

S vs Rebirth 211

Chapter 211 Invitation

p "This is... Ardagan Family Crest..."

"!!!" Anna heard what Noel said and raised her vision, staring at Noel in disbelief. Since she was still waiting for the water to boil, she hurriedly went to Noel, wanting to see. "Seriously?"

"Yeah, just put your everything here and there and you will get my family crest." Noel nodded. He was also shocked himself that he forgot about Anna's identity.

Anna sucked a cold breath. "This is... really true. The sword symbol that represent the black sword and the star symbol that represent the ability to command."

"As expected, the Sword Saint is related to my Ardagan Family's ancestor." Noel finally confirmed, this time not only from the recorded text but the proof that hadn't disappeared in a millennium.

"How do you know this place is related to the Sword Saint?" Anna glanced at Noel, surprised that he knew this was a tomb. Noel shouldn't know about it with his reaction when she first introduced the idea of going to this ruin. At the same time, he wouldn't have gone to his family territory to get this kind of information.

That was why she wondered where Noel did get that information.

'Is he also a reincarnated person like me? But if that's the case, Noel should have retained his ability and experience. He also won't fight me because of the betrayal of those two.' Anna thought, confused.

Noel, on the other hand, got an idea. He looked at Anna and stated, "Anyway, it's clear that this place has an Ancient Ruin in it. The only clue is that symbol... I think we need to explore those gaps directly. The fact that those gaps don't disappear even after one thousand years mean there's something hidden there."

"!!!" Anna widened her eyes in shock, not believing what Noel had just said. She also noticed something. If there was the Ardagan Family Crest, Noel would have got the right to expel her from this place.

Yet, Noel never thought about it and simply told her more secret.

The only reason why Noel didn't tell her off simply because he didn't want to owe anyone. He found this ruin because of Anna. If not for her, he wouldn't have found this tomb. Since they came together here, he invited her.

Anna somehow felt bad about taking this invitation. At first, she thought about leeching him off. But after experiencing many things together with him, she didn't know whether it was the right thing to do or not.

On the one hand, Noel's fortunate encounters in the past life was so bountiful and allowed him to increase his strength far quicker than anyone else. Getting some of them should benefit her too. On the other hand, Noel's heart was that of a light. Despite of what had happened, Noel never treated anyone badly other than those he had grudge off.

It was just a matter of conscience. Anna thought for a moment and said, "Say, Noel..."

"Mhm?" Noel mumbled while looking at the paper, wanting to discover more.

However, Anna words truly like thunder reverberating in one's ears. She said, "I'll stop here. Since this is related to your family, it's not a place for an outsider like me to go."

"Huh?" Noel looked at her in disbelief. "What did you say?"

"You didn't hear it wrong. I'm going to step down from this exploration." She sighed, feeling slightly embarrassed to say it again.

"Did someone hit your head in the past two months?"

"Wha—" Anna was dumbstruck by Noel's reaction. She had chosen to stop to honor him, yet, she got insulted like this. She wanted to get angry but realized it wasn't the best option. She confirmed it again. "I mean, this is your family. I think I have done enough to your family. I have told you back then, right? I'm sorry, I apologize for everything I've done in the past."

"After I've realized everything I've done to others, I don't want to live that way anymore. The reason I looked mean in front of others not because I wanted to hurt you... There was someone from my family tailing me and reporting to my father. I don't want my father to know that I've changed, making him change the decision and follow what I said back then."

Anna explained her reason. This was one of the biggest thing weighing her heart. Now that she had told Noel about it, she felt the burden was lifted from her heart.

Noel was silent the whole time, never expecting Anna to say all this. This might be a lie from her as well to deceive him, but he couldn't sense any lie from her tone and expression either. So, Noel was in dilemma.

'There are two reasons why I invited her in. The first reason is related to my conscience. I don't want to owe someone anything because it makes me hesitant if I want to kill them like in her case. The second reason is that I want to use this opportunity to mess with her. With the help of the Sword Saint, Anna should suffer a bit. It will be hilarious to see her efforts are wasted to get a punishment instead of reward.'

However, when Noel saw Anna this way, he somehow became hesitant. He had this thought back then.

If a murderer got caught and prisoned for twenty years, how would people react to this man after they released him? What if the murderer had changed for the better and turned over a new leaf? He admitted his mistakes and prepared to atone his sins for the rest of his life by becoming a good person.

What if others didn't accept him back? He couldn't get any work and in the end, he would have no money to live a decent life, forcing him back to steal or even murder more people for money?

He wanted his revenge so much, but there was someone in front of him who had changed and wanted to seek forgiveness.

Noel closed his eyes for a moment before saying, "You can go in. If you haven't realized the signal that I gave you earlier, then I'm telling you here directly. Come in with me. Don't forget, it's not because I'm pitying your reason or whatever. I'm simply a man of integrity. A few months ago, I've promised you that we'll explore this together, so I'm doing just that."

"Noel..." Anna didn't know why but her heart felt ticklish. There was a fuzzy feeling emerging from her heart.

Chapter 212 Secret Pattern

Anna pressed her chest while looking at Noel. Was this the first change Noel had shown? Did it mean she had a chance?

At the same time, she didn't realize that she was like the women Noel saved from the bandits a few months ago.

He showed the kindness like this, making her heart moved. She didn't expect that anyone would be able to say this.

'This is bad... I'm slowly getting addicted to this kindness. In the future, when Noel has forgiven me and we can act like a true friend or partner, will this become a daily life? Now that I think about it, is there any woman with Noel in the previous life? That woman must be the happiest woman in the world.

'Wait a minute, I don't think Noel has any woman in his life.' Anna muttered inwardly, misunderstanding Noel's action. He just didn't want to owe her anything.

Noel's action earlier could be seen as him playing hard to get. He seemed to have a change of heart even though his words were the exact truth without any meaning.

But for Anna, Noel truly had changed.

"Well, if you know that already, then I think I want a delicious meal." Noel snorted, trying to push her away.

"Ah, right!" Anna remembered she was in the middle of cooking. "I'll cook your favorite, beef stew tomorrow."

"What? What do you mean by favorite?" Noel took a step back, startled.

"Isn't it your favorite food? Whenever I cooked the stew, you seemed to be enjoying it more than any other food. So, I thought it was your favorite stew."

"You must be imagining things." Noel tried hard to remain calm.

"So, should I change the menu for tomorrow?"

"There's no need since you've planned it that way." Noel closed his eyes while adding inwardly, 'As expected, she's a witch. I have learned the knowledge about cooking, but it still can't be compared to Anna's... Ugh, I should improve my cooking as soon as possible so that she doesn't trap me like this.'

Anna chuckled, looking at Noel's expression. "Sure, sure."

Noel always showed his strong front because of their relationship, but her meal seemed to be able to make Noel forget about it for a while.

Once he forgot about it, Noel's true character was usually shown. Anna personally enjoyed when Noel acted natural. She felt like this was what truly happened if Noel became her true companion.

...

The next morning.

Anna gradually opened her eyes while letting out a soft moan. "Mhm."

"What is this? I feel a bit lighter after sleeping. This is my first time experiencing it. Is it because I told Noel all that? It's true that I feel like a heavy burden has been lifted from my heart, but..." Anna squinted her eyes, not knowing the answer.

In the end, she decided not to think about it and began fixing her hair before coming out of the tent, finding Noel standing on top of the mountain, looking at the terrain.

She didn't know what Noel was doing, but whenever Noel showed this kind of expression, he always figured out something.

She quietly approached him while asking, "Did you find anything, Noel?"

Noel didn't answer her immediately as if he was still in the middle of thinking. Only after a few minutes did Noel open his mouth. "What if this pattern means another thing?"

"Pattern?" Anna tilted her head, confused.

"Yeah." Noel nodded and showed the paper to her, pointing at the patterns. "If you look at this, don't you think you can find that the pattern is actually connected to each other?"

"Connected to each other..." Anna muttered before understanding what he meant. The pattern might look all over the place, but if they actually tried to connect them, it was truly what he said.

The furthest mountain had a '-' pattern on it where as the next mountain had a curve, but if they connected it, the second mountain had a slight straight line that connected the second mountain and the curved could easily attach itself to the third mountain.

"Are you implying..." Anna sucked a cold breath.

"See the second last mountain?" Noel pointed at the second pattern on the right. Only this one actually didn't connect to other mountains as if it was acting as a wall. In the symbol, this one vertical pattern was acting as the blade pattern, but if they were looking at this, the vertical pattern represented a wall.

"If we're following this logic, it means that the last mountain is where the tomb lies. The wall is stopping people from entering the wall and the rest of the patterns are basically the place's structure or you can say the map...

"In other words, the entrance should be at the furthest mountain in our left. And the trip inside might be similar to this pattern since if you place structure underneath that area, you can prevent the trees from growing, creating all these patterns.

"And there is one more reason... If you add the Ardagan Family Crest, it means the only one who can enter the tomb is someone from the Ardagan Family." Anna explained her conjecture from what she had seen from this pattern.

"Yeah." Noel nodded in agreement as he had reached the same conclusion. "Anyway, I'm going to bring you in. Whether you will get anything or not, that's not within my responsibility. Understood?"

Anna made a small smile. "Yes. Ehm... Thank you, Noel."

Noel nodded. "Anyway, we should start packing everything. This is only just a theory, it means nothing if we can't find anything there."

"Alright." Anna hurriedly turned around and walked together with Noel to the camp, going to pack up everything.

"By the way, how do you know there's a ruin in this place? If this is related to my family, shouldn't you have no clue about this?" Noel squinted his eyes, staring at Anna.

p Anna smiled and said, "The same applies to how you know this is the Sword Saint Tomb."

Both of them truly had a deep secret that they already suspected but didn't want to talk about.

Chapter 213 Tunnel

"Where's the entrance?" Anna let out a long sigh, feeling a bit tired. They had been walking around in the mountain for a few hours to find the entrance. However, they didn't find a single clue.

"This is weird. Does this mean my conjecture is wrong?" Noel put his hand on his chin, contemplating.

"Or maybe we're missing a clue somewhere." Anna sighed.

Despite doubting their own speculation, none of them actually believed this place had the Sword Saint Tomb.

Anna was certain that the tomb was in this place since it had been proven by her previous life. On the other hand, Noel had Ardagan confirming the Ardagan Family Crest.

As a Spirit, Ardagan had lived that long and met the Sword Saint himself when his ancestor still wielded him. So, Ardagan declaring it was the Ardagan Family Crest was the clue itself. He just had to find the entrance to the tomb.

"Still, do you think it's going to be dangerous inside the tomb?" Noel asked.

"What do you mean?"

"If we're talking about a long tunnel inside the mountain, shouldn't we be worried about the air? Will the air be enough for us to move around?"

"The air?" Anna muttered in a low voice. "That's right, the air! With the fact that the Sword Saint prepared the crest for the Ardagan Family, it's clear that he's showing that this place can welcome you.

"In other words, the inside should have enough air. We simply need to find a hole that can let the air through."

Noel blinked his eyes a few times, staring at Anna in disbelief.

"What?" Anna was confused by Noel's action.

"No, I feel like defeated... How can you be this smart?"

"What do you mean I can be this smart? I am smart compared to average people. But it's different if I compare myself to you." Anna gritted her teeth.

"Even though you're Anna?"

"Why are you talking like I am a special species?" Anna was about to explode but Noel suddenly turned around. "Alright. I know where it is."

"Huh, what?" Anna was bewildered by his words.

Noel didn't say a single thing because he could hear an echo. He walked toward the echo and somehow found a gap in a tree formation with high bushes as if trying to hide something. If they didn't have the need to find something here, they wouldn't notice this formation. But because Noel heard the echo earlier, it was clear something was inside.

When Noel opened up the bushes, he could see a huge hole leading to the underground. There was even an exposed stairs they could use to go down.

"This is..." Anna gasped. Now that she was near the hole, her voice echoed inside this tunnel. "Wait a minute... You're using my voice to find this hole?"

"Yeah. Since the air is there, it means there's a tunnel leading there. I don't think he will cover the entrance." Noel nodded.

"Then, why are you taunting me earlier? You could have shouted yourself."

"What's the use of you if I don't use you?" Noel shrugged and started walking to the hall.

Anna's eyebrows twitched. "Do you want to get beaten?"

"Try it." Noel smirked since Anna wouldn't dare to do it.

"Maybe later. Since you indeed found this tunnel."

"Then." Noel pointed at the hole like a gentleman. He even put his other hand on his chest as if asking Anna politely. "Ladies first."

"..." Veins bulged on Anna's forehead, realizing that Noel was planning to use her as an experiment to see whether the hole was safe or not. "I seriously want to hit you. Well, whatever."

She took a deep breath and put down her bag. After that, she took a thin cloth and wrapped it around her mouth and nose. "There might be insects living there and the dust will surely fill the tunnel. It's been a thousand years after all. I don't know about demons though."

"Indeed." Noel also put down his luggage and prepared the same thing.

There was actually another reason why Anna didn't hesitate to go down first. After covering her mouth, she smirked, saying inwardly, 'Jokes on you, Noel. I have the memory from my previous life. There's a piece of information stating that the tomb doesn't have traps or demons. So, I just have to destroy those bugs with my lightning and we'll be good to go.'

"This should be impossible to explore since it's too dark inside. I guess we're lucky to have Moon Blessing." Noel nodded, satisfied.

"Haha, thank me."

"I have done that by making you famous. It seems that you don't like how the others thank me whenever we saved a village, so I made you famous within that city. Shouldn't I get a reward instead?" Noel chuckled.

"A reward? You scammed me from my portion of Demon Crystals. I'm the one who want to ask for compensation." Anna sighed. She shook her head helplessly. "Somehow talking with you makes me more irritated. I should just go instead of listening to you."

She covered her body with Spiritual Energy and even her lightning started sparking as if she would destroy any insects that dared to come to her.

Meanwhile, Noel kept some distance with her before he started going down. It was a vertical stairs, so they could only go one at a time.

It was quite deep underground and no light could enter.

Although it was stable, the air was thin inside. Unless they needed to fight, they shouldn't waste their breath in this place.

When Noel reached the bottom, he could see a quite inside. The tunnel size was 4x4 meters made of limestone.

Since his Moon Blessing was active, he could clearly see what was inside this tunnel. As expected of a thousand year, the dust on the floor was one centimeter thick. There were spider webs here and there and some insects had truly made this place their nest.

Though, all of them had died as soon as Anna came.

"Nothing dangerous should be here. Let's not waste our time." After seeing Noel successfully descended, she said.

"How do you know there's nothing dangerous? How about giving me your brain so that I know what kind of information you have?"

Chapter 214 Waking Up

After following the route for a bit more, they finally reached the pattern that acted as a wall.

"Hoh?" Anna squinted her eyes, amused by this one. In front of them stood tall a wall that completely blocked the entire path. "Are we going to tear this up?"

"So, our strongest strength? But then again, we have to carefully examine it before coming to that conclusion. We don't like to be buried here after all." Noel shook his head helplessly.

"Well, I don't know what we should do right now. I mean, look at this wall..." She walked to the wall and placed her ear on it before gently knocking the wall to measure the thickness. To her surprise, the wall itself wasn't quite thick, making her want to smash it open.

Meanwhile, Noel was inspecting the wall, wanting to see if there was anything special from this wall.

"This should be the wall separating us from whatever is inside the last mountain, right?" Anna glanced at Noel.

"Yeah. I don't know much about structure, but don't you think this cave will collapse if we break the wall?" Noel raised his vision, noticing the wall was holding up a giant stone that was different from the rest of the ceiling.

"What do you mean?" Anna was confused and followed his line of sight, noticing the same thing. "Ah! The difference in structure... If we break the wall, the different stone placed on top of the wall will fall down. I think that's the mechanism."

"That's what I'm talking about. So, there must be another mean to enter." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"Your Family Crest? Do you have your crest?" Anna asked.

"I'm a fallen noble. Do you think I can still have a family crest? You must be joking." Noel narrowed his eyes.

"Alright, alright. Don't look at me that way... I was just trying to suggest something." Anna looked away while waving her hands down to calm him down.

"Though, if we're talking about the Sword Saint, whose ability is related to sword and soul... I think there's another solution." Noel thought for a moment. "I don't know if this is a bit of a stretch, but how

about I use my sword to cut my hand and smear my blood on the wall? The blood should awaken the soul, no? Considering I'm an Ardagan, it should recognize me if what we're talking about is correct."

"That's probably true. But how much blood do we need? It's not like I can let you just use all your blood?" Anna worried that Noel would become desperate and do something reckless.

"Either way, nothing will happen if we're not trying." Noel took a deep breath and pulled out Ardagan, cutting his palm a bit. He then waved his hand to the wall, splattering the blood on its surface, wondering if it would react.

"Is it not enough?" Noel contemplated as he was prepared to give more blood. At the same time, he asked Anna. "Can you search for another clue around here? I'm trying to use my blood to see if it's going to work."

"Alright." Anna nodded. Although she walked away, she kept glancing at Noel to make sure he didn't push himself.

Meanwhile, Noel prepared to smear the blood again.

When he was about to cut himself again, a light suddenly shone on the wall, forming words after words as if reacting to the blood.

"Welcome, Young Ardagan. You, who wields the Ardagan, have finally arrived like my old friend's prediction. It seems that my ability is of use for you. I'm sure that it's been hard for you, young man. However, it's time for you to wake up from your nightmare."

"Huh? My nightmare?" Noel squinted his eyes, not understanding what these words were saying.

"What's this?" Noel widened his eyes in shock. He felt that his body became light as if all the flesh in his body suddenly disappeared.

When he lowered his head, he saw his body become translucent.

"Eh?" Noel glanced at Anna to check her situation as well and realized she experienced the same thing.

"What happened here?" Anna looked at Noel with a worried expression.

"I don't know." Noel shook his head and started using his Spiritual Energy but to no avail.

His consciousness began to become fuzzy as his vision turned blurry.

'What is going on?' Noel could only think that in his head because his mouth didn't produce anymore sound. His vision gradually darkened as if his eyes were closing.

Out of desperation, Noel tried to move his body to Anna, trying to do something at the last second.

Unfortunately, it was for naught because his translucent body dissipated into the air.

...

...

"Aaaahhhh!" Noel shouted as he lifted up his body.

His shout startled everyone in the room. In his left sat down a man with white robe. He was clasping his hands while releasing a yellow light from all over his body. In his right sat down a mature woman with long brown hair.

Despite her age, she didn't show any wrinkles on her face. Instead, she showed a warm and energetic smile.

Noel was shocked beyond his belief because he simply couldn't understand why this person actually sat down here with him.

"Is this... Hell?" Noel muttered subconsciously.

"Hell? Are you having a nightmare?" The woman still kept her warm smile as if trying to soothe Noel's heart. She gently placed her hand on Noel's hair and stroke it.

"What is happening?" Noel looked at her with a horrified expression, feeling like he had forgotten something.

"What is happening? Do you not remember? Actually, you have been in coma for eight months, dear. This is the first time you wake up. Look at you, so thin. I'll ask the maid to make you something light to eat."

"I have been in coma for eight months?" Noel clenched his fists and looked at the entire room. His body was shaking as he looked at the woman. "Is it true..."

"...Mother?"

Chapter 215 Dream

"Is it true... Mother?" Noel widened his eyes in shock, staring at his mother who was supposed to be dead.

"Silly child." Leysha chuckled. "You don't have any problem talking but your body is still quite weak after eight months on bed, so wait here first. I'm going to ask the maid to bring you a nutritious meal and inform your father."

"Mhm." Noel nodded. "Thank you, Mother."

Leysha waved her hand and walked away, bringing the priest who seemed to have healed him.

He furrowed his eyebrows, looking at them. He didn't know why but everything seemed weird.

'Is everything truly my dream? But I have experienced everything in that dream, it feels so real. Isn't a dream supposed to be faster?' Noel narrowed his eyes. 'Or is this actually another dream of mine?'

Noel scratched the back of his head, wondering what to do. He closed his eyes and tried to make a connection with his spirits. As expected, because of his sleep, he wasn't able to be connected with Ardagan.

However, no matter how hard he tried to do it, Heisk also didn't come out either. 'As expected, should I try awakening Heisk again? Or Heisk is just a spirit in my dream? I don't understand.'

Noel scratched the back of his head with a long sigh. He didn't understand what was going on.

It didn't take too long for his father to rush inside with his mother.

"You're finally awake?" Count Ardagan looked at Noel and found him sitting on the bed. Without hesitation, he jumped to him and hugged him as tight as he could. "Good son, good son. You're finally awake."

"Mhm. Sorry for making you worry, Father." Noel made a sad smile. He still didn't know how to differentiate reality. In his supposed to be dream, he had many regrets that he wanted to do with his parents. But he couldn't do it anymore because they had died.

"It's fine. It's fine. I shouldn't push you with anything. You're a good and smart kid, so you should do everything in your pace." Count Ardagan's tone was filled with sorrow and regret as if he had done something wrong. However, Noel couldn't recount what happened.

'That's right. There is something I can test.' Noel got an idea to prove his existence. "That's right. Do you mind if we can talk, Father, Mother?"

"Talk?" Count Ardagan tilted his head in confusion before turning to Leysha to ask her opinion. They were just staring at each other, but they seemed to know what to do. Count Ardagan immediately smiled and nodded. "Sure. Let's talk."

When Noel opened his mouth, his stomach suddenly let out a loud growl.

Grumble!

"Ah?!" Noel looked at his stomach, feeling a bit embarrassed.

"Oh my." Leysha chuckled. "You must be hungry. You should eat first. We'll hear you out after that."

"Mhm." Noel thought for a moment. "If you don't mind... can I ask Mother to feed me?"

"Silly child. You're becoming a spoiled brat." Count Ardagan sighed, not knowing what happened to Noel.

Noel looked at Leysha with a pleading gaze. "Can't I?"

Leysha's expression instantly melted. Noel usually relied on the maid to do things for him, but he never really asked her to feed him. She instantly agreed to Noel's request. "Alright, alright. Everything for my boy."

"Hehe." Noel made a big smile. It didn't take too long for the soup to come in. Because Noel hadn't eaten anything for so long, he needed to eat something light.

"Here you go." Leysha carefully scooped the soup with a spoon and blew it to make sure it wasn't too hot.

,m "Ahm." Noel happily ate his meal.

Seeing his appetite, Count Ardagan's expression mellowed a bit, knowing that Noel was alright. He asked, "So, what do you want to talk about?"

"Can't you let him finish the soup first?" Leysha squinted her eyes.

Noel gently grabbed her hand. "It's alright, Mother. Actually, I have been wanting to ask you something."

"What is it, dear?"

"Is it true that my father kidnapped you from your father?" Noel asked.

Leysha was startled that she almost dropped the plate. "You..."

"What do you mean kidnapped? I didn't do such a thing." Count Ardagan raised his voice. "I simply asked her hand for marriage... whether he agreed or not."

"..." Noel looked at him with a judging gaze as if telling him that what he meant by kidnapping.

Leysha was chuckling this whole time. It was truly funny to see his reaction. "Your mother wouldn't call it kidnapping. We love each other and have agreed to go through everything together."

"Mhm." Noel nodded.

"Still, why are you asking that kind of question right now?" Count Ardagan shook his head helplessly, feeling embarrassed by his reaction earlier.

"Well, that's because... Grandfather told me that you have a best friend... instead of normal friends."

In noble circle, one had to get many friends, forming relationship that could benefit the two houses. However, best friends were different. Best friends weren't formed by benefit, so Noel's question was clear.

"Best friend?" Count Ardagan instantly remembered one thing. "You mean Kevin?"

"!!!" Everything clicked in Noel's mind straight away. Kevin in his mouth was none other than Marquis Stargaze, Kevin Stargaze.

"Why do you ask about him? Now that I think about it, when did your grandfather said that? The last time you visited your mother's family was eight years ago... This year will be the ninth year."

"I was sleeping the whole time, right?"

"Ah, you mean you dream about your grandfather?"

"En." Noel nodded.

"Then, do you dream about your mother?" Leysha immediately came in to the conversation while pointing at herself.

Noel fell silent for a moment, thinking about what happened. He suddenly smiled and said, "Of course. In my dream, I did a lot of thing with Mother. Somehow I want to do it for real."

"Really? Then, let's do it!" Leysha's expression brightened. It had been a while since they did something together, so she thought it would be fun.

"What? That's not fair." Count Ardagan furrowed his eyebrows as if he felt jealous.

"Father too... In my dream, father worked so hard for the family, especially for me and Mother. I hope that Father can give me an opportunity to work together with you. I want to help you now."

Leysha and Luke Ardagan widened their eyes in shock, wondering what he had dreamed this whole time. However, another thought also came into their mind. 'Isn't the comma too good? It can change Noel this much.'

Chapter 216 Hidden Danger

Noel smiled. "Well, I want to help you in your work. Is it possible, Father?"

"Of course, of course. You're a smart kid, so you should understand at least half of the work already. You're just lacking in experience, so your father here will help you experience everything." Luke bumped his chest with his fist as if he was fired up. "Though, are you sure you want to do it? The usual you will always ask me to leave you alone."

"Mhm." Noel looked down with a sad smile. "It's just... not all dreams end in a happy ending."

When they heard those words, they understood Noel's meaning. It seemed the reason why Noel wanted to work hard because he saw that bad ending.

Noel scratched the back of his head, hesitating to say it. However, knowing this was the right time to get some information, Noel asked, "Is it possible for Marquis Stargaze to betray you?"

"Kevin betraying me?" Luke looked at his son's serious face. It seemed that he had to tell the truth instead of a white lie. Luke confirmed it with a nod.

Noel's face became pale. "Then..."

"Kevin and I have gone all the way back... We're like brothers related by blood, helping each other to go through fire and water. So, I can't imagine Kevin betraying me except for one occasion." Luke raised a finger.

"Really? And that is?"

"If I request him." Luke pointed at himself proudly.

"Huh?" Noel was confused. This was exactly what his grandfather said in his dream. "Request him to betray you? Why would you do such a thing?"

"Did Kevin betray me in your dream? Do you mind telling me about it?"

Noel hesitated because the dream felt so real that he couldn't believe it either. "Well, in my dream, he betrayed you and we lost everything except for one thing. Ardagan Sword. You gave me Ardagan."

"I gave you Ardagan?" Luke was surprised because he never intended to do it. "To be honest, I never want you to wield a sword. I just want you to enjoy your life from behind the scene through our business."

"Then, if that's the case, why would you ask Marquis Stargaze to betray you?" Noel asked.

"Let's see..." Luke was thinking hard about it and said, "I'm not very sure about the details since I can't come up with something concrete. But if I were to give you Ardagan, it meant your ancestor wanted it to be that way. As you know, Ardagan Sword has been our family heirloom this whole time, but no one has ever been acknowledged by him, even me. Seeing you have such a dream, that means Ardagan is creating an opportunity for you."

"I don't know how to say this, but Ardagan Sword is said to be alive. But no one has ever made any reaction. Maybe... do you want to see Ardagan? I can take you there." Luke asked.

"Really? Then, I'd like to see Ardagan!" Noel nodded with a smile.

"Alright, but..." Luke paused for a moment while staring at Noel's feet that was covered by the blanket. "After you can walk again, alright?"

"Ah!" Noel looked at his legs that had become significantly smaller. Even his body barely had any flesh left. He was truly too thin for a normal human. "I understand. I'll be sure to recover."

"Good." Luke smiled and stroke his hair. "If that's the case, I'll leave you with your mother."

"Yes. Thank you so much for listening to your child's nonsense, Father."

"What nonsense? I know that you never say anything meaningless to me. How can I, your father, not believe you?" Luke smiled and waved his hand until he left the room.

Noel then turned to his mother and asked, "Mother. Do you mind if you help me with my recovery? I also want to learn a lot from you."

"Really? Did grandfather tell you something?"

"Not really, but I know that mother is a good Spirit ian."

"Well... Mother will do her best then."

"Yes, let's do many things together now."

Seeing this smile truly made her heart melt. Noel had always been alone, so she felt a bit sad that they didn't have many memories in the past. But it seemed Noel had changed. She would certainly take this opportunity to do many things together.

After that discussion, Noel immediately began his rehabilitation, trying to walk again. His mother was always beside him, helping him. Meanwhile, his father didn't show up so often, but he loved to watch him from his study room whenever he was on a break.

It didn't take too long for Noel to recover. Noel had been working hard without a break for eight months, so this kind of suffering couldn't be compared to what he had experienced.

After two months, Noel finally looked like a normal person again. He could do many things and surprisingly, his swordsmanship became good. He still couldn't call upon his spirit, but it seemed to be affected by his goal that seemed to have changed after this abrupt situation.

And the time for his father to show Ardagan had arrived. He was walking in the hallway with his mother to meet Luke.

On the way, Noel suddenly brought up a matter. "That's right. Mother, do you know anything about this?"

Noel took out a paper and showed it to Leysha.

"This is..." Leysha squinted her eyes, looking at the drawing in the paper. "Spirit Enchantment? But this is more complex than that... Is this the complete version of Spirit Enchantment? I don't know what it's called but the Ardagan Family's ancestor should be the one... Ardagan? Ah, it seems that Ardagan has truly chosen you as its master."

Leysha let out a long sigh, knowing the time had come. She didn't know what would happen to Noel after this and saddened with the fact that she couldn't spend more time with her son anymore.

"Don't worry, Mother." Noel gently held her hand and said, "I love to spend time with you."

Leysha patted his head and smiled. "Right? Let's spend more time then. Mom will do everything with you."

"En."

"Then, let's go to your father then."

"Yes."

The mansion had been filled with peaceful atmosphere, not knowing that there was a danger that was about to come.

In another place, Anna Stargaze was standing in front of many soldiers. "Count Ardagan has been embezzling money for the Greenwood Kingdom. General Helzen, I'm going with you to deal with the Ardagan Family."

A middle-aged man nodded with a serious expression. "It's an honor to meet you, Anna Stargaze."

Chapter 217 Hidden Room

Meanwhile, Noel and Leysha finally arrived in Luka's study room.

"I've brought him." Leysha opened the door and entered with a smile. "He is really chosen by Ardagan. To think he's got the full version of the Spirit Enchantment."

"..." Luke remained silent even though he was shocked. Everyone knew about the Spirit Enchantment since this was what made a Blacksmith prosper. As the head of the Ardagan Family, he obviously had heard about the runes in some records, but not the whole thing. He looked at Noel for a moment and finally stood up. "Alright. I'll show you Ardagan."

He walked to the shelf where he stored the book and removed three books randomly. After that, he cut his finger with a knife and dropped the blood right on those three spots. Suddenly, three runes appeared on the shelves, causing the shelves to get pulled back.

There were even some mechanical sounds happening behind the shelves.

"!!!" Noel was amused, never thinking there was a hidden mechanism. The runes were activated by blood, so it was clear that no one other than the person who had Ardagan Blood would be able to find it, much less open it.

"This is..." Noel saw another wall inside which seemed to have been reinforced by another rune. This time, the rune was so much bigger that it looked like it could withstand a powerful impact.

"This room is made by the ancestor himself. It's said to be able to withstand the power of a Spirit Transcendence. So, unless you can open it through the normal way, I don't think anyone can find anything inside." Luke explained. "And this symbol is the full version of the Spirit Enchantment."

"According to our ancestor, the full version of the Spirit Enchantment could allow anyone to utilize their Spiritual Energy without the need to awaken their Spirits. What do you see from this?" Luke asked, trying to figure out whether what Leysha said was correct or not.

"I'm not very sure." Noel walked to the rune carefully and examined it. He pointed at a few patterns and said, "I think this means blood, harden, and Spiritual Energy... There are four more patterns that I don't recognize."

"..." Luke closed his eyes, confirming Noel's knowledge. Even he could only recognize the 'Harden' since it was stated in the Spirit Enchantment Book. As expected, Noel was chosen. He said, "Now, let's use your blood to open it."

Noel hesitated for a moment but still followed Luke's decision. He slightly cut his finger and smeared the blood on the wall.

Suddenly, the wall started getting pulled up, revealing the hidden room of the Ardagan Family.

"This is..." Noel sucked a cold breath. The room wasn't big. The size was about 2x2 meters, making it hard to even put something inside.

In the opposite side of the room was the black sword that he had been using this whole time, Ardagan. The sword was planted on the ground as if waiting for the owner to pick him up.

But before he could pull out the sword, there was a table with a single book on it. Noel carefully walked inside and looked at the book.

[Ardagan]

Noel grabbed the book and tried to open it first. The book itself didn't seem to be that thick and not all pages were written. In fact, there were only ten pages that were written here.

'I am writing this to my future generations. Ardagan is my partner as well as the lifelong support of the Ardagan Family.'

'Ardagan will only wake up to the worthy heir. Unless you're chosen by the Ardagan itself, no one shall take it out.'

'However, if the family is about to perish, the Ardagan will shine brighter than the others and bring the family glory back.'

'I am not good with my words, but Ardagan will be the one explaining everything, not me.'

'He is alive and I ask you to respect him as much as you respect me.'

'If you wish to hold Ardagan, show him the pride of the family, show him why you can become his master, and he can be proud that you wield him.'

"!!!" Noel finally understood why in his dream, his father actually asked him to swear in front of Ardagan.

Suddenly, a scream echoed inside the room.

"Aaaaahhhh!" It was faint because of the distance but Leysha and Luke could hear it. They turned to Noel and found that he was completely focused on the book.

"You should accompany him because you're also an Ardagan." Leysha was the first to speak and immediately left to see what was going on.

She tried to follow the scream's direction while looking at the windows. However, she was in shock when she saw a group of soldiers coming into the mansion led by two people.

"Those two are... Anna Stargaze and General Helzen?" Leysha furrowed her eyebrows. "But we didn't find any report of them coming with a group of soldiers. No, it's not that we didn't get any report, but..."

She turned around and remembered what Luke said a few months ago. "It seems that Luke is hiding all the information about them. If not, they won't even be able to come here."

She took a deep breath and returned to the room. "Dear..."

Luke looked at her serious expression and instantly understood what was going on. "You stay with him and tell him how to close the hidden door. I'm going to deal with it."

Leysha nodded and said, "Explain it to me later, will you?"

"Of course. Sorry for hiding it the whole time. I can't bear to tell you when you spend your time with him." Luke made a gentle smile before leaving the room.

Leysha clenched her fists while closing her eyes. She looked at Noel, hoping that he could finish it fast since they didn't have much time left.

Unbeknownst to all of them, in another place, Noel and Anna were standing next to each other.

Anna seemed to be able to move her own body again and her body wasn't translucent anymore. She was inspecting the wall carefully while waiting for Noel to finish.

However, she suddenly felt a surge of energy from Noel's body.

"!!!" Anna widened her eyes and turned to him, finding Noel pulling out his sword while glaring at her.

Chapter 218 Protect

In front of the mansion, Luke came out and shouted, "For what reason do General Helzen come to my mansion?"

"!!!" All the soldiers and the two leaders stopped and turned to the mansion, finding Luke standing in front of the doors. Suddenly, a middle-aged man came to him with his sword. "Master..."

The middle-aged man was none other than the strongest knight of the Ardagan Family, Dimitri.

"Please evacuate with madam. They don't seem to be coming peacefully. I'll hold them back." Dimitri stepped forward, trying to protect him.

However, Luke patted his shoulder and stepped forward, facing these people head-on.

Helzen walked forward and declared. "The Ardagan Family has been embezzling the kingdom's money to send it to the Greenwood Kingdom. This is a treason and the royal family has declared that the Ardagan Family has to be exterminated and all the family members are going to be executed."

"Heh. Embezzling money." Luke smirked. "What's the proof? Where's your proof? Don't make up too much nonsense. You have killed my servant and I won't let you go."

"I have the decree from the Royal Family." Helzen smirked and took out a scroll, opening it in front of them. "The royal decree states that they have annulled all Ardagan Family's achievements and deprived Luke Ardagan from his title."

"Hoh? Despite everything I've done to this country, they're going to boldly accuse me as a traitor? This is quite interesting." He glanced at Anna. "And what about you? There's no need for you to appear here. Did you run away from your house just to play knight, little girl?"

"I've come here to follow my father's instruction. I'm going to capture both you and the madam." Anna pulled out her sword.

"Do you think you can?" Luke stepped forward and said, "Then do it. Let's see whether you can even reach me here."

Luke even sat down on the stairs that led to his doors as if he invited them to come in.

Helzen furrowed his eyebrows. Although Luke was known to be generous for the people, the nobles who had investigated him was aware of his shrewdness. There was no reason for Luke to allow them to come in that easily.

'A trap?' Helzen furrowed his eyebrows while looking around. If they were caught in a trap, the situation would be dangerous, so he couldn't proceed easily.

"What are you doing? Attack him!" Anna shouted to Helzen.

"I am the commander here." Helzen glared at her back while shouting, "Surround them and attack!"

"Master..." Dimitri, on the other hand, released his Spiritual Energy and directed everything to Anna, trying to strike the weakest opponent first.

"!!!" Anna felt the boundless Spiritual Energy directly and started gasping for air. She felt like her body was crushed and her organs wanted to explode just from the Spiritual Energy alone.

Helzen clicked his tongue and came between them while releasing his Spiritual Energy, blocking Dimitri's power. "Dimitri... A Spirit Grandmaster under the Ardagan Family."

"It's an honor for General Helzen to reco—" Suddenly, Dimitri disappeared as if he turned into black smoke.

"!!!" Helzen hurriedly spun his body while swinging his sword, finding Dimitri behind Anna. Still, his sword was fast enough to hit Dimitri, preventing him from attacking Anna.

Without hesitation, Helzen approached Dimitri to prevent him from using the same trick. "Surround Luke Ardagan!"

He even commanded his soldiers to attack Luke, who was still sitting calmly in front of his mansion.

The soldiers approached him carefully. They were elite soldiers under General Helzen, so they knew that their general was wary against Luke Ardagan. There was even a possibility of traps around him.

It was proven when someone suddenly screamed.

"Aaaahhhh!"

Everyone followed the sound and saw him getting covered in a thick ice.

"There are traps!" The soldiers shouted, warning each other.

However, a woman suddenly jumped from the second floor and gracefully landed on the ground. Her tone was cold as the temperature also decreased. "There seems to be uninvited guests here. Why do I never hear any of this?"

She was none other than Leysha.

"She must be Leysha Ezenholm! Be careful, she's strong!" One of the soldiers recognized her and warned the others.

But Leysha waved her hand and in an instant, the ice spread from her feet to twenty meters to her left in a fan-shaped area, covering them in thick ice.

"Shut up. I'm not done talking." Leysha snorted.

A single wave of her attack could even harm three soldiers and one of them put his body on the line to protect the rest of the soldiers.

"..." Helzen furrowed his eyebrows. "Even the elite soldiers are not enough?"

"It seems that you have underestimated us." Dimitri smirked. "Do you think we're the same as other Counts?"

Anna suddenly shouted, "All soldiers, surround her! I'll capture Count Ardagan himself! Unlike them, Count Ardagan can't fight!"

Since her order made sense, the soldiers immediately shifted their movement to keep Leysha busy. If they could capture the count, the situation would be solved in an instant.

"Mhm?" Leysha narrowed her eyes and pointed her palm at Anna. "Freeze."

A torrential ice was formed, heading straight to Anna.

A soldier with a big shield suddenly appeared between them and planted the shield on the ground.

"Ha!" The soldier shouted as the shield released a shock wave that extended the shield's protection area, catching all the ice she shot.

Seeing the soldiers were able to stop Leysha or at least bought some time for her, Anna immediately headed straight to Count Ardagan.

"Count Ardagan. Be prepared!" Anna rushed to him while raising her sword.

However, a young man of the same age suddenly came out of the door and leaped forth, waving a black sword.

"Don't you dare!" Noel struck Anna's sword, stopping her. There was only one thought in his mind, 'This time I'm going to protect them. I'm going to protect this family.'

Anna widened her eyes in shock, both her in this illusion or her in the reality. They were blocking Noel's sword with their own as they looked at Noel, saying the same thing. "What?"

Chapter 219 Stop

"What?!" Anna widened her eyes in shock because the illusion had begun to control Noel. She clicked her tongue and started parrying Noel's relentless attack.

The clicking sound produced by the two swords kept echoing inside the tunnel. Noel's eyes were bloodshot even though his focus wasn't there. She could feel the hatred in Noel's eyes.

To her surprise, the hatred was actually similar to what she felt during the first time they met when Noel attacked her without thinking.

She was shocked because she had done all the things she could to diminish the hatred in his heart. But when she realized everything she did actually had no impact to him, she wondered whether she could really do it.

'Is this the reality? His hatred is at the same level as back then... Did I not change anything within him? Are we fated to be fighting each other until only one side is standing?' Anna's mind started to fall into despair.

'Noel is supposed to be a great powerhouse that can elevate the kingdom to a great height as long as I can diminish his hatred. His talent can even keep up with me who has the knowledge of the previous life. So, it's clear that he's more talented than me.

'But if this is going on, I'm afraid I'm the one who have to die. Is there truly no other way to solve the hatred between us? No, wait... Has he been holding this kind of hatred this whole time?'

Anna couldn't help but recall the memory when Noel did something for her. It was unforgettable. But now, the truth was revealed.

'Is there truly no way?' Anna thought before he found Noel raising his hand, creating a snowflake and tossing it to her.

Anna hurriedly jumped back as the snowflake suddenly exploded, creating a massive ice crystal. At the same time, she managed to cover her sword with lightning and struck the crystal before it reached her, shattering the ice crystal at the last moment.

Seeing this situation, Noel was thoroughly angered as a black flame suddenly appeared on his left hand. The flame didn't let out an extraordinary heat, but Anna's sense was tingling.

'That's... the flame...' Anna obviously recognized the flame since she had seen it in their fight. This was Noel's flame that could be said to be the strongest flame people had seen.

However, when he was about to wave his hand, Noel suddenly stopped as if he was restrained by someone.

"Eh?" Anna widened her eyes in surprise. This was the same reaction as the Anna in the illusion had.

She was staring at Noel's black flame that wasn't launched at her because someone's hand grabbed his wrist, stopping him at the last second.

The one who stopped him was none other than his father, Count Ardagan.

"Dimitri... It's enough. I surrender." Count Ardagan stated with a sad expression.

"Father!" Noel looked at his father.

"Silly child. Your dream felt like you have gone through that kind of life for real... It makes me wonder whether it's true or not. I'm sure you have felt it too, right?" Luke smiled.

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. He never admitted it but he certainly felt it. No, he didn't want to admit it because that was exactly the purpose of this test.

If he admitted it, he would be losing them again. He had felt it during his stay here. Two months felt like it was a flash, making him realize that the time didn't flow like his dream. In other words, this was nothing but an illusion.

However, he could do many things with his father and mother, trying to make up his regret. That was why he never admitted this wasn't real. He just wanted to spend more time with them.

Luke looked at Helzen and said, "Give us a few minutes to talk and I'll surrender myself without a fight."

Helzen squinted his eyes, wondering why he had a change of heart. However, he also saw Noel's black flame earlier even though he had used ice not long ago.

"I understand. If you can surrender, then it's better for us." Helzen ultimately accepted it because his subordinates would also die in Leysha's hand.

Luke gently pulled Noel a bit to create a distance and said, "My child, listen to me. What you said in your dream might be correct, but that also means I orchestrated it. If that's the case, me and your mother should be alive somewhere, but we can't really meet you for a while.

"As for you, your father never truly abandoned you. I didn't throw you there without a single protection. I'm sure that Dimitri is with you, protecting you from death. Unless it's necessary, I don't think he will appear before you, but if you don't trust me, you can just go to a cliff and jump as if you want to kill yourself. That will be the trigger to make him act."

"!!!" Noel gasped because he had numerous situation where he almost died. However, there was one memory that flashed in his mind. It was when he met Rick and Rica. There was an assassin that killed the bandit leader, but that assassin never appeared again. If what his father said was true, the assassin might be trying to kill him and Dimitri judged it was too dangerous for him to be left alive. That might be the reason why he didn't meet another assassin.

"It seems that Dimitri has taken some action." Luke smiled and patted Noel's head. "But I'm glad that you're doing alright. Since I'm the mastermind, I'll most likely leave everything there. I don't know if we can meet again, but I wish we can. At that time, make sure that you do the same thing. It'll make us very happy."

Luke hugged Noel tightly and said, "Don't worry. Keep moving forward! No matter what you do in the future, you will always be the child we're proud of."

Tears started coming out of his eyes. The time they spent together was short, but it might be the best moment in his life.

However, he had to part with this happiness because his father made him admit that this wasn't real.

The house, the sky, and even the ground started to disappear. The father he hugged turned into particles as he dropped to the ground while desperately catching everything, not wanting to let him go.

It was futile. He could only let it go.

"Father... Mother... I miss you." Noel slammed the ground as his tears dropped to the ground. His scenery gradually changed back to the tunnel and his action was reflected in the real world.

Anna who saw everything had her heart thumped.

Chapter 220 The Sword Saint

Seeing Noel acting this way, Anna could imagine what kind of illusion he had seen. At the same time, this was also the second time Anna saw Noel expressing his emotion to the fullest. This was coming from the bottom of his heart like the anger he showed in their first meeting.

How much Noel loved his parents? Everything was clear when they saw him this way. How much her action influenced Noel? That was the question that was answered in Anna's heart just now.

"..." Anna couldn't say a single thing when she saw Noel like this. It was far easier to say something when Noel hated her or acted normal, but when Noel broke down, everything she said would be completely useless.

She bit her lips as this action also made her remember the time when she killed all those people. Her enemies aside, she had killed numerous innocent people. What would their relatives feel when they realized she had killed them when they were just trying to help her?

'How much did I make others suffer in my previous life?' This thought appeared in her mind.

Suddenly, the grumbling sound underneath the floor disturbed them. Even Noel took a few deep breaths to calm his heart as he wasn't supposed to let go of his emotion at this place.

Still, he had a hard time suppressing that desire. He couldn't even control his emotion when he saw Anna. The killing intent from his gaze told Anna everything, but they were distracted by the gentle voice echoing in their mind.

"Come here, children. You have passed the test."

Noel and Anna were confused but still took a step forward behind the wall. Seeing nothing happened, they continued to walk until they saw light at the end of the horizon.

They approached the light carefully but because of their vision had adjusted themselves to the darkness due to the Moon Blessing, the light was blinding than they originally thought, forcing them to close their eyes for a moment.

When they opened their eyes again, they had come into a room with a white light, emitting from the ceiling.

"Where is this place?" Noel muttered while looking around.

On the right side of the room, he could see a few treasure chests that seemed to be the treasures they were looking for. Meanwhile, there was nothing in the opposite side. The only thing that they could see beside the chests were a coffin.

Suddenly, a translucent figure appeared, sitting on the coffin. He had a long white hair tied into ponytail. His eyes were fierce but the gaze he gave was gentle. He wore a white robe that covered his entire body.

He smiled at them and said, "Welcome, children."

Noel was the first one to kneel in one knee and said, "I am honored by your presence, Sword Saint."

"As expected from the Ardagan..." The man smiled.

"Ah!" Anna also kneeled down to greet him.

"It's surprising to see you bringing someone else here. But well, it's fine, I guess." The Sword Saint walked to Noel to touch the black sword on his waist. "It's been a while, my friend's partner. Have you been well?"

Ardagan didn't react. However, the Sword Saint actually smiled and said, "I see. It seems that you have got a good master."

"Uh..." Noel wanted to say something but didn't know whether he should or not.

"Haha, just say anything you want. I'm not as strict as your ancestor." The Sword Saint smiled, assuring Noel.

"It might be presumptuous to ask, but you really can talk to him?"

"My Spirit is about Soul. Of course, I can feel the soul of the sword. It seems that you have been a good master to him. He's satisfied with you."

"I see." Noel felt a bit happy since he knew Ardagan was alive.

"How old are you?"

"I will be sixteen in two months."

"I see. How is the Ardagan Family? Are you treated well by them? Are they still adhering to the rules of their ancestor?"

"Ardagan Family..." Noel looked down with a sad expression. "...have been destroyed."

"What?!" The Sword Saint widened his eyes in shock. "Your family has Ardagan, yet, it's been destroyed? Are you kidding me? If not for Ardagan, I could beat your ancestor."

"That's..." Noel closed his eyes for a moment. "Because the Ardagan Family has to be executed."

"Executed? By who?"

"The Royal Family."

"Are they so ungrateful? When I was with your ancestor, we helped that brat Kairvan to build a kingdom and this is how his family repaid us? If I have my body, I would have split that castle into two." The Sword Saint clicked his tongue, annoyed. He then turned to Anna, "So, that's how it is."

Anna's heart beat rapidly, wondering what the Sword Saint had understood. However, she coughed when she heard his words.

"Is she your wife? You two are going to recreate the Ardagan Family? Hmm, this kid is quite good. For real? She even has a Humanoid Spirit, looking at the age, it seems that the Humanoid Spirit is special, maybe at the same level as the Dark Butterfly... This is quite amusing. I see, It seems that I don't need to worry about Ardagan since you two will do just fine."

Noel's expression darkened. He was speechless, not understanding how the Sword Saint could actually reach this conclusion.

He pointed at Anna and said, "She is Anna Stargaze, the daughter of Marquis Stargaze. She's deemed to be the most talented person in the kingdom and she's... the one instigating the execution of the Ardagan Family."

Anna's body trembled, realizing Noel's plan this whole time. He wanted to use the Sword Saint to kill her. But the Sword Saint was just a soul, so he might only be able to make her suffer. Still, it was enough for Noel since that suffering would surely be great because the Sword Saint's strength was comparable to his ancestor.

This was shown when the Sword Saint's expression darkened. He glared at her and said coldly, "So, you killed the family of my old friend?"

"This..." Anna's hand wanted to move but she felt her body was frozen in fear. She finally felt the power of soul. She raised her head to explain since this was the only way to save her life. "I—"

But before she could say anything, the Sword Saint suddenly smiled as if he was impressed. "Beautifully said. You were exactly like my sister and she ended up becoming my old friend's wife."

"I... What?"