

Read Night Ranger - Chapter 31: Nobility

Chapter 31: Nobility

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

"Work? What do you mean working with my body?"

Lola jumped, scared. She immediately had all kinds of bad thoughts.

But Marvin didn't do anything weird. He only sat cross-legged in front of her and firmly said, "Tell me all the vocabulary and grammar of the gnoll language you know. I'll only ask once."

"Aaah?"

Lola blankly looked at him. She didn't think he would raise this kind of request.

He just wanted to learn the gnoll language?

"Sir, forgive my offense." Lola timidly said, "Although the gnoll language is simple, it's not a language you can learn quickly."

Marvin didn't feel like saying much, he took out his curved dagger and put it on the side.

"You talk. I listen."

Lola wanted to cry but no tears came out.

She just had to be his gnoll language teacher.

'Truly a single-minded bad guy.'

Even though she felt like that, she still forced herself to explain all her knowledge of the gnoll language.

...

Although the gnoll language was relatively simple, it was still a language. It wasn't easy to master it.

Lola's explanation of the small bits of the language that she knew took a bit more than two hours.

She looked at Marvin warily, "Sir, I've already given you all my vocabulary, there isn't much more."

Marvin remained motionless.

Before long, his mouth uttered a very queer sound.

Lola was shocked when she heard that sound.

This sound meant "food" in the gnoll language.

'How could this happen? I took more than a year to learn the gnoll language, yet he is able to speak it after listening to me speaking it for only two hours?'

Lola felt like she was dreaming.

But next, Marvin began talking to her in the gnoll language. "You did a good job. Definitely helped me. But I cannot let you leave now."

He then stood up and used the rope to tie Lola to the bed.

After leaving her a few pieces of bread, Marvin sealed the doors and the windows of the farmhouse and left alone.

Lola was sitting on the bed with a blank stare, as if she saw a ghost.

She even forgot to resist!

Although, it would have been futile to resist.

...

Marvin did learn the gnoll language.

And it only took two hours. This seemed miraculous, but it was actually true.

After getting rid of Miller, Marvin didn't only reach level 5 ranger, he also took a look at his own original class.

Nobility.

This life class could also be promoted. Baron, this rank could let a noble reach level 4, and then it wouldn't get higher. Marvin surmised that he might need a higher nobility title.

Marvin casually added 10 general exp to the original 40 Nobility exp to level it up.

His Noble class reached level 4!

After reaching level 4, aside from the 20 noble special skill points, he also found out that he got an extra skill.

[Quick Study] (Level 4 Nobility Specialty): When you activate this specialty, you can learn knowledge in a short time.

Can be activated for 3 hours every month.

As for the target of study, it could be: any language, geography, culture, astronomy, etc. Gnoll language was included in that.

It was because of this specialty that Marvin made Lola lecture him on gnoll language.

It was a success.

[You used a specialty – Quick Study]

[You are learning new knowledge...]

[Study finished – Knowledge +1]

[Knowledge – Language (Gnoll Language)]: You mastered the elementary gnoll language. You are able to have the most basic conversation with gnolls.

He had successfully learned the most basic gnoll language. Even if it was only the lowest rank, it would still be enough to use.

He was here to scout, so being unable to understand what gnolls said wouldn't do.

'As such, Nobility, this life class isn't worthless. I heard that the pearl tower's scholars have similar skills. They can quickly learn knowledge thanks to a few skills. I didn't expect Nobility to have this kind of skill.'

However, based on Marvin's conjecture, this kind of ability wouldn't appear 100% of the time and was decided at birth.

Nobles in this world were all wizards or their descendants. They had outstanding blood flowing in their veins.

This let them have a chance of learning some unusual specialties when they leveled up as Nobility.

And [Quick Study] was a very useful one.

Marvin no longer hesitated after he settled the matter of the gnoll language. Under the cover of the drizzle, he checked around the bottom of the castle's east mountain wall.

There was a secret escape path there.

The secret path led directly to the lord's room, under the bed. During the sneak attack, Marvin was having a meal in the dining room, so he wasn't able to use the secret path.

As a result, this secret path probably hadn't been exposed.

Marvin took advantage of stealth and clever movements to stay out of sight of the gnoll sentries in the castle, before parting a thick bush.

He lifted open a plank from under the sunken grass pile, exposing the secret path in front of him.

Marvin's torch was inside the void conch so even though it was raining, once he got inside the secret path, he was able to use a flint and light his torch.

The torch flames were very bright and the quality of air inside the secret path seemed quite good.

Marvin closed the plank and then went along using a sneaky, cat-like walk.

...

The humidity was different. It was very dry inside the tunnel.

Even though there was a lot of dust, the completely soaked Marvin still felt a lot more comfortable.

He quickly made his way forward by relying on his memories of the path.

There was a fork in front of him.

According to his memories, there was a staircase on the left path leading to the exit; the right path was sealed.

A huge rock blocked the path, hiding the other side.

Marvin suddenly remembered that before Miller's death, he had mentioned a secret path below the castle having a treasure.

'Could it be behind this huge rock?'

Marvin was puzzled. He wasn't very anxious, as even if there was a treasure, it wouldn't escape on its own.

He still had to finish scouting first and leave it for later.

Scouting was decisive in winning a battle.

Because having enough information could give you victory. Marvin wouldn't feel reassured if anyone else did this job so he could only do it himself.

He followed the secret path very carefully, arriving to the lord's room.

There were no voices, so it seemed his luck was pretty good.

Marvin infiltrated the castle and used stealth, being extremely careful at every step.

Gnoll shadows began appearing one after the other in the castle surroundings.

The more he looked, the more alarmed he felt.

These gnolls weren't fighters!

There were only common gnolls without any fighting strength, and for the most part, old weak women and children.

There were more than two hundreds of those gnolls!

This meant that it was a medium sized gnoll tribe. They should have about one hundred and fifty gnolls with real combat classes.

This wasn't an amount that a twenty man garrison could deal with, let alone all those mutated aardwolves.

He walked around the castle very carefully.

Fortunately, he was very familiar with the terrain and the gnolls had pretty poor perception. He was able to calmly withdraw.

But what made him somewhat puzzled was that he had met the majority of the gnoll tribe forces, but still wasn't able to find the boss.

The gnoll tribe roughly had a hundred and fifty qualified as fighters. Among them were six level 3 Petty Officers and two level 4 Adjutants.

The leader was definitely a rank 2 class-holder

Marvin noticed that those mutated aardwolves didn't listen to the ordinary gnolls, or even to the adjutants.

They seemed to be controlled by someone even more powerful.

'Their leader, what is it?'

Harboring doubts in his heart, Marvin clenched his teeth and wanted to go further in.

But at that time, on a street not far from there, a group of gnolls were escorting a thin and small guy.

Marvin narrowed his eyes and was immediately startled!

Gnolls were normally small enough, but that guy was especially abnormal.

It looked as small as a five or six years old child. His fur and color was actually very smooth and the rest of the gnolls looked at him with eyes filled with respect.

'Oh my god! Am I mistaken?'

'The gnoll race widely known for being dumb as fuck, actually gave birth to a Sorcerer?!'

Marvin's quick judgment told him to quickly get out of there.

The most basic innate Sorcerer spell, [Eye of Pain], was the bane of all stealth techniques.

He was alone in enemy territory, he couldn't stay there!

1-The character for work can also mean "to fuck" (干)

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Chapter 32: The Singing Voice in the Secret Path

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

Inside the tunnel, Marvin started to relax, his heart still beating fast.

'Almost got found out!'

'Luckily, there were tall gnolls on his side obstructing his line of sight. If he had found me, I would have been in trouble. There are so many gnolls and mutated aardwolves that even if I used Hide, I wouldn't be able to escape.'

Marvin was really scared this time.

He hadn't anticipated that a Sorcerer would be born among the gnolls.

They weren't kobolds, which had the blood of their ancestor, a huge dragon, flowing in their veins. So, how could a Sorcerer, this kind of outstanding class, appear in a gnoll pack?

Marvin was unable to understand.

But Feinan's world was full of extraordinary things. Since that pack of gnolls had a 2nd rank Sorcerer leading them, their danger level went up.

Marvin would have to issue a specialized target. Only then would it be possible to win.

After all, a strong Sorcerer supporting his strong allies in the battlefield was extremely powerful.

Because the Sorcerer class was limited by bloodlines, it had always been considered as a second-rate class. However, after the Great Calamity, because their spells were unrelated to the Universe Magic Pool and because of the chaos magic flowing in Feinan, instead of being negatively affected their spells became easier to cast and stronger.

After the Great Calamity, Sorcerers were the group that benefitted the most.

Marvin remembered that in the surroundings of the Rocky Mountain to the southwest, the group of Sorcerers exiled by the wizards successfully established a large country after the Great Calamity.

Even though the country only stood for less than three years, if it wasn't for a few gods targeting it, it might have conquered the south.

The leaders of the country were in fact three Heavenly Awakened Sorcerers.

The players talked about the [Three Fate Sisters], all extremely beautiful.

This gnoll Sorcerer that Marvin encountered in White River Valley naturally couldn't compare with the strongest Heavenly Awakened Sorcerer, but he still couldn't underestimate it.

He noticed that the other side was constantly using [Eye of Pain], meaning that he was very alert.

It also showed that his magic power was very strong. Eye of Pain continuously consumed energy but he was able to stand up straight, showing that his bloodline was quite strong.

This kind of guy was the nemesis of Stealth users like Marvin.

If Marvin was a Thief, he would be ruined!

Fortunately he wasn't.

The Ranger's advantage was that even if Stealth was restrained, the close range abilities were still impressive.

Marvin rested for a moment in the tunnel, and soon afterwards he was ready to go back.

When he passed by the fork, he suddenly heard a faint singing voice behind that huge rock blocking the path.

That voice was very gentle. If not for the fact that Marvin's hearing was extraordinary, along with the quiet secret path, he wouldn't have been able to hear it.

'What?'

Marvin heart raced, he quickly approached and stuck his ear to the stone.

The voice gradually turned clear. It seemed to be using a very old language to sing. Marvin carefully listened for a moment, before noticing that this was the language of the Anzed people.

The Anzed were a race that had already died out. They were the origin of the wizards but they disappeared in the long river of history.

In general, many places in Feinan had descendants of the Anzed.

During significant occasions, such as funerals, paying respects to gods or ancestors, and other similar occasions, there would be elders in charge of praying in the Anzed language.

But the average person wouldn't be able to speak or understand the Anzed's ancient language.

But Marvin understood!

He checked his Nobility class knowledge and surprisingly found [Anzed Language].

He suddenly felt that the Nobility Class was simply a thousand times better than the Civilian class. It came with horsemanship, accounting, and other practical abilities, and it was unexpectedly still proficient in all kinds of rare languages!

In the game, only a small amount of players checked the Nobility class and Marvin had no interest whatsoever towards it. As a result, he didn't know its secrets.

This time he got into an noble body and was finally able to experience the benefits of this class!

He listened carefully and found out that that voice was androgynous and was singing only four sentences:

"One flower, two flowers, tonight the devil won't return home."

"Hating the rain falling, hating the thunder rumbling, I sit in the well, weeping."

"Dressed in white for a celebration, dressed in black for a funeral, midnight bell has yet to stop ringing."

"The deceased, has yet to die."

...

The voice was extremely scary. The more he listened to it, the more scared he was.

Those four sung lines kept echoing in his brain for a very long time!

He suddenly forced himself to move away. As voice gradually became quieter, he took a look behind.

"There is something inside!"

Just now, that scary voice managed to completely scare the usually extremely daring Marvin.

That kind of indescribable feeling...

'Could it be a fear skill?'

Marvin frowned and checked the logs but didn't find any fear check or anything similar.

Furthermore, he was wearing [Vanessa's Gift] which increased his fear resistance by 10 points. Ordinary fear magics wouldn't work on him.

But that frightening feeling actually came from the bottom of his heart!

It wasn't a fear skill, but this voice felt as if it was causing some kind of resonance inside his blood vessels.

'Is there a treasure, or a monster inside?!

Marvin looked at the stone behind him with a pale face. He ultimately raised his spirits and threw this matter to the back of his head for the time being.

He had to focus his energy. He couldn't be distracted by these things. The strange singing voice would have to wait until he recovered White River Valley.

...

Marvin quickly got out of the secret path and returned inside the farmhouse a panicked and still tied up Lola.

"What do you want to do?"

The girl became extremely scared. She had sat and thought there for quite a while, feeling sure that this vicious guy wouldn't let her off.

'That guy, how will he take care of me? Using my body first and then death? Or would I be treated the same as those gnolls, just a slash and it's over?'

Lola had thought a lot. The more she thought, the less she was able to accept it. No matter how bad she was, she was still better than the gnolls, right?

'It's probably going to be the first.'

As she thought of this, she became even more scared.

As a result, when Marvin untied her she broke out into a unprecedented struggle... Which was quickly restrained by Marvin.

"Keep moving and you'll die," Marvin said in an ice-cold voice while putting his curved dagger on her neck.

His tone was cold, probably because he was still suffering from the influence of the singing voice.

Lola was scared and started shivering, her recently found courage disappearing in an instant.

'I guess I was born under an ill star.'

She simply closed her eyes, awaiting her fate.

How could she have expected that at that time, Marvin would instead ask her, baffled, "What are you doing?"

"Ah?" Lola opened her eyes, clueless.

Marvin said softly, "Get ready, I'll get you through the gnoll perimeter."

...

If it was Marvin alone, passing through the gnoll perimeter would be extremely easy.

But taking a burden along was a lot more troublesome.

Lola didn't have any class abilities, so not only was she unable to help him, she was also lagging behind.

Fortunately, Marvin thought of a way. He lured away the aardwolves guarding some key areas and then dragged Lola out of White River Valley.

Three days later, when Lola stood once more in front of River Shore City, she was overjoyed.

'Finally back to the civilization!'

She had gone through some hard times from those filthy gnolls in the White River Valley dungeons.

She could have been swallowed whole, fried or even steamed: not everyone had the chance to experience this.

Lola felt happy to have survived, and almost cried.

"Thank you, thank you very much." She sincerely thank Marvin.

Even if the guy before her eyes was extremely fierce, he didn't seem as bad as she imagined...

Still wearing his mask, Marvin was whispering something, hesitating. He then suddenly asked, "You know the path to Jewel Bay?"

"Ah?" Lola was startled.

"I know you aren't a chamber of commerce leader's daughter. I also know that you are only a swindler. But I decided to give you a change."

Marvin took out a pouch and gave it to Lola, "There is some money inside, enough for you to make a trip to Jewel Bay and back and still have some leftover. You can use it to hire some manpower to protect you or bribe a few people."

"I need you to do something for me."

Lola looked at Marvin startled.

"You know about me?" She looked at him suspiciously. "Did the White River Valley Lord tell you? Are you one of his men?"

Lola was racking her brain.

Marvin didn't explain. "Almost."

"Why do you trust me?" Lola took that money pouch, mixed feelings filling her heart.

"I merely think that you haven't found yourself yet, that you didn't want to become a swindler." Marvin lightly added, "Perhaps you aren't so bad."

"I want to give you a chance."

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Chapter 33: Dragon Strength

Translator: Translation Nation

Editor: Translation Nation

Marvin parted with Lola outside River Shore City.

He wanted to give Lola a chance to change because she displayed some talent.

Even if she was a swindler, she might become useful with a bit of training.

Someday in the future, Marvin might not be able to be everything himself; he might need some talented people to help him manage his territory. And Lola had this kind of aptitude.

Even if Lola took the money and ran, Marvin's losses would only be a bit of money.

And if Lola brought back good intel from Jewel Bay, then she would have passed Marvin's first test.

At that time, White River Valley should already have returned to Marvin's hands.

'Don't disappoint me.'

Marvin looked at the girl's figure disappearing into the woods. He then finally took off his mask before walking into the city.

...

River Shore City seemed as peaceful as usual.

But this calm was only a camouflage. While Marvin was walking down the streets, he could see the fear and worry in the eyes of the civilians.

There were a lot more soldiers patrolling. When he was going through the city gate defenses, they asked more questions than usual.

After all, the news of the legendary wizard Anthony had already spread through the East Coast.

This powerful person whose strength was protecting the peace of East Coast all along. The people hadn't even finished mourning their protector's disappearance when the Twin Snakes Cult people came out and did something ruthless.

They used a small village as a blood sacrifice.

Women, old people, youths... They were all skinned to make a skin kite that was hung outside the village.

Even if that was in the vicinity of Sail Boat City and far from Jewel Bay, people were still afraid.

After being suppressed for many years, the Twin Snakes Cult was finally unable to hold back their ambitions.

And the worst part was that rumors about wizards beginning to lose magic power began spreading in the streets. The diviners were already unable to use magic.

The fact that Miller's family slaughter, which was the talk of the town, had not been solved was clear proof.

The City Lord hadn't shown his face in a while and neither had the wizard regiment's chief. The City Hall could only send more patrols.

These patrols could appease the civilians for the time being.

But they couldn't stop the attacks of the Twin Snakes and other evil followers.

River Shore City and even the entire East Coast were in an unstable situation. It was said that all kinds of thieves' silhouettes could be seen on the main road.

This was a warning sign of the chaos that would fall across this world..

Marvin was walking in the street, as chill winds were blowing around. He couldn't help but pull on his clothes, and walk with steady steps.

...

Ranger Guild.

A young man covered in dust and wearing a mask came in.

A few employees took a glance at him from their counter, before losing interest.

This guy seemed to be just a 1st rank ranger, so it shouldn't be important business.

But surprisingly, that guy quickly walked to one counter and knocked on the small table.

"I need an appraiser," Marvin said in a rough voice.

The sleepy girl behind the counter yawned, "What do you need appraised? I'm also an appraiser, and I quickly reached advanced appraiser level."

"You won't be able to." Marvin shook his head, "I need a master level appraiser."

"What?" The girl was startled.

'Master level? What kind of thing need a master level appraiser to personally identify it?'

She looked at Marvin suspiciously, "Are you sure? I can identify some things."

"It's related to ancient goblin knowledge, and also compound potion knowledge." Marvin went straight to the point.

The girl suddenly froze in place.

She hadn't mastered these two types of knowledge.

Only master level appraisers had the chance to know about those two.

"Please wait a moment. Our guild only has one master level appraiser." The girl added, somewhat embarrassed, "But he is sleeping at the moment..."

"No worries, I can wait." Marvin picked a place to sit.

The girl curiously checked him out and couldn't help but ask, "Do you know the fees of a master level appraiser?"

Marvin nodded, "500 silvers."

"You really have that much money!"

The girl had a whole new level of respect toward Marvin. This seemingly thin and weak guy who wasn't carrying many things actually had that much money.

Marvin sized up the girl and suddenly asked, "You are still an apprentice?"

The girl nodded, "I am a disciple of Master Cole."

"Seems like you aren't the only disciple of Master Cole." Marvin said.

His eyesight was quite acute. This girl was sensitive to money. She was wearing plain clothes and one look was enough to know that her family's financial situation wasn't that good. But she seemed smart.

If Master Cole thought she was important, she wouldn't end up with a job at the counter.

The appraiser class needed to use a lot of money in the early stages, so being able to reach advanced level appraiser when coming from a poor family wasn't bad.

The girl was actually quite honest and nodded.

"I am Hathaway, Master Cole's 27th disciple."

"How long have you been an apprentice?" Marvin bluntly asked.

"Ah? Probably three months, give or take." Hathaway seriously answered Marvin's question.

"Have you been hired?" The exact time wasn't that important, Marvin simply tried to get what he could.

He didn't expect that Hathaway would actually shake her head, "The world is a harsh place, Sir. Originally, a person in charge of a chamber of commerce in Sail Boat City invited me to go to Sail Boat City to be their appraiser."

"But he then died on the road. He got skinned. I heard it was the work of a Twin Snakes follower." Fear was apparent in Hathaway's eyes. "Who would dare to go out now? I'd rather be a clerk in River Shore City. I don't want to meet one of those evil follower."

"I'm very sorry." Marvin soothed her, "It might get better soon."

Hathaway shook her head, clearly taking Marvin's sentence as a stranger's kindness.

But actually, Marvin was really thinking of hiring an appraiser. Even if she was only at advanced level, he could slowly train her.

Even if White River Valley had yet to be recovered, Marvin had already begun to think of what to do after the seizing it back.

In this world, there was a very potent yet hard to control power. It was the adventurers.

If Marvin wanted to quickly strengthen White River Valley, he needed their help.

That was why he was working hard. Having no appraiser in the territory won't do.

He chatted idly with Hathaway for a while.

After no less than an hour, Master Cole appeared.

...

In the ranger guild's VIP lounge.

Marvin was sitting on the far end of the table while Hathaway was cautiously standing to the side.

"Deepwater gem." Master Cole put down his magnifying glass and rubbed his eyes, "Boy, you are extremely lucky. This thing has deadly power in the hands of a wizard smith. It is said to be the main material to build a mechanical ghost statue. Without the deepwater gem, the dexterity of the mechanical ghost statue would be reduced."

"A deepwater gem with this kind of purity could be processed into at least 8 sub-gems, and then used to make mechanical ghost statues. The South Wizards Alliance should have the mechanical ghost statue blueprint; you should sell this thing to them. It could be worth a lot!"

Marvin calmly nodded and put the gem away.

He already knew that this gem was very expensive, he just didn't expect it to be worth that much. If it really was a deepwater gem, Marvin knew that wizards focused in clay transmutation would pay quite a lot for it.

Because it had another function apart from making mechanical ghost statues, which was strengthening spellcasting.

This information was almost unknown, as only a few a few talented wizards had found out.

But right now in Feinan's world, only a wizard could find out about wizard stuff. The others, including appraising masters, were unfamiliar with the field.

Marvin was no doubt an exception.

He took out another item that needed to be identified.

It was that potion bottle he had gotten from the crimson monastery.

He could only rely on his rich experience to recognize that this thing was a compound potion.

He didn't know if this master appraiser could give him the answer.

Cole took the potion with an extremely grave expression.

Appraising potions was always the most troublesome part.

"5 wizard golds," Cole said. "Fixed price. Because I need to ask a friend proficient in potions to work with me. And he is actually a true wizard apprentice."

Marvin decisively responded, "No problem."

...

It was already night when Marvin came out of the ranger guild, two hours later.

He had spent 5500 silvers on the appraisals, but he didn't feel bad about it.

A deepwater gem, that's fine.

And then, the appraisal of that potion, it was actually a [Dragon¹ Strength]!

T/N: 1- As some of you might know, dragons are mostly represented by two types. The eastern dragon is often represented with a wingless, long snake-like body. The western is displayed as a huge winged lizard. In this case, it would be a western dragon.

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Chapter 34: Gathering the troops!

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

In Feinan world, anything related to a dragon was amazing.

As the existence at the top of the food chain, every dragon had massively destructive power. For a legendary level or lower, getting rid of a dragon was extremely difficult.

And even if the dragon strength potion didn't have anything to do with a dragon, it still had the dragon name. This meant that it wasn't ordinary.

This kind of potion descriptor was in fact a generic term in the medicine ranking system.

Taking this potion could temporarily increase his attributes substantially.

It could definitely make the difference at a crucial time of a fight.

Under the conscientious appraisal of Master Cole and that wizard apprentice, Marvin's five gold coins weren't wasted. He got the potion's description.

[Dragon Strength]: Strength +6, Dexterity +4. Lasts 10 minutes.

These kinds of attributes were nearly unmatched. Marvin couldn't imagine how fierce he could be after drinking it.

His strength was relatively weak, at only 11, but it would reach 17 after drinking the dragon strength potion.

This was close to 2nd rank fighter standards!

Furthermore, there was also a 4 dexterity increase. Having 24 dexterity meant that he would be able to move as he pleased in the sky above and the earth below.

This potion was a priceless treasure.

Fortunately, the ranger guild still had some integrity. Master Cole and that apprentice wizard had appraised a lot of similar medicines together. Up until he left, Marvin didn't sense any malicious attention from them.

That was the reason why Marvin picked the ranger guild, as major organizations weren't too messy.

If it was goblin Bane... They also have an appraiser over there, but would he be able to not have any evil plans when seeing such treasures?

...

Black Horn Eagle Inn.

A list of names was handed to Marvin.

"Only fifteen people?"

Marvin was somewhat surprised.

He had given Anna instructions to recruit about twenty people.

"The fees of high level adventurers are too high, and the highest of the lower level were only there to cheat us of our money, we don't need them."

"These fifteen are more or less what we need."

"Moreover, the idea that the more the better doesn't really apply to adventurers," Anna added. "Even if they all signed a contract, if our strength is weaker, we might not be able to suppress them."

Marvin nodded, understanding Anna's worries.

Relying on these adventurers to recapture White River Valley? It could actually end up being ruled by those adventurers.

The garrison's strength was somewhat weak, so if they recruited too many adventurers and let them form a force, this could end up unfavorably for Marvin.

The butler girl had thoroughly analyzed the situation.

However.

"The gnolls have a Sorcerer." Marvin said.

"What?" Anna was shocked, "A Sorcerer? How could this be?"

"I saw it myself. He almost discovered me." Marvin forced a rare smile, "They also have a type of mutated aardwolves. Extremely hard to deal with. As for those gnoll fighters, they aren't much of an issue."

A hundred and fifty gnoll Fighters might sound like a lot, but human adventurers levels were higher than theirs.

For one adventurer to fight two or three wouldn't be a problem. As long as they could get rid of the leader, their morale would go down.

But that crafty Sorcerer would surely hide in a corner during the fight, not found by anyone.

Those mutated aardwolves were under his control. He needed to find a way to subdue those aardwolves or eliminate that Sorcerer.

Or else it would be quite difficult to win.

"About those aardwolves, when they raided us, I killed one."

Anna frowned and seriously said her opinion, "They don't have any vitals; my sword pierced their heart and they wouldn't die."

"This kind of..."

Marvin hadn't fought with mutated aardwolves so he knew very little about them.

These things are really hard to get rid of. A large body, high speed, great destructive power and no weak points.

If a few were killed by those aardwolves, it would be fine on the garrison side, but the adventurers might get crushed.

As Marvin was thinking, he grabbed a sheet of paper and wrote something down.

Anna calmly stood to the side, looking more and more surprised at Marvin skillfully writing.

'Young Master Marvin... Is a genius! He already found three ways to restrain those aardwolves in such a short time!'

'It seems like that misfortune actually awakened his potential. Will his strong and wise side be forced out?'

Anna was deep in thought.

"Yes. Let's go with this. We will set off three days later," said Marvin firmly.

"But what about that Sorcerer?" Anna asked, worried.

Even if Sorcerer spells weren't as strong as those of Wizards, it was still a powerful class.

"I'll take care of it." Marvin picked up the list of names of the adventurers and read it meticulously.

...

There were fifteen adventurers separated into two small teams of six and three solo guys.

The fifteen were all 1st rank adventurers with no advanced class.

Anna wasn't wrong: even if Marvin had money now, high level adventurers cost too much. It wasn't worth it.

And if a guy too strong joined, Marvin might actually have his leadership threatened.

What made Marvin surprised was that one of the six-man teams was relatively well-known in River Shore City.

[Bramble]

"This Bramble team has quite a bit of fame in the low level adventurers circle, their captain is a level 5 fighter." Marvin's gaze briefly stopped on the names of the Bramble members, as if he was taking notes.

"Seems like we have good luck," Anna promptly responded. "Normally, based on the Bramble's strength, the contract fees should be insufficient to hire this experienced team."

"But it turns out that their boss' daughter contracted some kind of strange illness, and they need a high level priest to save her. They are in urgent need of money and there are no big contracts lately, so as a result, they took ours."

"This team sounds a bit trustworthy." Marvin nodded.

Anna's efforts could be seen in that list of fifteen people.

The other six-man team also had sufficient strength and reasonable equipment. Although they were a relatively new team, according to the records their mission completion rate was very high.

As for the three solo guys, they were quite strong. One was a level 4 ranger proficient with the bow, one was a level 5 druid able to shapeshift into a brown bear, and the last was a rarely seen pugilist.

All of them had a bit of fame in River Shore City. According to Marvin's calculations, the portion of the fees for the three solo adventurers was actually the highest.

"There is no problem with that list of names. We will set off three days later. Notify Andre and the others to make their preparations."

Marvin made his decision.

Three days later, they would recover White River Valley!

"Where should we regroup?" Anna asked.

"Night Tide Inn," replied Marvin, indicating a surprising location. "When I came back, I found out that that small family inn was still open. Gather there."

"You command this operation. I won't go."

Anna was surprised, "You won't go?"

She was astonished.

Marvin smiled. "I definitely can't, since I'm a weak and powerless noble. But Masked Twin Blades can."

Anna relaxed and displayed a knowing smile.

Young Master Marvin didn't conceal it from her. This was the happiest thing to her.

...

Three days later, in an area outside of River Shore City's rule, Night Tide Inn.

This small family inn in decline was actually only made by an old crippled farmer who built an house in the surroundings to provide a place to rest.

After White River Valley fell into the hands of the gnolls, there was almost no one using the main road between White River Valley and River Shore City.

But Night Tide Inn was still open. The old cripple didn't have anything else to do.

As for moving, he didn't even think about it. He would only consider it if that group of wretched gnolls came over.

But he knew that they wouldn't dare. This was River Shore City territory, and that group of gnolls wouldn't dare kill here. They would be eliminated by River Shore patrols.

But tonight, Night Tide Inn welcomed a lot of guests.

His inn could only fit twenty people at most, but tonight, there were actually thirty six people!

And among them was a woman.

But that cripple actually recognized that woman. She was White River Valley's Butler.

He hurriedly left the room. Entertaining these thirty guests actually made him a little happy.

But when he planned to go in the kitchen, he heard sounds of struggle coming from the living room.

'Terrible! They won't cut down my family tapestry, will they?'

The old cripple's heart sank as he went to check. That was a group of undisciplined adventurers. Something must be happening.

He hurriedly put down the pile of steamed buns and limped toward the living room.

In the living room, thirty or so people were split into multiple factions, standing opposite of each other.

They seemed ready to fight.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 35: Causing troubles

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

Adventurers had always been lawless, but they were rarely untrustworthy.

Because most adventurers relied on their fame to make a living. Even if the means of communication were rather undeveloped in this world, there were very few adventurers that would breach the most basic rules.

Abruptly asking for a raise before the fight even began for example.

Anna was angrily looking at that group of six.

White River Valley's garrison of twenty already gathered behind her. Andre's face was also red, and if it weren't for Anna stopping him, he would have already argued with these adventurers.

The other nine adventurers, the Bramble team and those three solo guys, chose to watch.

They seemed to be following the rules... But Anna knew that if she was unable to restrain the other small team, she would have to compromise.

In that case, they would also request a raise.

This was reasonable.

"We already discussed the contract." Anna tried to stay as calm as possible when talking to them. "You already signed it, you would lose reputation if you breach the contract."

That troublemaking group was the second team along the Bramble team. That team rose up in the past half-year but they still had a decent reputation as they had completed a lot of missions.

Anna was extremely angry; they suddenly wanted to alter the contract and get a bigger reward!

And twice the amount on top of that!

This was unimaginable. Low level adventurers wouldn't do something like this. Anna was not an idiot. She already felt that there was something wrong.

The purpose of that adventurer team wasn't that simple.

'Seems like they want to slow down this operation.'

Anna felt it from this [Lynx] team's leader eyes.

'Could there be someone operating in the shadows? Deliberately making them accept our task? And then breaking the contract and not doing it, influencing White River Valley's recovery?' Anna was thinking.

...

"Miss Anna, our Lynx team is trustworthy."

Lynx team's leader was a ranger with serious albinism and his looks were extremely bad, but his skills were quite exceptional.

That guy was called Verne, but everyone called him Cat.

He was the leader of the entire Lynx team.

He narrowed his eyes and calmly said, "We didn't have any objections toward the previous contract."

"Then why do you want to breach the contract?" Anna coldly asked.

"Because we recently learned that the contract was actually unreasonable," said Cat. "A friend came to me with some information. He said that there was a Sorcerer in the pack of gnolls occupying White River Valley!"

"Doubling the reward when dealing with a caster is quite normal, right? Miss Anna? Thus, I suggest that we cancel the previous contract and sign a new one."

Anna angrily said, "Impossible!"

Cat narrowed his eyes. The living room atmosphere turned stiff.

...

At that time, Bramble team's captain started to talk and , "If there is a caster, re-doing the contract is the general rule. However, I do not know if this information is verified. So the Bramble team won't pick a side for the time being."

"My only requirement is that my team pay would also be doubled if Lynx team pay is doubled. Is this fine?"

The other three adventurers had the same stance.

If Lynx's team fees doubled, their own pay should also be increased.

Else it wouldn't be enough to motivate them.

Anna took a deep breath, a smile suddenly appeared on her face.

In fact, even if she was annoyed when the Lynx team asked for a raise, she wasn't surprised. Young Lord had already guessed it would happen.

Marvin had guessed earlier that an adventurer might use this opportunity to cause troubles.

The Lynx team and the Bramble team were both good teams. If the Bramble team's motive was their leader's child falling ill, they couldn't help but take this contract. But what was the reason for the newly rising Lynx team?

Marvin thought of this and made ample preparations.

Thinking of it, she said, "That's right, there is a Sorcerer in that pack of gnolls occupying White River Valley. And it's a level 2 Sorcerer!"

The Lynx team couldn't help but show a proud smile.

'This woman is compromising?' Cat's pupils were still dilated and few people could understand what he was thinking from his expression.

"Since that is the case, let's discuss our new contract, shall we?"

As he was talking, he sneered inwardly, 'New contract? We didn't take this mission for the money.'

In the process of drafting a new contract, they had to return to River Shore City. This would take a lot of time.

That Sir told them that they just had to do that and they would get a huge amount of money without doing anything

A smiling expression could be seen in Cat's eyes.

...

"New contract?"

Anna coldly laughed, "Sorry! We don't plan on signing a new contract."

"If your Lynx team wants to do a breach of contract, you'll have to pay the penalty fee."

'What?'

Everyone in the Lynx team was shocked.

'She is actually keeping up a unyielding attitude?'

Even the Bramble team captain couldn't help but stand up and say, "Miss Anna, if there is a Sorcerer, the mission difficulty increased substantially. I think it's necessary to discuss re-discuss it."

He didn't want to cause troubles, but as a leader, he had to take responsibility for his own subordinates' lives.

As an experienced adventurer, he knew that casters were difficult to deal with, even if it was a groll.

Anna said, "It's like this. The gnolls' leader is indeed a Sorcerer. But we invited an expert to deal with this Sorcerer."

"Everyone would receive their commission only to clear up the other gnolls, that's all!"

An expert?

Cat suddenly had a bad feeling.

This was far from what he had expected.

At that time, a thin silhouette slowly approached.

He was wearing a thick mask, twin daggers on his belt.

"Sorry, I'm late." Marvin said in a deep voice.

Masked Twin Blades!

The atmosphere in the living room immediately turned violent.

...

Marvin calmly stood there, silent, yet intimidating!

The adventurers stood up one by one looking grave.

They were all 1st rank adventurers, they obviously knew that Masked Twin Blades, who was capable of eliminating the Acheron gang, was a lot more terrifying.

Acheron gang's leader was in fact a true 2nd rank expert.

And he was also linked to the Miller family elimination.

Killing in the wealthy district, who knew how difficult this was.

But this guy astonishingly had accomplished it!

That Masked Twin Blades already turned into an influential figure in River Shore City.

Marvin didn't say anything. Anna coldly said, "That Sorcerer will be Masked Twin Blades' target. You'll handle the other gnolls, do you still have a problem with the contract?"

Anna stared at Cat, her tone quite overbearing.

The Lynx team was left speechless

They thought that excuse was the best excuse.

But the appearance of Masked Twin Blades ruined everything.

Cat was sweating, thinking hard.

...

"Someone put a high price on your head." At that time, one of the solo adventurers was pondering. "You still dare to move with us?"

It was that boxer. He had a sturdy build and was armed with knuckles and seemed extremely fierce.

His nickname was "The Rock". It didn't mean that he had an amazing defense. It was because no matter how hard the stone was, he could shatter it.

"Try me."

Marvin didn't just target him, he checked everyone.

He looked at the few members of the Lynx team for a bit longer.

The mood turned ice cold.

"This being the case, our Bramble team doesn't have any objection." The Bramble team leader took the lead and said, "Since we aren't dealing with the caster, the price on the contract is quite fair."

He glanced at Marvin and added, "Also, we aren't interested in your head sir. We only want to finish the mission."

"I have an objection!" Seeing the Bramble captain taking his stance, Cat couldn't sit still.

He sneered, "Can he handle a 2nd rank Sorcerer? If he failed to succeed, wouldn't we have to face a 2nd rank Sorcerer?"

The pugilist Rock also displayed an evil smile, "Yes! Masked Twin Blades reputation is really great, but what about his strength?"

His tone suddenly changed, "Sir Verne, wouldn't it be better to have your people check it?"

"I heard that your team's mister Green is also a dagger user, it would be better to let them compare notes and check Mister Masked Twin Blades strength. To see if it's as good as in the rumors?"

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Chapter 36: Three moves

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

Hearing Rock, Cat inwardly cursed.

This guy was clearly trying to take advantage, egging on Cat's people to see if he could get any benefits.

This rough looking pugilist was actually very resourceful.

Anna coldly watched this nonsense. The only thing about this that satisfied her was that after Bramble's captain took his stance, the Bramble members stood away, meaning that they had no objection to the contract.

But they didn't leave, and just stood there, apparently wanting to look at the performance.

After all, everyone was curious about how strong Masked Twin Blades was, having suddenly risen to fame.

Cat was helpless, as if he retreated now, that person's plans would definitely be spoiled.

The penalty fees was a large amount of money, and although that person's compensation was enough to cover it, it would still be a loss of reputation. This wasn't worth it.

If they could smoothly destroy the White River Valley's recovery plan, it would definitely be the best.

It really wasn't good, but they could only try to benefit as much from the situation as possible. After all, they were adventurers and not that person's subordinates.

"Green?" Cat asked.

A silent brown haired guy stepped forward when his leader called.

He was wearing a fine set of leather armor, but unlike Marvin, he was carrying a long saber.

That long saber was a little similar to Japan's katana but wider and thicker. This meant that it would result in a stronger slashing force when attacking a monster.

Green was a cold-blooded blade master. Countless monsters and even adventurers had died under his blade, most of them very gruesomely.

One slash two wounds.

"[Wandering Fighter]?"

Marvin narrowed his eyes, focusing on Green's movements. That kind of long saber was only used by the 2nd rank class, wandering fighter.

This guy was obviously not a 2nd rank wandering fighter yet but it seemed like he was thinking of going toward that path.

Wandering fighters had impressive dexterity, but their strength was also quite fierce. With enough momentum, their blade could split someone in half.

In his previous life, these kinds of quick and fierce moves were popular with the players.

But for this kind of class... Marvin knew how to subdue them.

...

"Miss Anna, even if you said that we don't need to deal with the caster, we still need to check this Masked Twin Blades strength. Let him fight with our level 5 fighter, we need to be sure."

"I believe Sir Masked Twin Blades wouldn't mind?" Cat coldly said.

"If we win, you shut up." Anna said back with an even colder voice, then, with a hint of disgust, "Either get out of here and pay your penalty, or help us repel those gnolls."

"Sure!" Cat answered straightforwardly this time. If Masked Twin Blades displayed martial skills that could convince him, he wouldn't mind temporarily altering his plans.

Being able to go along and complete the mission was good. That person... If he had told him that Masked Twin Blades would show up, he wouldn't have come.

White River Valley's young lord was truly reckless, actually daring to hire a wanted criminal to recover his lost territory.

According to Cat's information, things were not that simple. A lot of people were watching that territory.

Even if this territory's recovery was successful, that young lord might have a lot of troubles afterwards.

Thinking of this, Cat's mood turned a bit better.

But at that time, Masked Twin Blades coldly said, "I don't fight, I kill."

The living room was frozen!

'This guy is too arrogant!'

Green, angrily gripping his long saber, ruthlessly rushed to Marvin who was leaning on the counter, intending to kill.

Anna and Andre were both startled. They wanted to stop him but it was too late.

Anna's gaze was focused on Marvin, not scared that he would be hurt but rather that he would really kill Green.

Missing a team would be very troublesome. Recovering White River Valley was already difficult as it was.

Marvin, still leaning on the counter, narrowed his eyes.

He didn't move until Green arrived in front of him. At that time, he acted.

Reaching the 20 dexterity stage gave him a strong ability to react. His eyes locked onto Green's right shoulder as soon as Green rushed toward him.

That body part would move first when the other side planned to attack!

Green's right shoulder trembled, giving a sign of him using strength!

Marvin's body moved forward and he stood in front of Green in an instant.

Everyone shuddered.

'This kind of reaction speed, along with that weird move...'

Not waiting for their reaction. "Clang" could be heard as Marvin unsheathed a dagger.

This was his right-hand dagger. Because Green was also using his right-hand, and his strength was definitely higher than Marvin's, in order to stop his assault, he had to use a slightly stronger move first!

Even though [Two-Weapon Fighting] gave Marvin's hands more or less the same skill proficiency, there was still a strength gap.

Green was shocked. Before he had time to lift his long saber up he already suffered a hit from the back of the dagger.

"Ah!" Green bellowed, before quickly adapting.

He immediately did an attack from below, a small curved slash, the edge of his saber aiming at Marvin's lower half.

Marvin sneered, 'Seems like this brother has seen this trick way too often!'

Second stab!

Left hand.

A simple block that didn't require much skill. As long as he found the spot with the weakest strength on the long saber, he could stop the momentum.

To Marvin, this kind of move wasn't an issue.

"Clang!"

Marvin stopped the attack.

But at the same time, Marvin's third attack was already on the way!

Two-weapon fighting was powerful because of the ability to multitask.

His left hand was blocking while his right hand was attacking!

The cold blade kept flashing under the candle light.

This dagger was aiming at Green's neck.

Even if the later was still wearing a leather armor, he would simply be unable to withstand Marvin's dagger.

The other were watching with a blank look, feeling stifled.

Marvin moves and reaction speed, it felt as if he completely saw through Green's moves.

Three moves!

He only needed three moves to push Green into a dead-end!

Cat was shocked, he felt his intestines turn green from regret.

If the dagger really kept going, Green's life...

"Stop!" Someone anxiously shouted.

It was actually Anna.

The next second, Marvin dagger's momentum slowed, before lightly hitting Green's shoulder.

Clang!

Green was sweating. He let go of his long saber and it fell on the ground!

There was an uproar. Green was considered as an expert among River Shore City's low level adventurers.

But he couldn't receive more than three attacks when facing Masked Twin Blades. And looking at his appearance, he had received a huge shock.

As a fighter, to be unable to handle a dagger combo.

If it wasn't for Miss Anna yelling on time, maybe...

Anyway, the fame of Masked Twin Blades in River Shore City should rise.

As for Green.

As someone aiming to be a wandering fighter, he had received a serious blow to his confidence.

It would take a long time to overcome it. Whether he'd be able to completely recover or not was the question.

...

Marvin inwardly praised Anna. She yelled at the perfect time.

Otherwise, Marvin would have needed to deal with Green to keep the image of Masked Twin Blades.

Though, it was something that the two had planned previously.

Marvin would be in charge of intimidating them and Anna would be in charge of soothing them.

That way, the group of troublemaking mercenaries would know their place.

Soon, someone came and helped Green up. Anna noticed that this man was sweating.

It was clear that he felt extremely pressured by those earlier moves.

Rock, standing on the side, also didn't say anything else. This pugilist had a grave expression.

Fear was especially noticeable when Marvin gave him a meaningful glance.

Pugilists would clearly suffer losses when facing daggers. Rock came to the conclusion that he would lose his life if he went against Masked Twin Blades.

This was someone whose blade skills were close to perfection.

Even if some actions were strangely stiff, he was already quite abnormal.

"Is there any more questions?" Anna smiled.

The adventurers in the living room didn't say a word.

The old cripple, seeing what had happened, served food, coffee, and so on.

The tension eased a little as everyone began to eat.

Anna didn't let the adventurers go check in at the inn after dinner; she directly started planning.

First was White River Valley's entrance: there were four gnolls standing guard there, and two of them were archers.

Of course, those were no problem.

The problem was the six mutated aardwolves.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 37: Tactics

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

Mutated aardwolves were the strongest in the gnoll pack.

Even the Bramble team didn't dare to look down on them.

The two captains came closer, surrounded by their team members. The solo adventurers also approached.

"According to our information, the gnolls set up a sentry post here. Tomorrow evening we have to surprise attack that place. We can't let any aardwolf or gnoll escape."

"There are two fighter gnolls, and two archer gnolls. Those aren't an issue. But those six mutated aardwolves are the most troublesome."

Anna took out an old fashioned map and wrote down the situation in the corner.

Her writing was very organized, with just a few sentences clearly describing the situation.

Even the two experienced captains couldn't help but be awed. This half-elf was really talented.

"There are sentries on both side of the forest. It's a natural cover, but these mutated aardwolves dexterity is also impressive. Do you have any ideas?" Anna looked at the two team captains.

Marvin obviously already had a plan. But he let Anna ask the adventurers first.

He wanted to see if there were a few talented adventurers in that group.

Cat stayed silent. His subordinate just got defeated by Masked Twin Blades, putting him in a very bad mood.

Based on the current situation, wanting to wreck this mission would be very troublesome because they couldn't make it too obvious.

He could only pray that they would make a mistake in the battle, and then leave defeated.

That way they could get the money and save their reputation at the same time.

Unfortunately, the other captain had different thoughts.

As the captain of the Bramble team, Gru had a lot of experience. He mumbled for a bit before saying, "Maybe we could use a few traps. These mutated aardwolves are hard to deal with, so attacking them from the front is definitely not a good idea. However, we could lure them to a trap."

"Gnoll fighters are level 2 on average, and those aardwolves are definitely higher than theirs. This means that the sentries there aren't controlling the aardwolves. Maybe we could make something here."

A smile could be seen on Anna's face. Bramble's people were quite reliable.

"Mister Gru and I had the same thoughts. My plan was also like that. We will draw those six mutated aardwolves to a trap on the side of the forest and then use a kind of method to kill them thought up by our lord."

"As for the specifics, we can talk about them later. Mister Verne, since those six mutated aardwolves are handed to our garrison and Mister Gru's Bramble team, your Lynx team will be in charge of those four gnolls, is that fine?"

Anna smiled at Cat.

The latter felt helpless.

Could he still say anything about this kind of plan?

Their great Lynx team wouldn't be unable to deal with four gnolls, right?

If they really ruined the mission that way, his team wouldn't be very respected in River Shore City.

As for those three solo adventurers, they didn't need to do anything in that first battle. They only needed to stand on the side and cheer.

"Well, it's late. Mister Vern and Lynx members, you can go back to your rooms to rest."

Anna told them to leave in a not too soft, nor too hard way.

What she meant was quite obvious. The garrison and the bramble team would work together to eliminate the six aardwolves, which certainly needed a few tactics.

However, she didn't want to let the Lynx members hear those.

Verne turned green, but Masked Twin Blades suddenly got up and went to the 2nd floor.

The other three solo adventurers also returned to their own rooms.

The humiliated Lynx members could only leave the living room.

Only Anna and Gru were left to discuss tomorrow's tactics.

...

The second floor restroom seemed a bit dirty. The old crippled clearly didn't really clean it well because no customers had visited in a long time.

A Lynx member returned to his room, leaving the depressed Cat going to the restroom by himself.

"Damn! That supposedly easy money is not that easy to get."

He gloomily went in.

But out of nowhere, a dagger was put on his neck, soundlessly.

A person was hidden in the shadows of the restroom!

Masked Twin Blades!

"You... What do you want?" Cat was startled.

He was well aware of the rangers hiding skills as he was also a ranger.

But he didn't expect this Masked Twin Blades to actually hide in the restroom to sneak attack him!

'What is that guy thinking? He isn't really thinking of killing me, right?'

Thinking of this, he started sweating profusely.

"Don't do anything foolish." Marvin coldly said.

"What are you talking about?" Cat turned stiff. His sneaky movement toward his own dagger was clearly noticed by Marvin.

"The struggle between the upper forces of River Shore City is not something that you, a small trash, can participate in," said Marvin emotionlessly. "I know about the big shot behind you... He thinks that baron Marvin is only a young noble, but in fact, is everything really as simple as it looks?"

"I only reminded you out of kindness, don't do anything foolish. If you make an unforgivable mistake leading to White River Valley being unable to be recaptured, making me unable to accomplish my mission... Then you'll never be able to get the reward that big shot promised you anyways."

"Trust me, It won't be a problem. As far as I'm concerned, killing is an easy thing."

"Bang!"

Marvin pushed Cat aside, put away his dagger, and left the restroom.

Cat was sweating all over, Marvin's few sentences repeating in his mind!

He was a very suspicious person.

Masked Twin Blades made him very perplexed.

That guy known as baron Marvin was only a noble in dire straits, so how could he hire such a powerful expert?

Could it be that he had someone backing him?

Thinking this far, he couldn't help but start shivering.

The conflicts of the upper layer big shots were definitely not something that they, a small hired team, could participate in. If not careful, they would just be sacrificed.

'Masked Twin Blades talked about a mission... Could it be that someone is ordering him to help with the recovery of White River Valley? And that person is definitely not that young boy Marvin.'

'To be able to send this kind of expert, the person behind definitely has power. Masked Twin Blades made such a ruckus in the city, yet wasn't even caught...'

'Don't tell me... !?'

Cat suddenly thought of something! And it frightened him to death!

Wizards!

After Miller's case, the omnipotent wizards unexpectedly announced that they were unable to find any trace of the killer. This was absurd.

After the wizards started ruling this world's era, everyone believed that the wizards were able to do anything.

'Not being able to find a killer, this really was too fake, right?'

Unless, Masked Twin Blades worked for the chief of the wizard regiment!

This would explain everything!

Cat's lateral thinking was really formidable. In a short time, he had already thought far ahead.

'Oh heavens, putting it this way, Masked Twin Blades is actually someone from the City Lord's side?'

'The city hall is only a dog sitting below the City Lord! I almost became crazy and went against the City Lord!'

'Oh heavens, oh heavens... That's what happened, that's what happened...'

Cat foolishly stood in the restroom doorway for no less than 10 minutes, slowly recovering.

At that time, Gru arrived from the lower floor and gave Cat a weird look.

Verne suddenly became aware that he wasn't behaving properly. He wordlessly went back to his room, not knowing what to think.

...

Gru returned to his own room. Just as he pushed open his door, his eyes narrowed and he grabbed his big sword from his back.

There was something amiss!

Someone else was in his room.

"Don't be nervous." A candle was lit in the room. Marvin was calmly sitting there, looking at Gru. "I only want to talk about some things with you."

Gru didn't lower his guard. Who would dare to relax when facing Masked Twin Blades?

His hands were still holding onto the heavy sword, ready to attack at any time.

"What discussion? We are complete strangers." Gru said.

"Let's have a chat about your daughter. I want to know her condition," Marvin said seriously.

Gru stared blankly.

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Chapter 38: Plague

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

"What on earth have you heard?"

Gru frowned.

He would always become very tense when it was about his daughter. He was a calm and steady man, but everyone had a weakness.

Obviously, that girl who was still lively a few months ago was this man weakness.

"I didn't hear anything. I only heard that she was sick," Marvin said simply. "I am just asking about her condition."

Gru hesitated, before finally replying, "Her sickness is quite serious. The doctor said she might not last more than a few weeks. We went and looked for a silver church priest, but those low level priests were powerless."

"The only way would be to seek a high level priest's blessings. But those are quite expensive. We borrowed a lot of money but it is still not enough," said Gru frankly.

Even though Masked Twin Blades was a strong threat, he still said things as they were.

"Her sickness appeared suddenly?" Marvin asked.

"Yes, that's right." Gru was surprised. "Could it be that you are a doctor Mister Masked Twin Blades?"

"No way. I only saw a few cases while traveling."

Marvin casually displayed an experienced attitude. Even a veteran adventurer like Gru was unable to see through it.

"What? You've seen this sickness?"

Gru became excited.

His daughter was his only worry. His wife died young so he considered his daughter his most precious treasure. He would do his utmost to satisfy her requests.

As thus, she had turned into a spoiled and willful girl, fooling around outside all day with some messy people. Gru was quite helpless about this. As an adventurer, being out all year round was a very normal thing. He could only keep making money to satisfy her materialistic needs.

But she was sick now... Gru felt as if his own heart was cut out. This kind of fatherly feeling, only those who experienced it could understand.

"Of course. That's why I asked just now," said Marvin unhurriedly. "Is she turning yellowish and withering, while her eyes are shining? Does her neck have small black spots similar to smallpox?"

Gru was shocked!

"You... How do you know!?" He began to tremble.

"Mister Gru, you are lucky. Not many people in Feinan know of this thing," Marvin calmly said. "Don't be shocked by what I'm about to tell you."

"Your daughter didn't catch a sickness. It's actually a plague."

"It has only appeared three times in Feinan's history. Each time it destroyed a few neighbouring cities."

"[Dark Sweet Poison], I don't know if you heard of it."

Gru stood there, stunned.

...

The dark sweet poison was in fact a plague which came from the Plague God.

This evil god had wanted to join the fun in Feinan Continent a long time ago. A perfect world for him was one filled with terror, plagues, and death everywhere.

He spread the dark sweet poison everywhere. Everyone infected by this plague would look malnourished, but there would still be light in their eyes.

At this time, it would also bring about hallucinations, making victims think that they reached the heavens.

Their appetite would increase. What they ate would nourish those black spots on their neck.

Those black spots would continuously drain their vitality.

The dark sweet poison was very frightening. A lot of lives would be lost every time there was an outbreak.

The first outbreak of the dark sweet poison was during the elven era. At that time, mankind's status was very low and the quality of life was obviously quite bad. When the plague appeared, almost one tenth of mankind got infected.

The Plague God's strength increased tremendously.

At that time, a saint arrived. He brought with him the method of getting rid of the dark sweet poison, rescuing mankind from the abyss of suffering.

That sage's surname was Brando, but his first name was unknown.

Some said that he was an incarnation of the Elven God, while others believed he was an incarnation of the Wizard God.

In short, after that saint treated the dark sweet poison, he disappeared from Feinan's world. The name "Dark Sweet Poison" had also disappeared.

People gradually forgot this terrible plague.

But Marvin remembered quite clearly.

The dark sweet poison outbreak was also one of the signs of the chaotic era. Although, its source was quickly suppressed by the legendary wizards.

But this was only a small probe from the Plague God, nothing more.

Feinan's records were very clear: that saint emerging during the first outbreak wasn't a god's incarnation. He was in fact only a mortal, a master herbalist and master apothecary.

As for that plague's true ending, it wasn't a result of saint medicines. In fact, when the Plague God spread the plague, he didn't pay attention and spread the plague in the West Forest. This directly angered the Nature God.

The Nature God erupted in anger and with his strong divine power, he beat up the weak Plague God more than enough.

The pathetic Plague God hadn't had time to develop his own territory when his divinity almost got broken by the Nature God. Fortunately, the Fear God, Destruction God, and other evil gods helped him, or he would have been sealed in a bottle by the Nature God so he could play with him at any time.

Since then, the Plague God moved cautiously... Not doing anything to those gods.

He spent a lot of time to grow his own influence in another place, slowly recovering his strength.

And after the Nature God, Elven God, and other second generation Old Gods slowly became less active, he began to grow restless and wanted to try again.

That first invasion of Dark Sweet Poison in Feinan was only a small experiment, nothing more.

Now various gods were planning to attack the universe magic pool. It was quite obvious to every god, regardless of weak or strong divine power, that this was an opportunity.

An exceptional chance to increase their influence and get more followers.

The Universe Magic Pool, for wizards as well as mankind, was a great blessing.

However, it was a layer of shackles and restraints for gods. After the Wizard God Lance's departure, they had already wanted to break it.

They only needed an opportunity.

...

"Putting it like that, isn't my daughter incurable?" Gru's lips turned pale.

Hearing Marvin's introduction of the dark sweet poison, he started sweating all over.

His own daughter was in fact infected by a plague!

This was quite a terrible thing. Not even mentioning whether he could save his daughter's life, if others knew about it, she might be burnt to death by scared people.

Right.

Even if there were wizards in this world, they were still as ignorant as those from Earth's Middle-ages when facing something like a plague.

Caught the plague? Consider that person dead!

Fear spread even faster than plagues!

In a way, panic and plague were indeed the perfect match. Unfortunately the Fear God and the Plague God were both male, they couldn't match. They could only occasionally meet and help each other out.

"If your daughter was incurable, I wouldn't be sitting here," Marvin said emotionlessly. "I actually know of a method that could save your daughter."

"What? Is that for real?" Gru suddenly saw hope.

Masked Twin Blades didn't really need to deceive him.

Since he said so much, he should have some assurance. Gru felt a bit spirited.

"Don't worry, dark sweet poison stays in hibernation for a long time. Only in that split second when someone dies, the infected would explode. At that time, the plague would spread through the air. We still have time."

"The most important thing right now is to recover White River Valley. Because the method to rescue your daughter just happens to be in Baron Marvin's castle."

As Marvin stood to leave, he patted Gru's shoulder. "Relax, being this nervous won't be good for tomorrow's fight."

Gru replied in a hoarse voice, yet smiling, "Really... Thank you so much... Even if I don't know what your relationship with Baron Marvin is."

"However, we, the Bramble team, will certainly go all-out for this mission."

...

Next day, at nightfall. Everyone finished preparing and quietly gathered at the sentry posts on both side of the forest.

Just like they planned, the garrison and Bramble team went one way, while the Lynx team and those three solo adventurers went the other way.

"Let the bait out," Anna said indifferently.

On the side, Gru nodded.

One woman behind him suddenly leaned forward and started chanting a spell.

She soon turned into a beautiful sika deer!

The sika deer jumped twice before suddenly rushing along the big road and then back into the woods.

"Roaar!"

The six idle mutated aardwolves noticed the sika deer and started drooling. They all began to chase together.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 39: Traps

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

"Not good!"

"It actually attracted all six aardwolves at the same time!"

The group hidden in the forest couldn't help but be somewhat gloomy.

The original plan was to only attract a portion of those mutated aardwolves at a time and eliminate them in small groups.

The pressure was quite high now that they were facing six mutated aardwolves.

But thinking of Masked Twin Blades, that guy with frightening strength standing behind them, both the White River Valley's garrison and the Bramble team felt very calm.

The sika deer nimbly jumped through the forest, following the already fixed plan.

Everyone got into position.

Marvin was calmly standing on a big tree's branch, focused on the operation.

Those mutated aardwolves were really ignoring the orders of the ordinary gnolls.

They only listened to that gnoll Sorcerer's most basic commands.

But they still couldn't fight their instinct.

This was good news.

The sika deer's speed was quite fast. In fact, she would be able to leave those aardwolves behind if she used some strength. But for the sake of the plan, she had to slow down.

Actually, these mutated aardwolves were quite strong, but they seemed to be lacking in explosive power. This might be the price of taming them.

The sika deer soon arrived to the scheduled place.

The six chasing aardwolves arrived almost at the same time.

"Six aardwolves, the traps aren't enough..."

Marvin looked towards Gru hiding behind a big tree. The latter nodded slightly.

The two men instantly reached a tacit understanding. The cooperation between experienced adventurers was very comfortable. Often, one meaningful glance was enough to communicate their intentions.

One each.

Gru's burst power might not be as strong as Marvin's, but his strength was good enough to block a mutated aardwolf.

The other four would just be taken care of by the garrison and the others. Marvin had already established their tactics. There shouldn't be any problem as long as they followed the plan.

Marvin jumped down and rushed toward one mutated aardwolf, catching it off guard with a stomp to its head and then flipping over.

It was as if he was doing acrobatics on the large back of the aardwolf to keep his balance.

And on the other side, Gru aimed at another mutated aardwolf's head with his heavy sword.

"Clang!"

The mutated aardwolf's instinct wasn't bad. It actually used its hard claws to endure the sharp heavy sword

The two of them started having a contest of strength.

...

Things seemed quite showy on Marvin's side.

He had experienced quite a lot of things, so killing a mutated aardwolf wasn't much of an issue.

20 dexterity was enough to let him know when the running wolf would make a sudden move.

He suddenly leaned downward. With a "Woosh," his right hand pulled out a thin silver wire!

This was a [Tough Silver Wire], a weapon bought from the ranger guild and also a very unusual killing weapon.

Even if it wasn't an uncommon item, it was considered quite strong among the common weapons.

The mutated aardwolf frantically shook his body, trying to throw Marvin off its back.

But Marvin's legs were tightly circled around the aardwolf's lower back. He took advantage of the moment when the aardwolf roared and stood up to ruthlessly wrap the aardwolf's neck with the wire in his hand.

"Shua!"

The thin silver wire constricted the aardwolf neck. It painfully roared but even its roar was suppressed by the pressure on its throat.

Marvin seemed to be flying as he jumped and grabbed a branch. He made a tight knot on a thick and solid branch with both ends of the silver wire.

He then just stably stood on the tree, looking down toward the aardwolf crazily thrashing on the ground.

The tough silver wire would just keep digging onto its neck as it kept struggling.

Soon, its fur began to be filled with blood, but its movement also became more and more fierce!

This was an empty-headed beast!

If it had wisdom, it would have known that it would be best to stop moving.

But its intelligence was truly underwhelming. It even began to frantically run away from this place, trying to run away far from Marvin, this frightening human.

Unfortunately...

It soon choked to death because of its stupid actions.

[Target has died... 98 battle exp received!]

Mutated aardwolves had no useful loot, so Marvin wasn't interested in looking. He glanced at Gru, and found out that he had already used strength to suppress the mutated aardwolf.

'This guy's strength really can't be underestimated, he actually had that much power. He might also be holding back.'

Marvin hurriedly put away the silver wire and went to the place they had agreed on beforehand.

But he didn't realize that Gru was even more amazed when he saw Marvin easily killing a mutated aardwolf like that!

Something like Tough Silver Wire could be bought at some places, but very few people were able to use it.

Using this thing to kill someone was simply wishful thinking.

Not to mention when fighting those frightening beasts; where could they find this kind of opportunity!?

However, Marvin did it.

'This guy's dexterity, has he already reached the limit threshold? Being able to coordinate his body like that would be impossible without a lot of years of training.'

'In the end, who is he? He suddenly appeared in the south. Could it be a ranger from the north?'

Bramble's captain was puzzled, but his hands didn't relax.

Ha!

After a furious shout, Gru, who had finished storing power, saw an opportunity and let out a powerful [Bloodthirsty Cleave] on that mutated aardwolf's head!

"Wu...."

This one blow directly split the head in half!

Brain matter scattered everywhere!

...

On the other side, the four aardwolves chasing the sika deer also had a bad ending.

The sika deer rushed to the prepared location and slowed down, steadily moving past some level ground.

Even though she shape-shifted into a deer, her weight was still very light. She was at least lighter than the mutated aardwolves by two thirds!

As a result, when the four aardwolves, in a hurry to kill, came over, they fell in the trap that the group had dug beforehand.

It was a huge pit with some brittle tree planks and twigs, camouflaged quite roughly, but considering the intelligence of mutated aardwolves...

The hole wasn't considered very deep. The aardwolves roared, trying to get out.

But they couldn't do anything!

The pit was covered with pine resin and rapeseed oil!

Marvin let Anna prepare the things beforehand, and she had intentionally bought those two kinds.

Rotten low rank pine resin and cheap black oil (cooking oil used and discarded). These seemingly useless things had become the bane of those mutated aardwolves!

They kept pushing each other, continuously slipping and unable to crawl up!

"Burn them!"

A torch was thrown in by one of the garrison members.

"Crash!"

Flames immediately spread through the whole pit.

The mutated aardwolves kept howling endlessly.

'Fear of fire! This is the mutated aardwolves biggest weakness!' Marvin watched as the flames ruthlessly swallowed those aardwolves up, feeling satisfied.

He had noticed that those mutated aardwolves fur was already quite greasy, coupled with the burning pine resin.

"Tssk." This roasted wolf meat was actually quite a sight.

In the forest, the sounds of anguished howls from the aardwolves could be heard.

The garrison still had their weapons in hand, not slacking off. The Bramble team members gathered, along with Gru who had just finished dealing with his aardwolf.

They were quite satisfied with this first battle's results.

They didn't have any casualties. This was an adventurer's most important goal.

That was why their eyes were filled with a lot of respect and gratitude when looking at Anna.

Because this was Anna's plan.

Only, they didn't know that everything was planned by Marvin, controlling from behind the scenes!

"The Lynx should have gotten rid of the gnolls, right?"

That woman who shape-shifted into a sika changed back. It's just that she wasn't wearing much, only a plain overcoat.

Shape-shifting was rather annoying. Every transformation would burst one's clothes.

"Humph! Nine people for four gnolls... If they can't manage to deal with it, they don't need to stay in the field," another team member said.

Everyone was quite relaxed.

Only Marvin stayed vigilant.

It was because he knew that often, when victory was in the palm of your hand, it could still be snatched away.

"Roar!" With a bellow, a huge figure jumped out from the pit!

Everyone was startled!

This mutated aardwolf actually stepped on his comrades' bodies to force himself to jump out of the hole.

This jumping ability was far beyond his own abilities. It must have been due to the crisis arousing potential.

He charged into the group while still on fire all over.

Gru was alarmed. Without saying anything else, he grasped his heavy sword with both hands.

But someone was faster than him!

Marvin spun his twin daggers, crazily rushing forwards. In the blink of an eye he was in front of the flaming aardwolf.

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Chapter 40: Overwhelming Assault

Translator: Translation Nation Editor: Translation Nation

"Careful!" Gru yelled.

He also noticed the frightening flames on the aardwolf!

Even if Masked Twin Blades was powerful, if he wasn't careful, he might lose his life!

Because of their many years of adventuring experience, Gru let his team have freedom to choose appropriate actions on their own.

Clearly, this mutated flaming wolf would quickly burn to death. They only needed to drag it out for a bit and not get taken down by it.

'Why is Masked Twin Blades so reckless?' Gru thought.

He waved his heavy sword with a speed no less than Marvin's.

In that split second, Marvin had already rushed in front of the flaming wolf.

He seemed incomparably calm, and suddenly kicked the ground and leapt high!

He did an incredible somersault, high up in the air, and gracefully dodged the maw of the flaming wolf. He ruthlessly stabbed his two curved daggers into the weakest part of the wolf's neck.

This wasn't enough!

After the tumble, his feet landed on the handles of both daggers!

The left and right feet! Marvin put force in his legs and both daggers immediately cut through!

"Plop!"

Blood flew everywhere!

Its head had dropped from the rest of the body!

Yet Marvin just calmly jumped down. The mutated aardwolf that had jumped up from the fire pit was already an arrow at the end of its flight. After Marvin's powerful attacks, it immediately reached 0 HP!

[You did a normal attack on the target...]

[Your hit crippled the target, normal attack turned into crippling attack]

[Target died... You gained 120 battle exp]

Marvin happily looked at the battle log. This mutated aardwolf should be considered quite outstanding compared to the others.

Or else it wouldn't have given more experience than the previous one.

Sadly, those mutated aardwolves that died in the fire pit didn't give him any experience. Or else he could have quickly earned a lot.

...

Close by, everyone was stunned after seeing the performance.

Someone in the Bramble team remarked, "I finally understand how he was able to kill Diapheis..."

The others were speechless; Gru who started rushing forwards was standing foolishly halfway there.

This kind of skill was simply unheard of!

This was far beyond a matter of physical ability; rather, it was achieved through fighting experience, reaction time, a tenacious mind, as well as perfect control of his body.

'How much training did this kind of person do in order to reach this level...' They couldn't help but think of this.

But in fact, Marvin only liked to play games, nothing more. "Feinan Continent" was a very appealing game. Every detail felt very lifelike, the same as real life. He was like a fish in water inside the game when it came to leveling, but also at PK. He frequently battled strong experts.

He fought a duel with almost every class' legendaries, and also had an understanding of all classes.

His mind was controlling his body. He trained himself in the game through constant PK and death.

Being the strongest assassin among the players wasn't at all easy.

Because of these experiences as well as his control over his body, Marvin would certainly become a very frightening existence here in the true Feinan Continent.

But to get there, time was needed. He still needed time to grow.

Unfortunately right now, time was the thing he lacked the most. The Great Calamity was approaching!

...

After killing six mutated aardwolves without even losing a hair, the Bramble team had a lot of respect while looking at Marvin.

Adventurers were like that.

Display strong abilities and it will make others convinced and view you in a new light!

Even though Anna was the one with the most contribution because of her plan, if not for Marvin making the split second decision to kill a mutated aardwolf and also bravely

rushing to kill that flaming wolf at the most dangerous moment, the others might have been wounded... Or killed!

Battles were just that merciless, anyone could die!

On the other side, the group of nine naturally had no problems eliminating those four pathetic gnolls.

Even if Cat was still thinking of making some trouble, nine expert not being able to kill four gnolls... If this kind of thing was spread, the Lynx team would never be able to get any business again.

After Marvin's threat yesterday, how could he dare think of doing anything wrong?

Especially after they joined up with the other group, he clearly noticed that the Bramble team seemed to have a subtle change in the way they were looking at Marvin.

It was a kind of respect that was difficult to explain.

It was as if Marvin had convinced them through power.

Cat didn't know what took place in the woods, but this Masked Twin Blades must have displayed some frightening strength. Or else these usually domineering Bramble members' eyes wouldn't display that kind of expression.

Verne speculated that his team's strength was not as good as that of the Bramble team. Seeing this made him completely give up on causing trouble.

It was better to just finish this mission. As for that important client, that reward was bound to not be his.

His thoughts changed and he returned to being proactive. "What's next? Sneak attack the castle?"

"Sneak attack?" Anna shook her head, "No. We're taking it by storm."

"But not the castle, the northern mine!"

...

At the Northern Mine, two mutated aardwolves were restlessly patrolling the surroundings.

As for those two gnolls, they were unaware of the storm that was coming.

"Only take half of our forces," Anna said according to Marvin's plan. "We need to let one run, but wipe out the rest."

"Let one run?" They were all somewhat surprised.

'To let a gnoll go free, could it be to let him report the situation?'

'Is it better than mounting a sneak attack?'

"I understand." Lynx's captain was worthy of being known for having a swift mind. He was the first to react. "We use half of our force to make them misjudge our strength. As a caster, he would certainly be arrogant. Letting one loose might infuriate him."

"If that's the case, we wouldn't need to attack the castle, they would come themselves to the northern mine to look for us!"

Anna nodded. "You are right, this is the plan."

"Hold on! What if that gnoll Sorcerer isn't arrogant? Wouldn't we waste a sneak attack plan?" Verne hurriedly asked.

"If they don't fall into the trap, Lord Marvin already gave me a follow-up plan." Anna calmly added, "Let's execute the first part of the plan for now."

"Ladies and gentlemen, you do not need to take care of it this time. Let our garrison deal with it."

Hearing this, the White River Valley's young men were already unable to hold back!

They already wanted to kill a few gnolls to vent their hatred.

They were forced to run away from their territory because of those gnolls, taking refuge in the villages inside the mountain. That shameful feeling, the adventurers couldn't understand.

The adventurers only came for the money.

As for Andre and them.

They were here for their lord, and their own honor!

"Brothers!"

Andre lifted his heavy sword with both hands. He was also a fighter like Gru, but his level was a bit lower, only level 4.

The other garrison members were more or less the same, level 3 to level 4 class holders. However, their advantage lay in their training. They were able to coordinate with each other, and they also had pretty good equipment.

Second hand equipment from River Shore City's defense army. Even if it was a bit old, it wouldn't be too different.

Andre only said one word, and nothing more:

"KILL!"

The young men behind him were immediately fired up!

They had waited for this word, waited for who knows how long!

They had almost choked to death!

Damn it! Those fucking gnolls actually invaded their hometown!

If not for lord's order, they would have already fought to the death with those gnolls.

Now that the captain already gave the order, what else could they be waiting for?

It was one word!

Kill!

...

When the enraged garrison members rushed out of the forest under Andre's orders, most of the gnoll fighters weren't ready to fight.

"Roar!" Andre was roaring while swinging away with his heavy sword and cut two gnolls as easily as if he was chopping vegetables.

The others were also not lacking, rushing one after the other and bravely attacking the enemies.

This was bound to be a bloodbath!

It only lasted three minutes!

The fight already concluded.

Both mutated aardwolves were cut to death by Anna and Andre. As for the gnolls, their corpses were spread on the ground.

Only one groll that was a quicker runner than the others was stealthily escaping, although everyone let him run on purpose.

The gnolls stationed outside the northern mine were annihilated in one breath!

Next was cleaning up the battlefield. Even if gnolls were poor, there might be some valuable spoils of war.

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