

## **S vs Rebirth 231**

### Chapter 231 Hidden Room

"So, should we test it?"

Anna's heart skipped a beat, never expecting Noel to behave this way. She thought Noel would simply let it go this time or even if he fought back, he would just say random things.

She blinked a few times as Noel kept staring into her eyes as if he was serious to do it.

Ultimately, Anna looked away and said, "That's right. I have been thinking about this the whole night. Your ancestor was the greatest general in history from the Muivell Kingdom, your ancestor's wife was a royalty from the Greenwood Kingdom, but the Sword Saint's identity, who was supposed to be the prince, was not known to the world. Don't you think it's strange?"

"If you take another look at it, your father marries your mother, a daughter from a powerful family of the Greenwood Kingdom as if he's trying to direct you there..."

"Chickening now?" Noel snorted and let her go. Although he wanted to keep pushing her, her words indeed made some sense. He moved away and left the bed while asking, "Are you implying that my father wanted me to find the Sword Saint?"

"Yes." Anna nodded with a calm expression even though her heart was still beating rapidly.

Noel thought for a moment and asked another question. "Then, what's the purpose for this coincidence? I don't think meeting the Sword Saint is the purpose."

"But do you seriously forget about your ancestor? Your ancestor created the first Demon Extermination Army that changed its name to the Demon Banner Army."

"What did you say?" Noel widened his eyes in shock.

"You seriously don't know anything? I almost forgot that you were ignorant when we first met. I guess you've been lazying around without learning something." Anna shook her head helplessly.

"Demon Banner Army, Ancestry, Greenwood Kingdom, and scheme." Noel squinted his eyes, contemplating.

"If you don't mind, I'd like to access the library in this place to learn more about the history of your family."

Noel couldn't really trust Anna, since she could hide some truth for her convenience. But there was one thing that he could use. "In exchange for allowing you to use the library, I'm going to make sure your information is correct by using the Spirit Seal."

"But you also have to tell me something..."

"I'll give you the information I found as well, but at the level I can tell you."

"You're not going to trick me again, right? Like saying one word and tell me that's the level you can tell me." Anna narrowed her eyes.

"I can at least promise you that I don't get any information if it's truly the case and share far more than that."

"..." Anna looked at Noel's eyes for a while. Noel could be lying, but Anna chose to play this way to show that she wanted to solve the hatred between them. She accepted, "Fine. Let's do it this way."

If Noel truly tricked her again when she trusted him this much, she had to consider her option in solving the hatred between them.

Noel nodded and said, "If that's the case, follow me. I'll show you the library."

"Let me fix my hair a bit, I just woke up, you know."

"Whatever. Go to the first floor if you're ready. I won't wait for too long." Noel harrumphed and left the room.

A moment later, Anna came out of the room to find Noel, but surprised to see him staring at the same picture that piqued her interest too. The picture of Noel's ancestor.

"Did you find something?" Anna asked while walking down the stairs.

"No." Noel turned around immediately since she had come. Without wasting any more time, he showed the library, which also had been covered with dust.

The library wasn't a big room. It was at the size of Noel's room. Still, this 4x6 meters room contained at least a thousand books for her to read.

"Remember, we can't be too long here because I don't want to raise anyone's suspicion."

p "Of course, I know what kind of book I want to read, so I should be able to find them quick."

Noel nodded and immediately left the room. He had another place in his mind, which he should visit.

The Sword Saint said that he could see one's soul that contained memory. But Noel didn't have any memory about the hidden room in his father's office. So, that memory could come from his father or Ardagan himself. After all, Ardagan was a living spirit.

He didn't know if the Sword Saint could use his ability on Ardagan, but this one was more feasible than the first theory.

Hence, as soon as Noel arrived at his father's office, he immediately walked into the shelf where the hidden room was located.

"What were the books my father took out back then?" Noel closed his eyes, recounting the memory he had in that dream. He also kept looking at the books to jog his memory.

His hand reached for the book next to his knee, the book in front of his chest, and the one in front of his eyes. "I think these are the three books."

Noel hesitated because the clue might not be here, but since he had nothing to lose, he pulled out Ardagan and cut his palm, dropping the blood on those three spots.

Suddenly, three runes appeared in those locations, triggering the mechanism behind the shelf.

"!!!" Noel's expression brightened. "It's real. The hidden room is real."

The shelf was pulled into the wall as Noel found the same stone wall that asked for his blood to open.

Noel immediately smeared his blood on the wall as the latter recognized its blood and started moving, revealing everything inside.

And the truth was revealed because everything looked similar to what he had seen in his dream, except for the fact that Ardagan was with him instead of planted on the stone at the opposite side of the room.

"Still, is this truly the right answer? I don't have any idea about this room if I don't meet the Sword Saint, so will my father actually leave something in this place?"

#### Chapter 232 Clue

As soon as Noel stepped inside the hidden room, there was only one book in that place since this was the place where Ardagan slumbered previously.

It was the notebook of his ancestor that he didn't finish in his dream because of what happened during that time.

He carefully opened the book and saw the first few sentences in that book. The words were exactly the same, so it meant either Ardagan or his father had read this book.

Noel looked around to find any more clues, but since there was nothing but stone wall inside, he decided to walk back to the office and put the book on the table.

The book wasn't that thick, so he should be able to finish this book in one sitting.

But to his surprise, when he lifted the book up, a letter fell down to the ground.

"This is..." Noel widened his eyes in shock. He carefully picked up the letter and opened it because he never saw this letter in his dream. Even the paper looked new.

"My son. By the time you read this letter, I'm sure that we're not with you anymore. However, there's no need to fear because your mother and I are fine in a place no one knows.

"To be honest, I don't know when you're going to read this letter, but I'm pretty sure that you'll find the hidden room after you go to the headquarter of the Demon Banner Army. There is a hidden room inside the treasury that your ancestor left behind, which should be related to the hidden room. So, I believe you will find this room from there.

"I don't know much about Ardagan, but I am aware that he's a living spirit. If Ardagan deems you to be ready, I believe that he's going to show you the hidden room inside the Demon Banner Army's treasury.

"You should know that I was supporting the third prince, right? I don't know how much do you know about the truth, but I'm going to be blunt here.

"I and Marquis Stargaze are best friends and we have agreed to split up to find a certain truth. If you truly don't know what to do, you can go to him and ask for his help. But I doubt that he has the ability to do it because he's also being monitored.

"Hence, our execution is simply a way to hide me, allowing us to further investigate this certain truth.

"As for the certain truth... it's big yet simple that I can explain in a single sentence. To put it simply, the royal family is colluding with the Supreme Devil Organization.

"I'll explain it further now. We don't know which member of the royal family is colluding with the Supreme Devil Organization, but as expected from the royal family, they're ambitious. So, we targeted the ambitious people, which was the crown prince and the third prince. Marquis Stargaze took the crown prince's side while I took the third prince's side.

"Hence, I want you to do something for me. Help me investigate the third prince and the current king, but you must go to the third prince first because it's easier to gain his trust now. If you need someone's help, go to a cliff and jump off because someone will be there for you.

"That's all I can tell you right now. However, believe me that your father doesn't want to do this if not for the fact that your life is threatened. There is actually another verse of Ardagan.

"It's said that Ardagan can glimpse into the future. No one has the quality to be his master this whole time, but I noticed Ardagan started to change after you were born. I didn't want to believe it, but Ardagan had chosen you as his master. The problem is... the other verse told us that the moment Ardagan chose its host, the great danger would befall. I couldn't handle the danger by myself, so I could only prepare all these things for you. I'm sorry, child.

"Your father and your mother will miss you. We don't want you to be in danger, but we can't do anything to prevent it. If you think it's too dangerous, please forget everything about this letter and live the way you want. There's no need to rebuild the family. You can even go to your mother's family to live there. All I and your mother want is a smile on your face every day. We love you, Noel."

"..." Noel fell silent when looking at this letter. There was simply too much for him to take. First of all, the royal family and the third prince were the prime suspects. There was also the Supreme Devil Organization. If they were truly connected, they must be planning something big.

Hence, it was certain that Noel couldn't trust them both.

"Seriously? Am I a child of prophecy or something? I never signed up for this." Noel pinched the bridge of his nose. "All I want is to live lazily. Or did my parents just misunderstand the prophecy? I feel like my life has been filled with misunderstanding recently..."

Noel's eyebrows were twitching, feeling the trouble ahead. Still, Noel scratched the back of his head and muttered, "But I don't think I can let this go either... the dream I had with my parents were the regret buried in my heart. At the very least, I wanted to restore my family to its previous state."

"Yeah. There's only one thing to do." Noel clenched his fists as he was determined to do it. He also remembered the fact that Ardagan could actually remind him of the hidden room when he was in treasury. With how Ardagan could create a mission with Anna's information, it wouldn't be weird if Ardagan would give him a mission to discover the hidden secret in the treasury.

So, Noel stroked Ardagan gently and said, "I might not be that worthy as your host right now, but I'll be sure to keep getting stronger. When that time comes, we have a lot to talk, buddy."

...

Noel wasn't the only one who found a clue to the current situation. Anna dropped her book in the library while gasping. "Is this...true?"

#### Chapter 233 Money

"Mhm? So, this book is a kind of introductory book for Ardagan. There are only three main points in this book. The first is Ardagan is a living spirit and it chooses its owner by fate, not qualification. However, because of the pact between the ancestor and Ardagan, only those with Ardagan blood can become its owner.

"Secondly, according to this book, Ardagan has a few main features. I have experienced how highly interactive he is from all those system notifications. It's quite handy and powerful, considering Ardagan has the power to see a glimpse of the future like how he can suddenly give me a mission.

"Anyway, the other main feature is the knowledge embedded into Ardagan. From my understanding, Rune and Ardagan Swordsmanship are included in this knowledge and other skills that I can learn with Skill Points... He can transfer the knowledge he has, so the more knowledge I give him, the more he can pass down for the future generations. This is so powerful but maybe that's why Ardagan didn't have an owner this whole time.

"Either way, everything I have seen right now is going to be useful someday. I might not be able to feel that much of a difference currently, but I'll surely feel it in my later day.

"Now that I think about it, Ardagan gives me a bonus stamina by percentage. Then, let's make an example of my current power. If my current Spiritual Energy reflected by the number of Demon Crystals... I have absorbed 1,000 crystals for example. Then, I will get an additional 20 crystals since it's two percent boost. But if I absorb 10,000 crystals, I will get an additional 200 crystals.

"I can see where this is going. If I keep getting stronger, I will be able to increase my strength even further. At the same time, this number will keep increasing by continuously training myself. If I can get at least twenty percent boost or even more, I will be able to overcome anything, especially with the fact that I can store twice as much with the help of Ardagan as my second spirit.

"I can discover more tricks from Ardagan in the future, so I should be satisfied with what I have right now. In fact, I should focus in enhancing them so that it will benefit me later.

"Well, aside from this, the last thing this book told me is the secret of the spirit. The True Spirit Body. It's not explicitly described, but I can understand it because the Sword Sa..., I mean Ancestral Uncle told me." Noel scratched the back of his head, feeling overwhelmed by the information.

It was quite simple to understand, but Noel felt this information would be helping him in the long run.

"As much as I want to bring this notebook with me, I don't think I should, since there are people who are interested in me. If they somehow know about this book, they might realize that I have two spirits in my body."

Noel let out a long sigh and closed the book. Since there was nothing to find inside the secret room other than this book, he returned it and closed the secret room.

After that, he began to look around the office to see if there was any more clues hidden by his father.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find anything even after five hours. Hence, he gave up and walked to the library to find Anna.

When he opened the library, he was stunned by the amount of books that Anna researched. In front of her was three giant books that were opened side by side. There were also a few stacks of books standing next to her.



"What is happening here?" Noel's eyebrows twitched.

"Ah, Noel! Come here!" Anna raised her head and waved her hand, calling him.

Noel was confused, so he walked to her to see what book she was reading. To his surprise, she was actually opening his family's account book.

"Do you know this is a family secret?"

"I didn't mean to open this book at first, but I found some clues from these books."

"Clues?"

"Yes. Well, I'm not good at reading these books, but I can see something is missing from basic calculation. Take a look!" Anna pointed at the books.

Noel's expression became serious as he stood next to her and lowered his body a bit. His hand was on the chair as if he was reading together with her.

"..." Noel soon narrowed his eyes. "Well, I didn't read many books, but account book was one of the books I study, considering I would take over a merchant family. But this is kinda dumb..."

"I am not an expert on this. What can you see from these numbers?"

"Give me a few minutes."

Noel fell silent for a few minutes, looking at the number in the account books. If it was a small embezzlement, he would have a hard time to find it because he had to do a thorough calculation. But this was different. There was a big gap in the account book as if telling him to find them.

"This is..." Noel's expression became grim.

"What's wrong?"

"The clues I found was about the connection between the royal family and the Supreme Devil Organization. Also, my father and your father seemed to be best friends for life and wouldn't betray each other, unlike you. Last but not least, they went to different sides to investigate the king as well as the third prince."

Noel explained, shocking Anna to the core.

"Huh? What did you say?"

Noel's reply came in the form of action. He pointed at the account books and said, "There is a huge hidden money in the account book. The purchase is useless if you see it here, so it means they're using that transaction to give the other party some money. And there are three parties that are involved in those transactions.

"The first one is my mother's family, the Greenwood Kingdom's Ezenholm Family. The second one is your Stargaze Family. And last but not least, there is an unknown fraction that is not stated here. And this... might be where my parents are."

Chapter 234 Shouldn't Have Said Anything

"!!!" Anna's body was trembling. Her tone was shaking. "You... You mean your family gave me money. And you said earlier that my father and your father are best friends? Also, the royal family and the different sides..."

Anna gasped in horror. She couldn't help but remember what happened in her past life. She muttered inwardly, 'The Third Prince betrayed Noel and stabbed him from the back. Is the Third Prince the culprit? No, wait. My teacher also did the same and her status was also important.

'My teacher was actually the leader of the royal ian. She was one of the closest retainers of the king, Basically, she was his left hand.

'Then, does it mean both of them betrayed us? If that's the case, both of them have some involvement with the Supreme Devil Organization?

'Wait a minute... Noel was supposed to know about this information and suspected the third prince. Noel was smart back in the day and he wouldn't fall for this kind of trick easily.

'Wait, wait, wait...' Anna got the shock of her life. 'Don't tell me, the Third Prince and Noel actually played a trick on my previous teacher? If that's the case, Noel must be still alive in my past life and I was the only one who died. Is that why I'm the only one who gets reincarnated even though we're both together at that time?

'But I can't really give any explanation about the reincarnation itself. And the Third Prince might also show his true nature and Noel just tricked him into thinking he had died.

'There are too many IFs in this situation. But it's clear that both the third prince and the king are the suspects... Though, there is also a possibility that Noel had trusted the third prince so much that he didn't think about betrayal.

'If that's the case, should I tell Noel about what happened in our past lives? But if I told him not to trust the Third Prince, he would become suspicious of me as well like how in the world I got that information. There wasn't any concrete proof that the Third Prince was actually the culprit either, since it might be just a fake show. If I told him about this, Noel would have a bias in his judgment, making him not believing the Third Prince even though he turned out to be a good person.'

Anna couldn't make a decision whether to tell him or not. There were too many cons if she told him everything.

The current Noel had suspected both of them right now and if he investigated them, he would be able to judge with neutral eyes. If she told him about this, he might judge them poorly.

After some thoughts, Anna decided not to tell him about the betrayal. Instead, she focused on her own family.

She asked, "What's happening with my own family? I can't understand."

Noel shook his head helplessly. "I told you earlier. Your father is an ally, unlike you who wanted my family to die."

"..." Anna fell silent. She remembered when her father had given the sentence to Noel's parents. He spared Noel and the execution was just a farce to hide his parents. In other words, her father had played a part in the execution as an ally, not an enemy.

That was also why that there were some money for her father, which might be used for something else.

"Still, there is one thing that confuses me the most. Why did everyone make me the real culprit? If my father was your family's ally, shouldn't my father hide the fact I said all those words to make sure that there was no friction between us?"

Noel couldn't answer that question. He also had that kind of suspicion. If he was the father, he would hide what his daughter said in this situation. Instead, he would ask her to learn more from the other party so that there was no hatred between them.

Yet, the reality was different. This friction looked like it was purposely made for something.

"I don't know. The only ones who know about the reasons are probably your father and my parents." Noel shook his head helplessly.

"If that's the case, I can ask my father! No one told us how we should spend our time as long as we can complete the requirement for graduation. If that's the case, I can go back to my family to ask my father." Anna suggested since he felt fired up to resolve their misunderstanding, hoping that the relationship between them became better.

Noel, on the other hand, didn't think this plan would work. "No. That's something you shouldn't do."

"Why? Do you hate me that much? I'm sorry... I apologize for what I've done. Is there truly no way for you to forgive me?" Anna gritted her teeth, becoming frustrated.

However, Noel remained calm and explained, "That's not what I mean. After observing you for almost a year, I saw two contrasts of your action. It felt like you were bullying me for a certain reason and when we were on a mission which could be said we're alone, you would be nice to me.

"So, I figure out that you have your reason, which might be related to your parents. In fact, I did have a thought that you actually suggested my family's extermination and your behaviors were just a part of the plan. In other words, you were involved in that plan, meaning that every bad thing you did and said to me were just a facade."

p "Ah!" Anna gasped, realizing her mistake.

Noel's expression became extremely cold as he stared at Anna. "At first, I wanted to apologize for misunderstanding you the whole time since you were just trying to save me and I should feel indebted to it.

"But looking from your reaction, I could see that you truly wanted to exterminate my family, including me. And it wasn't a part of the plan. It also gave another contrast to your behavior." Noel glared at her. "Anna Stargaze. What do you really want from me? You must want to toy with me."

Anna was covered in cold sweat as Noel misunderstood everything again. She thought, 'I shouldn't have said anything...'

Chapter 235 Outburst

"What do you want from me, Anna Stargaze? You must want to toy with me."

Hearing this question from Noel, she regretted for telling him many things. After all, if she didn't open her mouth, she wouldn't be in this situation.

With the current Noel, he would surely half-believe her no matter what kind of thing she said. But she couldn't tell him the truth. If she knew the future and Noel would become dependent on it, there would be too much of a problem. She had changed a few stuff and would surely affect the future. If she told him about the future itself, Noel wouldn't hesitate to use it to his advantage. But what she was scared the most was the future affecting his rational mind.

Noel now had judging eyes on both the third prince and the royal family. Knowing the truth would give him unnecessary thought to the point it would affect his belief.

'But what should I say in this situation?' Anna thought hard since she didn't have much time left to respond to Noel's question. After a while, she opened her mouth. "Can't someone change? Making a big step of their life?"

"You can. But what you did completely was the exact opposite. So, it didn't make sense."

"Didn't make sense, huh? You also don't make sense too, Noel. How do you know about the Sword Saint Tomb? It's clearly that you're ignorant from everything, but you suddenly gain all that knowledge. You even know how to use Runes."

"..." Noel's expression became cold. "It's none of your business."

"None of my business, huh. Then why are you interfering with my business? Is it fun for you to take control of everything?"

"Your business is interfering with my life and has turned my life upside down."

"You and I know it... We both know it now that everything is arranged by your father. You wouldn't even hear me asking for the execution of your parents if not for the plan making it blow up."

"..." Noel narrowed his eyes and took a step back. "Fine. I'll think you have your own secret and you can't tell me anything about it."

"Fine... Do you like to toy me that much, Noel?"

"Toying with you? You're the one toying with me."

"I always want to make it up for you because I know I'm in the wrong. But you also have been playing with me this whole time, right? What? You think you're right because the other party is at fault? You're

the same as me, Noel. The only justification you have is because I'm at fault. Other than that, you're as evil as me." Anna snorted.

"And that's the truth," answered Noel with a poker face.

"See?" Anna gritted her teeth and pushed Noel to the shelf, placing her hands on the shelf so Noel couldn't escape. "I'm sick of this. You can be the judge! And now, judge me. What's my punishment?"

"..." Noel remained silent.

"What's wrong? Your tongue is tied now?" Anna seemed to have been frustrated after getting a constant pay back from Noel for the last eight months. She pulled out her sword and pointed it at her heart. "Here. Kill me if you think that's the punishment."

This was the first time Anna had this kind of outburst. Even Noel felt a bit overwhelmed. Anna shouldn't have this kind of outburst since he hadn't done too much to her. However, he didn't know that Anna had been carrying this emotion from her past life. It had been accumulating in her heart.

It was true that she changed because of Noel and she felt grateful for it. However, she was a human, not a punching bag that Noel could do whatever.

She wasn't as smart as Noel, so she wanted to be direct.

"Come on, Noel. Do it right now! This is your chance to kill me." Anna challenged him again by handing the blade to him. "Why? Why don't you pick up this blade? It's not that you don't want to, right? You simply can't pick this blade?"

"Because I'm still useful to you. When I'm no longer useful, you're going to cut me down and do whatever you want."

"What next? Are you going to tell me that I'm blaming you for my own fault? Then, because I'm at fault, please punish me. What's the punishment?"

"You always call me dumb. That's fine. Because I'm dumb, I need to hear it directly from you, Noel. What do you want to do? Kill me? Do it, why hesitate? Torture? Let's go to the torture chamber right now!

"But if you want to know everything, I have the right to remain silent. Just like you who can't even say anything about your secret, why do you demand it from me. I have agreed not to pry of your secret, so why can't you do the same?"

Anna gritted her teeth. She even gave some time for Noel to talk, but no words came out of his mouth. In fact, his mouth was closed the entire time as if he didn't plan to talk.

It just made Anna even more frustrated. Noel was always like this. In the past life, he would always say, 'You don't know anything, Anna.'

It had been a plague in her heart. How could she know it if he didn't tell her? How could she investigate it when she didn't even know what Noel was talking about.

And in this life, Noel had always been doing the same. She could fight some of it due to her past life, but as expected, Noel managed to adapt and change his strategy.

She never said she didn't deserve to be blamed, but when Noel always manipulated her mind with this blame, the frustration gathered in her heart.

Anna's voice became coarse and her eyes reddened. She seemed to almost burst out of tears because of the frustration.

But ultimately, she felt her body become weak and placed her head on Noel's chest. "Please say it whatever you want me to do for your forgiveness. I truly want to change and have a good relationship with you. Please..."

Chapter 236 Embarrassment

"Please..."



When hearing that tone filled with frustration, sadness, and helplessness, Noel was stunned. This might be the first time Anna actually let go of her emotion. Whenever she did it, Anna would always brush that matter off.

Noel would also do the same, but there was an instance where he let go of that emotion. It was in the Sword Saint Tomb. It might also be the trigger for Anna.

"..." Noel looked at Anna, whose head was resting on his chest. He let out a sigh and gradually reached for her hand. His right hand grabbed the blade while his other hand gently assured Anna's hand to let it go.

After letting out her emotion, Anna just felt tired and didn't think much about his action. She let go of the sword and Noel used the chance to place the sword on the shelf so that there would be no dangerous action could be taken.

Noel thought Anna was manipulative, but if she could even use this outburst to actually manipulate him, he would be tricked by her this whole time. There was no way he could call her dumb.

Noel closed his eyes for a moment and said with a soft tone. "My parents."

"Mhm?" Anna raised her head and stared at Noel.

"Help me in finding my parents. Whatever the case, you're the center of attention of their execution. So, I want you to help me find my parents and get the truth from them. That's the only way to solve this hatred because they're the ones knowing the entire thing. Help me find out the truth why you become the center of the execution. If I don't believe you, you can use the Spirit Oath to make both of us unable to lie," Noel stated with a serious expression.

"That means..." Anna's expression brightened.

"Yeah. You want me to tell you directly, right? There you go. I have given you the condition. But until then, I don't think I can treat you like what you want."

Anna clenched her fists as if she had accomplished one of her small goals.

"Don't think too much. I won't change no matter how you beg me before that. This time, you can treat it as my apology for never talking to you, who is the related party. Even in the court, the culprit still has the right to defend himself. So, I should have talked to you."

"No, it's fine. I know that you hate me so much. Even if I try to change you, it's impossible because you have been hiding all that hatred in your heart." Anna shook her head while smiling. "At least, now I have the chance."

Noel closed his eyes, wondering if this was the right thing to do or not. He sighed and said, "I'm going to get some air."

He walked away, leaving the library. Anna could only look at him as he left the room because her brain had stopped working after doing all that.

When Noel closed the door, Anna's face flushed red as if all the embarrassment from earlier finally struck her.

Her feet felt weak as she dropped to the ground. All the memory of what she did earlier flashed in her mind, making Anna clutch her head.

'What have I done? Why in the world I did all that? Even though it's true that I'm frustrated, I am older than him if we count the past life as well. I shouldn't have done all that!

'Is it because I am that frustrated? No, I should be fine for a while. Noel is still a kid and I can understand his anger. Then, why did I tell him all that?'

Anna couldn't get a single reason in her mind. She wanted to make a reason but her body rejected that kind of reason.

She couldn't help but remember what the Sword Saint said.

"Beautifully said. You were exactly like my sister and she ended up becoming my old friend's wife."

"Wife... Noel's wife?" Anna muttered in a low voice before shaking her head furiously. 'What in the world are you thinking? Becoming Noel's wife? You idiot.'

Anna fell silent for a moment because she had another thought. 'But now that I think about it, if I become Noel's wife, doesn't that mean I can talk about my reincarnation? If you can't even trust your husband, then who can you trust? That also means the relationship between us is good.

'That's right. If I think this way, won't I be able to fight against Noel too? He pushed me to the wall back in the inn and almost kissed me, and we almost did it on the bed... If I kept pushing, wouldn't it make Noel be the one to pull back? With that kind of hatred, there's no way Noel will accept that. Wait a minute, how in the world am I thinking about it? I have reincarnated so I'm older than him!'

Anna scratched her head, trying to make the thought disappear, but to no avail. Instead, another thought flashed in her mind. 'But right now, my body is at the same age...

'Still, I remember that in the past life, Noel doesn't have a single woman in his life despite being surrounded by them.

'What the... How in the world this kind of thought even appear in my mind? Is it because I have told him all that earlier?'

Anna surprisingly became even more frustrated than when she let out that outburst. Her body was twitching as if trying to get rid of that embarrassment.

She looked around to make sure Noel wasn't there and caught a glimpse of the book on the table.

"That... That's right! Let's just read the book and forget about this thought. I don't even know how I could come up with those thoughts too. It's truly ridiculous. Haha... ha... ha..." Anna walked back to her chair staggeringly. Even her hands were shaking when holding the book.

In the end, she covered her face with her hands while muttering. "Maybe... I really... shouldn't have said anything."

## Chapter 237 Thoughts

Outside.

Noel was walking in the hallway. His face was distorted a bit as his mind was crazy with all the thoughts. The cause was none other than Anna's outburst.

'I have been thinking Anna to be the executor of my family. That's why I hate her to the bone. But now, my feelings are mixed. On the one hand, my parents are still alive and all this situation are created by my father. On the other hand, what am I supposed to feel now?'

The outburst kept flashing in his mind. If Anna was just a mere pawn that his father had arranged, he didn't know whether to hate her anymore or not. After all, he had been clinging into this anger for the past eight months. So, he felt weird because that feeling was forcefully taken away.

'I might have been unfair to her...' Noel scratched the back of his head. 'But at the same time, I believe that my father didn't do this for nothing. He must have a hidden purpose. Then, why did my father put Anna as the target of my hatred even though her father is his best friend?'

'Ardagan, do you have any idea about this? Well, it's not like you're going to tell me anyway.' Noel stopped and leaned on the wall.

'Let's think about it again. First of all, my parents are taking the third prince's side while Marquis Stargaze is taking the king's side because of their relationship with the Supreme Devil Organization.'

'Then, the third prince lost in the election and Marquis Stargaze asked the king to spare me. If the situation is reversed, Anna will be in my position and his father will be missing. Then, I'll most likely become the target of Anna's hatred.'

'But in this situation, I won't have Ardagan and Anna has all that talent to kill me. I doubt I will last this long if our situation is reversed. In other words, the reverse is not planned because the plan is bound to fail that way. So, my parents know that the third prince was going to lose, so they went to that side? Or did they the one who caused the third prince to lose? I don't know about this.'

'Either way, I was sent to the Demon Banner Army, which was created by my ancestor. There were not much clue I could find in the stronghold, but it seems that Dimitri has been protecting me this whole time. I have faced many life and death battles, but he must have felt whether the rescue will be coming or not. When the result is that I will be fine, he won't come out.

'Well, I don't think Dimitri is a big piece in this plan. What I should be thinking right now is the hidden room in the treasury as well as my trip to the Ezenholm Family.

'With how the commander urged me to visit the Ezenholm Family even though it was the neighboring kingdom, it meant the commander might know something about this. But can I ask him all this because it would mean he would be suspicious of me. I don't know if I can trust him since he's the third prince's man.

'Then, how about the Ezenholm Family? Only Grandfather who seems to know many things about my family situation because he's the only one investigating the family. Did he know something about this entire plan and just acted that way so that I didn't find the truth? There were too many questions...

'And last but not least, the Sword Saint. The Sword Saint is my ancestry uncle and he's from the Greenwood Kingdom's royal family. If we're talking about the family tree alone, it means I'm also a part of the royalty of the Greenwood Kingdom. But I don't think the royal family will think the same way. After all, the lineage of the Sword Saint has been cut and his sister, the royal princess married my ancestor. The current lineage of the royal family must come from other princes or princesses.

'But the problem is the connection... what kind of connection do all these points have? I can't find a single reason that connects all of them. Do I miss something?'

Noel thought hard to see if he missed any clue or whatsoever. But Anna's outburst flashed in his mind again.

'Why do I keep thinking of her? I do feel a bit bad because of how I treat her. I can justify my action when I don't know this is my father's plan, but now that I know that my parents are still alive somewhere...'

Noel let out a long sigh, feeling stressed by this feeling. However, he suddenly fell into deep thought as if he noticed something. 'Wait a minute. Why should I hate Anna? My father planned that I should hate Anna since she was the culprit and Marquis Stargaze should stop the rumor from spreading.

'Yet, they actually made Anna to be the biggest person in this plan as if they want me to go to her to seek revenge. Does that mean Anna is actually the eye of this storm? He wants me to go to Anna for a reason and what's the reason for it?'

If Anna was actually thinking with him, she would also get suspicious because Noel harassed her in the previous life. But she also had that one memory where Noel had sadness and relief when he fell from a cliff.

Anna would think that Noel was bound to learn this sooner or later. Yet, when the hatred had diminished, Noel actually didn't stop harassing her. There should be a reason why Noel acted that way.

However, this was their current life. Anna was unaware of Noel's train of thought while Noel didn't know what Anna had experienced. They were clueless to what was happening until Noel thought of a plan.

'If my father wants Anna to be in the spotlight, it means that she's the clue that I need for this entire situation. Then, I should take advantage of this situation to find the entire truth.' Noel suddenly rushed back to the library and said, "Anna. Let's get married."

Chapter 238 Misunderstanding Solved?

"Anna Stargaze. Let's get married."

Anna, who was still distracted by her own weird thought, dropped her jaw to the ground. "Wha—What are you saying?"

"I have been thinking about why you're in the spotlight instead of your father covering you. Hence, I conclude that you're the center of attention for a reason. It's to make me go to you with all kinds of intention. In other words, if I want to solve this problem, you're the biggest clue I have."

"I can understand that, but why are you asking me to get married?" Anna widened her eyes in shock. Her face reddened due to her thoughts but she also felt disappointed when Noel didn't even show any emotion from that place.

"This is the most simple solution. Everyone expect that I come to you with hatred because of what you've done. So, I'm going to use the reverse psychology to drag them out. They will surely be surprised if I marry you, causing them to come out of their hiding place," Noel explained carefully.

"You bastard. Do you understand what you're saying right now?" Anna gritted her teeth and pointed her blade at his neck. "I have been fighting with my talent to escape political marriage this whole time and you think you can use me like that?"

"I don't." Noel shook his head. "Well, that's just me trying to create a situation where we can use each other. I'll be using you to investigate my parents whereabouts while you can take advantage of that opportunity to what you've been doing."

"I don't like that idea. No matter how hard you're trying to convince me, I'm not going to do it." Anna snorted.

"Of course, I don't expect you to agree. Even I don't believe how I can even suggest that kind of idea. But I think you get the idea... What I'm trying to say here is I want to drag them out by using the reverse psychology. If there's a need of hatred between us, then we can come with the exact opposite of that." Noel shook his head.

Anna squinted her eyes, feeling something wrong. She reached the same conclusion that Noel actually harassed her for a reason in the past life.

'Wait a moment. If the hatred is bound to diminish, then why did he kept doing that in the past life? This doesn't make sense. Was he trying to change me because I was too horrible in my past life? I was like those sheltered nobles who thought commoners as animals that could be slaughtered as I liked.

'And after he managed to change me, he was going to marry me to drag them out? If that's the case, even if Noel succeeded in the rebellion, he had yet to find his parents?

'In fact, if Noel succeeded in his rebellion and the betrayal never happened, I would have been a prisoner of war. When that happened, Noel would marry me or something like that?' Anna's thoughts became even weirder.

It might be the influence from her weird thoughts earlier, but she truly didn't know why she reached this kind of conclusion. She thought it must be because Noel presented that absurd idea.

However, she didn't like this idea. She gritted her teeth and glared at Noel. "Anyway, I won't be doing any of your plan. I don't like it a bit. I avoid political marriage so that I can marry my future spouse after we love each other. So, I don't want to do whatever you're planning!"

Noel nodded calmly. "I know that because I feel the same. Either way, my point is not about the marriage, but how to drag them out of their hiding place. You can forget about the marriage or whatsoever."

"..." Anna couldn't believe how Noel even suggested this idea and how easy for him to tell her to forget about it. In fact, she felt Noel change a bit. It might be because of her outburst earlier, but Noel surely seemed weird right now. "So, what's your plan to drag them out? My father?"

"No. Your father is monitored closely, so I don't think he can move."

"Then, if my father can't, are we going to move by ourselves?"

"That's probably the plan. Though, I also have a different option, which is to use my mother's family."

"Your mother's family? Are you also going to use your relationship with your ancestry?"

"Do you think they'll believe that?"

"Not at all."



"But if they actually believe that..." Anna suddenly fell silent before thinking of a person. "Wait a minute. Do you know that Kirika in our generation is actually a noble from the Greenwood Kingdom?"

"Huh?" Noel was taken aback by this information. After all, a noble from the Greenwood Kingdom wasn't supposed to be in the Demon Banner Army, unless she had a certain purpose. Kirika was quite talented herself, making Anna doubt that she was there to help Noel because of his ancestry.

Noel still couldn't believe what he'd just heard. "What did you say?"

"Kirika Loetzel. Are you aware of that name?" Anna also had her own suspicion, thinking the Greenwood Kingdom was planning to help Noel through Kirika. After all, the runes that Noel had written down were related to the Spirit Enchantment book that had been protected by the royal family of the Greenwood Kingdom.

"Kirika Loetzel..." Noel furrowed his eyebrows, recalling all the information about the Greenwood Kingdom. He arrived in his memory about a banquet held by a certain noble in the Greenwood Kingdom.

He actually met a unique girl that seemed to be left out by the rest. "Ah, is she that overweight girl?"

"Overweight girl?" Anna's face was distorted, completely confused.

"Mhm..." Noel explained about his encounter during that night and ended the story with, "So, I believe that Kirika is just trying to repay me or something? I think I'd heard someone inquiring my information from my father... I didn't pay attention back then, so I never knew the truth. But I think I should believe this is the case?"

"Wait, so that means she just wants to thank you?" Anna couldn't help but remember Kirika's hostility and her misunderstanding of Kirika's hatred. 'Does that mean I've been misunderstanding it this whole time?'

However, there was one more thing that Anna missed. She missed how synchronized they were by thinking about the same thing... marriage.

Chapter 239 Questions

"Regardless of her intention, I have to visit her personally to talk to her." Noel shook his head. "In any case, thank you for telling me this information."

"No, it's just a simple name."

"Mhm." Noel nodded his head and paused for a moment. "If that's the case, then I'll tell you one more thing. It's about the investigation."

"Are you going to take me out of the investigation? I'm determined to solve this mystery too since I'm involved, no, I'm in the center of the storm itself."

"That's what I want to ask you. If you wish to investigate, there is a place you might want to visit."

"My family? Should I ask my father about this?"

"No. It's not your family. It's the royal family!"

"!!!" Anna gulped down. Noel saying this was not without a reason. There was a connection between the Stargaze Family and the Royal Family, so she going there was better than Noel.

She looked down, contemplating. 'Wait a minute. If I can solve the hatred before that, is it possible to stop the rebellion?'

"Though, there is one problem." Noel raised his finger.

"A problem?"

"Yes. You are now an Apprentice Knight of the Demon Banner Army."

"Ah!" Anna facepalmed. It was mandatory that a knight from the Demon Banner Army to serve for a few years. The only way to escape the service would be failing to graduate in the first year. But that would

also give a huge impact to her reputation, considering people knew her to be a genius. People would doubt her if she was talented or not.

They could claim that she might have a good conversion rate but not have the talent for fighting. It would also stain the Stargaze Family's reputation, especially after she sent herself here.

"..." Anna closed her eyes, trying to find a solution. "This is indeed hard."

"Though, there is an opportunity for you to get out of the service."

"What is it?"

"Help me die."

"Help you what?" Anna widened her eyes in shock. This was the first time someone wanted her help to die. In her past life, she was always the one to kill and those people must be unwilling to die. Yet, Noel actually wanted to die?

"Hahaha, I confused you a bit." Noel chuckled, pleased with Anna's dumbfounded expression. "What I mean about dying is just a facade. I want to fake my own death."

"Ah!" Anna let out a sigh of relief. She remembered that Noel also used his second identity back then. His death was also much faster because of the Ancient Demon Tree, but since the people knew him to be the one killing the Ancient Demon Tree with her, it was impossible to use the second identity that fast. She truly had changed the future.

"Yes. I'm going to tell you the concrete plan after graduation since I can't see the way to die yet. So, I guess we'll be together for another few months..."

"Sure. I don't mind." Anna nodded with a smile. "That's right. I also want to ask you something."

"What is it?"

Anna remembered about Kirika, so she tried to ask this question without pointing the culprit. "For example, there is someone who wants to create chaos in the Demon Banner Army by killing a thousand knights of the Demon Banner Army, what do you think the purpose of that person? Also, the method of killing is controlling numerous demons."

"Controlling numerous demons? Killing a thousand knights?" Noel didn't understand what she was talking about. But controlling the demons reminded him of the mission that asked them to kill the bandits who controlled the demons.

"No, wait. Are you possibly trying to imply that the enemy is able to control a more powerful demons. Now that I think about it, the bandits can easily control the Low Level Demons... You told me that the culprit is someone from the Supreme Devil Organization.

"If I need to connect them, all I can say is that the bandits are simply causing distraction and the real attack will be delivered by those higher ranking demons. With the loss of a thousand knights, I'm afraid that the Demon Banner Army will be panicked.

"Every year, the people who graduate from the Demon Banner Army's enlistment program is around fifty to a hundred. That's basically ten to twenty years of effort. The Demon Banner Army is not that many, but they're certainly a group of experts, so if they lose that many, I'm afraid that the Demon Banner Army will be weakened severely. Their influence will shrink more than a half, leaving a huge hole in the kingdom's defense."

Noel explained the entire situation explicitly, so Anna could understand. And Anna was stunned because the prediction was so accurate that it was beyond belief. What happened in the past life was exactly like this. More and more problems started to appear inside the kingdom.

On the one hand, Anna wanted to prevent this from happening. On the other hand, she didn't want to change the history that much.

'No. I have come back to the past to change my history. Like how I want to change Noel, I also want to change the fate of the people. If I allow the chaos to come, tens of thousands of people are going to die.'

Anna clenched her fists.

Seeing her reaction, it seemed that Anna had something in her mind. Noel couldn't help but feel curious. "Why are you talking about it? Do you happen to know the future?"

"Who knows? There is someone investigating it right now, so I don't dare to say anything. I'm speaking just hypothetically, so you don't have to pay any mind. Though, now that we're done with the investigation, should we go back to the base?"

Noel stared at her for a while, noticing that she wouldn't budge with this one. He ended up sighing and said, "Sure. Let's go back tomorrow."

"Mhm." Anna nodded. "Let me store all these books first."

"Alright." Noel walked away. Although he was prepared for this, he had to leave this mansion again, the place filled with his childhood memory. He couldn't help but want to wander around to fill his loneliness.

#### Chapter 240 Original Sword Style

During the night, Noel finally returned to his room and found Anna waiting for him on the bed as if a wife waiting for her husband. However, that was definitely not the case here.

Anna simply wanted to sleep in this place because she had no other room to use. Last night, Anna sneaked into his bed, so today, he felt a bit weird to think about sleeping on the same bed as her.

"Are you done? Let's get some sleep since it'll be much faster to pass the time."

"..." Noel closed his eyes, trying hard to maintain his calm. If this was anyone else, they would jump to the bed right away since they were going to sleep with a beauty. In fact, they might even do something more than that.

But Noel was different. The hatred in his heart was forcefully removed by his father's letter, making him feel a bit awkward. He had been clinging to that anger this whole time, yet, it ended up as a misunderstanding. Even he wanted to know the answer to that emptiness. That was why he felt weird out.

Noel sighed and turned around as if he didn't plan to go back to this room.

"Wait, wait. Where are you going?"

"I'm going to train. I have too many things in my mind, so I have to sort it out." Noel shook his head helplessly.

"Is it not because you're going to sleep with a beauty like me?" Anna smirked, teasing Noel. After this, Noel would surely turn back and challenge her again.

To her surprise, it didn't happen. Noel simply shrugged his shoulders while walking away. "You can think of it that way. I don't care."

"..." Anna was speechless. The change in Noel was simply too big. She could only blink her eyes a few times, staring at the door which had been closed.

"Well, I think I can understand a bit..." Anna muttered while scratching the back of her head. "Noel has been burying all that anger in his heart. I could see it in the Sword Saint Tomb. And that kind of hatred is forcibly removed in an instant. Obviously, his feeling is complicated right now.

"I don't know whether this will be good to me or not. There are too many things to consider, but I guess this is the first step." Anna sighed. She thought about it and decided to leave the room as well, wondering where Noel trained.

After a while, she found Noel standing next to the tree on the backyard.

Noel was closing his eyes for a moment before hitting the tree. Three leaves suddenly fell from the tree as Noel's sharp eyes opened.

"This is..." Anna widened her eyes while looking at him through the window.

When Noel swung his sword, the first leaf was split into half cleanly. Meanwhile, the second leaf was cut a bit but the sword ended up bouncing off the leaf. The last leaf was blown away by the wind when the sword was about to strike it.

"Isn't this Noel's original sword style? Everchanging Emotion Sword Style." Anna gasped. "The first swing contains his anger as he slices his enemy without mercy. The second swing contains joy, so the swing is made to protect. As for the last swing, it contains his calmness.

"Still, he must have just practiced it since it's very incomplete. In fact, this is a kind to initial stage. Back when I fought against Noel, his swings were much sharper than this.

"The anger won't only slice you up but also crush everything around it. If he swings his sword, the leaf that has been cut in half will disappear as if being burned by his anger.

"For the second swing, the leave will certainly not hurt that leave even if he swings with his full strength. That sword is sharp, but even with that sword and his full strength, if Noel applies this, the one who is going to be cut won't even feel a single change as if the slash never happens.

"Lastly, the calmness will direct something like the flow of a river. In the past life, Noel used this swing to direct the enemy's attack away like when blocking or repelling one's Spiritual Ability.

"If I'm not wrong, Noel has ten big emotions. Fear, anger, shame, contempt, disgust, guilt, distress, interest, surprise, and joy. Each represent their own unique way of sword.

"Also, he has two different elements in his body. Fire and Ice... it's the exact opposite, which is quite useful for his emotions. If he is using Joy and Fire, it'll be like a hot, fiery love. He'll be extremely passionate about something. If he is using Joy and Ice, it'll be a tough love, transmitting the emotion to improve. This swordsmanship is truly amazing."

"Still, to think he has reached this step so soon... Well, why do I have to be surprised with this? Noel has been able to keep up with my pace as a reincarnated person. His talent is extraordinary and seems to be stronger depending on the person he chases after. But now, Noel has lost his reason to kill me, right? Is this bad?" Anna fell silent. She wondered if her desire actually forced Noel to become weaker.

Anna ended up watching Noel's practice the whole night from the second floor. Noel's original sword style was too mesmerizing for her to see.

Each swing contained a meaning and his emotion. Before making each swing, Noel had always an imagination in his mind since he learned this ability from the Sword Saint.

The Imaginary Battlefield was indeed extremely helpful for his development.

When the dawn came, Noel took a deep breath to calm his heart while looking at the second floor as if he had noticed Anna from the beginning.

He sighed and walked back into the mansion to return everything to its previous state, including locking the doors and returning the key, so that no one would know this mansion had been infiltrated.