fortunately the river was quite fast and Marvin whistled past them before they could react.

The only trouble Marvin met was a Behir drinking on the river bank.

(T/N: Great serpentine monster with twelve legs and an electrical breath, often mistaken with a wingless blue dragon.)

That guy was directly blocking Marvin's path.

Marvin originally thought there would be a hard fought battle, but he hadn't thought that the guy would hesitate and let him off.

It spoke a few words in Undercommon, which Marvin didn't understand, and then cleared out of Marvin's path.

Marvin surmised that this guy let him off mostly because of his Dragon Slayer title.

It was common knowledge that Behirs abhorred all Draconic lifeforms, and Marvin's body appeared to have the aura of a dead Dragon.

Perhaps because it felt that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend," it didn't make things too complicated for Marvin.

Of course, Marvin still thought that the main reason was still those three Lizards' bodies on the ground.

Rashly starting a battle against an enemy of unknown strength was clearly not wise.

Marvin luckily averted a battle once again.

Behirs were very troublesome lifeforms. Their skin was sturdy and unless Marvin turned into an Asuran Bear, he probably wouldn't be able to harm it.

And in the Underdark, the Asuran Bear's fighting strength would be limited.

...

After about a week of travel, Marvin left the river, put away the golden bull, and then followed a path on foot.

Rocky Mountain was already very close, but even if it was only the outskirts of the Underdark, there were still monsters roaming about so he still had to be cautious.

And the hot spring Marvin had planned to visit was also in the vicinity.

This hot spring had mystical effects, and could substantially improve his Constitution. Marvin knew that what gave this hot spring its effects was that fragment of [Earth Crystal] at the bottom of the water.

From Marvin's previous experience, after a human soaked in the hot spring for some time, he could raise his Constitution by one or two points.

Such a benefit was hard to come by.

It was a pity that this hot spring wasn't easy to access.

There was a Hook Horror family occupying the surroundings. Their leader was an elite variant female Hook Horror.

Marvin previously had a battle of wits with her and it took him a long time to take care of her.

But he came prepared this time, so it should be a lot easier.

He silently checked the path, having activated his Listen skill for a long time.

At that moment, Marvin heard an ear-piercing sound!

Chapter 253: Hook Horror

The subtle sound kept getting closer.

Marvin knew this was the scraping sound of a Hook Horror's legs when moving on stone walls.

Only with a sufficiently high Listen skill could he notice the Hook Horror before it found him.

Marvin silently listened for a while, quickly concluding, 'Only one, probably dispatched by the group to hunt.'

'A common Hook Horror shouldn't be too hard.'

But Marvin didn't treat it lightly. This kind of lifeform was a very frightening predator of the Underdark. It had a vulture-like head with bony hooks in place of hands, and their legs were thick and solid with sharp claws. Hook Horrors walked on two legs and could

also climb cliffs. The very hard carapace layer on the back made them the natural enemies of rogues!

Ordinary Thieves might not be able to break through a Hook Horror's defense at all.

They would be blown away by the hooks and might lose their lives.

Though Marvin had experience fighting them, he still wouldn't treat it lightly.

After thinking through this, he took a tied wild boar out of the Thousand Paper Crane and threw it on the ground.

The wild boar was still alive! This was one of the profound mysteries of Origami.

It could only struggle in vain due to the bindings.

This kind of struggling would be easily detectable and attract the Hook Horror.

After setting everything up, Marvin used Hide and concealed himself on the side.

Hook Horrors had an unusual ability that let them find the location of an enemy using high frequency sound waves.

But Marvin hid behind a huge rock, which would be enough to ward off the sound waves.

Soon, a shadow quickly appeared at the end of the cave.

A lone Hook Horror.

Marvin held his breath. He wouldn't have a lot of opportunities, because only the head and the heart were weak points of the Hook Horror, but to reach these spots, he would have to face the frightening hooks. Only by grasping the perfect timing could he settle the issue relatively safely.

...

The Hook Horror soon found the struggling wild boar.

Its exceptional intelligence stopped it from immediately rushing forward. Instead, it began to evaluate this prey's strength.

It had never seen such a strange lifeform before.

This boar was brought in from the surface by Marvin, and the Underdark didn't have a similar lifeform!

Or if there had been one, it must have already become extinct from being unable to adapt to the terrible environment.

The Hook Horror seemed to hesitate.

Marvin was waiting for this!

He quietly took out a sphere and gently let it roll over.

It was such an unremarkable movement, but it was still noticed by the Hook Horror!

It suddenly spread its sharp hooks and pounced over toward the sphere.

But a burst of light suddenly spread from the sphere!

[Sun Sphere]!

It contained a great amount of Sun magic and was the bane of many underground lifeforms.

The Hook Horror couldn't escape on time and wailed.

It crazily swung its hooks at the sphere out of fear.

But then, the Sun Sphere exploded!

"Bang!"

The noise echoed through the cave.

The bursting energy wildly filled the cave and the Hook Horror's forelimbs melted and were paralyzed. It frantically raised its head, trying to avoid being harmed by the Sun magic.

Three seconds later, the energy inside the Sun Sphere ran out, with only sparks remaining in the cave.

The Hook Horror was seriously hurt and tried to flee.

But at that time, Marvin finally made his move.

This was the time!

Night Boundary was quietly activated. Marvin's silhouette was just like a demon, appearing on the Hook Horror's escape path!

His daggers cut the Hook Horror's forelimbs as if he was cutting through tofu!

A simple dodge and he avoided the Hook Horror's counterattack with its beak. The next second, Marvin's daggers ruthlessly slashed at the Hook Horror's neck!

The Hook Horror wasn't a match for the two daggers after being grievously injured by the Sun Sphere.

After a handful of seconds, it lost its head to Marvin!

But the sound of fighting already spread out.

Marvin soon heard rustling noises.

At least three Hook Horrors were rushing over, and they didn't bother covering their tracks, instead rushing to provide assistance to their companions.

'Half a minute at most.'

Marvin sneered, this was exactly what he wanted!

He didn't take care of the Hook Horror body and went back to hide behind the huge rock.

In his hands were two more Sun Spheres!

This was part of Marvin's plan, hiding behind the rock to evade the Hook Horrors' perception, and then crazily throwing money at them!

That's right, he was basically throwing money at them.

If a Wizard was here, he would be strangling Marvin while cursing him for wasting resources!

Using Sun Spheres like that?!

This was an item used to increase the strength of Sun magic for Priest and Wizards

But in Marvin's hands, it was merely a consumable.

It was used as a grenade!

The crafting process of each Sun Sphere was very complicated, requiring the cooperation of a high level Alchemist and a high level Wizard.

It was to the point that in the entire South, no more than a hundred Sun Spheres came out of the Three Ring Towers and other Wizard organizations each year.

Marvin used his relations with Hathaway to buy six Sun Spheres from the Ashes Tower and Craftsman Tower.

Each Sun Sphere cost 1000 Wizard golds!

And this was a discount to give face to Hathaway.

The six Sun Spheres cost six thousand! Marvin bought it on credit.

Each Sun Sphere was worth two [Dragon Tooth] Artillery Shells.

But Marvin didn't regret it.

He would normally avoid Hook Horrors, but he had to eradicate this particular family of them.

Spending a lot of money for that hot spring was worth it.

Not only would it raise his Constitution, but he would also get fragment of Earth Crystal!

In any case, Marvin was already deep in debt, so he didn't mind adding a few more expenses.

Money, and fighting strength.

In a way, one was linked to the other.

Especially with Wizards, Alchemists, and other such professions.

In the past, he was a loner. A loner could be wealthy, but it couldn't compare with that of the Overlord of a territory. Marvin, with his territory as a foundation and a gold mine as a guarantee, could borrow money very easily.

...

The Hook Horrors' footsteps could be heard approaching and the monsters soon appeared, one in front, two in the back.

One of them was clearly taller than the others.

This was the female Hook Horror, which the leader of the entire Hook Horror family.

These lifeform lived in a matriarchal community and usually a female Hook Horror would lead a few male Hook Horrors.

Marvin clearly remembered that this nest of Hook Horrors had four members, the female and the three males. He just gotten rid of one of the males, leaving the other three members.

Thus, he unhesitantly used those two priceless Sun Spheres and then drew back!

The next second, just as Marvin anticipated, the Hook Horrors subconsciously used their hooks to break the spheres!

The Sun Spheres weren't able to handle their hooks and were punctured.

The Sun Sphere in itself was a very unstable Alchemy item, so if a hole appeared, the Sun energy inside would burst out!

Light filled the cave.

Marvin mentally counted and when he felt it was a good time, he took advantage of the dissipating Sun energy to dash out like lightning, under the wailing of the three Hook Horrors!

He would naturally reap the harvest after spending so much money!

...

The four Hook Horrors gave Marvin close to 10000 exp. This experience was really easy to get due to those Sun Spheres.

In the past, Marvin had an annoyingly long fight with that female Hook Horror. After dying once, he managed to find a flaw and kill her.

That time was when Marvin was at his lowest.

Remembering about it, he really suffered from working alone back then...

Now that he had started anew, the rich and overbearing Marvin would immediately reverse the situation and simply sent the whole Hook Horror family on their way.

Hook Horrors' bodies had nothing valuable, so Marvin casually chopped down some scales and then used Night Tracking.

With this skill, he could follow the Hook Horrors' trail to their nest.

And the hot spring was in their nest.

...

Some clean white eggs were arranged in the dark nest.

These were Hook Horror eggs. But they had no value besides being edible...

Marvin collected the eggs because he wouldn't pass on something that could be used.

After fumbling around the edge of the nest, he finally found that hidden spring.

It was called a hot spring, but in fact it was more of a small deep pool of water whose temperature was quite high. At the bottom was the fragment of Earth Crystal, but he needed to go down very deep to be able to get it.

Naturally, he had made proper preparations.

He had an expensive underwater breathing potion, along with two spares.

He changed to lighter clothing and drank down the potion before jumping in the hot spring.

He had to grab that fragment of Earth Crystal first.

...

A small scouting team walked down a small dark path.

"There is a nest of Hook Horrors in front, we will take a detour," said a sweet-sounding female voice.

The other men nodded in succession.

This was a group of Dark Elves!

They were simply called Drows.

The Drows lived in a matriarchal society, so the captain of the team was a woman.

But at that time, a drow reported, startled, "I saw Hook Horror corpses!"

"Hook Horror corpses!?"

The captain was shocked. "Which power could actually kill off this Hook Horror nest?"

"Wait... According to the traces the attacker was alone!" the male draw observed.

The woman was silent for a moment before decisively ordering, "Greg, Amir, follow me. The others, search in the surroundings."

"Check for traces of any suspicious lifeform!"

## Chapter 254: God Domain

Dark Elves were relatively strong lifeforms in the Underdark.

Out of all the humanoid lifeforms, Dark Elves had the best physical abilities, far exceeding the Wood Elves, Sea Elves, and other Elven races.

This might be because the Underdark was a vicious place that followed survival of the fittest.

The Dark Elf scouts were naturally elites among elites.

And Raven was able to become this squad's captain. Though she wasn't at the 4th rank yet, most 4th ranks weren't her match!

She brought two subordinates and quickly checked the Hook Horror corpses.

Even if Marvin was very cautious and tried to leave as few traces as possible, caves and underground areas were the Dark Elves' home!

Soon, they slowly found their way into the Hook Horror's nest!

'Seems like those four Hook Horrors were part of the same nest.'

'To kill them all, and alone, this must be the work of an expert.'

'From the marks on the bodies, it seems he used curved daggers... Could it be an expert from [Dark City]?'

Raven considered this, silently pondering.

It was highly possible that it was someone from the same race, but that might not necessarily be good.

Killings among Dark Elves of different clans was very common, and would sometimes even happen within the same clan.

Dark City was that Evil Eye's domain, while Raven's lord followed another lord.

Both sides were like fire and water.

'No good. This operation was ordered by Leader Clarke. We must keep it confidential.'

'Twelve scouting parties were dispatched at the same time to quietly wipe out the humans at the surface.'

'Only in that way would our surprise attack be effective. But if information leaked...'

Raven didn't dare to think about it.

Clarke's fury was something these poor Dark Elves wouldn't be able to handle.

...

"The other side is a master and there are traces showing that he broke into the nest."

"He might still be in the vicinity." A subordinate reported in a low voice with a vigilant expression.

Raven nodded.

She muttered something and then looked at the scattered treasures and equipment in the Horror Hook's nest.

These things were most likely left behind by adventurers who were killed by the Hook Horrors, and they were very valuable in the Underdark.

That person actually didn't take them?

Raven's heart moved and she suddenly ordered, "You two, report this matter to Lady Tess."

"Leave this place to me."

In the Dark Elven hierarchy, women had the power to command, especially when it was to men.

Those two Dark Elf Fighters didn't raise an objection and turned away to leave.

Light shone in Raven's eyes. She slowly walked to the hot spring and stripped herself naked!

Then, she immersed her mesmerising body in the spring, surprisingly deciding to soak in it.

...

In the depths of the water, Marvin still fumbled around.

He was at least twenty to thirty meters from the surface and the underwater breathing potion had a time limit, so he had to quickly find that fragment.

The bottom of the pool was very muddy, making it very difficult to find anything there.

Marvin kept groping around, searching for the fragment for more than an hour, and still didn't even see a shadow of it.

Fishing around for something in water had always been a troublesome matter.

The underwater breathing potion was effective for two hours, and then the gills formed would disappear.

At that time, he wouldn't be able to just freely breath in the water anymore.

'Have to move faster. I know it's definitely around here.'

He once again went to a corner and began to grope about.

There were all sorts of things in the mud.

Fine pearls, a twig from who knows where, also a rusted ring, and many more worthless stones.

Marvin once again slowly searched and finally found something strange!

He cleared away a spot of mud and revealed the corner of a chest.

The fragment of the Earth Crystal was in this chest!

Marvin quickly dug in the mud and soon excavated the treasure chest.

Those people arduously searching for a Earth Crystal would have never thought that one third was calmly laying at the bottom of this pool of water, resting for who knew how many years before it was dug out by Marvin.

The treasure chest wasn't locked, so Marvin impatiently opened it underwater.

A small crystal box was inside the chest. In the middle of the crystal box there was a light yellow fragment.

This was the Earth Crystal, and it had boundless power.

One third of a Earth Crystal could supply energy to a Wizard Tower for three hundreds years.

And a completely intact Earth Crystal could build an entire tower made of earth.

This was one of the key elements for an [Ancient Refuge].

Even if Marvin hadn't thought that far, he would have to get his hands on them before considering it.

If he could really establish an Ancient Refuge in White River Valley before the Great Calamity, then maybe even the gods wouldn't be able to do anything to Marvin.

...

Marvin collected the Earth Crystal fragment, including the small crystal box.

The reason it had remained undiscovered for so long, was due to this special crystal box hiding its aura.

It was also valuable and worth keeping.

At that time, two lines flashed on Marvin's logs.

[Your body soaked in the Earth Spring for some time, increasing your physique.]

[Strength +1, Constitution +1]

Marvin was pleased.

Even if he was a bit regretful that his Constitution only rose up by one point, his Strength increase made up for it.

After all, he knew of some ways to increase his Constitution, but he knew fewer ways to increase his Strength.

He could feel his body slightly changing under the effect of the hot spring.

This was the power of Earth.

His Strength went from 15 to 16 and his Constitution from 13 to 14.

This meant he could use two attribute points on Dexterity, which Marvin immediately did, pushing his Dexterity to 28!

The distance to 30's [Godly Dexterity] was only two points now.

And 30 was the dividing line between mankind and gods. 30 was the limit of ordinary humans.

To go further, one needed a Divinity, a Divine Fragment, and Divine Power. It wouldn't be possible without all three.

Thus, this 30 point dividing line was called the [God Domain]

Mortals could only look up.

But nothing was absolute. Marvin knew that becoming a god wasn't the only path to power.

In this world, there were still many techniques that could break through mankind's boundary.

During the 3rd Era, those hidden powerhouses didn't leave Feinan because they chose a different path.

They didn't want to break this limit through ascending to godhood.

Ascending was only one of the simplest paths.

The existences who became gods might have had regrets during those endless years.

They chose a simple path, but they paid for it with their freedom!

Thus they longed to break through the shackles of the Astral Sea, break through the seal of the Universe Magic Pool, and rushed to an even taller pinnacle.

To put it simply, everyone needed freedom and something to keep them busy to survive.

And at the core of this was desire.

...

The underwater breathing potion was going to run out soon.

Marvin silently swam up.

But he suddenly stiffened in the water!

He noticed something!

A Dark Elven woman!

Completely naked!

From Marvin point of view, the Dark Elf's lower half was soaking in the hot spring. She hadn't closed her legs, leaving them a bit spread out.

Thus, Marvin could see everything.

Her dark skin was fully exposed in front of Marvin...

'Indeed... A... Dark... Elf...'

He inwardly complained about his bad luck. He actually met a Drow so close to the surface!

Normally the Dark Elves were a well-organized race that wouldn't run around, right?

This path was one of the hidden paths leading to Rocky Mountain.

Why did they come here in the end?

Marvin thought of countless reasons, but before he could come to a conclusion, he found that his gills had already begun to atrophy!

'Fuck!'

He wouldn't have more than three minutes left.

But Marvin didn't dare to rashly go up.

This female Drow seemed to be just taking a bath, but she was actually hiding a curved dagger in her hand!

She had definitely found something and was pretending to relax to loosen the enemy's vigilance, trying to seduce him.

But what she hadn't expected was that her enemy would be hiding underwater...  
Checking her out.

Her limbs were far less relaxed than her expression.

If she detected a slight movement in the air, her curved dagger would immediately flash!

This was an expert!

Marvin immediately came to a conclusion.

The Drows in the Underdark roamed in large numbers. Marvin was most afraid of being entangled with these guys.

Who knew how many more Drows were waiting in ambush outside the pool?

This was extremely annoying for Marvin.

But since things reached this point, he didn't have a choice.

He discreetly let out the air in his lungs and quietly swam over.

Soon, he arrived under the female Drow's body.

The latter's attention was still focused on the walls and the cave's surroundings. She was very patiently listening for sounds of movement.

As for this hot spring, she didn't pay any attention to it. Most lifeforms in the Underdark were cold-blooded, so very few would be interested in a hot spring. No monsters would roam in a hot spring.

But at that time, a hand suddenly grabbed her ankle!

The Drow was frightened. Before she could let out a sound, a strong force dragged her underwater.

Between splashes of water, she suddenly opened her eyes and looked at the shadow swimming beside her body.

She firmly thought of grappling with the opponent, but Marvin stepped on her face as a result!

She was sent further down due to Marvin's stomp!

And using this push, Marvin quickly rose up. Pressing both hands on the floor, he propped himself up.

At that time, he hadn't forgotten to snatch that Drow's dagger. Without a dagger, that Drow would be less dangerous.

Then, he unhesitantly broke into a run!

Right, fighting Drows in the Underdark, could there be any outcome other than death?

Even a Night Walker wouldn't dare to fight too many Dark Elves in the Underdark!

Chapter 255: Chaos Ground

Marvin quickly moved through the dark damp cave.

He rushed even faster.

This area was close to the surface and adventurers would often come here to clear stuff out, so there shouldn't be anything that could threaten Marvin.

In fact, that nest of Hook Horrors had more or less been ruling over this area.

Now that they were killed by Marvin, there shouldn't be any more monsters nearby that were able to threaten him.

Thus, he quickly ran with no restraint.

That Dark Elf didn't chase.

It might be because Marvin snatched her dagger. A Dark Elf warrior who lost her weapon would not dare to rashly pursue.

In short, Marvin very luckily managed to escape from a Dark Elf scouting party.

After a long time, he reached the exit of the cave.

Fresh air could be felt outside the cave as Marvin rushed out. He had to adapt to the dazzling sunlight.

He closed his eyes, and after a moment he opened them once again.

The area in front of him was an incomparably beautiful fertile land!

Two wriggling rivers flowed down from the north on the smooth plain. A large amount of cultivated fields filled every corner of the plain.

There was a small village under this mountain, and some plain houses were scattered around the fields.

People came and went from the small village.

In the distance, there was a high mountain from which a white steam could be seen drifting all day long.

It was a volcano.

Rocky Mountain.

...

Marvin quietly left the cave. On this mountain there were many similar holes.

Adventurers who wanted to enter apparently had to pay a fee.

But Marvin coming out of this relatively remote cave didn't interest anyone.

He slightly adjusted himself and used Disguise.

This was the surface, and even if it was a forsaken land disdained by the South Wizard Alliance, it also was on the edge of mankind's civilization.

Since the events of the Decaying Plateau, Marvin understood that almost all of Feinan now knew him, and that naturally included Rocky Mountain.

In this era where information normally travelled with some difficulty, Marvin's reputation was extremely high.

Without Disguise, people would instantly recognize him.

In order to make his actions easier he had to change his appearance, so he took that identity he used in River Shore City.

Masked Twin Blades, plus a cloak.

It's not like his reputation as Masked Twin Blades could have spread this far.

Marvin hurried down the mountain and intended to enter the small town, but he met with trouble.

"What? Protection fees?"

Facing two large guys with nasty gazes, Marvin was a bit surprised by what they wanted.

"Could it be that this isn't the Three Sisters' domain?"

The two men were tall, with their upper bodies bare, and they held long blades in their hands. They looked extremely fierce.

Upon hearing Marvin's sentence, the two men looked at each other and one of them frowned. "You are a subordinate of the Three Sisters?"

...

In the quiet darkness, faint light was emitted from the ceiling of a cave.

Those were gems with radiant properties.

In the entire gloomy Underdark, besides a few luminescent plants, only these gems could guarantee a light source.

“... Lady Tess, these were the results of the investigation.”

“Apart for that one accident with Raven, the other groups successfully accomplished their missions,” a sweet voice reported.

That was a female Dark Elf whose appearance seemed quite fiery. She seemed to be rejoicing at Raven’s misfortune, even though she was also a captain like her.

‘This time, even if Lady Tess likes you, she shouldn’t be able to find a reason to cover for you, right?’

She couldn’t have expected that Lady Tess, who was shrouded in a cloak, wouldn’t pursue this matter.

She said in a low voice, “A human from the world above was able to get rid of four Hook Horrors, including that variant elite Hook Horror. This kind of expert might not necessarily be someone that a scouting party can take care of. He chose to escape only because he didn’t wish to become our enemy. Raven’s decision to not pursue was correct.”

“That human isn’t that important. In any case, we have to start our surprise attack before dawn tomorrow.”

“But before that, we need to do a final scouting.”

“This time, I’ll only send the most elite experts, two people at most.”

Lady Tess’ sight focused on that female Dark Elf who gave a report earlier, and on Raven. “You two, are you prepared?”

The two women successively nodded.

“Go look at Lion, and check whether those humans are really unable to withstand a single blow. Look at their military defenses.”

“But do remember, these advanced Shapeshift Scrolls I bestow upon you will only work for six hours.”

“You need to carefully handle your work, and you must not alarm the humans’ experts!”

“You know the result of failure!”

Lady Tess clearly used a heavier tone for that last sentence. Raven and the other Drow deeply buried it in their minds.

Lady Tess slowly said, “[Underdark’s Winter] is coming early, and we are already running out of food. Leader Clarke told me to guide our path.”

“Those stupid people from the world above would have never expected that we’ve already united under Leader Clarke and found a new path to the surface.”

“They are bound to be exterminated, and we will obtain a new life.”

Under her enchanting voice, countless red eyes shone in the boundless darkness.

This was the effect of the [Eye of Fear]!

Numerous shadows gathered in the endless darkness.

The Drows were merely a part. There were Quaggoths, Kobolds, Gnolls, Kuo-toas, and a few Duergars!

These lifeforms that always saw each other as mortal enemies were finally united.

A disaster was quietly brewing.

...

The humans on the surface were still unaware.

Even Marvin, was unable to consider the meaning of that scouting party’s proximity to the surface, because of those two idiots before him.

He realized he was in trouble.

When he came to Rocky Mountain in the past, this place had already been unified and had formed a country.

The Three Fate Sisters were the rulers of this place, but it wasn’t the case at the moment!

The current Rocky Mountain, despite the beautiful scenery and the fertile lands, was still occupied by all kinds of powers!

This place was truly a chaos ground; it was the place where people were banished to from the civilized human countries!

For example, after The South Wizard Alliance banished the Sorcerers there, they kept sending people who committed heinous crimes to that place.

Because of the Bai clansmen and the Saint Desert, very few people could cross the desert and return to civilization.

Thus, it became a criminal paradise over time.

Currently, many powers were still rampaging in Rocky Mountain. The group of the Three Sisters actually had some reputation and could contend with the other two big powers, but this was also something recent. Everything was due to the eldest sister, Jessica, awakening her own bloodline and becoming a frightening Fate Sorceress.

In short, the current [Three Sisters] were still a power in development.

Their headquarters was Hope City under the Rocky Mountain, not this small Lion Town.

In fact, this town was currently under the control of a power called [Golden Lion].

The place was close to the Underdark and where the adventurers gathered. The strong mixed with the weak, but under the supervision of Golden Lion, the order was still pretty decent.

As long as one didn't go out at night.

The small town welcomed all customers and adventurers, and the only people who weren't welcomed were the Three Sisters' people.

Thus, after he subconsciously muttered that sentence, all the people in the surroundings looked at him strangely.

Even though the two tall guys didn't make a move, a group of people soon came out of the town!

These people wore simple and crude equipment, but they rushed over anyways. Among them, a crippled, tall and thin man coldly looked at Marvin. "If you are looking for trouble, I advise that you go somewhere else. Lion doesn't welcome the Three Sisters' people."

Marvin inwardly bitterly laughed, and calmly answered, "I'm not a subordinate of the Three Sisters, I'm only a traveler passing by."

"I thought of resupplying in town. Can't I?"

An expert sized Marvin up for a bit and warned, "It better be like this!"

“If you are a spy from the Three Sisters, our people will beat you into a pulp.”

“If you want to enter town, you can. But you have to pay the protection fees.”

“Otherwise...”

“Clank!”

Two silvers were directly thrown out by Marvin.

“Enough?” Marvin said in a heavy voice.

The crippled man grabbed the two silvers and coldly replied, “That’s fine.”

He immediately got out of the way, and Marvin calmly walked in.

“Get two people to tail him.”

“Report to me at all times,” the crippled man softly said to his subordinates.

...

Daytime was very short in Rocky Mountain.

Marvin quickly moved through Lion Town. He didn’t stroll around for long before the sky became dark.

As for those failures tailing him, he simply ignored them.

Since he was now a 4th rank expert, Marvin wouldn’t be afraid unless the ones making a move were Legends.

And Lion was a mess made up of bandits without any discipline.

Marvin came to the conclusion that wiping them out might be a problem, but safely escaping wouldn’t be an issue.

Lion was on the border of Rocky Mountain, but it was still somewhat lively.

What Marvin needed to do was to quickly find information about the meteors that had landed.

Thus, he strolled around the business district for a while.

Finally, he found a relatively bustling tavern and went in.

Marvin sat at the counter for a moment and then ordered a cup of the famous local fruit wine, but the wine's taste was quite sour, so Marvin drank it without enjoying it.

As Marvin sat there, he couldn't help sizing up the customers approaching the tavern.

At that time, an enticing voice echoed by his ear, "Can I ask you to buy me a drink?"

A hot blonde with blue eyes.

Her clothes exposed a large and enticing bosom, constantly swaying in front of Marvin's eyes. This was a stunning sight.

Marvin shrugged and took out a few silvers before throwing them on the counter.

"Get us enough to drink."

Chapter 256: Hera

Seeing Marvin confidently throw around that many silvers, the blonde beauty's eyes immediately shone.

Her eyes couldn't help but faintly look up, apparently thinking of something.

The bartender on the side kindly cautioned him, "Hey, friend, this woman isn't as good company as you think."

The beauty immediately cursed. "Go pour the drinks."

Marvin faintly smiled.

Soon, a strong bubbling drink was served.

The beauty seemed very thirsty and quickly drank half a cup.

"I am Hera."

After taking in half a drink, Hera's fair skin slightly flushed.

Her eyes became more and more blurred.

"I don't think I have seen you before."

"Call me Robin." Marvin casually said a name.

In any case, he currently looked like a middle-aged man. Shapeshifting Sorcerer's Disguise was very powerful, as good as most Appearance Changing Masters.

"Oh... Mister Robin is quite generous."

Hera squinted. "Don't you think it's a bit noisy here? I know a quiet place where we could chat."

Marvin faintly frowned.

He was unable to make sense of this Hera's intentions.

He naturally knew why the bartender had warned him. At first he thought she was a common prostitute... If that was the case, Marvin wouldn't mind trying to get some information from her mouth.

But from Marvin's observations, this woman apparently hadn't worked in that kind of industry for long.

She also seemed a bit strange.

But Marvin couldn't figure out exactly what he found odd about her in such a short time.

In short, Hera was definitely not as simple as she appeared to be.

"I like lively places."

Marvin lightly laughed. "Let's stay here, okay?"

Shock flashed through Hera's eyes.

In general, travelers coming from another place would have to cross the entire desert. They had to hold it back, especially men.

With a sexy beauty throwing herself at him, that guy still refused?

Did that guy notice something? Or was he simply a waste with a useless thing?

But she stayed calm and chuckled, "Let's stay here then."

"But don't you think you are a bit incompatible with this place?"

She looked to a side where two men sneakily threw glances at them from time to time.

Golden Lion's trash.

Marvin simply ignored them.

“Don’t bother about them,” Marvin softly said. “I heard that some time ago, meteors fell in the vicinity of Rocky Mountains, was that true?”

Hera’s complexion immediately changed. “You also came for this?”

“Sorry, I can’t keep chatting with you. Golden Lion ordered the information not to be spread, no one can talk about the meteors in Lion Town.”

Marvin frowned.

Suddenly, a few sturdy guys rushed in the tavern!

Hera looked at them and immediately let out a low cry. “No good, my enemies arrived.”

“See you next time, handsome.”

After saying this, she lowered her body and nimbly left Marvin’s side before disappearing into the crowd, escaping toward back door in a mere instant.

“She is in there, grab her quickly!”

Those two people loudly shouted, but Hera’s escaping skills were truly too strange. In mere instants, she absconded from the bustling tavern.

They didn’t catch up.

One of them had good eyes and had noticed her and Marvin drinking together.

Thus, they immediately encircled him.

“Customer, I already told you that Hera wasn’t good company,” the bartender said while rejoicing.

Marvin faintly laughed, and lightly pushed Hera’s cup forward. “Help me take care of it.”

The bartender nodded.

The next second, a hand roughly reached toward Marvin’s shoulder!

“Hey, stranger, what is your relationship with Hera?!”

But to his surprise, Marvin’s body nimbly dodged the palm, making him directly smack the counter.

“Bang!” The man felt extreme pain in his hand.

“I’m not related to Hera. She asked me to buy her a drink, that’s all.”

Marvin spread both hands, displaying an innocent appearance.

The four people had a bad gaze. One them said, “Hera owes us a great sum of money.”

“Since you agreed to buy her a drink, you should definitely be willing to pay in her stead.”

“Hey, since you are a stranger, I will give you a way out.”

“Give me one Wizard gold and I’ll let you go.”

Marvin couldn’t help but laugh.

He looked at the bartender. “Is she their partner?”

Marvin had seen many swindling tricks like this.

The bartender smiled. “No. But I am with them. We are a gang.”

“Obediently pay up and I’ll see to it that you don’t go home without anything left.”

“So it was like this.” Marvin slowly turned his body. “Okay, but if I hand over the money, you have to let me go.”

“Why waste time? Quickly hand over the money otherwise I’ll crush you like an egg!” yelled one of the big men.

He apparently wanted to threaten Marvin.

But with this, Marvin who had originally wanted to solve this peacefully sneered.

Then, he moved just like lightning!

“Bang!” He dashed like a cheetah and his fist landed on the first man’s belly!

That guy immediately stooped down on the ground, his face extremely pale!

Marvin took advantage of this and used the man as a pivot as he swung around kicking out!

Two guys were kicked in the head and fell to the ground, wriggling in pain.

As for the last one, he just had the time to pull out a dagger before a gun was pointed at his head.

“If you don’t want your head to explode, then stop talking shit,” Marvin said very lightly. “I suddenly don’t want to give you money, what do you think about it?”

Silence reigned in the tavern.

Everyone, including that bartender, was shocked.

This stranger’s skill was so frightening!

“He is a Sha!”

“Market Scuffle, and a pistol.”

“A Sha expert, how rare...”

...

Marvin knocked down three sturdy guys in a few seconds, and the remaining one had a pistol against his head.

This poor guy could swear that he didn’t even notice when Marvin drew his pistol!

The other side’s speed was simply too terrifying.

They had never met such a frightening Sha clansman.

Even if a pistol’s attack power was pretty average, if the head was hit like that, the resulting scene would be quite spectacular.

That man’s complexion was already pale, and he was sweating all over.

Marvin calmly smiled.

This was the result of an extremely high Dexterity along with Sleight of Hand.

His reaction speed was very intimidating. Most Thieves wouldn’t have this kind of skill, let alone these second rate 2nd ranks. In front of Marvin, they were nothing.

“Great... Great Sir... We... We are only collecting debts...”

That man whimpered while shivering, “We mistakenly targeted the wrong person... Since you aren’t related to Hera, we will leave immediately.... Leave immediately.”

Marvin ignored him, instead making another move.

“Woosh! Woosh!”

Two darts hit those two restless pieces of trash in the corner.

It was clear that those two guys intended to rush out to report this matter to Golden Lion.

The darts didn't hit any vitals, but they were smeared with a strong anesthetic. They could only struggle for a few instants before they went numb.

After finishing this, Marvin withdrew his pistol.

That man displayed an ugly smile. “Thank you...”

But before he could finish his words he was elbowed in the stomach and ended up sprawled on the floor.

Marvin turned to the bartender and reached out his hand.

The bartender immediately returned him the cup Hera had used and quickly explained, “Even if I'm part of the same gang, I don't work in their business.”

“Relax, young man.” Marvin laughed. “I don't plan to smash this place.”

After saying this, he didn't stay and directly sped away, suddenly disappearing from the tavern.

He was as fast as a whirlwind, and even the adventurers in the tavern didn't clearly see him leaving!

“An expert of at least the 4th rank...”

The bartender gulped as shock flashed through his eyes.

Lion hadn't been visited by such an expert in a long time.

It truly wasn't tranquil these days.

...

Night Tracking was quickly activated.

He once again put on the mask and cloak as he quickly rushed through Lion.

The faint red line representing Hera showed that she had almost left the range of Night Tracking.

‘She hid very quickly,’ Marvin sneered to himself as he sped up.

Marvin was racing through the night. No one could be faster than a Night Walker in the darkness!

Twenty minutes later.

In a corner of Lion town, outside an apparently abandoned small house in the poor district.

Marvin calmly landed on the ground.

Hera was very thorough, having circled a few times around Lion Town before stopping.

This place should be her hideout... Or maybe, home?

Marvin unlocked the window and could see a faint light.

He used Stealth and quietly climbed in.

After going through the window, he caught sight of a twenty year old woman. She had some nice curves and looked average. She could be considered a decent looking woman at best.

‘Come, Guy, mommy returned,’ the woman softly said.

A plank moved aside, exposing a hole to the basement. A kid about 3 to 4 years old obediently crawled out and threw himself in her chest.

A happy smile appeared on her face.

‘Mommy earned a lot today.’

‘I can buy you many tasty things.’ As she said this, she weighed a wallet in her hand.

That wallet was surprisingly Marvin’s wallet.

But Marvin didn’t really mind, he didn’t care about such an amount of money.

In any case, he knew he would be able to track Hera down.

But he hadn’t thought he would find such a skilled swinder like this Thief in such a setting.

'A pretty good skill to change one's appearance,' Marvin thought.

...

"We can only get some soup tonight."

"There are quite a lot of enemies trying to catch mommy outside."

"Drink up, okay?" The woman carried the young child and gently said.

But she was shocked to hear a voice echo from behind her.

"I have some milk here."

Chapter 257: Information

She abruptly turned, only to see a haggard middle aged man standing behind her.

She hadn't noticed him coming in!

"You..."

Hera had a bitter expression on her face, her hands clinging to that cute boy.

"Miss Hera. I didn't expect us to meet again so quickly."

Marvin took out some milk from his rations and cordially handed it over. "You are called Guy?"

"A child at this age needs a lot of nutrition."

The little Guy was a very lovely boy. He had the same golden hair as his mother.

In a place as chaotic as Rocky Mountain, pure blonde hair was very rarely seen.

Hera was a bit dazed. She didn't accept the milk, protecting Guy behind her instead.

She had a wary expression. "You... What are you after?"

Her eyes were full of confusion and panic.

If she was alone in her hideout, she could still escape. But it would be very difficult while carrying a child!

This man called Robin was surprisingly skilled.

She had been hiding in Lion for quite a while. Golden Lion's people wanted to catch her but they were deceived by her Appearance Changing skill.

But she hadn't expected to be seen through by a stranger.

This caught her completely unprepared.

...

"What I am after?"

Marvin laughed. "My purse is in your hands, isn't it? And you ask me what I am after."

An awkward expression appeared on Hera's face, as she hurriedly threw the wallet back to its owner.

"I didn't take anything inside," she said. "If all you came for is this, then you should be satisfied."

Marvin caught the wallet and then walked to the table on the side, and gently set the wallet and the milk on the table.

"I think you need these things more than I do."

Marvin moved back and looked at Hera.

Hesitation appeared on her face. "No one would take pity on a thief and swindler."

"Obviously... That is, if she isn't a single mother in difficulty."

Marvin's expression was very sincere. "It's not easy to live in this place. A former noble lady was forced to disguise herself to roam at night and steal a small amount of money to support herself. Such a change isn't something an average person could handle. Many people would choose to end their lives. And you not doing so was because of him."

His sight landed on the small boy.

Hera took a deep breath and said, "Listen, Mister Robin, I have no interest in your speculations. I don't know how you found out about our origins and family background. But since you are so skilled, if you have a bit of pity in your heart, could you let us off?"

"I have no intentions of making things difficult for you," Marvin grimly said, "I'm only making inquiries about the meteors."

“Seeing you, you aren’t actually afraid of going against the Golden Lion’s people, right?”

Hera hesitated and eventually clenched her teeth, “Okay.”

“I’ll tell you all I know about the meteors’ fall.”

“But you still need to help me do two things.”

Marvin frowned. “Two things? Isn’t that a bit much?”

Hera’s eyes were very calm. “Believe me, no one knows more than me about the meteors in all of Lion Town.”

...

Marvin and Hera ultimately came to an agreement.

They had a simple discussion in her rough house. After some time, Hera trusted Marvin and gave that jar of milk to the little boy.

Guy drank it very happily.

He would look at Marvin from time to time with round eyes, but would return to immerse himself in his milk when Marvin looked back at him.

A very shy little boy. Marvin found it cute.

Hera’s request was very simple.

She needed protection.

Her eyes were very sharp, and for Marvin to be able to track her here, he must definitely be an expert among experts.

And tonight, she had an information deal with an employer.

As for the contents of the deal, she didn’t divulge it. She only said that the other party was very frightening.

And Hera would reap a large sum of money from that business deal. This money would be enough for her to bring that small child out of Lion, this place where crooks mixed in with the honest folk.

She could leave for Hope City in the center of Rocky Mountain with him.

That was the city established by the Three Sisters.

“In fact, I already wanted to go to Hope City. The order there is a lot better, and the people are also a lot friendlier.”

“The Three Sisters’ power and potential far surpass Golden Lion.”

“Unfortunately, I’m not skilled in anything other than stealing and changing my appearance. I don’t want to steal from good people, so I need to do this deal first and then I’ll be wealthy enough to open a shop in the Three Sisters’ Hope City. Regardless of the business, it should be able to raise a little kid, right?”

Hera quietly described her goal.

Hope filled her eyes.

Even though she had removed her appearance changing skill and her looks could only be considered decent, Marvin felt that this Hera was a lot more beautiful than the beauty he met in the tavern.

Marvin accepted her request.

Protect her during the business transaction, and then send the mother and child to Hope City.

Afterwards, Hera promised to tell Marvin everything about the fall of the meteors.

Regarding the business transaction, Marvin had asked a bit, but Hera’s lips were sealed.

But when Marvin asked about the other side’s strength, Hera hesitated a bit before answering, “More or less 3rd rank... In fact, I’m not very sure. She is very fast and I only saw her make a move once.”

“Three 2nd rank class holders, all subordinates of the Golden Lion, were killed by her in an instant.”

“She only took five seconds.”

Marvin faintly nodded, more or less getting an idea.

As long as she wasn’t a Legend, everything would be fine.

Legends didn’t just grow like weeds, and Marvin had already met quite a huge amount of Legends. If he met a few more Legends around Rocky Mountain, Marvin would start to wonder if he had a [Legend Attracting Halo] or something stuck to his body.

The deal would take place at ten in the evening, near a discarded barn in the northern part of Lion Town.

Hera then coaxed the little boy and made him once again enter the cellar.

The obedient little child followed Hera's instructions.

Hera cautiously checked the hiding areas around the house and then left with Marvin.

...

The night was very cold in Rocky Mountain.

Branches chaotically swayed in the wind.

Hera was alone outside the barn, tightly holding a scroll tied with a hempen rope while cautiously looking around.

Marvin was already in stealth, hiding nearby.

If there seemed to be a problem with the deal, he would quickly rush over to Hera's side and protect her from anything unexpected.

This kind of protective task was something that was quite common in the game, and Marvin was quite good at it.

A nimble shadow appeared in the darkness.

Marvin squinted for a moment, and then was startled.

"It's her?!"

Chapter 258: Underdark's Winter

That mysterious and graceful shadow coming out of the darkness made Marvin feel a bit off, and he soon reacted!

That woman was actually the Dark Elf he met in the deep pool of water.

Even if he didn't know how she managed to change her skin color and appearance to look like a Half-Elf, she had the exact same face.

Marvin felt this wasn't good. Hera's business partner was actually a Dark Elf?

In order to confirm the other side's identity, he stealthily took out the dagger he had snatched and used Night Tracking.

The skill confirmed that this "fair" Half-Elf in front was definitely the woman he stepped on in that pool of water!

Why would the Dark Elves come to the surface?

She wanted to buy... Information?

Marvin pondered.

Suddenly, something flashed through his mind.

He remembered something!

'The Underdark's Winter!'

'I overlooked such a major event.'

Marvin took a deep breath as he tightly gripped his curved dagger and coldly watched the Dark Elf approach.

It seemed tonight's transaction wouldn't be that simple.

...

Underdark's Winter.

This was a change in climate over a wide area, rarely seen in history.

Some time before the Great Calamity, in the western Gloom area, the Eternal Cold Spring bordering the huge mountain suddenly began to spray Freezing Water.

Freezing Water was an exclusive treasure of the Elemental Plane, and a small amount of Freezing Water was an excellent material to make Magic Items.

In the East Coast, a small amount of Freezing Water could sell for a huge amount of money!

But the amount of Freezing Water that Eternal Cold Spring sprayed out was frightening.

The entire western Gloom area suffered from the excessive amounts of Freezing Water and became to quickly cool down.

The Underdark's environment was originally already quite vile, and this huge change of climate would lead to the death of the shining plants.

The days became more and more difficult to bear.

Because of this, the Black Dragon Clarke that occupied the Gloom area woke from its slumber.

It gathered some Dark Elves and other Dark Races and had them launch a surprise attack on the surface to loot food.

Clarke kept sending Dark Elf scouts to the surface and ultimately found a completely new path to the surface.

And that path led directly to Rocky Mountain!

This huge war happened about three months before the Calamity.

When the players had yet to arrive on Feinan, this story line event was publicized as a trailer. Marvin had watched it, but it hadn't made much of an impression on him.

Now that he thought about it, he was stepping into this timeline.

It was also at this time that the Source of Fire's Order fell in Rocky Mountain.

This would truly be a time of chaos for Rocky Mountain.

Previously, the sneak attack from the Underdark was very successful. Ankhegs rushed out from below and poured into Rocky Mountain and the surroundings.

In a mere half a day, they wiped out one third of the surrounding small towns!

This definitely included Lion, which was completely caught off guard.

And three days later, they would arrive at Hope City.

It seemed like they would swallow the entire Rocky Mountain.

It was also at that time that Jessica of the Three Sisters displayed her unique strength for the first time.

Facing Black Dragon Clarke, the Fate Sorceress would use the most brutish method to end the Dragon's life.

Using the [Strength of Fate], she tore apart the Black Dragon in front of the Underdark's inhabitants and all mankind!

Tore apart a Black Dragon!

This was something that only overpowered novel characters could do.

At the time, Marvin had completely mocked the publicity around it.

But he also had to admit that the three sisters were really charming and had some kind of special aura around them.

Especially Jessica. She was a very boyish girl. This trait also made it easier for her to establish Rocky Mountain and be as famous as the future northern Valkyrie.

...

The most important part now was this Dark Elf. What business did she have with Hera?

Marvin felt something wrong, but he didn't dare to come too close.

Drows had very strong perception!

Marvin was tense. This business transaction would definitely go wrong. Hera didn't tell him the details, but it was definitely something sensitive.

'What is it after all?'

Marvin's eyes aimed at the scroll in Hera's hands.

The next moment, Hera seemed to noticed the Dark Elf.

"Hey, Raven, long time no see."

She apparently was familiar with the other party.

Raven smiled faintly. "Yes, it's been a very long time. I went to the Underdark and the harvest wasn't small."

'This Dark Elf's Common is pretty good...' Marvin thought secretly.

The Underdark's lifeforms used Undercommon and it was a lot more barbaric from the Common. Raven's Common had clearly been specially trained.

Hera waved the scroll in front of her. "Same as before, I've got everything you want."

"I want money."

Raven smiled. "Money isn't an issue."

After saying this, she took out a heavy pouch.

She slightly opened it, revealing a dizzying golden light.

This was actually gold with high purity!

No wonder Hera said this deal would be enough to keep living in Hope City.

“This thing for the money,” said Hera plainly.

Raven nodded.

The two people slowly approached and against Marvin’s expectations, Raven and Hera peacefully completed their business transaction.

During this entire business deal, the Dark Elf didn’t show any sign of trickery.

In fact, Marvin was surprised she didn’t swiftly kill Hera after getting what she wanted.

But even more unexpectedly, as they parted, Raven added a few words. “Leave Lion in the morning. This place will most likely not be safe.”

Hera nodded.

The Dark Elf took her things and quickly disappeared.

Marvin unhurriedly came out.

“Raven is someone trustworthy.” Hera seemed in a good mood. “I always thought Dark Elves were deceitful and merciless, but there are exceptions.”

Marvin had a cold face. “You already saw through her disguise? What did you give her?”

/

Hera calmly answered, “The map of Lion’s defenses.”

“In any case, even if they didn’t have this thing, they would also be able to destroy Lion, wouldn’t they?”

“Don’t look at me like that. I’m a lot more broken than you imagine. When I first came to Lion, lil’ Guy nearly died in their hands, and some scum also...”

“This town is full of criminals, they are guilty and deserve to be punished.”

Marvin took a deep look at her. "Destroying evil by using something more evil is not the correct way."

"Go get Guy and wait for me here. In two hours, I'll escort you to Hope City."

"But before that, I still have to do a few things."

After saying this, he suddenly sped through the darkness.

Night Tracking!

A red line showed up in front of Marvin, and it didn't seem to lead very far off.

Raven hadn't gone far!

She was still in Lion.

Chapter 259: War

Raven's speed was rather slow as she stopped at a place for a moment before continuing to move around Lion Town, hidden.

'She is checking the authenticity of the information,' thought Marvin coldly.

This Dark Elven Scout was really an elite among the elites, handling the matter so cautiously.

Dark Races were inherently more powerful than the surface races. If not for the fact that they were weakened by sunlight, the Underdark's races might have already ruled Feinan.

But they weren't penalized at night.

In some ways, Night Walkers were similar to the Dark Races.

It's just that Night Walkers were a lot more powerful than average Dark Races at night thanks to the Night Monarch's blessings!

Marvin pursued.

He had to recover the map of Lion Town's defenses!

Although they were criminals and greedy adventurers, they were still part of mankind.

Even if Marvin wouldn't help completely hold off the attack on Lion Town, there were still some things he could do.

...

Raven's shadow flashed throughout the forest south of Lion Town.

'There really are two hidden sentries here. Golden Lion seems very cautious. This place is quite close to the Underdark.'

Raven closed the scroll in her hand, pleased.

Hera's gift was worth it.

Suddenly, a strong and quick attack came over from inside the forest!

Someone was sneak attacking!

Raven coldly snorted, fearless!

The daggers looked exceptionally cold under the sparse rays of moonlight.

She put her two daggers behind her back and used a powerful skill, easily blocking the sneak attack.

"I know it's you. Maggie."

Raven coldly watched the woman before her. This woman was also a Dark Elf and part of the same clan. They were even cousins.

Raven and Maggie were the most likely to inherit Lady Tess' seat as Matriarch.

It was said that after this attack on the surface was successful, Lady Tess would be bestowed a reward by Leader Clarke and become a higher existence.

She would be assigned another higher level mission.

And this Dark Elf tribe's Matriarch position would be empty. Maggie hated Raven to the bone because Raven had always been more outstanding than her ever since they were children.

Lady Tess clearly thought more highly of Raven.

This made her very unsatisfied.

The Dark Elves' world lacked warmth, it was filled with massacre and conspiracies. From her point of view, Raven was too kindhearted. This kind of person would simply lead the Dark Elves to their deaths.

But Raven's instincts and intuition were out of the ordinary.

According to Lady Tess' judgement, if Raven advanced to 4th rank, it was highly likely that she would obtain the [6th Sense] specialty.

This was a unique specialty that Monks had. Only rare geniuses among the Dark Elves could get it.

Thus, Lady Tess attached a lot of importance to Raven.

But in Maggie's eyes, if Raven became the Matriarch, she would lead the clan to its ruin due to her kindness.

In the Underdark, kindness was equivalent to death.

If you don't eat others, others will eat you. The first priority was to survive.

Raven clearly didn't fit in that world, and she was even less fit to lead a clan.

...

"Hand over the map." Maggie coldly said.

"I obtained this through my own means." Raven's expression didn't change. "Could it be that you want to delay Leader Clarke's plan?"

"There are still a few hours left before dawn. Lady Tess only needs half an hour to send a special force," Maggie answered. "There is more than enough time."

Maggie seemed pleased with herself. "Moreover, why would I go look for a plan of their defenses. I knew you would find it so I just had to wait here."

"Then let's see if you have the ability to get it," Raven sneered as she put it away in her cleavage. After a few shakes of her breastplate, it quickly disappeared.

Marvin inwardly clicked his tongue. 'That... Women are truly unfathomable.'

In the dense forest, a scuffle broke out between the two Dark Elves.

Both sides showed their experience as they jumped around everywhere, daggers flying, and used all kinds of tricks.

A few exchanges were enough to be an eye opener to Marvin.

Drows' fighting techniques were really brilliant. They were efficient and focused on dealing the greatest amount of damage.

Marvin boasted of his excellent fighting skill.

But compared with the Dark Elves' innate skill, it was a lot different in nature.

The simplest example was their curved daggers. The Drows used curved daggers that were shorter and slightly less curved. They moved very fast, like Assassins.

When they attacked, it was different from Marvin. They weren't going after fatal critical hits but rather tried to make sure each attack had some effect.

Even from his position hidden among the branches, Marvin could clearly see that their curved daggers were smeared with a strange purple color.

This was some kind of poison.

'Even among the same race, they can still be completely unscrupulous.'

Marvin sighed with sorrow while preparing to make a move at any moment.

This was the most potent place for a Night Walker to make a move: In a forest during the night.

Even with the superior perception of drows, they wouldn't be able to notice Marvin hiding nearby!

They continued their fierce struggle, but clearly, Raven's fighting abilities were a lot stronger than Maggie's.

After the latter's sneak attack failed, she gradually fell into a disadvantage.

Seeing the change in the situation, Maggie changed her tune. "Killing each other makes no sense."

"We can't make Lady Tess wait! Quickly handing over the plan is more important."

"Dear younger cousin, you'll surely forgive my improper actions, right?"

Maggie retreated and looked as if she wanted to reconcile.

Raven coldly snorted, "So now you suddenly know how important the information is?"

“Well, I don’t feel like bothering with you at this time.”

After saying this, she put away her curved daggers and ignored Maggie as she walked straight past her.

A strange expression flashed in Maggie’s eyes.

Just as Raven went by, Maggie launched another sneak attack!

Both daggers rose up and ruthlessly aimed at Raven’s head!

...

‘Fool...’

Marvin clearly saw everything from his high position. This Maggie was truly an idiot.

Indeed, the next second, Raven shook her body like lightning and a pair of straight daggers strangely appeared in her hands.

She lowered her body and dodged the curved daggers and knocked against Maggie’s chest!

Maggie had never thought that the always “gentle and kindhearted” Raven would actually be so treacherous!

The straight daggers accurately pierced her heart.

She struggled for a few moments and soon lost her life.

‘As expected, there is no Dark Elf that isn’t treacherous.’ Marvin inwardly shook his head.

Then, he took advantage of Raven dealing with Maggie’s corpse to make a move!

...

Night Boundary!

The space suddenly distorted as Marvin quietly appeared behind Raven’s body!

The Dark Elf reacted very quickly and turned around while sharply kicking out!

Marvin wasn’t slow, and simply lifted his leg to block Raven’s attack.

Then, his hand moved like lightning toward Raven’s neck!

A strong chop knocked her out.

Dark Elves had strong bodies, but she wasn't a match for Marvin who was already at the 4th rank.

Especially on the Dexterity side, he had far exceeded Raven.

Even if Dark Elves had a very sharp perception and could react very quickly, Marvin's movements were too fast!

It wasn't too hard for him to take her down, especially in a forest at night.

If it was in a cave in the Underdark, it might be hard to say. After all, the terrain was very important during fights.

Marvin didn't feel like dealing with Maggie's body.

Dark Elves were mostly poor, because everything was in their Matriarch's hands. The daggers they used weren't any better than his.

But those few bottles of poisons seemed worthwhile.

If Marvin was right, these poisons had hallucinatory properties.

In general, all major classes had very high resistance to deadly poisons at 3rd rank and above.

Thus, deadly poisons would yield highly reduced results. For high-level rogues, if they wanted to smear their weapons with poison, they wouldn't chose deadly poison.

Paralyzing, petrifying, hallucinatory, and other such poisons were better. Humanoid lifeforms lacked resistances to these poisons, making them more effective.

After kicking Maggie's corpse into a shrub, Marvin carried Raven and began to quickly leave the forest.

...

Ten minutes later, a dark crow was flying outside the tallest building in Lion Town.

"Crash!"

The dark crow suddenly flew through a window.

The light shone, exposing a middle-aged man embracing two women, one on the left and one on the right. He glared furiously at the dark crow.

But then his expression abruptly changed.

A scroll and letter were tied to the dark crow's leg.

Surprisingly, the scroll had a map of the military defenses of Lion Town.

"Fuck!"

"Underdark's Winter? Dark Races' sneak attack? Isn't it fake?"

The middle-aged man's curses could be heard filling the room.

...

Near the barn, Hera was watching lil' Guy, restlessly waiting.

"Let's go."

Marvin appeared out of nowhere.

Hera was somewhat startled as he looked at the woman Marvin was carrying on his back.

"This... This is Raven?"

Marvin nodded. "We can go."

"Hold on... I can understand you grabbing the map of the defenses back."

"But why did you grab Raven too?"

Hera looked at Marvin with a strange expression.

Marvin frowned. "Is there an issue?"

"I might need a Dark Elf as an assistant where I am going, thus I grabbed one."

Hera was speechless.

At the same time, she had a better understanding of Marvin's strength.

This Robin was very frightening!

'He could even casually grab a 3rd rank Dark Elf... This guy surely isn't a Legend, right?' Thinking of this, she grew somewhat restless.

But regardless, the group still traveled in the cover of the night as they left Lion Town.

Hera's body wasn't particularly strong, but she had a lot of willpower.

She carried the little boy and walked quickly.

They walked through the night, and at one point, Raven woke up once, but Marvin used an anesthetic needle to stop her from moving.

She couldn't even talk.

At dawn, they could already see the outline of Hope City.

But at that time, a frightening uproar could be heard behind them!

It felt like the earth was shaking from splitting open.

Marvin took a deep breath as he turned toward Lion City!

"Ankhegs!"

The war had begun.

Chapter 260: Azmyths

Ankhegs.

A type of huge monster living in the Gloom area!

These lifeforms were quite huge and were somewhat similar to octopi, but looked like huge insects.

Ankhegs had sixteen limbs.

But these limbs were really different from those of an octopus.

Ankheg limbs were very hard and each had a tip shaped like a sharp spiral. They were very good at digging holes through the mountain.

There weren't many of them and they were rather averse to moving around.

According to the Pearl Tower's scholars, more than 60% of the caves in the Gloom area weren't naturally formed but were in fact the result of active Ankhegs.

Ankhegs had very sharp awareness. Their caves would rarely collapse because they could choose places where the earth was relatively stable to make their path.

'I didn't expect that even Ankhegs were subdued by Black Dragon Clarke!'

'The Drows and other small-sized races don't need Ankhegs to make large tunnels. Since they used Ankhegs, maybe they have quite a few Kuo-toas in their army!'

'Along with some flying monsters from the Underdark... It would be very difficult for Lion Town to keep up their defenses.'

Marvin's expression was grave.

He looked at the mountain that kept shaking in the distance. Lion Town was suddenly stirred from a deep sleep, and the alarm kept echoing endlessly.

Even though he warned Golden Lion several hours earlier, it was clear that this guy didn't believe him.

Otherwise the situation wouldn't be like that now.

Far in the east, the sun barely became visible above the desert.

And at that time, Dark Races covered everything as they kept coming from the Ankhegs' tunnels!

Dark Elves, Quaggoths, Duergars, and Kuo-toas!

As for Kobolds, Goblins, and Gnolls, they were even more numerous!

Lion Town's adventurers would probably be scared silly by this frightening scene.

Not only Lion Town, but even the farmers in the surroundings might have a hard time escaping.

"Let's move on!" Marvin hurriedly shouted.

Although this scene was unpleasant, he also wasn't a saint.

He knew he couldn't save everyone.

He already did what he could for this assault.

Next, it was time to let nature take its course.

Hera looked at this scene and was naturally frightened.

It had to be known that if the Dark Races had attacked a day earlier, she would have also become one of those people caught in the massacre in Lion Town!

Someone like her who completely lacked fighting strength might die at the start of the war.

They immediately sped up at Marvin's urging!

...

On the southern part of Lion Town's mountain, a woman was loudly chanting something.

Following her chant, black clouds gathered from all directions.

A scarlet light kept shining in the eyes of the monsters at her sides.

They were very excited!

The Underdark's nasty environment subjected them to great suffering. They were hungry, in pain, and thirsting for slaughter!

There was no need to encourage them. The monsters swarmed around under the urges of their instincts!

Since they didn't know of the layout of the enemy defenses, Lady Tess, who was in charge of this military deployment, would simply not use many specific directives!

In any case, previous scouting had demonstrated that Lion Town's adventurers and troops simply wasn't a match for their army.

The Underdark's forces were just like a tide breaking through Lion Town's weak barrier.

Wailing voices and a bloody smell began to spread!

And in this chaotic mess, a reverberating chant kept echoing, becoming louder and louder!

It was that cloaked woman!

She opened her eyes and prayed toward the sky, constantly praying.

And the black clouds kept growing thicker and thicker.

In this place commonly known as the edge of civilization in Feinan, the first rays of dawn were blocked by thick black clouds.

For the next half a month, this place wouldn't have any sunshine!

Because it was a Divine Spell bestowed upon her by the Black Dragon, called [Shroud the Sun].

...

'Shroud the Sun, as expected.'

Marvin could feel the sky becoming increasingly darker. It was obviously early morning, yet it was as dark as night!

This was a large-scale Divine Spell. It was powerful enough to cover all of Rocky Mountain.

It wasn't without reason that the Underdark's races dared to attack the surface.

Backing them was not only Black Dragon Clarke, but also the Black Dragon God.

Marvin remembered that during this invasion event, there was one female commander that displayed especially eye-catching abilities.

It was the Dark Elven Matriarch, whose name seemed to be Tess.

And she had another eye-catching position, Black Dragon's Apostle!

Very rarely would Dark Elves choose to believe in a god other than the Queen of Spiders, as the narrow-minded Queen of Spiders would definitely not allow it.

But this clan was apparently an exception.

The Queen of Spiders tacitly agreed with the Black Dragon God's action of taking followers from her, which was a bit strange.

And for Marvin, regardless of whether it was the Black Dragon God or the Queen of Spiders, both were very troublesome.

Even if they only had average Divine Power, they had great interests and desires in Feinan.

Moreover, they were very cunning.

They were also among the few Ancient Gods in favor of attacking the Universe Magic Pool.

'Black Dragon God, Queen of Spiders, Plague God... From what I remember, there isn't anything good about them.'

Marvin inwardly sneered.

There were signs of Raven being uncooperative on his back. Marvin wasn't one to be particularly nice to women, so he immediately karate chopped her and directly rendered her unconscious.

He was bringing Hera to flee, so how could he have time to take care of Raven?

He had taken along Raven because she would be useful in the Dark Elf's area.

While looking for the Source of Fire's order, they would be in very harsh circumstances, so he wished to get a qualified assistant. For now, Raven was qualified.

As for whether she was willing to cooperate, this wasn't an issue Marvin needed to worry about for now!

His current mission was to quickly get Hera and the small child to Hope City!

Marvin felt restless because the Dark Races' surprise attack had gone faster than expected.

Lady Tess didn't send all her forces to fight in Lion Town. She sent many soldiers into the surrounding areas, and some straight to Hope City.

These monsters were quite threatening for ordinary soldiers and were going straight for Hope City.

Some monsters circled around Lion Town and trampled the farms. These farmhouses that Marvin had passed through before ended up being completely destroyed.

'Her goal is to kill all the people able to relay the information!'

'At the same time, cutting off any sort of communication between Lion and Hope.'

'No good, if we don't hurry, we might be surrounded.'

Marvin used Night Crow and carefully watched the monsters rushing from the darkness. They were clearly trying to encircle the town.

This encirclement wasn't too tight, but once it was completed, it would form a blockade between Lion Town and the rest of Rocky Mountain.

Surface lifeforms wouldn't be able to go through the enemy lines to reach Hope City.

It was clear that this Black Dragon's Apostle was definitely a genius at commanding!

...

The group accelerated.

Hera was very resolute. Despite panting and sweating all over, she was still following behind Marvin.

As for the small child, he obediently did as his mother said and was carried on her back, tired.

"Come on."

"Just a few more kilometers and we'll be there," Marvin encouraged.

Suddenly, a burst of wind appeared behind them!

From the sky, a group of giant bat-like creatures dove down!

They had high speed and scouted in all directions in a blink..

Two of them were apparently looking at Marvin's group, and rushed over!

"Azmyths"!

Marvin's expression changed

"Find a place to hide, quickly!" he yelled loudly to Hera.

Not far, an abandoned windmill could be seen and Marvin instantly pointed in that direction, having them hide first!

These bats were strange. Each of them had the shape of a giant bat but a head similar to a human's.

These were the Underdark's Azmyths.

Marvin hadn't thought the Azmyths would appear, as they weren't in the trailer. Their unexpected appearance seemed to be a change in history!

This Dark Army was apparently fiercer than in the past!

Hera tightly held her kid and charged into the windmill.

Marvin wanted to follow, but he suddenly sensed an attack behind him!

It was that fucking bat!

Marvin slashed backwards.

Blazing Fury ruthlessly chopped an Azmyth's neck, directly cutting its head off.

This lifeform wasn't particularly powerful, but their most important trait was their ability to fly.

On average, each Azmyth's level was 13 to 15, the most powerful ones unlikely to exceed 3rd rank.

But their flying ability made them a great threat.

After Marvin beheaded that one, he suddenly felt like a weight had lifted from his shoulders.

Literally.

A burst of wind whistled past as another Azmyth used the opportunity to snatch Raven away!

'Fuck!'

'Fighting over a woman with this Lord...' Marvin's thoughts heated up.

'These little birds are using their flight to be arrogant. I can't have that.'

Raven was still useful to Marvin, so how could he give up on her.

His body suddenly moved like lightning as he used Demon Hunter steps. He took a few steps before jumping on the roof of a farmhouse.

An Azmyth flying while carrying a Dark Elf, would definitely have its altitude and speed greatly reduced.

"Burst!"

Marvin directly jumped high from the roof and threw himself on that Azmyth's wing!

It immediately lost its balance and struggled as it fell.

It simply couldn't bear this weight!

Marvin firmly held the Azmyth's neck and broke it in the sky!

The three people spiralled to the ground.

Fortunately, it wasn't that high. Marvin controlled his own body and grabbed Raven.

But he couldn't have expected a voice to cry out from behind him.

That was Hera's voice!

Marvin's face turned green.

"Lil' Guy!"

Chapter 261: Taboo Ability

Marvin abruptly turned back after hearing Hera's scream.

An Azmyth was taking lil' Guy from Hera's hands!

It was proudly howling with laughter as it rose up in the air while Hera let out cries filled with despair.

It was quite fast, quickly disappearing from Marvin line of sight.

Azmyths were very nasty creatures!

Often, they would catch prey just to play around with it, which seemed to be the case for lil' Guy. They would rise very high in the sky and then release their prey, letting it fall down and turn into mincemeat!

"Sir Robin!" Hera shouted with all she had.

Marvin obviously knew what she meant.

He immediately clenched his fists and opened the back door of the windmill before sending Raven in.

"Look after her for me!"

"Lock the door, and by all means, don't let the Azmyths come in."

"Rest assured, I'll return lil' Guy!"

Then, Marvin pushed Hera in and slammed the door shut.

Then he prepared to jump high in the air, his sight focused on that Azmyth's body!

Lil' Guy's was very light, so it was flying pretty fast.

'I really need to get my hands on a set of flying items.'

'It's really disadvantageous to fight in the sky.'

Marvin assessed the height and distance of the Azmyth before unhesitantly using Burst!

Night Jump!

Second Jump!

Marvin's body flew up high in the sky, but he was still some distance away from the Azmyth!

But fortunately, the power of Shroud the Sun also gave Marvin access to all his Night Walker abilities.

Marvin's body kept distorting through the sky!

An Azmyth aggressively flew over, trying to grab Marvin.

But it ended up pouncing at empty space!

Night Boundary!

Marvin's body craftily roamed about in the sky.

The next second, his body appeared a few meters above the Azmyth that abducted Guy!

This was the highest place Marvin could reach after using all his skills.

His body plummeted, pouncing fiercely toward this Azmyth.

But the Azmyth also had a very sharp reaction.

It let out a sound and stiffly brushed past Marvin!

"Heheheh..."

It howled with laughter as it watched Marvin fall.

Even if it didn't know how Marvin jumped so high, he would surely be half-dead from the fall!

But its celebration was cut short by a heavy weight suddenly pushing against its back.

It waved its wings to resist this heavy weight!

The Azmyth was shocked to find out that the silhouette that had been falling earlier now appeared on its own back out of nowhere!

Marvin sneered. After using Shadow Escape and the Wishful Rope, he firmly held the Azmyth's neck.

It started sharply falling.

Even the Azmyth wouldn't be able to escape death if it fell freely from this height!

Thus, it had no other choice but to struggle to slow down its fall.

Other Azmyths tried to catch up and provide assistance, but Marvin firmly controlled the path of their fall and snatched the little kid.

The small child looked very scared, but he didn't cry.

'Truly a strange boy,' Marvin thought.

...

Marvin forced the Azmyth to about roof height. He then held lil' Guy and jumped down from the Azmyth, still holding the Wishful Rope!

"Bang!"

After Marvin nimbly landed on the ground, Marvin pulled forcefully on the rope, making the Azmyth lose its balance and crash into the ground.

Marvin stepped forward and mercilessly ended its life!

He then carried the little boy and quickly rushed back to the windmill.

Azmyths weren't good at sustained flight, so as long as they hid there for a while, everything would work out.

Without open space to fly around and harass targets, these guys would be relatively less annoying!

When he opened the windmill, his expression immediately changed!

The room was completely empty!

Hera and Raven had both disappeared.

'Have they been grabbed by Azmyths?' Marvin was a bit perplexed.

Besides Azmyths, the other creatures from the Underdark shouldn't be that fast.

But he felt something wrong.

...

There was a discarded cart in one corner of the room, and the shadow behind the cart appeared a bit unnatural.

Marvin sneered, drawing a dagger with his left hand while leading the kid with his right, and slowly walked over.

Before he got close, the shadow took the initiative to stand up.

"I was still found by you." Her voice was very weak.

But Marvin's expression was grim.

Raven had regained consciousness.

It seemed he had underestimated the Dark Elf's resistance to the potion!

It hadn't been long since he had given her the anaesthetic, but she was still able to recover so fast?

And more importantly, she had a hostage.

"Mommy!"

If not for Marvin tightly holding lil' Guy to stop him from moving, the little guy might have run over already.

Hera was sweating, as Raven was holding her straight dagger against her neck.

But she apparently wasn't paying much attention to her own safety, she saw lil' Guy safe and sound and let out a sigh of relief.

"I heard you were called Robin? Seems like we have something to discuss."

Raven was sweating a bit. It looked like the anesthetic still had some effect on her.

Subduing a noncombatant like Hera wasn't an issue, but the pressure she felt when facing an expert like Marvin was huge. When Marvin sent Hera in, it was mostly to protect her from the Azmyths, so he had overlooked Raven's state.

However, if Marvin ignored Hera's life and death, she wouldn't be able to block him.

"What do you want?" Marvin asked in a heavy voice.

"Freedom, safety," Raven calmly said. "Our army is already carrying out the attack. Soon, this place will become our land."

"You made me lose the best chance to obtain contributions, and held me captive. But I don't care about that."

"I only want to safely leave and join my people now."

Marvin took a deep breath. "Release Hera and I'll let you walk."

"I don't trust you." The Dark Elf shook her head. "Mister Robin, you should think of a more convincing way of cooperating."

"Otherwise, how would I know if you wouldn't deal with me after I set Hera free? I'm not your match."

Marvin frowned.

He instinctively felt something wrong.

Raven was too cunning, far more cunning than an ordinary Dark Elf.

She definitely planned something... Wait...!

Something occurred to Marvin.

At that time, Hera suddenly yelled, "I saw her send a signal!"

"There might be more Underdark creatures coming over."

Raven's expression turned cold. "Shut up!"

"Talk less if you want to keep living."

Marvin clenched his teeth and was about to respond, but he suddenly heard some subtle footsteps!

Raven's Listen was a lot higher than Marvin's, and she clearly also heard them.

She smiled complacently. "Sir Robin, you lose."

"My people have arrived. In an instant, they will finish surrounding this place. You are dreaming if you think you can still go to Hope City."

"Our people will flood over, and you'll be screwed."

Hera's expression changed. She foolishly looked at the child and said, "Sir Robin, don't worry about me, please, escort lil' Guy to Hope City!"

"The things you want are in his hands. He will give it to you in Hope City!"

"Ignore me! Please save him. I know you have the strength."

Raven covered Hera's mouth, apparently thinking of silencing her.

But Hera had already made a decision!

She forcefully turned her head, and the dagger pierced her neck.

A wound appeared, and blood madly coursed out.

Hera's body couldn't help but twitch a few times.

Her eyes were locked on lil' Guy.

Raven was shocked by Hera's move and inadvertently released her.

"You..."

Hera's voice was very faint. "Lil' Guy, don't cry..."

Her body slowly went limp, before finally collapsing at Raven's feet.

Marvin rushed over like lightning, kicking Raven in the abdomen!

The Dark Elf was sent flying by the kick, crumpling in a corner.

The little child was standing there in a daze, his expression full of pain.

"Mommy..."

"Mommy..."

He threw himself over and grabbed Hera's hand.

But she already showed no signs of life.

Marvin's heart was filled with anger.

The squadron outside the windmill could already clearly be heard.

It was most likely a Dark Elven scouting team!

"I originally didn't want to do this."

Marvin coldly looked at Raven.

The next second, he took out the Book of Nalu and quickly chanted an incantation!

He hurried to Raven's side and held her, before using a knife to engrave a strange rune on her forehead!

That was the God of Deception's private rune!

A strange and vague sound could be heard from the Book of Nalu as a faint black light enveloped the two.

"Using my name, I grant you Rebirth."

Marvin's voice was extremely grim.

Raven's body began to shake crazily, and she looked as if she was seeing something extremely frightening!

Then, a burst of pain also surged through Marvin's mind!

Soul Strip!

A taboo ability of the Book of Nalu.

Using this ability, both Marvin and Raven would have to pay the price.

Willpower tests kept flashing through the logs!

Fortunately, Marvin had Vanessa's Gift and a very tenacious will, helping him firmly resist each ripple.

After ten seconds.

Raven stopped struggling.

Her body went through a strange transformation.

She slowly lifted her head resolutely.

“Servant Raven awaits your orders.”

Chapter 262: Wind Knight

The Book of Nalu... Despite it being just a thin page, it contained endless power.

Soul Strip was only one of the most easily controlled Taboo Skills contained within it.

However, this power was very dangerous.

If he hadn't been angered, Marvin wouldn't have wanted to use this taboo ability.

The word taboo represented a lot of things in itself.

The Soul Strip ritual captured Raven as its servant through its powerful ability to influence the mind.

And Marvin, as the owner of the 6th page, became Raven's master.

But this captivity had a price: Marvin also had to endure a powerful wave of attacks on his will.

If Marvin didn't resist the attacks, he would also become the Book of Nalu's servant.

Marvin assessed that with his own willpower, he should be able to control two servants at most.

Madeline was considered as one, and Raven was the second.

The Dark Elf was already one of the candidates Marvin was thinking about.

The race's innate willpower was low, and they were easily enticed by their ambitions, unable to restrain their desires. Dark Elven society was very promiscuous, so using the Book of Nalu to control a Dark Elf was a lot easier.

Raven had quite a lot of willpower compared to the typical Dark Elf.

Marvin felt a burst of pain in his brain from time to time.

This was a sign that he used too much spirit power.

This meant that Marvin had used huge amounts of effort in the willpower checks.

‘Originally, I planned to use the Book of Nalu to control you as a last measure.’

‘But you killed Hera and drew a team of Dark Elven scouts here, so I can only do it like this,’ Marvin thought silently.

...

He and Hera were only in an ordinary business deal. Marvin didn’t feel anything special toward her.

But she was a mother of a child.

In order to give a better future for her child, she had silently suffered.

Marvin could tell that this person who was once a noble lady had kept working hard in a dangerous town like Lion for her child’s future.

She firmly decided to sacrifice herself to let Marvin escape with her child, to not become Raven’s bargaining chip.

She didn’t even hesitate.

This kind of feeling moved Marvin.

A mother is always willing to do everything for their children.

And in fact, Raven didn’t do anything wrong, only wanting her freedom.

But she also hadn’t expected that Hera would make this kind of choice to protect her child.

And now, how could Marvin fail to live up to her expectations?

He had to safely escort lil’ Guy to Hope City!

Outside the windmill, the footsteps became clearer.

This was a standard Dark Elven scouting team.

Normally, most of the Dark Elves should still be attacking Lion. This team clearly had only come so quickly because of the signal Raven sent.

“You made a mess, so clean it up,” said Marvin coldly.

He gave Raven an antidote.

The numbing effect would disappear in less than half a minute.

“Kill them.”

This was Marvin’s order.

She took the dagger Marvin gave her as the God of Deception’s rune flashed in her eyes, and calmly left.

...

“Lil’ Guy...”

“Your mother already died. We have to quickly leave this place, okay?” Marvin soothed him as much as possible.

Suddenly, the little boy who had been silently hugging his mother’s dead body started weeping.

This was the first time Marvin saw him cry.

Even when caught by the Azmyth, this 4 year old boy didn’t cry.

But he was now crying his heart out.

He wept in a very peculiar way. The sounds he emitted were very low, but he was taking huge breath in and out, like some kind of frightening monster!

What shocked Marvin was that lil’ Guy’s tears were faintly cyan colored!

‘Am I wrong? Is it because of the darkness?’

Marvin rubbed his eyes.

But what he saw next left him dumbstruck!

As lil’ Guy wept, his body slowly began to swell up.

His original clothes were already lacking, and due to his bones growing, they ruptured.

In an instant, he turned from a 4 year old kid to a teenager!

His youth and inexperience could still be seen in his face, but his body had already grown up.

It happened in mere seconds.

It was really too exaggerated!

If not for the fact that Marvin didn't notice any traces of [Shapeshift], he would have thought that this was the result of a spell.

But there wasn't the energy of a skill, nor any sign of a spell!

It was a pure natural feeling.

'This is... Bloodline power?'

Marvin felt something wrong.

At that time, lil' Guy gently wiped his tears.

He once again regained a calm expression.

"When I was young, Mommy told me: – Lil' Guy, you must not cry. –"

"In fact, not only I must not cry, I must not smile."

"Some things, I don't need to learn them. I just feel a lot of knowledge enter my brain..."

"Sir Robin, let's go."

He slowly stood up, his expression full of sadness, but also full of resolve.

This kid was actually able to control his state of mind that well?

Marvin dazedly stared at the transformed lil' Guy. He knew this face!

'Hold on... Wasn't he the most famous person in Rocky Mountain after the Three Sisters in the period after the Calamity? [Wind Knight] O'Benson.

Marvin suddenly realized.

Wind Knight O'Benson's family name was Hera.

...

Wind Knight.

In the game, he was another legendary figure in the Rocky Mountain, aside from the three sisters.

That powerhouse wasn't most famous for repeatedly protecting Hope City.

Or for the fact that not a single god's avatar he fought survived his winds.

Rather, it was because of his face.

O'Benson was actually very handsome, but for some reason he never smiled, and no one ever saw him cry.

Afterwards, an expert did a hidden quest from the Wind Knight and the truth came out:

– O'Benson had a special bloodline. –

He was a descendant of some Overlord in the North, and that Overlord also seemed to have some mysterious racial bloodline, like the Hammons. They had a type of curse, but it only passed onto the males.

They couldn't have any kind of change in mood.

They couldn't cry, and they couldn't smile.

If they smiled or cried once, it was equivalent to passing ten years of their life!

This was a very frightening curse, and made this clan's men forever unable to show emotions.

Lil' Guy had been trained by Hera to control his mood, and had never gone out of control before.

But faced with his mother's death, he couldn't control himself.

He cried, and lost ten years. His body grew a lot taller, and his intelligence also increased, along with his bloodline strength. In that split second, he grew to be a 14-15 year old youth.

In other words, lil' Guy was now about the same age as Marvin.

This was a strange experience. People who had never experienced it wouldn't be able to know how it felt.

And Wind Knight O'Benson originally was someone bad with words.

Apart from the downsides, the curse granted powerful abilities. They could control wind and have good relations with any lifeform related to wind.

For example, the [Asperi], also known as Wind Steeds, which lived in the Roland Highlands, and Air Elementals.

That was the origin of the name Wind Knight.

In the past, Marvin wasn't very familiar with the Wind Knight. He only knew a bit about his background. His mother died to the Dark Races. He'd once talked about his first love, but that girl made him smile for the first time and then made him cry once again. He thus lost another 20 years of life.

These clansmen typically only lived about 50 years.

...

'Seems like even if I didn't get involved, Hera would have also died from the Underdark's denizens.'

'As for lil' Guy, he would have survived.'

He gently got up and patted lil' Guy's shoulder. "Let's go."

He then took out the Thousand Paper Crane and put Hera's body inside.

This action surprised lil' Guy, but he still trusted Marvin.

After all, this middle-aged man Robin had faced a huge risk to get him back from the Azmyth's hands.

And his mother also entrusted himself to him.

He should be worth trusting.

The two lightly walked to the windmill's back door.

Outside, the sounds of slaughter were gradually coming to an end.

Marvin gently opened the door. The Azmyths in the sky were already gone. They had probably been exhausted by flying and returned to Lion Town to reintegrate with the forces.

And many more monsters from the Underdark should have already completely sealed off Lion Town from Hope City.

Raven was panting roughly, and her two daggers were dripping with blood.

Six Dark Elves' bodies were messily laying on the ground.

An elite captain's strength really was outstanding.

Moreover, these Dark Elves would have never thought that the candidate to be the next Matriarch would suddenly attack her own subordinates!

"Master, I already accomplished your order."

A flattering expression flashed through her eyes.

But her body was somewhat stiff.

Marvin frowned.

At that time, he once again felt a burst of pain in his mind.

Clearly, Raven was still resisting. But the Book of Nalu's power was too great and forcefully suppressed her.

In any case, Marvin still successfully controlled her.

Then, he gave her another order, having her wander around Hope City by herself.

From what Raven had said, breaking through the blockade wouldn't be that easy.

When Marvin needed her, he would naturally call her through the Book of Nalu.

Raven left.

Marvin brought lil' Guy and they proceeded to break out toward Hope City!

It was unfortunate that the Thousand Paper Crane couldn't be used to hold a living person, because breaking through the blockade alone would be a piece of cake for Marvin.

Many groups of monsters could be seen ahead.

Marvin led lil' Guy to try to bypass them.

Chapter 263: Life and Death Blockade!

Hope City.

The distant Hope City also noticed something wrong when the Dark Races rushed out to the surface.

The town of the Three Sisters was highly efficient. They quickly entered a state of emergency.

Under Lorie's leadership, Hope City's military forces were on high alert.

They kept dispatching scouts and information rushed through Hope City.

...

On the city wall, a young purple-haired girl was looking into the distance.

Though covered to some extent by black clouds, Rocky Mountain could still receive some rays of light.

And these rays of light could bring harm to the Dark Races, even if it was merely a few of them.

She was able to see very far due to her own special ability.

A pitch-black blockade line was already completed.

It looked like a black snake, twisting around the surrounding towns between Lion Town and Hope City, strangling many fleeing refugees!

"Dark Races.... Lion Town has already been breached." A low whisper could be heard from her mouth.

The expression of the Knight at her side was quite serious.

As this city's supreme leaders, the three siblings had supreme authority. This authority was originally very stable because of Jessica's backing.

But now, traces of chaos seemed to have appeared in Hope City!

The Dark Races invaded!

This information spread everywhere and immediately caused panic.

There was no Legend overseeing Hope City at the moment!

The strongest of the three sisters was currently on the edge of the Chaos Ground, trying to catch that Black Dragon who often came to disturb Rocky Mountain.

And Kate, who had shown some development in her abilities, also took a few people and left for the dangerous area to the west to investigate the meteors.

Only Lorie, the youngest of the three, remained.

Even if the inhabitants were fond of Lorie, that girl was way too young. Few people were willing to entrust Hope City to her hands.

If not for the city's guards keeping the situation under control and Jessica's reputation, civil strife might have already broken out in Hope City.

Even so, a feeling of worry spread through Hope City.

Merchants packed their belongings and tried to head west, while poor people were blankly gathering together, wanting to know more information.

During this time, the city was on the verge of sinking into chaos.

But after Lorie personally made an appearance, everything became better.

This young girl was actually very smart. She had exceptional leadership and management abilities.

Right at the start, she summoned the most loyal city guards.

And Head Knight Terry at her side was the most loyal follower of the three sisters.

Orders came from Lorie's mouth and they were strictly implemented by the city guards!

Gather the militia. Conscript the adventurers. Quickly deploy the city guards to get the surroundings villages' inhabitants to move over. Gather the exiled Sorcerers' organization [Demonic Hand]. Open the refuge and send in the elderly and children. Open the armory and provide able people with the means to defend themselves...

The orders were methodically carried out.

It unconsciously stabilized the hearts of many people.

They looked at that short silhouette standing on the city wall and they couldn't help but feel an unprecedented reverence toward her.

Before this event, this young girl always obediently hid behind her two sisters.

She was extremely good-looking and had an aura of innocence.

No one knew that in a time of war, she could be so calm and rational.

Even for the Head Knight at her side, it was the first time he saw Young Lady Lorie acting like a commander.

...

“Ankhegs’ endurance is ordinary. Even if they move with magic, lazy monsters like them can’t work for too long.”

“But without the Ankhegs, it would be very hard to break through Hope City. The Dark Races’ commander should clearly know about this.”

“Thus, they would attack Hope City after three days. In that time, they will purge the rest of the humans on the surface. After all, in the eyes of the Dark Races, lifeforms of the world above are prey.”

Lorie mumbled, with grief flashing through her eyes, “Uncle<sup>1</sup> Terry, we really can’t save those people?”

(T/N1:Form of address.)

The Head Knight remained silent.

Hope City had already made proper war preparations. He had faith that under Young Lady Lorie’s leadership, they could repel the Dark Races.

What’s more, with the Dark Races making such a big move, the powerful Lady Jessica would certainly notice it.

If the Fate Sorceress returned to Hope City, the Legend’s skills would unconditionally suppress the Dark Races and they wouldn’t be able to withstand a single blow!

But the people Young Lady Lorie talked about were the inhabitants of the cities and towns between Lion Town and Hope City. They had low chances of survival.

Despite the dark sky, they could still see far into the distance from the city wall.

That pitch-black blockade was clearly visible. Even though the blockade line was uneven, there was no place that didn’t have the Underdark’s monsters.

Goblins, Gnolls, and Kobolds made up most of the blockade line. These lifeforms mostly weren’t very strong, but there were plenty of them.

And the most powerful Quaggoth and Fomorian were real nightmares!

They were in the center of the blockade line. No matter what part of the blockade was broken, these monsters would appear and fill in.

They just saw a group of elite cavalry being quickly defeated.

They were a troop of cavalry from one of the villages next to Lion Town.

More than twenty cavalymen rushed into a hole of the blockade.

But unfortunately were they caught by a Fomorian!

They were sturdier than Ogres, but less intelligent. Most Fomorians had high magic resistance while also mastering one or two kinds of spells.

This was what was most troublesome.

You couldn't know what kind of spell he would come up with. Not knowing if a Fire Tongue or Ice Cone would suddenly come out while you were in melee was very troublesome.

In short, those knights who broke through the goblins' blockade were swept away by a few Fomorians.

These monsters relied on their sturdy physiques to crush the cavalry.

Moreover, they still had helpers.

Whether it was quantity or quality, they couldn't do anything against it.

This blockade was the line between life and death for humans on the surface.

"Go take a look at the refugee shelter."

"If they are more or less done, close the city gates." Lorie sighed.

...

"The inhabitants from the surroundings already scattered and found accommodations. Fortunately, enough refuges were built when we established the city, or else we couldn't have squeezed them in," reported Head Knight Terry after a while.

"The city gates can be closed at any time. The cavalymen we sent around already returned."

Lorie nodded.

She was about to give the order.

But suddenly, a commotion appeared in the north of the blockade.

She squinted.

There was some activity.

...

It was a village a bit north of Lion Town.

Because they heard Lion Town's signal, they reacted before the Dark Races attacked them.

Most people still ended up buried under the mouths of the Dark Races, but a small group of them still managed to escape.

There were many innocent villagers among them.

There were roughly 100 of them, and they were escorted by a large-scale mercenary team.

The entire mercenary team numbered about 80 people. They moved slowly, but because of their numbers, they had some hope of breaking through the blockade!

As long as they broke through the blockade, they would be able to reach Hope City.

Thus, they all did their best.

"There is still such a dedicated mercenary group?" Terry also watched this scene.

The mercenary group was holding a Silver Fox's flag and was considered one of the most famous mercenary organizations in the Chaos Ground.

The large mercenary group had a fairly good reputation, and they apparently took over the mission of defending that northern village.

Now, as they evacuated, they even firmly escorted that group of villagers.

In fact, if they abandoned those villagers with no fighting strength, their chances of breaking through the blockade would be a lot bigger!

But they didn't do so.

The blockade line was pushed back for the first time.

The mercenaries attacked in a triangle formation. At the spearhead was a powerhouse wielding two greatswords.

That was the mercenary leader. He was creating a path out of this battlefield on his own, leading everyone to break out of the blockade!

“Not good, we have to rescue them!” Lorie frowned.

Head Knight Terry clenched his teeth. “Even though our cavalry is intact, it would still be easy to lose them to the tide of monsters if they attacked now.”

“It’s likely that they wouldn’t be able to survive until our cavalry arrived. There are way too many monsters after all.”

Lorie stayed silent.

The little girl knew that Terry’s words were right.

For a few hundred people, it wasn’t wise to sacrifice a cavalry unit. At the same time, Hope City’s thousands would see their odds of survival greatly decline. This wasn’t something wise.

But for her, lives couldn’t simply be coldly calculated.

She clenched her fists. “Dispatch the cavalry.”

“We must save them.”

“In any case, we have to give it a try.”

Terry took a deep look at her and ultimately used knightly etiquette as he said, “Yes!”

“I’ll personally lead the team!”

The young girl was stunned. “Uncle Terry!”

But this time, the Head Knight didn’t turn back to the city wall.

...

Hope City’s gates slowly opened.

A small group of about thirty cavalymen quickly rushed to the north of the blockade.

They soon arrived at the edge of the blockade.

Under Head Knight Terry's leadership, they forcefully ripped apart the defensive line and successfully joined up with that group of mercenaries.

"Follow us, rush out!"

Head Knight Terry bellowed.

Everyone worked together to follow the Knights toward the west.

But at that time, five Fomorians had blocked them off.

Following the Fomorians were a Quaggoth and a squad of Dark Elves!

Kobolds and Gnolls also kept squeezing toward them.

The pressure faced by the human group increased.

"No good." Worry could be seen on Lorie's face.

Even though Terry was an expert of the 3rd rank, he was heavily outnumbered.

If they couldn't deal with the Fomorians, the team of Knights would be in danger!

"Uncle Terry..."

Lorie silently prayed, "You must safely return..."

But at that moment, a somewhat lazy voice echoed by her ear. "You don't need to be that worried."

"They will definitely break through the siege."

A plump lifeform sat on her shoulder.

"Eh, Ding?"

Lorie looked at the north of the blockade, somewhat nervous.

The Fomorians quickly surrounded them, and if they couldn't break out, even the cavalymen wouldn't be able to escape.

The current Hope City didn't have the strength to fight a direct battle with the Underdark's lifeforms.

But those ordinary villagers greatly slowed the advance.

Some women were still holding onto their children!

Many mercenaries were also collapsing. The leader of the convoy just took a blow to his knee and was limping, needing someone to lend him an arm to keep moving forward!

That group's fate seemed to have already been decided.

"I was reckless!"

The little girl was grabbing her pretty light purple hair, upset.

"No. You made the correct decision."

Ding squinted and said, "I can feel someone familiar hiding in that group."

"What is he waiting for?"

...

What was Marvin waiting for?

He was waiting for an opportunity to make a move!

After leaving the windmill, they quickly ran across the Silver Fox mercenaries. The kindhearted mercenaries took them as common refugees and pulled them into the ranks.

They kept rushing forward and it looked like they were about to break through the blockade.

During that time, Marvin kept switching between the shotgun and the two pistols, not wanting to attract the attention of the Dark Races' commander with his strength!

'Just a bit more!'

'Just a bit closer to reach Hope City!'

He was waiting for that opportunity.

When he acted, he would inevitably be spotted by Lady Tess. At that time, a group of even more powerful creatures would be sent to block their way, and this group would lose all hope!

Thus, he had to be patient.

He had to catch them unprepared!

The cavalymen helping out made him overjoyed. It seemed that whoever was leading Hope City, that commander was still caring about human lives.

The group rushed through the blockade and was soon intercepted.

At that time, five Fomorians surrounded them!

Despair filled everyone's faces.

Fomorians were big and sturdy, towering at a height of over 2.5 meters!

The cavalymen also slowed down.

"Follow them to battle!" The Silver Fox's leader roused them.

That guy was someone who attached high importance to comradeship.

The other mercenaries also raised their swords one after the other.

The villagers silently and gratefully looked at these mercenaries.

They knew that if it wasn't for themselves, the mercenaries might have already broken through the blockade.

These people were worthy of admiration.

"I can't lead the charge anymore."

The leader lifted a long sword. "Thus, lads, let us fight together!"

"To battle!"

Everyone bellowed, unwilling to give up and unafraid of dying as they rushed toward those five Fomorians!

But at that time, a shadow as fast as lightning suddenly rushed to the forefront.

"I'll open the path," he said.

Even in the chaotic battlefield, Marvin's voice could clearly be heard.

They were already close to breaking through to Hope City's gates, so he didn't need to hide his own strength anymore.

It was now time to make the final push to break through the blockade!

He crazily rushed forward and before everyone's shocked eyes, his body began to swell up!

Shapeshift Sorcerer, Beast-shape!

The Asuran Bear's terrifying form instantly descended and sent 8 or 9 Goblins flying with one swipe!

"Roaaaar!"

Chapter 264: Breaking Through!

Two Fomorians imposingly blocked the path directly ahead.

But their 2.5 meter height was shorter than the Asuran Bear's!

With an increase in the level of the Shapeshift Sorcerer class, the Asuran Bear's properties would also increase.

And its build had also improved significantly.

Facing the Asuran Bear's charge, even the Crimson Patriarch's Snake form could only barely resist!

Although that was due to a potion and a scroll, when facing these common Fomorians, Marvin was very confident.

He burst out and charged ahead.

The three huge bodies were like tanks knocking against each other.

Then, both Fomorians howled in grief as they were sent flying by Marvin!

Two other Fomorians, one on each side, launched an attack.

A lightning bolt and some acid landed on Marvin's body!

A burst of electric current pierced through Marvin's body, but the Asuran Bear had strong resistance to these kinds of magics.

Marvin's sturdy fur suddenly stiffened as his body went numb for half a second, and then he used his left and right paws to ruthlessly slap those Fomorians' heads!

The pitiful Fomorians passed out from the huge power.

Their massive bodies flew and landed on a bunch of Goblins!

The human side cheered.

“Quick! Go!”

Marvin in his Asuran Bear Form roared out words in Common, urging them with a bellow.

The bewildered cavalry looked at Marvin indecisively, but they still worked together with the Silver Fox mercenaries to help evacuate the villagers.

The blockade had been breached!

Not far to the side, on top of a hill, a shadow suddenly rose.

Marvin faintly squinted.

That was an Underdark Venom Drake!

This predator could only fly at low altitudes, but its venom was very powerful.

The Asuran Bear’s fur might not be able to withstand it.

Underdark Venom Drakes usually used their venom to kill an enemy before drying it for consumption.

And it was the final trump card of this blockade!

This was also the reason Marvin hadn’t revealed his strength earlier.

If he had alarmed them earlier, the result would have been counterproductive.

He wanted to catch them off guard!

The Asuran Bear frantically charged. His limbs were his best weapons.

Countless pitiful Goblins, Gnolls and Kobolds howled in grief from being crushed by his limbs or butt!

They were sent flying, but they were innumerable.

Soon, he managed to clear out a path.

All the Underdark's creatures were looking at Marvin, their eyes filled with fear.

The creatures in the Underdark were like this, worshipping the strong. As long as you showed absolute power, they would submit to you.

Of course, they acknowledged the power, not the person.

But regardless of their fear, they couldn't disobey Lady Tess' orders.

She was the Apostle of the Black Dragon.

Her will was the Black Dragon's will!

All the Dark Races summoned their courage to once again surround them.

At that time, Marvin suddenly stopped and took a step back.

He opened his maw and let out an extremely powerful roar!

Intimidating Roar!

The Asuran Bear's unique ability.

In an instant, all the Dark Races sank into chaos.

They didn't have strong willpower. After all, they were relying on the Black Dragon's support.

They were scared by the Intimidating Roar and their formation became chaotic.

They started to trample and attack each other like a bunch of undisciplined soldiers.

Meanwhile, the cavalymen were escorting the villagers as they quickly approached Hope City's walls.

They could faintly see the city gates slowly opening.

Hope City didn't give up on them.

The Three Sisters didn't give up on them!

They were all moved to tears as they kept rushing forward. Even if they were already wounded, even if the pain in their feet was unbearable, they clenched their teeth and sped up.

Because that shadow was still approaching from behind!

The Underdark Venom Drake!

...

Marvin was at the back of the human group. Seeing that they were about to reach the gates, the Venom Drake went all-out to chase them.

“Mister Robin!” Guy, the future Wind Knight anxiously yelled.

“Follow them!” Marvin bellowed, “Get in quick.”

Guy clenched his teeth and ultimately obeyed Marvin’s order.

In a few moments, a vacant space appeared outside Hope City.

The Asuran Bear was alone, facing the monsters of the entire blockade, as well as one Underdark Venom Drake!

But Marvin wasn’t afraid.

Even if the Venom Drake was powerful and had a bit of an advantage over the Asuran Bear, his other Shapeshift could completely subdue it!

Don’t forget that the Twin-Headed Snake was completely immune to venom!

Marvin calmly waited for the enemy to approach.

The Venom Drake hissed and flapped his wings, apparently wanting to dive at him.

Marvin also did proper battle preparations!

But at that moment, a thick ballista bolt flew under the Venom Drake’s legs!

The frightening ballista bolt flew out and fearsomely pierced into the group of monsters. In an instant, it impaled seven or eight Goblins!

The Venom Drake startledly flapping his wings and rushed to the sky.

He wouldn’t risk his life to chase that kind of prey.

All the Dark Races stopped pursuing and began to pull back.

And with Marvin’s fortuitous support, the blockade seemed to have loosened up. Apparently many people managed to find weak spots, ultimately breaking through the siege and escaping with their lives.

Marvin let out a long breath.

He slowly turned around and noticed that girl on the city wall attentively watching him.

A familiar silhouette was sitting on her shoulder.

Fortune Fairy Ding.

Marvin shifted his gaze to another location, seeing ten ballistas being reloaded on both sides of the city walls.

Each ballista was operated by a powerful sturdy man. Even if the bolts were unable to harm a Dragon, they were a huge threat to a Venom Drake, this kind of sub-Dragon species.

The city gates were wide open, and the human group all poured in as fast as they could.

Marvin's body shrank and suddenly disappeared from where he was!

Shadow Escape!

With a few quick moves, he caught up to everyone and quietly reapplied his Disguise.

The area below the city wall became empty once more.

...

Inside Hope City.

The group was split up in batches and methodically assigned to different areas.

The wounded were carried off to get treatment, and the ordinary people, especially women and children, were sent to a big refuge.

If the farmers with strength wanted one, they would be granted a weapon. Hope City was at the most critical juncture after all.

They needed everyone to help.

Organizations like the Silver Fox Mercenaries were temporarily incorporated into the city guards, and the reserve militia could be called out any time.

The atmosphere on the city wall was still very nervous.

Facing the Dark Races who hadn't emerged for many years, people always felt some kind of dread.

But when they raised their heads, they would see that small silhouette still standing on the city wall, silently looking in the distance, and they would feel oddly peaceful.

Because they knew there was always someone guarding this city.

Hope Town was jointly established by the three sisters. The other two Ladies left, but as long as Young Lady Lorie stayed there, everything would be fine.

There would still be hope!

...

In the crowd, Head Knight Terry was anxiously looking for someone.

But every time he asked, he would be answered with “Didn’t see”, “No idea”, or “Thank you”.

There was no helpful answer.

He was trying to look for that “Druid”!

This was Young Lady Lorie’s order.

This order didn’t surprise Terry. At such a critical time, they needed to use every single bit of power they could find.

And that Sir Druid that was able to Shapeshift into a huge Bear was clearly a high level powerhouse.

He was also very smart, knowing the best timing to use his power to avoid an untimely confrontation with the Venom Drake and safely escort everyone to the city.

He must find that powerhouse!

But what depressed him was that those villagers said they didn’t recognize that person!

And after the man entered the town, he quickly disappeared in the crowd.

This made him impossible to find.

Ultimately, he was able to get some information from the leader of the mercenaries.

“You are looking for Mister Robin?”

“He really is someone frightening. We thought he had no fighting strength at the start, so we specially sent him to the flank, to lighten his pressure.”

“But unexpectedly he was very powerful, bursting in at the crucial moment and saving us.”

“We didn’t get to properly thank him for that.”

Terry interrupted the mercenary leader’s flood of words, and firmly said, “Sorry, but I only want to know where Mister Robin is at the moment.”

The leader shrugged. “No one knows.”

Terry sighed and looked at the sea of people before ultimately returning to the city wall.

“You didn’t find him?” Lorie asked quietly.

Terry nodded.

“I understand, go take care of other things.”

“I’ll send others to take care of this,” the young girl calmly said.

Even if the Head Knight was doubtful, he obeyed.

...

Outside the refuge, Marvin and Guy were standing side by side.

“Sir, this is the thing you want.”

Guy handed a scroll and a few books to Marvin.

“This is our family record. It is related to the Source of Fire’s Order. You already brought me here safely, so these are yours.”

Marvin gently took the scroll and the few books. At that time, he had made a deal with Hera because she brought out enough bargaining chips.

But afterwards, the matter had gradually evolved. Marvin no longer helped the mother and child only because of the deal.

He was moved by Hera.

Guy was silent for a moment, but he didn’t move toward the refuge.

“Guy, where will you go?” Marvin couldn’t help but ask.

“Sir Robin, I already grew up. A name like Guy or Lil’ Guy isn’t fitting anymore.”

The youth pointed to something next to the refuge. "I want to go there."

Marvin followed his finger and saw that he had pointed at the place providing weapons.

"My real name is O'Benson. My family name isn't important. I might choose Hera as a family name later on."

The weak youth added in a low voice, "I'm happy to have met you, Sir Robin."

After saying this, he started to go ask for a weapon.

Suddenly, a hand patted his shoulder.

O'Benson turned around, surprised, but what he saw was a youth about his own age.

"I'm also happy to have met you, O'Benson," said Marvin sincerely.

O'Benson's eyes were filled with shock!

"You are..."

Marvin signalled him to stay silent and soon changed back to the appearance of the middle-aged Robin.

He smiled at O'Benson and turned to walk into the crowd.

But he didn't get far before a dissatisfied voice echoed next to his ears:

"Not greeting an acquaintance when you see them.. you are really lacking manners!"

Chapter 265: Golden Blood

Hearing this voice, Marvin couldn't help but force a smile.

He turned around.

The Fortune Fairy Ding was looking at him disdainfully. "We thought you died. If not for me noticing the aura of the luck blessing I bestowed you in the past, I wouldn't have been able to find you. A very terrifying Sorcerer bloodline. You should join Rocky Mountain."

Marvin looked at the surroundings. "Do you think this place is suitable for a discussion?"

"It's not." The Fortune Fairy flapped its wings. "Follow me."

...

Marvin followed behind Ding and returned once more to the city gates.

They went down a small path to the wall.

The fully armed guards didn't stop them. Apparently Ding had some reputation here.

A young girl was standing alone on top of the city wall.

Marvin was meeting her for the first time, but he already recognized her.

The youngest of the Fate Sisters, Lorie.

She wasn't as powerful of a caster as her two sisters, but her wisdom was high enough to cause envy.

She was one of the few people who saw through the gods' conspiracy before the Calamity.

Fate Sorceresses had different types of abilities.

For example, her sister Jessica's fate ability was [Power].

After the awakening of her bloodline, her Power kept increasing.

This Power included the strength of her spells and physical abilities.

As for Kate, if Marvin wasn't mistaken, she had [Protection] as her fate ability. To be able to ignite the Source of Fire's Order, her Protection ability was most important.

As for Lorie.

Her fate ability was [Wisdom]!

This was a very wise and farsighted girl.

...

She slowly turned around. She was wearing a dress somewhat like her older sister's. The style was a bit different and it was a bit smaller.

12-13 years old was supposed to be an age where girls could be carefree and without worries, but Marvin could see countless thoughts in her eyes.

He instinctively felt something wrong.

What about the other two sisters? Why is there only Lorie?

“Hello, Mister Marvin.” Lorie looked at Marvin with a smile. “You really gave me a great surprise.”

“Thank you for rescuing those villagers and also rescuing Uncle Terry.”

Marvin slightly nodded.

Even if this girl looked young, she talked like an adult. It made it somewhat hard for him to get used to.

“Hello, Miss Lorie.”

The two started a discussion unfamiliarly.

Fortunately, the Fortune Fairy Ding butted in from time to time and gradually reduced the awkwardness.

They both actually knew about each other.

Marvin, well, there was no need to say. And Lorie also knew about him because she knew of Marvin’s actions in the Decaying Plateau’s war.

After a few exchanges, Lorie directly expressed her own thoughts.

She wanted Marvin to help her defend Hope City.

Hope City was currently at a critical juncture. Not only was it facing a grave external crisis, but it wasn’t stable inside either.

‘I hadn’t expected that Jessica was actually lured to the edge of the Chaos Ground by Clarke.’

‘The events shown in the trailer weren’t really complete. Kate also left Hope City because of the matter of the meteors. No wonder only the youngest sister was left in Hope City.’

Marvin couldn’t help but bitterly smile and shake his head after hearing this.

How could he not want to help Hope City?

What’s more, that bit of luck Ding gave him saved him at a crucial moment.

If he was able to, he would definitely help.

But the Source of Fire's Order was also very important.

On top of that, from his memories, he knew that Hope City would hold on even without him.

They ultimately repelled the Dark Races. There was no doubt about it.

Although his appearance had changed a few parts of history, the most important parts shouldn't change.

If Jessica displayed her extreme power and killed Clarke, even if the Black Dragon God was furious, he wouldn't be able to do anything!

The current Universe Magic Pool had yet to be broken and the Time Molt was in Inheim's hands, so no god's avatar could descend!

And if no god descended, the Legend Fate Sorceress was more or less the strongest expert.

And on a large scale aspect, Jessica was an existence that could face thousands upon thousands by herself.

Black Dragon Clarke was luring Jessica's attention for now, but the Fate Sorceress wasn't a fool. She would definitely notice the unusual movements on this side.

She would return sooner or later.

Hope City definitely wouldn't have any major issues.

This was how Marvin saw it, so he originally planned to bring O'Benson to Hope City and then leave.

He would head west to the place the meteors fell, to look for a Source of Fire's Order.

But how could he have expected that Ding would recognize him?

Thus, facing Lorie's request, Marvin felt somewhat trapped in a dilemma.

He thought for a bit and ultimately chose to refuse. "I am very sorry, I really want to help."

"But I came to Rocky Mountain with a more important goal."

Lorie's eyes were very clear, staring at Marvin. "Source of Fire's Order, right?"

Marvin nodded.

“Sis is already looking for it,” Lorie said seriously. “There is a total of seven of them. If she finds more than one, there is no harm in giving you one.”

Marvin laughed involuntarily. “Miss Lorie, can you make a decision on behalf of your sisters?”

In Marvin’s eyes, Lorie was a bit naive.

Very few people would be willing to move a Source of Fire’s Order, let alone offer one as a gift.

Kate did have some friendship with Marvin, and the Night Monarch’s spirit helped her stabilize her bloodline, which might let her advance to Legend earlier.

But that friendship couldn’t necessarily be compared to a Source of Fire’s Order.

He knew Kate was very kindhearted, but Rocky Mountain was her home.

This was the place she wanted to protect. Marvin was only a friend at most.

Even if the sisters previously held four of them, who knew what could happen this time.

Marvin didn’t want to entrust his hopes onto others...

...

But, at that time, Ding suddenly interrupted, “She obviously can.”

“Even though Lorie is young, her words can definitely represent the three sisters.”

“Otherwise, why would the entire Hope City listen to her?”

Lorie also looked at Marvin with a hopeful expression. “I promise.”

“I only hope for you to do us a favor.”

Marvin paused for a bit, before hesitantly asking, “What favor?”

“Assassination.” Lorie cut straight to the point. “An assassination mission. I already have two experts ready. With you joining, it would make a perfect team and raise the success rate of the assassination.”

“Target?” Marvin asked.

“Tess.” Lorie told him with a calm expression, “She is the Black Dragon God’s Apostle, thus this is a bit difficult.”

Marvin firmly shook his head!

What a joke, assassinating Tess?

That's a powerhouse on the same level as Bamboo!

Even if the Black Dragon God didn't pour a great amount of Divine Power into her like the World Ending Twin Snakes did for Bamboo, she also wasn't a target that a 4th rank could assassinate.

"Don't hastily refuse."

"I have yet to tell you the reward."

Lorie smilingly said, "If Sir Marvin helps us with this task."

"You'll receive [Golden Blood]."

Golden Blood!?

Marvin opened his eyes wide.

He then instantly answered, "Deal!"

Chapter 266: Breakthrough! Bloodline Limitations!

Golden Blood was a treasure that could be used to increase the purity of one's bloodline!

Among the treasures Marvin knew about, Golden Blood was the safest one for breaking through bloodline limitations.

It was the most precious secret of Rocky Mountain's Sorcerers.

Marvin was able to awaken his Sorcerer bloodline thanks to Ding's help.

But he had to face the bloodline limitations afterwards!

His Shapeshift Sorcerer class was limited to level 5, which if considered alone would be at the boundary of the 1st rank.

Without a special opportunity, his Shapeshift Sorcerer level would never increase beyond that.

For Marvin, Shapeshift Sorcerer was a very useful sub-class.

Night Walker and Ranger were his main classes. His final advancement, Ruler of the Night, was quite powerful, but the Shapeshift Sorcerer class would still be very good for complementing its strength.

Earlier, Marvin was able to lead everyone through the blockade by relying on the powerful Shapeshift of the Shapeshift Sorcerer!

Whether it was a Night Walker or Ranger, they didn't have the ability to forcefully break through a battlefield.

Thus, Marvin had always been paying attention to methods that could help his Shapeshift Sorcerer class break through.

And with Lorie using such an attractive bargaining chip, he couldn't help but be tempted.

It had to be known that this thing was very rare in Rocky Mountain.

Without the three sisters' permission, others couldn't even think of buying it!

....

As for assassinating Tess, after assessing it for a bit, he came to the conclusion that it wasn't as risky as it seemed.

Even if the Dark Races were powerful, they still relied more on numbers.

There weren't that many experts. As long as they weren't entangled with those especially crazy freaks, stealthily approaching, assassinating, and then fleeing should still be feasible.

Marvin was a 4th rank expert after all. And the power of the Night Walker class had already been shown countless times.

As for Tess herself, even if she was the Black Dragon God's Apostle, she should be using a lot of Divine Power in order to maintain [Shroud the Sun].

The power she could display was limited.

As long as the plan was suitable, they wouldn't necessarily have a low chance of success.

Moreover, Lorie promised Marvin that he would have two capable partners to help complete the mission.

And even if Lorie's magic power was unstable, she could still interfere with Tess' divination spells.

That way, she could most effectively ensure the safety of the trio of assassins.

After they agreed on a time, Marvin temporarily left the city wall and went to the Demon's Hand Camp to rest.

...

"Marvin, he is a lot more elegant than I imagined!"

Just after Marvin's silhouette disappeared from the city wall, Lorie's composed and calm attitude went through a huge change!

Her eyes were dreamy as she covered them with her hands. "I almost couldn't keep up the appearances!"

"He is certainly the hero who destroyed the Underworld. He really is so handsome!"

Ding frowned and said, "He only destroyed the Decaying Plateau, how is that the entire Underworld!"

"Is there a difference?" Lorie blinked and replied, still smitten, "Didn't you see him accept my request, he really is a gentleman."

The Fortune Fairy hatefully and angrily retorted, "That was because you offered Golden Blood in exchange!"

"That shameless guy sure knows how to take advantage of an innocent girl!"

Lorie suddenly said worriedly, "Big Sis said she wanted to put him on the fiancé list... What should I do if he becomes my brother-in-law?"

Ding was speechless.

She already couldn't keep up with the young girl's thoughts, which were all over the place.

Then, she asked with an odd expression, "By the way, where did you get [Golden Blood]?"

Lorie beamingly answered, "Sis set some aside for me last time. She told me to use it to break through, but I don't think I need it."

"I have a feeling that Sir Marvin needs it more!"

Ding felt like coughing blood!

That was Golden Blood!

It was a treasure Jessica had to risk her life to get. How could it be given away like that? And for an assassination?

“Oh yeah, in order to increase the chances of success of the mission, I decided to give him the Golden Blood first and let him raise his strength before the assassination.”

“...Ding? Are you okay?”

Lorie shook the already fainted Fortune Fairy.

The latter didn't answer and kept playing dead.

...

Demon's Hand.

The organization of Rocky Mountain's Sorcerers. When the South Wizard Alliance was established, the first thing they did was exile all Sorcerers.

The Wizards believed Sorcerers' magic came from the Devils or the Demons. They were a group of people walking on the edge of wickedness, and extremely unreliable.

They expelled all Sorcerers, and ultimately, the banished Sorcerers gathered in Rocky Mountain under the call of a mysterious power.

The Sorcerers that had been pushed around began to unite.

They established their own organizations and Demon's Hand was the most famous one among them.

Demon's Hand had an independent area and land in Hope City. Their buildings were odd and eccentric, not sticking to one pattern.

This was because the Sorcerers had come from all over before gathering there, so they had all kinds of customs.

These customs even spread and were inherited by their descendants.

In short, Rocky Mountain was a place where all kind of social customs mixed together.

Walking through a street you could feel like you just crossed a continent after rounding a corner.

The Demon's Hand Camp was set up in the east of the city.

It was the place where Sorcerers exchanged knowledge, but it was also the place where Sorcerers who signed the agreement to develop Hope City would gather.

Sorcerers were powerful. In times of war, they would display abilities that were hard to imagine.

...

Marvin found the VIP lounge under the guidance of a Knight.

He needed to wait for the two other experts there.

Everything needed was available in the lounge, and there were four or five separate rooms. Marvin chose one and went in to rest.

This trip through the Underdark to Rocky Mountain, and then breaking through the blockade afterwards, used up a large amount of his energy.

He urgently needed some sleep to replenish his energy.

Two hours later, he was woken by a feeling of hunger.

He went to the lounge to find something to eat.

The food supplied in Rocky Mountain was pretty good, or at least it was in the VIP lounge.

At that time, there was someone else in the lounge.

She was wearing a flaming red dress with a plunging neckline, exposing her fair skin.

She was quite beautiful and radiated sex appeal. It felt like the more you looked at her, the more you would become engrossed in it.

'High Charisma...'

Marvin froze.

This woman's Charisma was definitely above 25!

As everyone knew, Charisma was as important to Sorcerers as Dexterity was to Thieves or Rangers.

With such high Charisma, she must be a pretty powerful Sorceress.

A Sorceress appearing in an assassination unit wasn't strange. They needed to penetrate deeply into the enemy lines. Without a caster, how would they be able to escape once the deed was done?

Legs wouldn't be able to outrun spells after all.

"Hey, you must be that Mister Robin they talked about. I heard you were a Druid that is also talented in the assassination field."

The woman took the initiative to greet him. "I am Daisy."

Marvin faintly nodded, not too affected by the 25 Charisma ability [Boundless Attraction]. He only coldly said, "Robin."

When he talked with Lorie, Marvin already emphasized that he didn't want to expose his true identity.

The young girl also understood Marvin's request. From the start, he was just considered a mysterious master that had suddenly emerged.

Daisy was apparently a good talker and was different from a lot of ignorant and solitary Sorcerers. She was very good at communicating.

In a few minutes, she told the details she knew about the assassination mission to Marvin.

She also said there was another expert, apparently named [Xiu], who was the only actual Assassin of their team.

Xiu's class was [Ace Assassin]. He was above level 18 and had the strength of a Half-Legend powerhouse.

If Marvin didn't join, Lorie intended to have these two people conduct the operation, but Marvin joining would increase the success rate of the mission.

After all, Kate had known about Marvin's Night Walker class, and its powerful assassination abilities weren't inferior to an Ace Assassin's.

As [Great Hero Marvin]'s number one fan, Lorie would definitely not miss those details.

...

They discussed in the lounge for a while, but the Assassin Xiu had yet to arrive.

Instead, another Knight arrived.

“Sir Robin, the thing you required is here. Young Lady Lorie said that you must be ready before 8 tonight.”

That Knight was holding a box in his hand and gently handed it over to Marvin.

Marvin’s heart skipped a beat!

This was the Golden Blood?!

Giving it to him in advance?

He excused himself to Daisy and returned to his room with the box.

After locking the room to ensure that no one would bother him, he opened it.

Inside the box was a container of liquid.

Once he opened the lid, a sweet fragrance spread out.

The portion of Golden Blood looked like golden water. It was definitely a worthy treasure.

It could purify a Sorcerer’s bloodline, and using it would help break through one’s bloodline limitations!

Marvin was moved. He opened his stats window and unhesitantly spent 23000 experience on Shapeshift Sorcerer!

Thus, his Shapeshift Sorcerer class reached level 5 and couldn’t be leveled again with experience.

Then, he gently brought the container to his lips and drank it down in one gulp.

The liquid entered his body.

Marvin began to feel heat.

A mysterious power kept spreading through his body. This was the same feeling as that time on the snow mountain.

Back then, he was unconscious when he awakened his Shapeshift Sorcerer class.

But this time, Marvin was completely clear-headed.

He could feel a mysterious power awakening in his body.

A series of logs flashed in front of him:

[With the help of some mysterious liquid, you broke through your bloodline limitations.]

[Your Shapeshift Sorcerer class broke through the 2nd rank, you automatically reached level 6 without spending experience.]

[Your class specialty Boundless Shapeshifting obtained a new shape...]

Marvin blinked in surprise. At level 6, Shapeshift Sorcerer surprisingly got a new shape!

Chapter 267: Diamond Can't Break!

Golden Blood was the safest treasure to break through bloodline limitations.

Apart from that intense sensation, Marvin didn't feel anything wrong.

With the help of the Golden Blood, his Shapeshift Sorcerer class reached level 6. Apart from that, his body also had some improvements due to his bloodline awakening.

His Constitution raised by a point, which was a pleasant surprise.

And he also obtained an increase of 145 HP!

This was fairly significant growth.

Marvin looked in the mirror and found that he was visibly stronger than he was in the past.

Naturally, this was physical change.

But the true change happened to the Shapeshift Sorcerer class.

2nd rank Shapeshift Sorcerers had a lot more spells, unlike the 1st rank, which only had [Charming Looks] (Temporarily increase Charisma by 2 points) and [Transforming Magic Cube] (Control type spell).

But these spells weren't mastered when Marvin advanced.

Five or six new spells appeared in the Shapeshift Sorcerer spell list but they were greyed out. This meant that he needed some time before he could use these powerful and effective spells!

Sorcerer was a peculiar class. Even if they spent their days just playing around, they would still automatically learn some spells.

This made all the other hard working classes, especially fighting classes, look at them with envy.

These spells might not be usable right now, but Marvin knew that they would soon come in handy.

The most important thing was still the Shapeshift Sorcerer's specialty [Boundless Shapeshifting]!

Before, Boundless Shapeshifting gave Marvin two shapes: Beast-shape and Shadow-shape.

After this advancement, it gained a third one!

[Boundless Shapeshifting – Diamond-shape]

[Description: Diamond-shape can only be activated for 8 seconds. No conflicts will occur with the Human-shape's skills.]

[Effect: Unbreakable Diamond]

[Negative Effect: After Diamond-shape ends, you'll have the weakness status for 24 hours.]

...

Marvin looked at the two words [Unbreakable Diamond] and almost went mad from joy!

This was a Monk's Half-Legend skill!

He hadn't expected Shapeshift Sorcerer to be able to get this effect.

[Unbreakable Diamond]: Immunity to all non-divine attacks, immunity to all fatal injuries, extreme resistance to all physical damage, extreme resistance to all magical damage!

The reason Monks were called "Real Men" in the game was this powerful undying skill!

Unless a god made a move, few could harm users of Unbreakable Diamond!

But the Unbreakable Diamond skill wasn't as heaven defying as Marvin's effect!

They had "High resistance to damage" while Marvin had "Extreme resistance to damage."

These were two totally different concepts.

But from another point of view, Monks' Unbreakable Diamond could last half a minute while Marvin's Diamond-shape could last only 8 seconds.

'This is the legendary false real man.' Marvin laughed at himself, but was still happy.

The Cridland's ancestor was really impressive to be able to take so many powerful abilities from the Archdevil Head.

...

Apart from Marvin gaining Diamond-shape, the other two shapes were also strengthened.

The Asuran Bear turned into a Fierce Asuran Bear!

This was a strengthened version of the Asuran Bear reaching a height of about 5 meters! It could be referred to as the Hegemon of the forest!

Common 4th rank powerhouses might not be a match for the Fierce Asuran Bear.

And his Shadow-shape also gained a few more spells.

But Marvin didn't have time to check it out before knocking sounds came from the door. "Sir Robin, everyone is here."

Everyone had arrived. It was time to start the operation.

...

In the lounge, the person in charge of explaining the mission was already there.

And Fiend Sorcerer Daisy and Ace Assassin Xiu were ready.

It was now 8 in the evening and the operation would start in an hour.

"Daisy has long distance teleportation abilities. She is crucial for getting past the enemy lines and returning back to Hope City."

"She will be tasked with sending both of you into the Dark Races' armies while Young Lady Lorie will be in charge of throwing off any possible skills that could notice you. You won't be found in the teleportation process."

"After arriving, it will be Sir Xiu and Sir Robin's turns to act."

“Tess has the strength of an Apostle, and she definitely has a lot of items and Divine Spells on her to protect her from assassination! I hope the two of you can work together...”

After telling them most of the content of the mission, the person in charge of the briefing let the three discuss on their own.

The outcome of the communication wasn't good at all.

Xiu was very arrogant, and in the whole process, he only spoke one line. “I kill my targets, so don't block my path,” he told Marvin.

Even though Daisy was usually good at mediating, she didn't know what to say when faced with this kind of situation.

Marvin actually didn't care.

What kind of people hadn't he seen in the past?

There were plenty of players more arrogant than Xiu. Was killing an Apostle that easy? If that guy wanted to give it a go and give Marvin the chance to study Tess, why would Marvin be against it?

He simply didn't bother to say anything.

The group of three ended up staying silent until the mission started.

...

Under the cover of the night, Lorie was still standing on the city wall, looking far into the distance.

She was checking the movements of the Dark Races.

This young girl had already stood there for more than ten hours. But she couldn't rest.

She was the hope of the city, and when looking at her back, they felt at ease.

“Young Lady Lorie, this matter feels a bit wrong.”

Head Knight Terry reported, “Sir Xiu... and Sir Robin... Apparently they aren't willing to work with each other?”

“Hmm?” Lorie didn't look very surprised. “Xiu is quite proud, him not wanting to work with others is quite normal.”

“But this kind of mission might be negatively affected...” Terry hesitated.

He was a bit doubtful whether they could work together after seeing Xiu and Robin’s attitudes when Daisy started the Teleportation Gate.

“It doesn’t matter, I believe in him.”

“He is a Great Hero,” Lorie said cheerfully.

Terry was stunned. He couldn’t understand what this Young Lady was saying.

...

Lion Town. The streets were in a mess.

Human corpses were everywhere.

There were still some Kobolds gnawing on some blood-dripping bones.

The entire Lion Town’s inhabitants had already turned into the rations of the Dark Races!

In the shadows, a sort of boundary appeared.

Three people appeared one after the other.

“Remember, you only have one hour.”

“After an hour, or if something too big happens, I’ll leave.”

Daisy warned, “Take care of everything quickly.”

Marvin nodded.

Xiu didn’t say anything and disappeared without a trace.

Marvin shrugged and also used Stealth before moving through the shadows toward the west side of Lion Town.

From what Lorie knew, the Dark Races were stationed in that direction.

Marvin firmly gripped his daggers, drew a deep breath and quickly entered his own rhythm.

‘Assassinating a Dark Elf Matriarch who is also an Apostle of the Black Dragon God... It truly makes one’s blood race...’

## Chapter 268: Assassination

Lion Town changed a lot after the Underdark's forces invaded.

The big Ankhegs turned this place into a bunch of tunnels and pits. The houses on the street were leaning at strange angles.

Because they had the protection from Shroud the Sun, the creatures from the Underdark weren't weakened as much. But they were still used to living in caves, not in humans' houses.

A spacious cave was dug under a small hill in the western part of Lion Town.

Bright light was emitting from the cave, and from time to time, a series of blood-curdling screams could be heard.

If your Listen skill was high enough, you could even hear the sounds of whipping.

Marvin listened from a distance and couldn't help but feel cold.

Even if he already knew Drows had bad characters, experiencing it himself was a bit different.

This was Tess' temporary dwelling, and was also used as a base of operations.

A squad of Dark Elves were guarding outside the cave, watching their surroundings meticulously.

This made it hard for Marvin to approach.

His Stealth was really high, but high level Drows had quite frightening Perception, and there were so many.

They could even notice the wind blowing on grass.

Even the more specialized Ace Assassin Xiu shouldn't be able to sneak past this group of Drows, not to mention a Ranger like Marvin.

They needed to find another way.

Although Marvin didn't know Xiu's location, he was convinced that guy had already made a move.

'Such a proud person, he probably can't wait to show his strength.'

'Tssk... Saying you don't need anyone's help. Then surely you won't mind people watching your show if they don't help?' Marvin sarcastically thought.

Even if Marvin was a loner before and he never liked collaborating with those overly proud players, he also wasn't that kind of person.

Having good skills could make someone arrogant? Baaaah!

Marvin stood there, not moving.

He knew he only needed to wait and the Ace Assassin would deal with this problem.

And just as expected, three minutes later, on a spacious street of Lion Town, two Fomorians suddenly appeared!

These two Fomorians were pretty fast. They were holding onto each other, surprisingly fighting!

They made quite a mess with their scuffle, and moreover, they were quickly approaching Tess' dwelling!

'Isn't that pretty clever?' Marvin thought, still sarcastically.

Marvin got a grasp of Xiu's abilities.

Quickly thinking of triggering a fight between two dumb Fomorians, and thus substantially diverting the Drows' attention, Xiu was really an expert.

The Fomorians' fight was so fierce and loud, it even slightly shook the earth nearby.

This greatly interfered with the Drows' vigil.

"Stop these two idiots!" a female Drow coldly ordered.

Immediately, four Dark Elven warriors rushed over and tried to separate the two Fomorians.

This kind of situation was a common occurrence. Fomorians were good fighters in wars, but they didn't know their place.

Few could restrain them if Lady Tess wasn't there.

The intelligence of this group of monsters was really too low, making it hard for them to use their brains and better suited at being ordered around.

...

Taking advantage of that chaotic moment, Marvin quietly moved forward into the cave.

Xiu definitely entered too.

But Marvin didn't know his location.

He cautiously advanced.

The cave was very deep and had many tunnels and rooms.

He followed the increasingly louder whipping sounds and finally found Tess.

Inside a wide cave, two dark elves were naked and tied to a copper pillar. They were suffering from the Dark Elven Matriarch's whipping!

She took off her mysterious gown and was completely naked!

She then put on a pair of snakeskin gloves while anger practically rushed out of her eyes!

"Useless!"

"You didn't even find Raven!"

"The manpower I gave you was wiped out and you didn't even bring me back a body! How do you want me to explain this to his Highness, the Great Dragon God!"

The more she talked, the angrier she got. She rushed over and kicked a male Dark Elf's certain place.

The latter wailed.

Tess was actually wearing high-heeled shoes!

Marvin looked away, feeling a burst of cold in his lower body!

But he was even more shocked by Tess' words.

'Could Raven be related to the Black Dragon God? Otherwise, why would Tess care so much about her?'

Marvin stayed calm and kept to the shadows.

Xiu was apparently being just as patient.

After a while, Tess seemed to grow weary of scolding and surprisingly released those two male Dark Elves.

She lazily laid down on a gently inclined bed and coldly ordered, "Come. You two, if you can satisfy me today, I'll spare your lives."

The two Dark Elves looked at each other in dismay and rushed over!

...

However, at that time, some fluctuation appeared in the air.

Marvin noticed, Xiu was making his move!

Light flashed in his eyes.

That guy had waited enough.

A shadow twisted and penetrated through the body of a Dark Elf, attacking Tess!

Ace Assassin unique skill [Shadow Pierce]!

It could pierce through the Shadow Plane in an instant to land in front of the target!

This skill was characterized by its direct nature. It could only pierce in a straight line, but it had an extremely high speed!

The next second, a frightening straight dagger ruthlessly flew.

Tess completely hadn't expected an Assassin to be in her own cave!

A group of Dark Elves with extremely high perception were standing guard outside!

However, as the Black Dragon God's Apostle, she naturally had her own life-saving method.

During this matter of life or death, Tess forcefully moved and chanted something.

A great amount of Divine Power rose up from her body and formed a powerful barrier.

She simply used Divine Power to protect her body.

Ordinary weapons couldn't break this defense.

But since Xiu dared to come assassinate a God's Apostle, he obviously made proper preparations.

His straight dagger had a trace of red light on it.

The dagger directly pierced through the Divine Power protecting Tess' body and stabbed into her chest!

Fatal Injury!

Deadly Poison!

Tess' complexion immediately turned ash green!

A complacent smile appeared on Xiu's face.

'A weapon against Divine Power, truly unexpected.'

'Worthy of an Ace Assassin...'

Marvin was also a bit surprised.

But then, a black aura flashed through Tess' face.

That was the Black Dragon God's power!

Xiu's expression seemed somewhat unpleasant. He didn't wait for Tess to counterattack and immediately disappeared!

Tess struggled on the bed. Her wound was still bleeding, but it looked like she didn't feel it.

Her eyes were full of hatred.

If not for the Black Dragon God bestowing her the [Major Regeneration] ability, she might have been killed by this Assassin.

She was about to order people to look for that Assassin, but who could have guessed that two shadows would suddenly appear and knock against each other!

Xiu was thrown on the ground with a pitiful appearance. He had just used an escape ability but it was interrupted by someone out of the blue.

However, Tess yelled aloud, overjoyed.

"Raven!"

Chapter 269: Black Dragon

Raven's appearance disturbed Xiu's tempo!

He was originally going to pretend to escape and then wait until Tess relaxed, before attacking once again.

Even if she was the Black Dragon God's Apostle with superior recovery ability, he was still 99% sure that he could kill her!

He hadn't expected that he would suddenly be attacked by this Dark Elf.

Where did this Dark Elf come from?

Merely an instant had passed between his sneak attack and him preparing to escape.

That Drow's perception was that high? To be able to catch him with such good timing?

Xiu felt a bit depressed, but Tess didn't wait for him to recover before rushing over.

Divine Spell – Imprison!

Xiu was immediately confined inside a pitch-black prison.

He couldn't even move!

This was the power of the Black Dragon God. Mortals simply couldn't face it.

Desperate, he could only use his ultimate self preservation skill!

His body suddenly turned to dust and flew out in the darkness.

Tess didn't have time to use another Divine Spell before Xiu condensed his body.

He then disappeared once again.

But he really left the cave this time!

...

In a dark alley, Xiu pitifully appeared next to the Fiend Sorcerer Daisy.

The latter's expression fell. "Failure?"

Xiu's face was still cloudy as he nodded. "Let's go!"

“Hold on. What about Robin?” Daisy asked in surprise.

“I don’t know!” Xiu cruelly said, “I already said I didn’t want others to work with me, and that guy hasn’t appeared since we split up.”

“In other words, you failed your attempt but Mister Robin has yet to expose himself?” Daisy calmly analyzed, “Then we still have a chance.”

Xiu angrily answered, “Are you crazy? You want to wait for him here?”

“Even a god’s Apostle is unable to interrupt my teleportation spell,” Daisy calmly said. “I haven’t lost confidence, and it isn’t the time yet. The mission hasn’t completely failed, thus it is reasonable to keep waiting.”

“They will use all their manpower to search Lion Town!” Xiu bellowed in a low voice. “Listen, I don’t care about that Robin. How about you take me out of here, this place is very dangerous!”

Daisy sneered, “An Ace Assassin only has this much courage?”

“Could it be that you think those ordinary Drows can see through my hidden spell?”

Xiu grit his teeth!

He was only an ordinary Ace Assassin, and couldn’t leave Lion Town without Daisy’s help.

If Daisy didn’t leave, he could only wait!

Roughly twenty minutes later.

A strong whistling sound could be heard in the sky above Lion Town.

They looked up and saw a huge silhouette flying in the sky!

Daisy and Xiu exclaimed in fright, “Black Dragon!”

“Go!” Xiu said angrily.

Daisy bit her lips and opened the Teleportation Gate immediately, letting the two of them escape!

...

Hope City.

“What? The mission failed?”

“And you both returned?”

“What about Mar... Robin?”

Lorie’s mood wasn’t good.

She looked at the two so-called experts, their faces full of fear. This was the natural reaction of humans toward Dragons!

That was Dragon Might.

It could scare two 4th rank experts into running away without fighting!

After the girl listened to Daisy’s report, her expression was gloomier. “In other words, the mission has yet to fail and you left Sir Robin in Lion Town?”

“It’s not like that.” Daisy forced a smile. “Robin...”

The originally silent Xiu suddenly opened his mouth. “The appearance of a Black Dragon already exceeded the mission’s level.”

“The mission I was assigned was to kill an Apostle. I recognize my failure, but that Robin definitely won’t succeed!”

“Moreover, Black Dragon Clark<sup>1</sup> appeared in Lion Town! He is the son of the Black Dragon God. His abilities exceed that of an ordinary Black Dragon!”

“I don’t want the mission reward. With a Black Dragon there, how could the assassination be successful?”

Xiu seemed very vexed.

And he had reason to be vexed. As an outstanding expert, he had made a promise, and the outcome of the assassination attempt made him lose face. Now that he had returned, fleeing with his tail between his legs because of a Black Dragon, he had failed to live up to the expectations of a Half-Legend.

Especially since he left a member of his team behind. This made him very worried.

“You are wrong.”

Lorie coldly watched Xiu. “The Apostle you failed to kill... Sir Robin will kill her.”

“As for the Black Dragon, it might be something you can’t overcome, but that might not necessarily be the case for others.”

Daisy and Xiu both looked at Lorie with shock.

The young girl’s words were simply unreasonable!

Even if that Robin really had skill, and something like a Druid Assassin might sound really cool, but how could it be better than an Ace Assassin when it came to assassination?

After this attempt, Tess would increase her vigilance. Robin simply wouldn’t have a chance!

As for the Black Dragon, the little girl didn’t even know the difference between heaven and earth.

Not everyone was a Fate Sorceress like Jessica!

Did she think that Robin and her older sister were equally terrifying?

...

Xiu coldly declared, “If that Robin kills Tess, I’ll do three assassination missions for the Three Sisters, free of charge. And if he gets rid of the Black Dragon, I’ll work for you for three years!”

After saying this, he left without looking back.

Daisy stood there awkwardly. “Young Lady Lorie, we really...”

“No need to say that again.” Lorie looked calm. “You worked hard, go rest. A Black Dragon truly isn’t something that just anyone can fight.”

Daisy nodded and left the city wall.

After the two people left, Ding came out from behind Lorie.

The young girl immediately flew into a rage!

She firmly grabbed Ding’s fleshy face and pinched it as hard as she could.

She pinched while muttering loudly, “How could they leave Sir Marvin by himself in such a dangerous place!”

“No good, I’ll go rescue him!”

A fanatical light flashed through Lorie's eyes.

"I must rescue Sir Marvin!"

Ding painfully howled, "Why do you sisters like to pinch my face when you worry!?"

Lorie shook Ding as if she didn't hear her. "Go, go, go!"

"Gimme ten points of Luck, I will single-handedly storm into Lion Town!"

The Fortune Fairy looked at her. "Ten points?! Do you want me to die?!"

Giving blessings would use up the Fortune Fairy's strength.

Despite her being an incarnation of a Fate Tablet's fragment, she couldn't just bless as she wanted. One point of Luck was already the limit.

Lorie asking for ten was definitely going after her life!

Suddenly, a clear cold voice echoed behind her, "Lorie, don't make trouble."

"Ding is still small, she can't excessively overdraft her power!"

A woman who looked extremely similar to Lorie walked over and arrived at her side.

Lorie was overjoyed. "Big Sis!"

Jessica slightly nodded, and an angry look soon appeared on her face. "The Black Dragon God is really too despicable. He made Clark divert my attention and then stealthily launched a surprise attack on the surface!"

"He even sent a projection to protect Clark, and even though I crushed it, it allowed Clark to run away. Truly annoying!"

After saying this, she couldn't help but snatch Ding from Lorie's hands.

After pinching her face out of habit, she looked at Ding hopefully. "Increase my Luck by ten points and I'll single-handedly kill the Black Dragon God."

...

Half an hour ago, inside a cave in Lion Town.

Xiu escaped, but Raven stayed.

Tess was pleasantly surprised, but she started questioning Raven's previous whereabouts first, as Dark Elves were very mistrustful.

Raven's reply was flawless.

"I was held captive by a powerful human and only recently was able to find an opportunity to turn the tables."

"He apparently has a very important secret, so I didn't rashly kill him. But regardless of how much I punished him, he didn't say a word."

"This secret seems to have something to do with the Source of Fire's Order, but I'm unclear about the specifics. I believe only someone with your abilities can solve this problem."

Tess slightly nodded. "Good, I'll personally interrogate that human."

"But before that, I have to test your belief toward the Black Dragon God!"

Dark Elves were very paranoid, and Tess was clearly a good example.

With Raven reappearing after disappearing for so long, she couldn't believe her right away.

Raven was perfectly composed.

Tess opened her hands and chanted a few sentences, casting a simple [Distinguish Faith].

There was no issue with Raven.

Tess finally relaxed.

Raven's faith in the Black Dragon God was still extremely firm.

This scene naturally made Marvin laugh inwardly.

What was the Book of Nalu? It was an artifact written by the God of Deception using his sweat and blood!

Don't even mention the insignificant Apostle Tess; even if it was the Black Dragon God himself using Distinguish Faith, he also would obtain that same result.

This was the powerful ability of the Book of Nalu, with its halo of deception.

...

“I locked that man in a warehouse on the plain, how about we bring a team of guards and go there?” Raven suggested.

Tess nodded. She was different from the other Underdark’s Races. As a God Apostle, she knew a lot more.

The importance of the Source of Fire’s Order was clear.

The two immediately left the cave and took a small team of Dark Elves as they quietly left Lion Town.

Soon, they arrived at an abandoned warehouse.

“That person is inside.” Raven pointed at the back door of the warehouse.

“Wait outside, without our order, don’t allow anyone in.”

The other Dark Elves immediately scattered and started cautiously checking their surroundings.

Tess and Raven entered the warehouse together.

Tess just pushed open the door when a black dagger slashed across her neck!

Caught off-guard, Tess’ head immediately fell to the ground!

She didn’t even have time to let out a sound before falling on the ground.

Raven gently closed the back door.

Marvin came out of the shadows, relaxed and pleased, ‘I didn’t expect that killing an Apostle would be so easy.’

‘Seems like the Black Dragon God didn’t care too much about her. Such a fragile Apostle, shouldn’t she get at least a few more applications of Major Regeneration?’

Marvin kicked Tess’ head.

But suddenly a frightening Dragon’s roar echoed from Lion Town.

“Who!”

“Who killed my father’s Apostle?!”

“Despicable murderer, I see you!”

Marvin's expression suddenly changed, 'Clark!'

'Run!'

---

T/N: Clarke was changed to Clark (his gender was only mentioned three times. She -> He -> He, this chapter being the third and confirming it.)

ED/N: But Clarke's a gender neutral name so it didn't need changing, right?

Chapter 270: Opportunity

The roaring Dragon's voice burst out from Lion Town and even reached Hope City!

Lorie showed a happy expression atop the city wall!

"He succeeded!"

"Woosh! Woosh!"

Two shadows flashed over.

Ace Assassin Xiu, and Fiend Sorceress Daisy.

The two were looking toward Lion Town with disbelief.

That Robin was actually that strong?

He managed to get rid of the Black Dragon God's Apostle even after Xiu made a mistake?

Xiu also couldn't believe this!

But this information came out of Black Dragon Clark's mouth, he couldn't question it!

Tess died!

She died at the hands of an amateur Assassin, which made Xiu feel ashamed.

Thinking of this, his face felt hot.

He clenched his teeth in frustration. "He truly succeeded."

“Thus, I’ll honor my promise! I’ll do three missions for the [Three Sisters], free of charge.”

Daisy also had a strange expression on her face.

It wasn’t that the Fiend Sorcerer wasn’t optimistic about Marvin’s abilities, but among the 4th rank advanced classes, Ace Assassin was definitely the most suitable for assassination.

She thought that the unfathomable Robin should be able to safely return, but she didn’t expect that he would truly kill Tess!

And in just half an hour!

The time they’d planned for the mission wasn’t even up yet!

In Hope City, news that the Black Dragon God’s Apostle had died immediately started spreading.

The morale went up, and they saw hope.

Even the Black Dragon God’s Apostle could be killed; was there anything impossible for Hope City?

On the city wall, only Jessica remained calm. “What’s the situation?”

“Who did you send to assassinate the Black Dragon God’s Apostle?”

Lorie’s eyes were fanatical. “The Great Hero, Sir Marvin.”

“Marvin?” Daisy and Xiu froze. “Isn’t it Robin?”

“Aaaah.... This doesn’t matter, Tess already died.”

The young girl noticed her slip of the tongue and hurriedly tried to change the subject.

The Fiend Sorcerer and Ace Assassin were skeptical. They had also seen the rumored [Magic Marvin], but Robin looked completely different!

Only Jessica’s expression turned grave. “No good.”

“It would have been good if it was earlier, when I was still entangled with Clark. There are no powerhouses among the Dark Races stronger than Tess.”

“But now, not only has Black Dragon Clark returned, he has also found some helpers to attack Rocky Mountain.”

“That assassin is in danger!”

Lorie worried aloud, “We have to save him.”

Daisy took a deep breath. “I’ll go back.”

But there were still traces of fear in her eyes.

That was fear of Dragons.

“No need!” Jessica waved her hand. “I’ll go there!”

Saying this, she floated up, looking toward Lion Town.

“I’ll go with you!”

Ding laboriously flew up. She was then grabbed by Jessica and the two sped toward the darkness!

...

Just as the Dragon’s words burst out, an illusion appeared in front of Marvin.

He saw a huge Dragon’s head, coldly watching him.

Like the Black Dragon said...

‘He saw me!’

Marvin felt cold.

Black Dragon Clark was the son of the Black Dragon God on Feinan, and was linked to Tess in many ways.

After Marvin killed Tess, not only did he earn countless amounts of experience, but he also automatically absorbed a bit of Divinity!

This shocked Marvin. By relying on this Divinity, if Tess had worked hard, she would have eventually become a Legend, and possibly even a Half-God!

Absorbing this Divinity didn’t affect Marvin’s six main stats.

But it increased his resistances. His resistance to dark magic for example, and his resistance to poison.

Some other benefits were invisible.

That False Divine Vessel<sup>1</sup> Endless Ocean gifted him, could at most stock up five parts of Divinity and could contain Divinity from different sources.

Marvin's Divinities came from plundering his enemies. First was the World Ending Twin Snakes, and now was the Black Dragon God, the most vicious in this generation.

But even if Divinities were good things, they were linked in countless ways.

This was why Clark was able to notice Tess' killer, Marvin.

Clark should already be on his way!

With the Black Dragon's flying speed, it would at most take three minutes before reaching this warehouse.

Thus, he'd better run first.

...

Marvin and Raven left from two different exits.

When the roaming Dark Elves heard the Black Dragon's shouts, they were very surprised and hurriedly rushed to the warehouse.

But Marvin had expected this.

He and Raven easily avoided them and then removed Stealth to burst in a mad sprint.

Of course, the direction Marvin sprinted was toward Hope City!

Raven followed Marvin's order and went to roam around the plain.

After all, she currently had no place to go. The Dark Elves should already know of her betrayal, and the humans couldn't possibly accept a Dark Elf!

As Marvin was quickly hurrying forward, he also didn't forget to take the cloth covering with [Weeping Sky] wrapped inside out of that special storage item!

Since Marvin rescued the young deers, Lorant didn't bother him about it and directly gifted it to him.

Marvin was well prepared for tonight!

If it didn't go well, he would fight.

Black Dragons' strength was on the low side of the Chromatic Dragons, but Clark was different, because he was the son of the Black Dragon God. Fighting against him directly was definitely not a good idea.

But Marvin knew that support would soon arrive.

'Lorie already said that Jessica was pursuing Clark.'

'The roar of that little Black Dragon would definitely be heard by the Fate Sorceress, and she would definitely catch up.'

'When the time comes, hmph...'

Marvin was carrying the rifle on his back, and he already started making calculations while running!

Dragon Slaying was something that one couldn't get tired of!

He remembered the thrill of shooting off the head of the Red Dragon on that peak!

He didn't even know that pitiful Red Dragon's name.

And Black Dragon Clark was certainly a lot stronger than that Red Dragon.

If he could get rid of him, he would not only harvest a huge amount of battle exp, but also get even more benefits!

Thinking of this, Marvin was fired up.

But his reason kept reminding him that he couldn't take care of him alone. Even if he could ignore Dragon Might, he was still a 4th rank!

Slaying such a Dragon alone before reaching Legend rank was just a dream.

He couldn't even resist Dragon's Breath. A casual claw attack could break Marvin into pieces!

He still had to be careful.

At that time, a thundering roar echoed through the sky, "Lowly ant, you can't escape!"

Marvin's heart tightened, it was Clark!

But almost at the same time, a prideful voice answered, "Ugly lizard, you can't escape!"

Marvin immediately felt relieved!

He turned around and tightly held his rifle, as a hint of excitement flashed through his eyes.

The opportunity had come!

---

T/Change: Divine Vessel is the container – Divinity is the strange to imagine power.

Chapter 271: Sacrifice

T/N: Clarke (female). Explanation in the thoughts

---

Jessica's speed was incomparable, having used a Legend flying skill!

Marvin looked at that small figure who had rushed toward the huge Black Dragon and remained silent.

Perhaps only those with the halo of a Fate Sorceress, those children of the plane, could dare do something like this?

What made it even funnier was that facing that small figure, the Black Dragon was absolutely terrified!

Clarke suddenly opened her wings and crazily flapped them in Jessica's direction.

This created strong winds!

The winds even reached Marvin's location on the plain, and formed a sort of hurricane, blowing Marvin nearly a kilometer away!

Fortunately he was very nimble and managed to keep his footing by using all kinds of Night Walker's skills.

It was such a frightening gale, able to put Marvin in such a difficult situation even when he wasn't the target.

It clearly showed how powerful the winds that Jessica was facing were!

But Marvin saw that the winds didn't break the Fate Sorceress' flying technique.

She was only stopped for a moment, as a light cyan color flashed around her body!

Null Wind Element Boundary.

This was the nemesis of Wizards who focused their training on Wind-type magic!

Seven colors flashed around Jessica's body as a smile appeared on her face.

But this smile looked like the smile of a Demon in the eyes of Clarke!

Fate power!

The delicate woman was like a meteor, directly smashing against the Black Dragon's head!

The latter staggered and completely lost her balance, falling head first on the plain!

Some "wuwu" wailing noises could be heard.

The Black Dragon's fall crushed who knew how many people of the Dark Races!

The seven-colored Jessica was like a god. Her move was totally unlike a Sorcerer's, looking more like a Monk's!

Admittedly, apart from Inheim, Marvin hadn't seen a Monk that could be able to toy with Black Dragon Clarke!

Yet, he saw her grab the Black Dragon's neck and do a shoulder throw!

Her appearance really belied her power, her body looking unsuitable for a melee fighter.

The entire city wall was already filled with people.

Even if they couldn't see Jessica clearly, they could see that seven-colored radiance.

That light shone through all of Rocky Mountain. It was this unequalled woman who overpowered the chaos of Rocky Mountain, step by step.

She was the one who brought order, not allowing anyone to cause destruction and discord.

Her opponent was even a god's descendant!

The seven-colored halo was ravaging the Black Dragon. Everyone in Hope City was overjoyed while the Dark Races' side remained silent!

They were completely stunned .

The humans from the World Above actually had this kind of powerful expert?

The great Black Dragon Clarke who was a leading figure in the Underdark... was actually getting beat up by a delicate woman...? It was too surreal.

Clarke's angry roar grew increasingly louder. She had always been known as a Black Dragon unequalled in battle, but was now getting beat up by a small dainty human woman.

This made Clarke lose face, but she didn't have an alternative.

In the previous fight, she had already tasted this Fate Sorceress' strength.

If she kept fighting, she was bound to taste defeat.

The Fate Sorceress was truly an existence that was beyond the laws of the world.

A shadow was suddenly spit out of Clarke's mouth.

Jessica looked at that shadow and her face turned green. She wanted to press the attack, but Ding's voice echoed next to her ear.

"Move! The Black Dragon God's projection is descending!"

"Your Fate Sorceress strength isn't enough!"

Jessica ruthlessly kicked the Black Dragon, sending her 400 meters away in one breath.

The Black Dragon looked so pitiful after the ravaging. But a vague shadow shoot down from the sky.

"Lowly human, you dare to injure my blood."

"Ptui!"

Jessica returned to flying in the air, coldly looking at that shadow. "Do you even know how to say anything else?"

"Lowly human this, lowly human that, could it be that you don't remember this lowly human destroyed one of your projections earlier?"

The vague shadow raged, "You dare..."

But he was mercilessly interrupted by Jessica. "Well, today I feel pretty good, so I'll let you off for the time being. Beating you and cooking you to eat Dragon meat when I'm in a bad mood would be pretty good too!"

After saying this, the seven-colored halo surrounded Jessica and Ding as they quickly returned to Hope City.

As Ding said, her power as a Fate Sorceress was a bit lacking. Exterminating a Black Dragon was a bit strenuous, let alone along with a projection of the Black Dragon God.

But Jessica's display truly made Clarke and the Black Dragon God apprehensive. The two looked at each other, and didn't have any thoughts of pursuing.

And Marvin could only stand under the walls of Hope City, silently putting away [Weeping Sky].

It's not like he would be successful every time.

Welp, there could always be next time. The matter of Jessica tearing a Dragon apart should happen sooner or later. He only had to wait until her strength reached that stage and then he would have plenty of opportunity to steal that Dragon's head during the fight.

...

Back in Lion Town, Black Dragon Clarke turned to a Human-shape, a curvy and big breasted woman.

On her face there were some bruises.

That was all done by Jessica.

"Father..." She used the Ancient God language to communicate to the shadow, "The Fate Sorceress' power is stronger than we imagined. If we don't kill her, we won't be able to attack Rocky Mountain!"

That shadow stayed silent for a moment, apparently ignoring Clarke's attempt at speaking the Ancient God language. He took the initiative to reply in Common, "My projection isn't sufficient to kill her, you have to summon my avatar!"

"But the Universe Magic Pool blocks everything," Clarke muttered gloomily, "and since that waste of a Shadow Prince lost the Time Molt, the gods' avatars can't enter Feinan, you said so yourself."

"No need to summon the entire avatar," the shadow said malevolently. "You only need to summon one claw."

"Come, let's do a sacrifice."

...

“You are Marvin?”

Hope City, inside the Three Sisters’ castle.

Jessica was leisurely sizing Marvin up.

“Here I am called Robin.” Marvin slightly smiled. He still hadn’t taken off his Disguise.

The name Marvin was too famous recently, and would attract attention in every city.

Sometimes, it’s better to be low-key.

“It doesn’t matter whether you are Marvin or Robin. You being able to kill the Black Dragon God’s Apostle, Tess, surprised me greatly.”

Jessica continued sharply, “But you deceived my sister’s feelings! This is something I can’t let pass!”

Marvin was stunned. “I deceived her how?”

Jessica sneered, “Do you know how precious a portion of Golden Blood is? That was something I risked my life for, and Tess’ life is far from being worth the Golden Blood.”

“Lorie is very kind, but she isn’t a fool. You definitely used some trick to deceive her into giving you that portion of Golden Blood!”

“Tell me, what do you think should be done.”

Marvin remained silent.

No wonder Rocky Mountain’s Boss looked for him and said they had some private matter to discuss. It was in fact because of this!

He forced a smile. “Miss Jessica, maybe you misunderstood something. This deal itself was suggested by Lorie.”

Jessica’s eyebrows twitched. “I don’t care, you taking the Golden Blood was taking advantage of my sister.”

“I believe the world’s Great Hero Marvin isn’t someone that cheap.”

Marvin rolled his eyes. “Be straightforward, what are you after?”

Jessica mischievously smiled as her eyes seemed to penetrate Marvin’s body. “Let me borrow your weapon.”

Marvin coldly snorted.

Turns out she was after the Dragon Slayer rifle!

Indeed, with Weeping Sky, Jessica's strength would be heaven defying. Slaying Clarke would take a matter of minutes.

But even without the rifle, Jessica could already completely bully Clarke in a one on one.

Marvin didn't know when Jessica noticed his discreet actions, but he definitely wouldn't hand that treasure over to others that easily.

"You are very powerful, but if you show the entire world that the Dragon Slayer rifle is in your hands, Dragons would join hands to attack Hope City."

"Moreover, Black Dragon Clarke isn't the biggest problem of Hope City, right?"

"The Black Dragon God's projection is."

Marvin attentively watched Jessica. "Your Fate Sorceress power isn't infinite, you can't do anything against them one versus two."

Jessica coldly snorted, remaining silent.

Marvin's words were right. Even if the Dragon Slaying rifle was handy, using it would bring even more troubles.

If she used Weeping Sky to slay the Black Dragon, it wouldn't be long before plenty of Ancient Chromatic Dragons would group up together against Hope City.

This wasn't a situation she wanted to see.

"This treasure is something I don't dare to rashly use. But the good news is that I am currently Robin."

Marvin assured with a smile, "If the Black Dragon dares to invade Hope City, I'll act at a suitable time and settle the issue for you."

Before Jessica could reply, the door to the meeting room was suddenly pushed open!

Lorie hurriedly rushed in. "No good. They are doing a sacrifice!"

"What?" Jessica suddenly stood up.

Lorie explained, "I just saw them wantonly massacring people from various races, even some from the Underdark's races."

"The smell of blood is very heavy. This is a very rarely seen technique, and through sacrifice they can open a temporary passage."

"If i'm not wrong, they want to summon the Black Dragon God's... avatar's Claw!"

Jessica's complexion became ashen. "We have to immediately wreck it!"

"There is no time." Lorie was very worried. "The Black Dragon God's summoned a [Heavenly Observer]. The entire Lion Town is under his supervision. Your Fate's strength isn't enough to forcefully break through."

Jessica angrily clenched her fists.

But at that time, Marvin composedly stood up.

"I have a way."

Chapter 272: Wasteland of Death

Before the Universe Magic Pool shattered, regardless of how powerful the gods were, they couldn't directly send an avatar to Feinan.

It was also because of this that they couldn't show their "miracles" anywhere other than the secondary planes and had to develop their believers there.

That, along with the firm Wizard Rule, led to the current situation in Feinan. Few people had faith in gods.

Of course, there were still some believers in some areas.

For example, the Silver God and the Craftsman God were different because they didn't need to display miracles, as they would gain faith anyways.

But most gods weren't known, or more precisely, the masses didn't know clearly about their existences.

This was the reason they wanted to attack the Universe Magic Pool.

The New Gods from the 3rd Era that originally came from Feinan but couldn't even send an avatar there were understandably very annoyed.

But the Universe Magic Pool didn't cut off every method.

There were always some loopholes, and Ancient Gods like the Black Dragon God knew more of those secrets.

Sacrifice was one of these.

Sacrifices weren't well understood, but after so many years of development, all kinds of frequent sacrificial ceremonies have been demonized by the masses. Even erudite casters didn't necessarily know the true nature of sacrifice.

But Marvin knew.

Sacrifice was a kind of trade, sacrificing a life to obtain more power. This was the essence of sacrifice.

The Black Dragon God's projection and Clarke worked together to prepare an ancient ritual that would temporarily open a small passage.

This passage would link to the Astral Sea beyond the Universe Magic Pool, and even if it wasn't big enough for the Black Dragon God's avatar, it was more than enough for a claw.

Marvin knew that they definitely couldn't underestimate that claw.

The Black Dragon God wasn't a god on the same level as the Shadow Prince. He was a lot more powerful.

If this avatar's claw fused with the projection, then even Jessica might not be a match for it!

It looked like they really wanted to conquer Rocky Mountain!

However, interrupting the ritual was actually very simple because the entire process required a medium.

...

"... The medium is the Black Dragon God's scale."

"Clarke spat out a shadow when she summoned the projection, and inside it was the Black Dragon God's scale."

"It's also because of this that his projection could accurately descend at that location in Feinan. The scale is like a plane mark, leading the path for the projection."

Facing two of the three sisters, Marvin told them with assurance, "Now, they are holding a ritual in the same way."

"As long as you destroy that scale, the Black Dragon God would lose the plane mark and nothing else could leave enough energy to link to the God Realms, not even his projection."

Jessica calmly pointed out, "You've said so much, but you haven't settled the issue. How do we destroy the Black Dragon God's scale?"

Lorie's expression was filled with expectation. "I believe Sir Marvin certainly has a way."

Marvin gently smiled.

Since he stood and said all this, he naturally had a way.

In any case, this trip to Rocky Mountain had already been delayed for so long that he couldn't get to the Source of Fire's Order immediately after the meteors fell. It would be better to take advantage of the Underdark Army attacking Hope City to make more profits.

The previous portion of Golden Blood made Marvin realize that the Three Sisters were very wealthy.

"Plane marks can't be casually moved. Moving it would very likely cause the avatar's descent to be temporarily offset. Thus, they would definitely put it in a well hidden location while carefully protecting it."

"In fact, finding it isn't too big of an issue. If I'm not wrong, Lorie, you should be able to, right?"

Marvin looked toward the little girl.

The latter pretended to be calm as she nodded, her heart still betraying her as it beat increasingly faster.

She had the ability to see through many things, or else she wouldn't have been able to see that sacrifice in Lion Town from the city wall.

Having her look for a Dragon's scale wasn't too much of an issue.

"The issue lies in how to destroy it."

Jessica considered the situation patiently. "You just heard that the Black Dragon God summoned a [Heavenly Observer], Lion Town is completely under his sight. If an outsider entered, he would definitely issue a signal."

“Well, my own strength would indeed be insufficient.”

Marvin looked at Jessica, replying, “I have a way to secretly destroy the Dragon’s scale.”

The two sisters’ eyes shone. “What way?”

Marvin calmly said, “Give me two days, I’ll definitely destroy that scale.”

“But destroying the Dragon’s scale would definitely make Clarke and the Black Dragon God extremely angry. A battle would be unavoidable.”

Jessica hurriedly assured, “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely protect you.”

Marvin shook his head with a smile before revealing a sharp expression. “No. I only need you to help block the Black Dragon to give me a chance to shoot it down.”

...

Jessica finally ended up being convinced by Marvin’s plan.

Since this matter couldn’t be delayed, Marvin immediately bid farewell to the two sisters and left Hope City under the cover of the night.

Their sacrificial ritual would definitely need three to five days, while Marvin should be able to deal with it in two days.

The Heavenly Observer was a very troublesome lifeform, but with him there, the Black Dragons would end up lowering their vigilance.

There weren’t many things that could hide from an Heavenly Observer in this world, but there was that one thing.

Marvin knew that it was hidden in an underground palace.

It was in the desolate plains in the northern part of Rocky Mountain, a region known as the Wasteland of Death.

There, death could be felt all around. Skeletons and ghosts were everywhere. It was also linked to the Saint Desert in the east, while there was a huge sea to the west.

Further north, a succession of cities spread across the Pompo Seashore.

That was the South Wizard Alliance’ western headquarters.

Marvin’s destination was an abandoned castle in the west of the Wasteland of Death.

It was occupied by a group of Vampires that weren't very friendly to humans.

Usually, not many people were willing to go to such a god forsaken place.

...

The new moon was hidden by the black clouds as a lonely shadow appeared on the wilderness.

Not far away, an abandoned castle could be seen.

Marvin took a deep look at the castle.

'Finally found it. [Eriksson's Brooch] should still be there.'

Chapter 273: Ancient Castle Tulip

Ancient Castle Tulip.

A castle forgotten by history. Pampo Seashore's inhabitants might have already forgotten that there was once a flourishing territory here.

The castle was established on a cliff by the seashore, towering over the sea.

This ancient castle had once been covered with tulips brought from the east, both inside and outside. This was because the wife of the ancient castle's Lord was most fond of tulips. That was where the castle got its name.

But a sudden disaster ended this territory, leaving it in ruins. It gradually became part of the Wasteland of Death, a desolate area that no one was interested in.

Apart from the lighthouse near the seashore and the dilapidated pier, this place didn't have any signs of its former splendor.

It was purely an abandoned castle.

Marvin hadn't come to this castle before, but he had seen some videos in the forums and thus knew some things about it. He was the kind of player that would remember any bit of lore he learnt about.

...

'Regardless of how glorious it once was, now there are only some unscrupulous Vampires here.'

'When the Ancient Castle Tulip was released, the most powerful member of the Blood Race was only a Vampire Marquis and there was no trace of a Vampire Duke,' thought Marvin as he quietly sneaked into the ancient castle using Stealth.

A Vampire Duke was equivalent to the Legend realm, while a Vampire Marquis had a 4th rank class holder's strength and was at the same realm as Marvin.

He quietly walked past the castle's wooden path, and apart from two ordinary crows, Marvin saw no lifeforms.

Perhaps most of the Vampires were asleep.

A few might be awake, but they would be driven by their urges and rush north to hunt.

It has to be known that the Vampires occupying this castle and the ones Marvin met in the Deathly Silent Hills were different.

The Vampires in the Deathly Silent Hills were part of the Bright Side and they could be said to have friendly relations with humans. They would only drink the blood they needed and wouldn't willfully slaughter innocents. The Vampires living in Ancient Castle Tulip were different, part of the Dark Side. They always regarded themselves at the greatest race in Feinan, and would not only massacre and hunt down humans, but also do it to every other race, spreading panic everywhere.

In other words, Marvin had no intention to be lenient with this group of Vampires.

Even if he was in Stealth, the equipment he was wearing felt a bit out of place.

A pair of curved daggers at his waist, and the pair of pistols he got from Constantine, [Astaroth] and [Satan], on the sides of his thighs. These names weren't random. They were the names of an Archdevil and a Demon Lord.

He was carrying a shotgun on his shoulders and he had switched the Sha's bullets for special silver bullets.

If he was unfortunate enough to encounter any Vampires, it would be hard to avoid battle.

Marvin was already prepared.

It's just that Ancient Castle Tulip was more desolate than Marvin expected.

He quietly passed through a hole in a wall as cold wind blew everywhere, but there was still no sign of any Vampires.

He knew most Vampires were hibernating in the depths of the castle. If there weren't any in the surroundings of Ancient Castle Tulip, then he was lucky... or perhaps the Vampires were.

Because he didn't need to go deep in the castle.

From what he remembered, the entrance to the underground palace was in one of the side corridors of the castle hall.

Marvin calmly reached the hall entrance.

But he was surprised to hear a faint singing voice coming from a door covered in spider webs.

Marvin raised his vigilance!

...

A warm light could be seen coming from the room. Marvin approached to take a glance and was shocked!

Because the hall was actually filled with people!

Bright light came from the chandelier, illuminating the entire room.

A group of nobles wearing clothes from the Pamposh Seashore were dancing elegantly.

The men looked like gentlemen and were young and handsome.

And the women were very beautiful and were wearing very revealing dresses. Marvin even noticed a girl carelessly flashing her assets!

'What's happening!'

Marvin felt as if he had seen a ghost.

This was an abandoned castle, so how could so many people appear here? And be partying?

He looked at the logs and didn't find any will checks!

This wasn't an illusion, it was real!

'Hold on...'

Something flashed in the corner of Marvin's mind...

This really wasn't an illusion.

This was an event that happened in the hall in the past!

...

When Marvin watched the video that player had shared, he didn't watch the entire trip through the castle, directly skipping to the main part at the end, when the expert got [Eriksson's Brooch].

He knew the underground passage was in this hall, but he still needed to find the exact location.

But seeing this ancient scene, Marvin suddenly felt weird.

This scene truly had happened.

But he didn't know why this scene from the past once again appeared in the hall.

Marvin opened the door and walked in.

Sure enough, no one, not even the waiter, paid attention to him.

He tried to touch someone, but found out that his hand easily went through that person's body as that person continued to chat with the talkative and immodest woman.

It was like a 3D projection of the past.

It was real, yet unreal.

At that time, Marvin's eyes fell upon a young man and young woman.

These two hurriedly left the dance floor and went to a path next to the hall.

Marvin immediately followed them.

...

"Jason, we don't have much time. My husband will be back soon."

In a dark corner, the luxuriously clothed woman urged the man while starting to crazily remove her clothing.

And that handsome sturdy man also followed suit, the two people jostling into a changing room.

Marvin followed them.

In any case, it was a matter that had happened in the past, so it wouldn't hurt to check.

Moreover, this place seemed to be very close to the passage to the underground palace mentioned in the video.

Marvin guessed that it should be related.

But Marvin was surprised to find that after entering the changing room, the phantoms of the two people disappeared.

The closed room seemed very normal.

Marvin slowly moved forward, walking a few steps in the direction the couple must have taken.

Suddenly, the floor disappeared under his feet!

'Fuck!'

'A secret path!'

He then fell down through that opening!

Chapter 274: Vampire Primogenitor

Marvin was falling through the darkness.

He was surrounded by smooth walls and thus couldn't even use his high Dexterity to stop his fall.

But fortunately, he soon reached the bottom and fell on something soft.

It was a very old-fashioned sofa full of dust that irritated his face.

Marvin realized that this was definitely a secret room.

He patted the dust off his body and began to size up the room. A pitch black spiral flight of stairs was in front of him!

He should be able to reach the entrance to the underground palace by taking these stairs.

'So that's how it was.'

Marvin suddenly understood.

He no longer hesitated and began to cautiously follow the flight of stairs.

This secret room was merely a path between the castle and the underground palace. There shouldn't be any traps, but it was still better to be careful.

He recalled some memories about the Ancient Castle Tulip as he walked.

....

The Ancient Castle Tulip once was a flourishing city but it ultimately perished at the hands of the Blood Race.

When the Ancient Castle's Lord was young, he loved his wife very fondly and they would share their love every night.

But one day, that Lord met an Alchemist.

Under the guidance of the Alchemist, he became infatuated with alchemy and immortality and began to ignore his young and beautiful wife.

Over time, the distance between the two grew increasingly larger. Rumors of the Lord being addicted to alchemy spread through the entire Pambo Seashore.

Gradually, the castle's Lord became very eccentric, and he cut off a lot of friends.

The once bustling Ancient Castle Tulip became cold and cheerless.

He was also thinning day by day.

But one day, at the wife's birthday party, she got to meet a noble youth.

That youth was sturdy and handsome, and more importantly, very eloquent.

Many funny stories would feel different coming out from his mouth.

Soon, both of them longed for each other and a fire was set ablaze as they became secret lovers.

Following an increasing number of trysts, the Mistress of Ancient Castle Tulip began to feel unsatisfied with this clandestine love life.

She wanted him to take her away.

But that request wasn't something the youth had imagined. For him, she was merely one of many lovers. He was unwilling to take her away and risk facing the Lord's wrath.

Thus he could only temporarily appease her.

And the scene Marvin saw earlier was the final affair between the two.

They accidentally entered this dusty room that hadn't been used in a very long time and fell into this secret room.

The rest was easy to understand.

The two fumbled around the secret room but didn't dare call for help, so they could only continue further down.

They reached the underground palace and woke up a very frightening existence!

He was one of the twelve Vampire Primogenitors, named Yin.

This was one of the few tombs he built before falling into a deep slumber... and then he was awoken by that pair.

At that time, Yin used formidable power to split the two apart.

He asked the two separately whether they were willing to die for the other.

The woman said she was willing while the man demurred.

Ultimately, Yin killed the noble youth and gave the heartbroken Mistress who learnt the truth an [Embrace].

She became not just a Vampire, but rather a mighty Vampire Duchess!

This was the power of the Vampire Primogenitor.

Just a mere Embrace could turn a woman that completely lacked fighting strength into a Legend Vampire Duchess!

Marvin didn't know too much about what ensued. But in short, after this happened, a disaster struck the entire Ancient Castle.

There were rumors that a monster haunted the castle. And after the Lord died in an bizarre alchemy accident, the castle ended up in the Mistress' hands because there was no heir.

She became a beautiful widow that was known far and wide.

Many people drooled at her beauty and spontaneously visited...

Before ending up as the Duchess' Blood Slaves!

After experiencing her husband's indifference and her lover's betrayal, her heart and mind became extremely ruthless.

Soon, Ancient Castle Tulip no longer exuded a fragrant aura, instead turning into field of death, a forbidden area.

It became a Vampire paradise where they even began holding hunting parties.

And the targets of the hunts were handsome men and women.

Later, the South Wizard Alliance gathered a powerful army to attack this castle.

After a world-shaking war, the Alliance claimed that they had swept this castle clean.

That great Vampire Duchess truly disappeared.

The place was tranquil for a while.

But many years later, before the Great Calamity, a group of Vampires from the Dark Side gathered here.

They were secretly absorbing the purest aura emitted by the Primogenitor's remains and continuously raising their strength.

But most of them were slumbering.

Any who knew of this were killed by the Vampires.

Thus, Marvin was very careful.

...

'When the young lovers charged into the underground palace, Yin was only lying dormant, and he woke up from the disturbance.'

'After the war with the Wizard Alliance, not only did the Duchess disappear, but Yin also entered a state of death. It's just that this state of death was a feigned death. If someone could use some mysterious rituals, they might be able to wake up the Vampire Primogenitor again.'

'Anyway, I don't need to go in too deep, so it should be safe.'

Marvin cautiously followed the long spiral staircase down.

He still felt somewhat nervous.

If Yin suddenly awakened, Marvin would mostly likely suffer greatly from the consequences. That guy was an existence close to the gods!

If Marvin needed someone able to take down Yin in Feinan, only Great Elven King Nicholas would be able to.

And that was if the Great Elven King used the [Shadow Silo]!

Marvin nimbly walked down the last steps, finally reaching the end of the spiral staircase.

In front of him there was just darkness, and Marvin knew that the entrance of Yin's Underground Palace was further down this path.

But there were two Golems constantly defending that place.

Getting past them wasn't easy.

But in the video, that careful expert found another secret path to the underground palace that avoided the Golems.

That path was behind the spiral staircase!

This was a place very few people would pay attention to. When he saw the video, Marvin sighed that the expert was indeed observant.

He immediately opened the dark door behind the stone stairs and followed the damp tunnel until he reached the 2nd floor of the tomb.

The thing he was looking for was in the center of the second floor.

There was no time to lose, so Marvin firmly moved forward.

But a strange sound suddenly echoed beside his ear!

Chapter 275: Legend Item

Marvin turned to look and saw that it was a bat!

It bared its sharp fangs and pounced at Marvin's face!

But Marvin reacted too quickly for it. A cold light flashed as he unsheathed his curved dagger and cut that reckless bat in two.

There weren't too many bats like that in the underground palace. The threat to Marvin was relatively small.

Unless his luck was really bad, even if he ran across an elite, variant, or ice bat, or some other situation, he would be able to deal with it.

He continued along the pitch-black passage.

When exploring somewhere like the underground palace or the Underdark, the advantages that Night Walkers enjoyed were simply incredible.

Through Darksight, Marvin could see everything clearly.

The second layer of the Underground Palace was created by Yin as an eternal resting place for his heirs.

But he didn't have many heirs and most of them were active in the North. The coffins lying there were currently empty.

Further down the path, he could see a sumptuous room.

The room was filled with Yin's treasures.

These treasures were invaluable, but most of them would trigger a response from the guarding golems if they were disturbed.

Marvin went past the rooms one by one, his heart full of desires that he was barely able to restrain.

The treasures here surely weren't inferior to Evil Spirit Overlord Diggles'.

Finally, Marvin found what he wanted in the 7th room.

Eriksson's Brooch.

It was an extremely thin and light brooch to the point that if you carefully took it away without touching any other item, it wouldn't alarm the golems.

This was also why Marvin had dared to come here for treasure.

He took out a pair of tweezers and gently retrieved the brooch out from a crack in a book.

The entire process was silent and didn't alarm anyone.

Marvin let out a sigh of relief.

He quietly wiped away his perspiration and put the brooch in his storage item.

'Finally got it!'

'Eriksson's Brooch! The Lurker's Artifact!'

Even Marvin who had seen many storms couldn't help but show a look of delight.

He had been longing to get his hands on that brooch. It was just that it wasn't as important as the Source of Fire's Order.

But since his original plan had been thrown out of order, he got the brooch first to help Hope City deal with the invasion.

This item's properties were pretty self-explanatory:

[Eriksson's Brooch]

[Quality: Legendary]

[Property 1: Stealth +70]

[Property 2: Immune to the Heavenly Observer's specialties – (World Insight/Boundless Awareness)]

[Requirements: Rogue/Divinity]

...

This was first really important Legendary Item that Marvin obtained!

These two properties were heaven-defying.

With Stealth +70, any rogue getting this treasure would see their ability skyrocket.

Stealth had been constantly improving due to Marvin's continuous use of it.

His current Stealth was already at 110, so with those 70, it reached a frightening 180!

180 points of Stealth was close to what he had as a Ruler of the Night in the past!

And once he leveled up his Ranger class once more, he could obtain 24 Skill Points and put 20 points in Stealth.

He could get the hidden property for 200 points of Stealth, [Stealth Master].

[Stealth Master]: You can walk quickly and run without breaking Stealth.

This was the highest realm of Stealth. It was like a mobile version of Hide, just that the results weren't quite as good.

Although he didn't reach 200 points of Stealth, 180 was already frightening enough.

He could at least dodge the Heavenly Observer easily!

'The Black Dragon God might not have expected that before the God of Etiquette, Eriksson, fell, he often left the Astral Sea and incarnated as ordinary mortals.'

'He secretly made that brooch to avoid being spied on by the gods above with their Heavenly Observers.'

'This treasure is now in my hands.'

Marvin was rather satisfied, but he didn't dare to tarry and immediately chose to head back!

This was the Vampire Primogenitor's domain. Just taking a treasure from here was already very risky.

If he delayed and an accident happened, wouldn't it be terrible?!

He followed the wide path and couldn't help but speed up.

He soon returned to the damp room and followed the secret path. After a few seconds he safely arrived at the back of the spiral flight of steps.

It was going smoothly.

Marvin went back to the hall and made preparations to leave, when something troublesome happened.

He met with a few Vampires!

...

"Karnoth, was your older cousin really fooled so easily?"

At the door of the castle, three Vampires seemed to be waiting for someone.

A female Vampire among them was talking. Her voice was extremely alluring, but it was different from the enticing power of Succubi that worked deep within one's body and numbed their limbs. Her voice felt more controlling.

Marvin knew that Vampires had very high Charisma. It was very easy for them to subdue a mortal with weak willpower.

Who were these three Vampires waiting for?

Marvin hid in the darkness and coldly watched this scene.

He could vaguely feel that one of them was a bit familiar.

'Karnoth... Karnoth... Could it be that guy?'

Some memories of the attack on the Scarlet Monastery came to mind. Madeline had also asked for the support of a group of Vampires.

But that group of Vampires was from the Bright Side, unlike those from the Dark Side who willfully slaughtered innocents.

At that time, there was one who didn't know how high heaven was and wanted to turn Marvin into his Blood Slave. Marvin suppressed him, but to give Madeline face, didn't harm him.

That guy's name was Karnoth!

'And that older cousin he talked about should be the courteous Gwyn?' Marvin recalled.

He had a pretty good impression of that Gwyn, he was very polite and very strong.

What were these three Vampires scheming?

Marvin couldn't help feeling curious.

He quickly approached with Stealth active.

In any case, he had Eriksson's Brooch now, so he didn't have to worry about his Stealth being seen through by a few Vampires.

Vampires had impressive Perception, but it was far from that of Drows.

180 points of Stealth was enough to overpower the Perception of most lifeforms without Divinity in Feinan.

Walking closer, the discussion between the three became a lot clearer.

He heard Karnoth confidently saying, "Rest assured, I betrayed the Bright Side and joined the Dark Side this time. The clan is definitely furious."

"They will definitely send Gwyn, who they think of as a hero, to capture me. Hehehe, unfortunately, they didn't know that my dear older cousin has yet to give up on me."

"I suggested that if he brought the [Dense Blood Nucleus], I would return to the Bright Side. He will definitely do so."

"Look, isn't that him coming?"

A bat was hurrying over in the distant sky.

---

T/N: Author added a post after this, it's the usual post for votes, but he also mentioned something about his other novel. Apparently the two worlds are very different and his other book has a slower start, but gets interesting later on. The two worlds might sound very different, but there are many hidden links. And there are also traces of the later stage of the "Night".

#### Chapter 276: Bloodthirst

The bat was flying over, but it didn't slow down and land.

A short sound came out of its mouth and after a moment, it turned toward the north.

"Gwyn isn't a fool, he knows we have many people," sneered the female Vampire, understanding Gwyn's actions.

"What? We are only three. Do you really think he'd be afraid of facing us alone?" A strange color flashed in Karnoth's eyes. "He is leading us to that abandoned village because he is afraid we will wake up more of us and snatch the Dense Blood Nucleus."

"Let's go!"

The three Vampires from the Dark Side all turned into bats and hurried north.

...

From a passageway in the Ancient Castle town, Marvin's figure slowly came out.

He was still pondering.

He originally came to the Ancient Castle Tulip only for Eriksson's Brooch.

Now that he had the treasure, he should leave.

But the Dense Blood Nucleus got his attention.

This was the crystallization of the power of a high level Vampire. It would not only give great benefits to Vampires, but would also have similar effects on other lifeforms.

This thing was a bit like a Nature Leaf. Absorbing or deciphering the core inside the crystallization could improve the quality of one's body or could let one learn a few Blood Spells.

Moreover, Marvin knew that the Dense Blood Nucleus, like the Earth Crystal's fragment which had soaked in the hot spring, was one of the few treasures that could safely increase his attributes.

Generally speaking, if someone under the Legend Realm used the Dense Blood Nucleus, his Strength and Constitution would slightly increase.

And these two attributes were those that Marvin crucially needed at the moment.

He ultimately chose to use the Demon Hunter Steps to follow.

...

The bats were flying very quickly and it was night time, so Marvin summoned a Night Crow to follow them.

As for himself, he was keeping a fixed distance between them.

Soon, their group arrived at the village Gwyn mentioned.

Such villages were very common on the Wasteland of Death. Ghosts would occasionally roam around, but they wouldn't do much harm to the living.

Most houses in the village had already collapsed.

The three bats returned to their Human-shape as they landed in the open space in the center.

A cloaked male was calmly waiting there.

Marvin quietly arrived, ready to watch the show.

The strength of the cloaked Gwyn seemed to have increased compared to last time they had met. At the time he was at the peak of 3rd rank but now his strength was approaching the Legend Realm!

This growth was considered inconceivable for the natives, even if he was an outstanding Vampire.

“Karnoth, I brought you the Dense Blood Nucleus you requested.” Gwyn calmly looked at his younger cousin and asked, “Why are you still mixing with those people from the Dark Side?”

The other two Vampires snorted coldly but didn’t say anything.

Karnoth smiled as he looked at Gwyn. “To entrust you with the Dense Blood Nucleus, the elders of the assembly really... Ah, dear Cousin.”

Gwyn continued placidly, “As long as you are willing to give up on going over to the Dark Side, I am willing to give you this Dense Blood Nucleus...”

“Give up?”

Hearing this, Karnoth abruptly started laughing his head off. “You want me to give up?”

His body suddenly expanded. Even if his body didn’t increase in size, his muscles became more outlined and clear!

A frightening scarlet radiance flickered in his eyes.

A windrose imprint appeared between his eyebrows, making him look like a demon.

“The Dark Side’s [Bloodthirst]?”

Gwyn’s voice faltered for the first time. “I didn’t expect that you would convert in such a short time!”

“Of course, when it comes to chasing for power, I am a lot like you.” Karnoth coldly watched Gwyn. “But I don’t have as many resources as you.”

“Since we were children, everyone said I wasn’t your equal. My talent wasn’t equal to yours, my efforts weren’t equal to yours. I tried every single way to try to surpass you and eventually failed.”

“Later on I clearly understood: in the Bright Side, I would forever be inferior to you.”

“You degenerate Vampires should be eliminated just like those worthless humans! Only with ceaseless hunting can we become stronger!”

As he said all this, a frightening aura was emitted from his body!

Surprisingly, his power seemed equally matched with Gwyn's.

And the other two Vampires also completely released their power, and that windrose imprint flickered between their eyebrows.

This was a sign of Bloodthirst, a power unique to the Dark Side.

'Gwyn is in a lot of trouble this time!'

Marvin's heart sank.

...

In the Blood Race, the battle between the Bright Side and Dark Side was very fierce. The level of hostility was a lot higher than the hostility they would feel toward other races.

The Bright Side always believed that the Vampires should be lofty and mighty, and shouldn't become monsters fond of slaughter. They should be civilized and raise their strength through fair methods.

It was totally different for the Dark Side, a group made up of extremists.

They had developed many abilities specific to the Dark Side and Bloodthirst was one of them.

A Vampire activating Bloodthirst would become extremely excited for blood.

In that state, their strength would increase about three to four times.

Originally, these three Dark Side Vampires definitely weren't Gwyn's match, but the situation changed after they used Bloodthirst.

Naturally, that secret technique wasn't without flaws.

As one would expect, Vampires under Bloodthirst would be very bloodthirsty. They would lose themselves to the pleasure of slaughter and blood-sucking and would gradually become more irrational.

More specifically, there would be a willpower test every 20 minutes and if they failed the test, they would lose some intelligence, turning into pure monsters!

This was one of the reasons the Bright Side criticized the Dark Side: They believed Vampires shouldn't become the same as those bloodthirsty Demons from the Abyss.

As an intelligent lifeform, they shouldn't become mindless monsters.

But there were always those who would do anything for power.

Karnoth was clearly one of them.

He didn't hesitate to run over to the Dark Side and activate their Bloodthirst in order to win against Gwyn who always pressured him.

He wanted to prove to those from the Bright Side, especially those elders, that he wasn't inferior to the gifted Gwyn!

...

The battle started without a warning.

Karnoth was clearly overly excited after using Bloodthirst and without saying anything, he suddenly leapt!

"Woosh!"

A scarlet blur flashed in front of Marvin, knocking into Gwyn's body.

And the other two Vampires also attacked Gwyn from the sides!

Marvin held his breath, his hands holding the two pistols!

[Satan] in his left, [Astaroth] in his right, with silver bullets already loaded in.

Chapter 277: Dense Blood Nucleus

Since Marvin went through the trouble to follow them here, he was definitely determined to get that Dense Blood Nucleus!

But it wouldn't be easy to get that treasure from Gwyn's hands.

In an instant, Marvin made a decision.

...

Facing Karnoth's powerful attack, Gwyn displayed his outstanding physical abilities. He dodged by simply leaning back, his body almost parallel to the ground.

But before he could counterattack, the other two Vampires had already approached from the sides!

Their speed was about the same as Gwyn's, making the three on one a bit troublesome.

Gwyn didn't panic in the face of death. He immediately found an opening and chose to use his own Sprint skill rather than Low Flight to escape in that direction!

At that time, he left behind a phantom image.

The two Vampires pursued relentlessly.

But suddenly, a strange distortion appeared next to the female Vampire!

"This is..."

The female Vampire hesitated.

Marvin was already next to her!

Night Boundary!

His incredibly high Stealth could directly elude the Vampire's Perception, and the sudden use of Night Boundary left no chance for her to react.

Marvin coldly smiled as the ice-cold gun was already pressed against her temple.

Just as she thought of resisting, an acute pain burst on her lower back!

Marvin had swept her legs, smashing her body against the ground.

But [Satan] never left her temple.

Under her terrified gaze, a gunshot echoed!

The frightening fire followed by the powerful silver bullet exploded half of the Vampire's head.

Despite her being a Vampire with Bloodthirst active, she was still unable to resist the shot at such close range!

The sudden attack left the three Vampires, including Gwyn, stupefied!

They had never met such a weird Sha clansman before.

He appeared like a Thief and was using the highest kind of gun and silver bullets!

This person was simply a Vampire's nemesis.

Marvin had also noticed this point.

A Night Walker's powerful assault and firepower suited being a Dual Wielding Ranger, but could also be effective when paired with the Battle Gunner class, as long as the bullet had enough penetrating power.

This might be one of the reasons Constantine chose Night Walker as his advanced class.

Night Walker skills used with the Battle Gunner's weapons would really bring out frightening effects.

...

"Who are you?"

Karnoth glared at him angrily.

He didn't recognize him, as Marvin was still disguised as Robin.

Gwyn's gaze also focused on Marvin's body, trying to see through him.

But Karnoth's words didn't stop Marvin's movements!

He didn't say a word and just disappeared on the spot!

Shadow Step!

"Careful! Norlan!" Karnoth loudly yelled.

But it was already too late. Marvin already arrived behind the other Dark Side Vampire. That Vampire reacted quickly, immediately rising up from the ground, trying to fly away.

Unfortunately, Marvin was too familiar with Vampires' weak points!

He relied on his 48 points in [Sleight of Hands] to quickly change weapons as he used Shadow Step!

Two daggers in hand.

Burst!

He rose up at an incredible speed and in a blink, was on that Vampire's back.

He kicked the Vampire's waist. This was their biggest weak spot. The Vampire suddenly stopped mid-flight.

Then, it was showtime.

His legs hooked around the Dark Side Vampire's waist as the two daggers crossed paths in the air, beheading the Vampire!

Vampires weren't Evil Spirits; they would die when their heads were removed.

"Pshh."

The Vampire's head fell on the ground.

Karnoth stared at the scene in a daze. His imprint became a lot dimmer.

Because fear already replaced the Bloodthirst, occupying his thoughts.

"Who the hell are you?!" Karnoth kept checking his surroundings.

After Marvin killed the two Dark Side Vampires, he used Stealth once again.

But what made Karnoth feel like he was falling apart was that Marvin had entered Stealth right in front of him, disappearing before his eyes!

Such a terrifying Stealth ability... Could it be a Legend?!

Thinking of this, he shook from fear!

At that moment, an ice-cold gun barrel was pressed in the middle of Karnoth's back.

Just as he was about to move, Marvin's voice echoed, "I know you can fly very fast."

"But it would never be as fast as a bullet, right?"

Karnoth bitterly asked, "Is your distinguished self a great Legend?"

"Could you be the rumored Demon Hunter Constantine?"

Marvin was dumbfounded. He hadn't expected that Karnoth would mistake him for Constantine due to him vanishing and using Sha weapons.

But Constantine and Marvin were indeed both Night Walkers.

"Talk less nonsense." Even though Marvin was pointing his shotgun at Karnoth's back, he was still focused on Gwyn.

The latter suddenly greeted, "Mister Marvin, long time no see."

"Marvin?" Karnoth immediately froze in place.

Marvin smiled. 'That Gwyn is more than meets the eye.'

His Disguise was so powerful, but he still saw through it.

"Who is Marvin? I am Robin." But he still wouldn't admit it.

Gwyn shrugged, hesitating for a bit before lowering his cloak, revealing a fair face.

Marvin took a glance and froze!

Fortunately, Karnoth didn't flee right then. That guy was too worried about his life.

Marvin froze because Gwyn's face was really too beautiful!

That gentle figure and pretty eyes were completely different from what a man should have!

"You are a woman?" He couldn't help but ask.

Gwyn calmly said, "A man."

Marvin remained silent.

A man so beautiful... No wonder he was wearing a cloak all day long.

Gwyn looked at him with a sincere expression. "Mister Marvin, or Robin, this doesn't matter."

"You killing those two Dark Side Vampires proves that you have enough strength to kill Karnoth, but you didn't."

"Let me guess, you want to exchange him for the [Dense Blood Nucleus] in my hands, am I right?"

Marvin smiled. "I like talking with intelligent people. Indeed, I can give hand over your younger cousin's life in exchange for the Dense Blood Nucleus."

Gwyn expressionlessly shook his head, disappointment in his eyes. "He already did the conversion ritual, thoroughly becoming part of the Dark Side."

"I have no reason to trade a Dense Blood Nucleus for someone from the Dark Side."

Karnoth's expression suddenly became unsightly.

Marvin smiled cryptically. "Who said the ritual was irreversible?"

"Give me the Dense Blood Nucleus and I'll tell you the method."

Gwyn frowned.

This frown was extremely cute on such a beautiful face.

Even if he didn't have any charm enchantment, Marvin still felt stunned!

Unfortunately... He was a fucking man!

Marvin inwardly cursed.

Gwyn hesitated for a moment and ultimately threw a pink crystal over.

"Tell me your method," he coldly said. "Otherwise..."

Receiving the Dense Blood Nucleus, Marvin kicked Karnoth flying and said, "Take him to Radiant Castle and you'll get the things you want."

Gwyn frowned, but seeing Karnoth stumbling to escape, he could only chase after him.

Marvin put away his weapons and looked at the two Vampires' chase before ultimately heading back.

Karnoth was definitely not Gwyn's opponent on his own. He could feel a formidable power on Gwyn's body. That power was apparently sealed and thus hadn't come out.

But if he used it, he might be equal to a Legend!

Marvin didn't deceive him. Radiant Castle really had Vampires focusing their research on a reverse conversion from the Dark Side to the Bright Side. But the information network of the Deathly Silent Hills' Vampires wasn't effective enough to know about it.

...

After getting on the road back, Marvin quickly found a place to sort out his own state.

He had retrieved Eriksson's Brooch, the main objective. But he also got two more pleasant surprises.

After checking, he confirmed that the Dense Blood Nucleus was real. Gwyn could be considered one of the rare honest Vampires, which might also be due to confidence in his own strength.

And the other pleasant surprise was that Marvin's [Night Kill] specialty had leveled up!

## Chapter 278: Blood Swallowing

Night Kill was one of the rare upgradeable specialties.

A Night Walker's fighting ability during the night would fiercely increase as this specialty leveled up.

But leveling this specialty would take a long time. Last time it happened was when Marvin took over the Southie. So much time passed in a blink and since then Marvin had killed countless creatures during the night. Ultimately, killing those two Dark Side Vampires leveled up the specialty.

After it leveled up, its description changed as follows:

[Night Kill (Hidden Specialty – Activated)]

Type: Passive/Upgradeable

Level: 2

Effect: During the night, Attack Power +6%, Attack Speed +6%, Movement Speed +6%, Burst Power +6%, Reaction Speed +6%.

...

This was a simple and rough passive!

But anyone who played the game knew that the most powerful specialties or skills were these kinds of passive skills. It could raise the strength of all kinds of attributes, let him become even sharper, improve his perception, and make his movements nimbler.

These kinds of invisible benefits could play a big role in battle.

For example, in the fight with those of the Dark Side, although his Night Boundary had such an overpowered effect, if his body wasn't good enough, he simply wouldn't be able to follow up with those difficult aerial maneuvers.

Even if an ordinary Sha clansman could use Night Boundary, he wouldn't be able to aim his gun at the Vampire's head before being kicked away!

That was the difference!

The body was the foundation, and the six main attributes decided the body's quality. Apart from those, there were the passive skills and specialties.

Attributes, specialties, skills and spells, and fighting techniques.

These four groups of things made up one's fighting strength.

Excelling in one area didn't necessarily mean being powerful. Only with comprehensive strength in those fields would one become a powerhouse.

For example, many Half-Legend's attributes were similar to those of Legends.

But because the latter were strengthened with Legend specialties, in most cases, Half-Legends weren't their match!

...

Marvin was very pleased with the Night Kill specialty.

As an upgradeable specialty, who knew what frightening effects it could display in the future after reaching Legend realm.

Just that specialty was enough to satisfy him. Moreover, the Night Walker organization had given him so many nice surprises and favors.

Regardless if it was the old blacksmith guiding him with great care, or Constantine and O'Brien fervently supporting him, or even the blessings and inheritance of the Night Monarch, he had gained a lot more power than other classes.

This world wasn't based around fighting alone.

Fighting the world alone was stupid and futile.

Using the players' words: Strength in numbers!

A lone person fighting a group was very domineering, but in Marvin's eyes, a group of Legends beating up a god was also very refreshing!

Who would be narrow-minded enough to want to duel nowadays?

...

After checking the specialty, Marvin's eyes focused on that Dense Blood Nucleus.

After intense scrutiny, he confirmed that there was no malicious curse or poison on that Dense Blood Nucleus. Gwyn was certainly a strange Vampire. Him being so strangely magnanimous made Marvin hesitate a bit.

From the veins on the nucleus, it could be seen that this Dense Blood Nucleus had recently been condensed.

Anyone could understand or gain something from it.

There were many ways to use it. And the simplest one was simply to swallow it.

Even if the effects of swallowing were a bit inferior, Marvin couldn't wait for an Alchemist to refine it into a more perfect treasure.

He stopped wasting time and directly swallowed the soft Dense Blood Nucleus.

Three minutes later, his body felt a bit cool!

A cold aura spread like strands of hair, continuously battering against his body!

Marvin let out a comfortable groan!

The pleasure of taking a Dense Blood Nucleus was said to be almost the same as the pleasure bloodthirsty Vampires had when they enjoyed their prey.

No wonder many Dark Side Vampires were addicted and unable to stop themselves.

Thankfully Marvin's willpower could be considered quite high. After three minutes, the Dense Blood Nucleus was completely absorbed.

He could feel his body becoming sturdier.

His current mature appearance couldn't be compared to his original weak appearance.

He was sturdier but didn't lose any sharpness and was filled with power.

The only regret Marvin felt while looking at the logs was that this Dense Blood Nucleus didn't give him any increase in Constitution.

It was his Strength that increased by one point.

But this wasn't a big deal. In any case, with the Golden Blood, his Constitution had already reached 15. After that, he had only needed to add two attribute points to Dexterity to reach Godly Dexterity.

Marvin was now level 17 and the remaining attribute point had been put in Dexterity, letting it reach 29. Only one more point to reach 30.

And although 16 Strength was somewhat on the low side, but relying on his Night Walker specialties was enough to deal with all kinds of situations.

Moreover, he still had the Shapeshift Sorcerer's abilities!

If he needed Strength, he would use the Asuran Bear... Oh, it was Fierce Asuran Bear now!

...

Aside from raising his Strength, the Dense Blood Nucleus also gave Marvin a Vampire specialty.

[Low Flight]!

This was a passive specialty that 3rd rank Vampires had!

Marvin was glad his luck was decent, as this was a very practical ability.

But a series of new logs suddenly flashed before his eyes:

[New bloodline power found, currently transforming your body...]

[Bloodline power insufficient, swallowed by the Main Bloodline (Numan)...]

[Swallowing complete, new bloodline's power affiliated under the Main Bloodline...]

Marvin was surprised to find that the specialty he got from the Dense Blood Nucleus, Low Flight, was rearranged under the specialties of Shapeshift Sorcerer's Human-shape!

And the previous Vampire specialty was slowly disappearing.

'Such a tyrannical bloodline... It can actually swallow the Vampire bloodline.'

Marvin was inwardly flabbergasted. He never came across something like that in his previous life.

The Golden Children had hero-like body templates, and he didn't try any special bloodline.

He hadn't expected the Numan bloodline to be so powerful that it could directly swallow the Vampire bloodline.

But this was also good, because it prevented it from causing any future troubles.

....

After checking his condition one more time, Marvin sped back to Hope City.

He tried Low Flight a few times on the way back.

The specialty was really eye-catching, but it was relatively taxing on his stamina.

Using it in a fight would be good, but outside of battle, it was better to simply use his feet.

Soon, he was back at the boundary of Rocky Mountain.

But just as he reached Hope City, Marvin heard a wail!

It came from Lion Town!

'The ritual started!'

Marvin's heart felt cold.

Chapter 279: Mind Reading

On the city wall of Hope city, Lorie's expression was grave.

"They officially started." She felt a surge of grief.

A huge barrier surrounded all of Lion Town. It was the frightening Sacrifice ritual, and even the Dark Races weren't spared.

They had followed the Black Dragon Clarke to attack Rocky Mountain, all in order to survive and get food!

It definitely wasn't to throw their lives away.

But now that Lady Tess died, the Dark Elves' forces showed signs of instability, and the other races were even more anxious because the Sacrifice ritual also included some of their people!

A lot of the Dark Races wanted to retreat.

Lion Town had plenty of food, and those provisions would be enough to let them pass the long winter.

But the wicked Black Dragon didn't allow that to happen.

If they tried to escape, they would be brutally murdered.

In a short time, Lion Town's atmosphere had become extremely cold.

At the Black Dragon's personal order, each race, apart from the Dark Elves, had to contribute at least 100 of their kin.

And the Kobolds, Gnolls, and common Goblins were even more miserable. They had to sacrifice at least half of their population!

With the Black Dragon personally taking care of the sacrifices, who would dare resist?

The original Lion Town had long since been leveled. Countless creatures were bound on a dark altar.

A third of them were captives from the surface while the other two thirds were the Underdark's creatures!

The Underdark's army watching from the sides looked at them with sympathy.

That wasn't what the Black Dragon had promised!

She had promised them food and freedom.

Now they were reduced to powerless existences!

If not for the Black Dragon being too powerful, giving them no chance to resist, they might have already scattered in chaos.

The bloodbath had begun.

Clarke turned into a woman wearing a long black chang pao<sup>1</sup> and loudly chanted on the altar.

(T/N1:Traditional man's gown... Clarke strikes again.)

And the dense bloody smell already began to fill the air.

Countless creatures howled in grief as they died and their resentment gathered over. This energy was enough to temporarily open a passage through the Universe Magic Pool.

...

“He still hasn’t returned?”

Jessica was in a bad mood. “Although it would take two to three days, how could I bear to look on helplessly as innocent humans die.”

Ding interrupted, “I already said that kid was totally unreliable...”

But she didn’t get to finish her words before a voice appeared on the city wall. “I always considered Fortune Fairies as experts in sarcasm.”

Marvin.

A happy expression flashed in Lorie’s eyes.

Jessica was direct. “Done?”

Marvin nodded.

“Then let’s go!”

Rocky Mountain’s leader clenched her fists. “According to the plan, I attract their attention while you secretly get in and destroy that Dragon Scale!”

“The others will carefully wait in the city!”

“Lorie, this place is in your hands.”

Lorie nodded frantically.

Marvin took a deep breath and indicated he was ready.

But another figure appeared beside Jessica.

It was the Fiend Sorcerer Daisy.

“I’ll also go with you.”

“As the head of Demon’s Hand, I have a bit of power.”

Daisy gently smiled.

A hint of worry flashed through Jessica’s eyes. “Don’t tell me you want to...”

“At least I can help you share a bit of pressure.” Daisy stopped Jessica’s words. “Moreover, after Sir Robin destroys the Dragon Scale, he would certainly be pursued by the Black Dragon or the Projection. He would need me to save him.”

Jessica was silent for a moment before ultimately nodding.

She gently hugged Daisy and whispered a few words in her ear.

Marvin felt strange while looking at these two women, and an evil thought couldn’t help but pop into his mind:

Was a tomboy like Jessica interested in women?

Looking at these two women’s intimacy, it seemed their relationship was a bit out of the ordinary.

...

“Mister Robin, you have the wrong idea.”

At that time, Lorie said from behind him, “Big Sis isn’t interested in women.”

Marvin was immediately alarmed. “You can hear my thoughts?”

Lorie showed a cute smile. “Sometimes I can, Sometimes I can’t. In short, it could be considered as a very vexing ability.”

Marvin inwardly wiped his sweat.

This girl was too frightening. Her Intelligence had actually reached that level?

Mind Reading could only be reached at the realm of the wisest Sage.

Even gods wouldn’t be able to read a person’s mind. They would at most be able to notice their emotions.

Because everyone was protected by the Power of Order, which was a type of law that no one could ignore.

Marvin was very curious as to what degree Lorie’s innate skill could reach.

But the current moment clearly wasn’t suited for such talk.

On the side, Jessica and Daisy had finished their discussion.

It was time to start the plan!

...

In Lion Town's sky.

Jessica, radiating seven colors, arrived like a meteor.

The Black Dragon on the altar suddenly raised her head, anger flashing through her eyes!

She already knew the Fate Sorceress would come to destroy the ritual, but the ritual had already started, so now they only needed to continue their slaughter!

With the Dragon Scale as the plane mark, there wouldn't be an issue.

A clean white eye was suspended above the altar, and it kept glancing at every corner of Lion Town at an incredible speed.

This was the Heavenly Observer's main body!

No enemy could hide from its sight!

Clarke suddenly stamped her feet and rushed up!

"Roar!"

She turned back to her Black Dragon shape in an instant, as her human-shape was really too weak after all!

And in another direction, a shadow also pounced over.

That was the Black Dragon God's Projection.

They knew they weren't Jessica's match in a one on one, so they needed to join hands to handle her!

"Huuuu!"

Before Jessica could reach them, the Black Dragon's chest faintly swelled up before releasing a frightening Dragon Breath!

The Black Dragon's Dragon Breath carried terrifying acid. That acid's power was on par with Dissociation, and people infected would become a mass of pus after corroding!

But this time, it wasn't only Jessica in the seven-colored radiance.

There was another woman!

The Black Dragon felt a bit surprised.

But then, a bloody mouth emerged out of nowhere and completely swallowed the Dragon Breath!

The Black Dragon and the Black Dragon God's Projection were startled!

"Pah! It tastes rotten, but it is full of energy."

"Dear Mother, you haven't summoned me for a while."

Behind that bloody mouth was an abnormal face followed by a long neck covered in barbs.

It was greedily looking at the Black Dragon and the Projection.

"So it's something big to make up for how rarely I'm summoned."

Meanwhile, Daisy was deathly pale!

...

The battle in the sky was about to begin.

And on the ground Marvin easily hid from the Heaven Observer's sight with Eriksson's Brooch.

Three minutes later, he calmly approached the altar.

Chapter 280: Crazy Clarke

Black runes were drawn around the altar, using the Ancient God Language to draw out the power of ghosts.

Marvin stood at the edge of the altar and could feel the steady flow of power from those creatures' deaths being absorbed by the altar.

This was the power of a ritual sacrifice.

A Black Dragon Scale was floating in the center of the altar.

Sixteen Dark Elves were sternly guarding it.

Even though the Heavenly Observer was standing guard, they were still loyal to their duty.

If it was before, Marvin might have been afraid of being noticed by the other side's perception. But with Eriksson's Brooch, Marvin knew he could walk a few times around them and they still wouldn't find him!

This was the strength of a Legendary Item.

In fact, if not for this brooch being kept by the God of Etiquette for a short time, this treasure would be a genuine artifact instead of a Legendary Item.

But if that was the case, Marvin wouldn't be able to use it.

True Artifacts weren't something a False Vessel could handle.

And this brooch also required the wearer to possess a Divinity. Marvin had two Divinities so he was able to wear it.

He ignored the chaos in the sky and quickly approached the altar.

He found a small hole and quickly fished out three small jars!

These jars were completely filled with a special liquid, Lava Acid!

This was one of the few things in Feinan that could destroy a Black Dragon Scale. Three jars were all that Hope City's Sorcerers were able to gather.

It had to work!

Marvin took a deep breath.

He then gathered his strength and successively threw the three pots toward that Dragon Scale!

The jars went through the altar's defenses and knocked into the Dragon Scale. A frightening aura and barrier were emitted from the Dragon Scale and instantly broke the jars!

"Crash!"

The three jars shattered one after the other as a scarlet liquid sprayed out, landing on and around the scale!

In an instant, the Dark Elves and the Heavenly Observer saw a heartbreaking sight: The Black Dragon God's Dragon Scale was burnt!

“Snap!”

It stopped floating and fell in the the Lava Acid, eventually losing its spirituality.

Marvin heard a frightening ethereal word!

It was coming from the Astral Sea.

He was dazed because of the voice and almost froze on the spot.

The Dark Elves were startled and angrily rushed over to surround him.

They didn't know how Marvin was able to sneak in.

And the Heavenly Observer was just as surprised. It noticed the brooch Marvin was wearing and suddenly came to a realization.

But it was already too late. Marvin showed a strange smile and disappeared from the Dark Elves' sight before they could attack!

Shadow Step!

“Woosh!”

He vanished from the edge of the altar.

He quickly used Stealth once again.

Before everyone's eyes, he disappeared, leaving no traces!

Stealth at 180 was this fierce!

The ritual sacrifice was forcefully interrupted!

Those who had been killing their own men were bewildered. The smell of blood was very intense, but it had already lost all meaning!

They stopped their movements and blankly looked at the sky.

...

Black Dragon Clarke roared out, “How could it be?”

“Despicable human... How could you escape from the sight of a Heavenly Observer! Shameful rogue!”

"I'll kill you!"

Clarke was about to go crazy!

She never would have thought that someone in this world could elude the sight of a Heavenly Observer and destroy that Black Dragon Scale!

This was the most important treasure the Black Dragon God had set aside for her.

Not only could it summon the Black Dragon God's projection to protect her at crucial times, but it would also serve as a plane mark.

Clarke knew from the Black Dragon God that a great disaster was about to happen and that she must seize a domain on Feinan in advance. Thus, she had the Underdark's Races start a war on the surface.

It's just that someone proud like her hadn't thought she would meet this kind of setback!

The powerful Fate Sorceress was one thing, but what was going on with that cunning human?

What trick did he use to escape from the Heavenly Observer's sight?

But it was no longer important.

The Black Dragon Scale was destroyed and the ritual sacrifice was a failure. The Black Dragon God's avatar couldn't descend.

With the Fate Sorceress overseeing Hope City, the Underdark's troops had no hope of breaking through!

But she was even more disgusted by the fact that this seemingly average Fiend Sorceress actually summoned a Great Void Demon's projection!

Even if it was just a projection, its fighting ability was very fierce and she was almost swallowed by it a few times.

A Great Void Demon was a very frightening lifeform. If she was swallowed, despite being a Black Dragon, she might not necessarily be able to escape.

Clarke and the Black Dragon God's projection suffered from a few of Jessica's spells because of the Great Void Demon's appearance.

After all this, they hadn't expected that the Black Dragon Scale would be destroyed!

They lost their hope!

Clarke's eyes bulged out in anger.

She raised her head and let out an ear-shattering Dragon Roar!

She gave up on Jessica and Daisy as her huge body swooped down toward that altar and the surrounding Dark Races, spewing a frightening Dragon Breath!

She went crazy!

She already didn't care about friends and foes, and only thought of finding that guy who destroyed the Dragon Scale.

The fearsome Dragon Breath covered the altar and its surroundings, thoroughly collapsing the Underdark's army.

They frantically ran away, pushing aside others to escape, in fear of being hit by the Dragon Breath.

This was something even Marvin hadn't expected!

'Fuck!'

'This female Dragon is crazy.'

Marvin helplessly sighed and immediately broke out of his hidden state as he started to sprint.

Then, an open door suddenly appeared in front of him!

"Follow me!" Daisy looked pale.

Marvin unhesitantly went in.

The next second, the Dragon Breath swept over.

Marvin and Daisy's figures immediately appeared on Hope City's wall!

"How are you doing?" Marvin asked with concern.

Daisy barely managed to smile. Summoning a Great Void Demon's projection was already more than her strength could handle. Even if she was a Fiend Sorcerer and had signed a pact with that Great Void Demon, this was still something out of her range.

Soon, two people helped take her to a resting place.

Lorie and Ding quickly came over. The former immediately sighed in relief when she saw that Marvin was unscathed.

But at that time, the Black Dragon venting her anger in Lion Town started flapping her wings furiously and crazily flew toward Hope City's wall!

"No good!"

"This crazy Dragon wants to crash into the city wall!"

Marvin shivered!

Chapter 281: A Real Man!

"It doesn't matter! With Big Sis around, the Black Dragon won't be able to get near Hope City!" Lorie asserted.

Marvin sighed in relief.

Sure enough, the Black Dragon only covered half the distance before Jessica, covered in her seven-colored aura, interrupted her!

Fate Power!

Her body was even more dazzling and her skin even more fair and tender, but it was hiding a barbarian-like explosive power.

She looked delicate, but she was like a Titan as she grabbed the Black Dragon's tail and pulled her back!

Clarke suffered under the formidable pull and roared while turning.

But what awaited her was a ruthless 180° violent throw!

"Bang!" "Bang!" "Bang!"

The Black Dragon, who had always been good in melee battle, wasn't the Fate Sorceress' match!

"Get back to the Underdark!" Jessica yelled angrily.

"Swear to never let your army set foot in Rocky Mountain!"

The radiance on her body became more and more brilliant. She was like a female war god!

Hope City's inhabitants were dumbstruck while witnessing this scene.

At this moment, their faith became even more resolute.

With Lady Jessica, with the protection of this war god, Hope City would never fall!

People began cheering for the Three Sisters with all their hearts!

There were staff from many other organizations who had escaped and temporarily taken refuge in Hope City. But seeing Jessica fighting so heroically, they couldn't help but be awed.

It was so bloody!

A cute girl was facing a Black Dragon in a melee fight for Hope City.

What about them?

The Three Sisters' reputation was originally very good, and witnessing their resolve in protecting Hope City won over most of Rocky Mountain's inhabitants.

People's feelings were like that.

Without a huge villain appearing, a wise and powerful leader wouldn't be as noticed.

Marvin felt the subtle mood change and sighed inwardly.

Maybe the reason Rocky Mountain was able to establish a country after the Great Calamity, apart from the powerful three sisters, was largely thanks to the people's feelings.

This place was a criminal paradise, where people doubted each other and harmed each other.

But in this war against the Underdark's Races, they had no choice but to cooperate.

They found out about the good sides of one another.

Under Lorie's influence, and Jessica's influence, a buoyant mood was spreading.

Mankind was such a magical race. When such a positive mood spread, the entire group would become even more positive.

...

But unlike those people fanatically worshipping the Three Sisters, Marvin felt something wrong from the city wall.

'Logically, the Black Dragon shouldn't be Jessica's match at all!'

'How come the fight is still going on... Even if the Black Dragon's defense was a factor, in the game trailer, Jessica literally tore the Black Dragon apart.'

'How could it take so much time?'

Marvin was somewhat surprised.

At that time, he started to hate the game company's video editor. Why did he make the trailer so gorgeous, yet so short?

Would he die if he released a complete video?

In this situation, even if Jessica's strength was enough to oppress the Black Dragon, it hadn't reached the stage of being able to easily tear her apart!

What had happened to make it like this, what was the missing link?

Was it caused by the butterfly effect of his transmigration?

Marvin couldn't figure it out.

His expression became even graver.

Because the Black Dragon God's projection also joined the fight!

The situation was slowly being turned around by the enduring Black Dragon!

The Black Dragon God's projection was equivalent to a Half-Legend and even if it was unable to deal too much damage to Jessica, it could help Clarke quite a bit.

The two seemed to have their minds linked, their cooperation was impeccable.

Even with her power as a Fate Sorceress, Jessica could only fight back, unable to finish them.

This kind of close battle wasn't something Marvin was willing to see.

He knew that Fate Power was finite.

If her Fate Power was lacking, Jessica would be at a disadvantage. At that time, the battlefield might become even more desperate!

It might end up in a draw!

...

“It’s a pity... Big Sis’ Fate Power just reached the 5th layer.”

“If she was at the 6th layer, that repulsive female Dragon would have already died!”

Worry leaked from Lorie at his side.

She also possessed Fate Power and was naturally more aware of the nature of the power than others.

And her Intelligence gift allowed her to clearly understand this fight.

On the surface, Jessica was clearly winning, but in reality, it was turning into a war of attrition. It was extremely unfavorable for Jessica.

“5th layer?”

Marvin was a bit stunned. At that time he noticed that the seven colored radiance on Jessica’s body was really made up of five constantly flickering halos.

The halos were concentric circles wrapping around her layer upon layer.

Hold on!

He clearly remembered that in the trailer, Jessica had six halos flickering around her!

That was the Fate Power’s 6th layer realm!

Marvin was confused.

‘Has Jessica been progressing slower?’

‘Or... Did the transmigration, or perhaps something else, make the Underdark’s winter come earlier and push the attack from the Underdark Races forward?’

Marvin had a headache.

His memories of the timeline before the Great Calamity were generally good.

After all, the players descended on Feinan half a year after the Great Calamity and Marvin was among those players who liked to study the lore and would pay attention to every detail!

But even so, before the Great calamity, he was unable to make a perfectly accurate plan.

Regardless, the current Jessica truly didn't reach the level of tearing a Black Dragon apart with her bare hands!

The words she said before were most likely bravado.

'If it truly doesn't work, I can only lend her the Dragon Slaying Rifle to her,' Marvin thought.

He hadn't expected the situation to suddenly change!

The Black Dragon God secretly used a Divine Spell and it was coordinated with the Black Dragon's Divine Wish and trapped Jessica inside a black cloud!

The crafty Clarke roared with sinister laughter and ignored the trapped Jessica to once again fly at the city's wall!

Everyone went pale.

This time, Jessica couldn't stop her!

"Quickly flee!"

Jessica couldn't move! Even though the Fate Power protected her, she was unable to lend them a hand!

She would be trapped inside the black cloud for at least ten more seconds!

And a lot could happen in those ten seconds!

In an instant, the Black Dragon's imposing shadow approached.

The people on the city wall were fleeing in terror.

But there were two people who didn't move.

Lorie was still standing there, small stars floating in her eyes.

Standing next to her was Marvin's tall silhouette.

In his hand was a spear covered in a cloth. He was standing on the city wall, silently looking at the crazily approaching Black Dragon.

In that split second, time seemed to come to a halt.

The Black Dragon was ruthlessly speeding and about to crash against him.

The next second, a brilliant light flashed on the city wall!

Diamond-shape activated!

It was time to show what a real man was!

---

长枪 literally means long(长) gun(枪), but when used together usually refers to a specific type of spear. It's been ambiguous enough before to believe it was referring to a gun, and if you search 长枪 on the Chinese version of Wikipedia, it takes you to a disambiguation page asking if you're trying to look up a spear or a gun.

Chapter 282: Lethal Weapon!

Facing Clarke's menacing approach, Marvin had no choice but to come forward.

He knew he couldn't fall back. Lorie was behind him, and so were many innocent inhabitants of Hope City.

Even if this place wasn't his territory, Rocky Mountain had many things that made him recall some pretty good existences.

He was willing to fight to protect this piece of land!

Moreover, back when he stole [Weeping Sky], he had already included Black Dragon Clarke in his kill list!

The current Marvin needed a huge amount of battle experience to level up, and killing a Dragon was no doubt one of the quickest ways to get that experience.

An ordinary Adult Red Dragon gave Marvin 16000 exp, so Clarke would definitely give more!

Thus, he had made a deal with Jessica to let him get the killing blow on the Black Dragon.

It was just that Marvin had overestimated the current Jessica. The Fate Sorceress was trapped and Hope City was on the brink of a crisis.

Now that it had come to this, Marvin was forced to make a move.

Because he knew that Lorie wouldn't retreat.

She was a wise girl, but her resolve didn't match her age.

She stood there, giving all her people confidence and courage.

At the same time, it also gave Marvin confidence and courage.

Facing the frightening Black Dragon, he stood forward and unhesitatingly used his most suitable shape!

Diamond-shape!

He only had eight seconds!

These eight seconds would make the difference between victory and defeat.

A trace of seriousness flashed through Marvin's eyes. After using Diamond-shape, he found that his body's attributes were close to those of a Legend Monk.

It wasn't limited to Diamond Body's effects of imperviousness. His Strength, Constitution, and Resistances all reached a pretty high level.

And his Dexterity also didn't fall.

It was such a frightening bloodline ability. Even if it was only for eight seconds, some people would be willing to trade their lives for this!

The Black Dragon roared, her shadow flying forward like a spectre of death.

...

The people desperately hid behind the city wall. They had nowhere to escape, nowhere to hide.

Occasionally, some would raise their heads, only to see that silhouette firmly standing there like a mountain.

"Who is he?"

"What is he thinking?"

“Isn’t that Mister Robin? A few days ago he led us to break through the Underdark Army’s Blockade!”

“Heaven! Don’t tell me Sir Robin wants to block a Black Dragon on his own? It’s true that he is a powerful Druid, but Black Dragon Clarke...”

All kinds of complex expressions flashed through the faces of the people looking at Marvin.

There was respect, reverence, restlessness, and also disdain.

Quite a few people thought Marvin was just an ignorant fellow wanting to show off.

He was like an ant trying to block the path of a human, overestimating his abilities. He wanted to slay a Dragon to become famous? Unfortunately, Black Dragon Clarke wasn’t a good target!

She was a descendant of a god!

They all held their breaths as they watched the scene. But suddenly, a pleasant voice echoed in their hearts.

“You can do it.”

It was the voice of a sweet girl.

Marvin also heard it.

That was Lorie’s voice.

Her Fate Power, Wisdom, had endless possibilities.

The voice penetrated through Marvin’s heart, wiping out his traces of uncertainty and bolstering his spirit.

Determination could be seen in his eyes.

‘I can do it,’ he said to himself.

Then, Marvin angrily shouted as he focused power in his left leg. Burst!

With his powerful Strength attribute, his entire body was like a bullet furiously flashing forward!

Alarmed cries rang throughout Hope City!

They hadn't thought that Marvin would take the initiative to attack.

This was simply throwing his life away.

The Black Dragon was flying toward them so quickly. Anyone who was hit would just turn into fine powder!

Moreover, he would be unable to block the Black Dragon's momentum.

Her speed was really way too high!

"Lady Jessica!"

They were all counting on Jessica.

But the Fate Sorceress was still trapped in that black cloud.

No one could save them.

...

Marvin's figure was swift like the wind, but in Clarke's eyes, he looked like a fly.

She laughed sinisterly and opened her bloody mouth!

This fly wasn't even worth using her Dragon Breath. She would directly swallow it.

But then, Marvin's silhouette suddenly disappeared in midair!

Night Boundary!

The Night Monarch's heir had appeared! Marvin nimbly fell toward the Black Dragon's back!

Very few people knew that the area behind the Black Dragon's neck was the perfect blind spot to attack!

Clarke clearly didn't notice where Marvin had escaped, as her gaze was focused on that small girl on the city wall.

A Fate Sorceress... ah... Truly a meal worth stopping for!

Others might not grasp the extent of their power, but Clarke, who had been tyrannically beaten up like a dog by Jessica, was very clear about it.

As a descendant of a god, Clarke knew a secret technique that would let her gain a Fate Sorceress' Fate Power by swallowing her!

For someone like her who kept pursuing more power, this was an easy and quick way!

The Black Dragon roared with laughter as she spread her wings, her bloody mouth ruthlessly approaching to bite Lorie.

Those who were looking toward the city wall all closed their eyes.

But the young girl was watching that strong shadow on the Black Dragon's back!

...

Marvin's silhouette fell just like a meteor.

His descent wasn't initially that fast but he carried great strength and an extremely firm conviction .

"Woosh!"

The wind blew, blowing away a part of the cloth covering the spear.

The tip of a sharp spear was revealed.

Clarke suddenly felt something was wrong.

She tried to turn.

But it was already too late.

This weapon that had killed countless dragons in the past was thirsting for more blood! Marvin could feel this weapon's cheer as soon as the cloth was removed!

As Marvin was falling, he discovered that his hand wasn't thrusting the Dragon Slaying Spear down, but it was actually dragging him down!

It went faster and faster!

In an instant, he ruthlessly crashed into the Black Dragon's neck.

"Pshhh!"

The Black Dragon's powerful and tough hide was like tofu in front of this weapon as it directly pierced through!

“Aaaaaaaaaah...”

A mournful angry roar was emitted from the Black Dragon’s mouth before petering out. She completely lost her balance and was nailed onto the earth by the indescribable power.

This was the power of the Dragon Slaying Spear!

At that time, she was only a dozen meters away from the city wall.

The earth’s rumbling left people dumbstruck!

In a mere five seconds, Lord Robin had forcefully stopped the Black Dragon’s assault and was shockingly able to nail it to the ground!

What kind of power was that!

“Could Sir Robin be a Legend!?” One of them let out a cry.

But as Marvin was standing on the Dragon’s back, panting in exertion, he felt something wrong.

‘Hold on... Why is there no battle experience notification?!’

---

ED/N: This whole chapter I was thinking to myself, talking is a free action indeed (If you don’t get what I’m talking about and you’re curious, Google Talking is a free action).