

S vs Rebirth 371

Chapter 371 Overwhelming

"The situation has become too big," said Zion as he regrouped with the rest of the group. "Captain Lucian is stopping the Demon Bear while the other captain is holding off the Devil Bishop. What should we do now? Should we regroup with Paul?"

Noel shook his head. "No. There is no need for that. Paul is better off staying with the Water Lord. Meanwhile, we have to divide the team into two. The first team will help fend off the Supreme Devil Organization, while the other will kill as many demons as possible.

"Since there are a lot of demons, then Jonathan and Stella can go to the South Gate while the rest will go to the North Gate to fend off demons," Noel explained his plan while thinking about his next plan.

"Alright, then." Stella and the others agreed. Although they could think like this as well, Noel had shown his brilliance by coming up with many plans. Hence, it was better for him to do it instead of letting others think about it and creating confusion due to so many ideas.

Normally, it was Paul who would decide everything. Due to his absence, Noel was chosen despite his time in the group. They just believed that someone who was capable should do their job instead of thinking about seniority.

As soon as they reached an agreement, the group split.

"How many demons are in the North Gate?" Noel asked Rose who should have seen the demons.

"I'm not sure, but there are at least seven thousand demons. Although most of them are just Low Level Demons, it's still a force to be reckoned with." Rose frowned before asking, "What are you planning with the demons?"

"How do you usually fight a battle of this scale?"

"We usually killed those demons from the wall with the help of the wall's reinforcement. So, just shooting our Spirit Abilities again and again until we kill many of them before cleaning them up."

"Alright. Let's do that." Noel nodded with a serious expression. This was a perfect opportunity to get the reward for killing demons and advance his medals even further. At the same time, he also had to put in a hidden agenda, so he had to be careful in his move.

When he reached the wall, Noel was stupefied. He had seen hundreds of demons attacking one place at once, but this was the first time he saw thousands of them in one place.

It was a sea of demons, and all of them simply waited for their turn to reach the wall. Those Low Level Demons even tried to rush through the numerous demons in front of them to reach the wall, making them step on each other.

It was truly beyond what Noel had seen before. Numerous lights flew into the air and gradually fell down, hitting the walls.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The lights struck the wall, but luckily, the translucent wall managed to stop their blasts completely.

These attacks came from Mid Level Demons and Advanced Level Demons who were supporting the Superior Demon from behind.

It seemed that they were using the Low Level Demons as normal soldiers whose purpose was simply to distract a huge number of human soldiers. Meanwhile, the Mid Level Demons were providing some firepower with their Spiritual Energy while the Advanced Level Demons acted as a commander who helped the demons when needed.

However, there were a few Peak Level Demons in sight. These demons were even more dangerous compared to other demons. They were simply observing the battle right now, but their intelligent eyes

seemed to be searching for a way to break through the wall. It seemed they were the brains of this massive demon army.

Last but not least, the Superior Demon acted as their leader and led the charge with the rest of the demons.

If there had been no reinforced wall, this place would have collapsed long ago. Of course, Captain Lucian also played a huge role in this defense, considering he was the only person who could stop this demon.

"This is overwhelming," Noel muttered with a serious expression.

"This is actually normal if you go deeper into the demon territory. And this place has a Superior Demon near it, so this kind of number is to be expected." Rose explained, assuring Noel that they had seen something like this and survived. So, he just continued to do his job so that they could survive.

"In that case, let's help the soldiers." Noel nodded with a serious expression. "Still, how do we attack them when there is a barrier like this?"

"See the distance between this wall and the translucent barrier?" Rose asked.

"Yes."

"We'll kill the demons between this gap and go down so that we can use our Spiritual Energy on the ground. I'm sure that your Spirit Ability can manifest through this barrier... We'll use this barrier to block everything while we're taking our time killing them."

"Oh?" Noel nodded with a serious expression, understanding the plan. "In that case, let's do it."

"Yes. Follow us." Rose nodded and waved her hand, signaling the rest of the teams.

Ben and Zion were the first to go, showing Noel an example of their operation.

Without hesitation, Ben and Zion jumped off the wall. Obviously, they were spotted by many soldiers since they had done a crazy thing.

"There are people jumping off."

"Hey, what's wrong with them?"

"We have to help them."

The soldiers wanted to help, but they soon got startled after a loud explosion sound echoed in their ears. They instantly looked down, finding both Ben and Zion killing twenty Low Level Demons in an instant while making a perfect landing.

"This is..." The soldiers were stunned, not knowing what to say.

Rose came to them to assure the soldiers. "We're from the Demon Banner Army. We're here to help you to handle these demons. Just make sure you maintain the barrier."

Before waiting for their reply, Rose had stood on top of the wall while saying to Noel, "I'll remain on top of this wall to be your eyes. What will you do, Noel, Anna?"

Noel and Anna exchanged looks and smiled.

"Of course we go."

Without hesitation, they kicked the demons that were about to reach the wall and used it as a cushion like how they did it the first time.

Chapter 372 Change

Bam!

Noel and Anna landed on the ground safely. They looked around to find their target.

"Noel!" Anna shouted, pointing toward the right side. There were more demons over there, so it would be perfect for hunting. This way, they could lessen the burden on the wall.

Of course, Noel didn't reject that idea, considering he wanted to kill as many demons as possible.

He nodded to Anna while glancing to the side, looking at the demons who ferociously rammed their bodies into the translucent wall. They couldn't break through it no matter what. All they could do was stare at Noel and the others who were practically killing their kin.

"I'll be leading the charge as usual." Anna raised her sword while releasing her lightning. She took a deep breath and released her instinct.

As expected, the word 'kill' still rang in her head, but after knowing the difference between pure instinct and the one from her teacher, the word didn't affect her too much.

'My mind is clearer, but my sharpness remains the same. I should continue removing the brainwash from my past life to release the full strength of this instinct.'

Despite fighting intent emanating from her eyes, Noel had a hard time feeling the killing intent that usually fused with it. In fact, sometimes, he couldn't help but shudder when he felt the killing intent.

'She has changed?' Noel frowned while taking out his sword. Although he felt the change, he didn't know whether this was a good change or not. To prove it, he would have to fight alongside her first.

Looking at the numerous demons, Anna gathered her lightning around her sword. Surprisingly, she also noticed the difference in the flow of Spiritual Energy after controlling her instinct.

"Mhm?" The flow of her lightning was overbearing. It wanted to crush, destroy or kill anything before it. But this time, the flow was subtle, allowing her to gain more control over the lightning.

Curious, she planted the sword to the ground, releasing all that lightning in a fan-shaped area.

The lightning shattered the ground like it did previously, but the power decreased slightly. In exchange, there were more lightning sparks on the ground, allowing her to target more demons in a single attack.

Each lightning hit a Low Level Demon and electrocuted them. Those who didn't have a good defense immediately fell down. Their bodies were numb and they had a hard time moving.

"This is..." Anna widened her eyes in amusement. 'The lightning might have grown weaker, but it's perfect for electrocuting the demons. And with that many lightning strikes, I can aim for more demons, which increases my ability in a battle like this.'

Noel was surprised as well since he had seen this ability. However, he let the thought go for a moment since there was something even more important.

Normally, the demons Anna electrocuted would have died since the lightning burned their bodies. But because she only incapacitated them, this was a perfect chance for Noel to kill them.

'Perfect.' Noel waved his sword, releasing the Bouncing Spirit Slash. After learning a bit about the control from Jonathan, Noel could finally see what the original creator of this Spirit Technique wanted from it.

The sword strike flew for a moment before falling to the ground due to gravity. But this was when the Bouncing Spirit Slash showed its true might.

The sword strike began to bounce on the ground, heading straight to a demon whose body was electrocuted. It struck the demon's head and pierced through its flesh. Instead of the explosiveness from the Hard Approach, Noel used the Soft Approach to enhance its piercing ability, allowing him to create a hole on the demon's head before letting the sword strike to aim for the second head.

Roar!

Roar!

The demons wanted to stop it, but they could only helplessly see how their lives ended. The Bounce even became even more ridiculous as Noel gained more and more experience in controlling the Spiritual Energy. From a vertical jump to a looping jump, it allowed Noel to make an unpredictable attack with his own control alone.

'That's right. The Soft Approach and the Hard Approach are the knowledge I need to improve further. If I can master both approaches, I will be able to fight Anna on equal ground... Though, I don't know how much she has improved at that time...'

Noel glanced at Anna while the latter did the same, as if they were surprised at each other's improvement.

"What are you looking at?" Noel snorted.

Anna smirked. "Hehe. Why don't we play the game again? Who can defeat more demons?"

"In this situation? It's hard to keep the count in our head, you know." Noel shook his head. "But I agree if you want to play the game. But the game is about how many times we save each other."

"Save each other? So, we're going to be reckless while watching each other?"

"Yes. That way, we can kill more demons while being careful. Though, I prefer the word 'all-out' instead of that one."

"Hehe, you're on."

Both of them smirked as they both immediately jumped toward the numerous demons.

A lightning dragon formed on Anna's arm as it began to expand. The dragon let out a roar before it flew toward the demons and exploded, causing a huge spark that killed and injured many demons at once.

But among those demons, some were still unscathed and used that confusion to pounce on Anna.

Sword Fall.

Three giant swords fell on top of the demons, killing them. After that, Noel jumped on top of the sword as he marked his target.

A snowflake crystal appeared beneath his feet as Noel kicked it down.

Freezing Crystal.

The snowflake crystal blew up, freezing more than twenty demons. However, a few stronger demons managed to shatter their ice before Noel fell down, trying to kill him.

Anna's speed increased drastically as she skillfully maneuvered around the frozen demons and appeared among those who lived, killing them so that Noel could have a safe landing.

"One point for both of us." Anna smirked.

"True. Who will win today? As for the bet, the loser has to agree to do something for the winner."

"I'm looking forward to it."

"Let's go then."

Chapter 373 Valley Master

"Haha, I got you there!" Anna shouted while slashing the demons that were about to hit Noel.

"No." Noel's reply was simple as he also killed the demons that chased after her. They had been killing the demons like none other. Their synergy was rare even among the Demon Relief Squad.

Rose, who had been watching them this whole time, couldn't help but chuckle.

"Despite the rumors about them, those two look like a couple who have traversed so many battlefields," Rose muttered with a smile. "They are moving in sync. Is it because the rumor is incorrect?"

"Or do they fall in love with each other? This is intriguing and I'd love to hear about it later. I just hope that it's not like they're still enemies who try to figure out each other's weaknesses... That's why they know what to do to help each other."

Rose was smiling when she saw them cooperating with each other. She had heard a lot of rumors about their relationship, so she managed to confirm it was wrong during this battle.

Unlike Stella, who always saw Anna as an opponent to beat, she looked at this pair more objectively.

So, she thought about accepting both Noel and Anna wholeheartedly into the group.

Meanwhile, Noel and Anna were actually discussing an important matter while they were fighting.

"Say, Noel. Do you know what happened to the Water Lord? We wouldn't be able to gain a complete victory without him."

"Don't worry. The Water Lord will make an appearance later." Noel assured her.

"Huh? Why are you so sure? Do you know anything about it?"

Noel smiled. "Do you remember when he tried to remove the alcohol content from my drink?"

"Yes. Why do you talk about it?"

"What if I told you that was just a scheme to grab everyone's attention?"

"To grab everyone's attention? But why—" Anna suddenly fell silent as if she had figured out the situation. "Don't tell me..."

"Yeah. The Water Lord knows about the mole, but he's not sure about his identity. That's why he asked me to purify his wine while he grabbed everyone's attention. Hence..." Noel stopped talking. A smile appeared on his face, giving her the answer.

Anna couldn't help but suck a cold breath, never expecting this turned out to be the case.

...

"Stella, how is your side?!" Clara shouted.

"I can take care of this. Jonathan is chasing after the people who have gone inside!" Stella replied out loud while waving her sword, repelling the enemy's attack.

They had been besieged by the Supreme Devil Organization this whole time and had a hard time killing them because they had a lot of people. And among them were three Devil Inspectors, whose strengths weren't lower than Stella's.

"Alright. Keep focusing on your side. We need the rest of the people to help us here, especially Paul and the Valley Master. Aren't they together according to you?"

"Yes, Captain."

"Haha, you must haven't known this... But it's useless to rely on that Water Lord!" The Blood Berserker laughed out loud. "After all, the Water Lord can't even lift his hand anymore."

"!!!" Clara was surprised. The Water Lord was one of the strongest people in their Kingdom, equal to her in strength. Yet, the Blood Berserker claimed he had died. How could she believe him?

However, the Blood Berserker added, answering her doubt. "Fagant Leaf."

"!!!" Clara widened her eyes in shock. There were only two types of people who would recognize this name. The first one would be a poison master. Since they had worked on poison for so long, they would eventually ask about the strongest poison. And one of them was none other than the Fagant Leaf, which was said to be able to seal one's Spiritual Energy.

And the second type was none other than the one who healed the poison. Yes, Clara belonged to the second category. She had detoxified a lot of people as a healer, so she had heard a poison that she might not be able to detoxify.

But there was a problem.

"Fagant Leaf should have gone extinct! You're just bluffing!" Clara shouted, not wanting to believe it. However, she could understand why the Water Lord couldn't go to help them if he was poisoned by the Fagant Leaf.

"Captain! You don't have to worry, Paul is staying beside him! He will be fine!" Stella shouted, assuring Clara.

"It seems you have forgotten something. There is one more person that could threaten your so-called Vice Captain in that castle." The Blood Berserker smirked.

Stella's body shook as she remembered one thing. 'That's right. The head butler hasn't made his move this whole time. If he is the one taking care of the Valley Master, Paul would have gone all the way here to help us... Don't tell me!'

"It seems that you have realized it. Both your Vice Captain and the Valley Master have—" The Blood Berserker enjoyed Stella's horrified expression, so he continued.

But before he could finish his words, Clara appeared before him, waving her hands to form multiple threads to sew his mouth.

"You're too loud!" Clara snorted coldly. She didn't show it on her face, but she was also shocked by what she discovered, hoping Paul was safe.

"Hahaha!" The Blood Berserker laughed while protecting himself from the threads.

But before the fight escalated to a whole new level, there was an explosion coming from the castle.

Boom!

The explosion didn't seem to come from a fire. Instead, it looked like someone had just destroyed a part of the tower.

"!!!" Everyone tried to look at the castle, but because of their current position, they couldn't see past the wall.

Unbeknownst to them, a part of the castle's upper floor had been destroyed and there were three people visible to the people close to the castle.

One was Paul, who was holding his arm. The other one was the head butler whose neck was choked by the third guy's hand. And yes, last but not least, he was the one that everyone had waited for, the Valley Master.

Chapter 374 Second Superior Demon

The Water Lord looked upon the city that hadn't been harmed in any way.

"How... I should have..." The head butler gritted his teeth. He tried to struggle but to no avail.

"The poison? Haha, Noel has purified it for me." The Water Lord smirked. "I already know there is a mole in my castle, but I never thought it would be you."

The head butler glared at the Water Lord. It seemed that he had accepted his death as he released the remaining Spiritual Energy to cause an explosion.

However, the Water Lord had pierced through his chest with his hand, killing the head butler.

The head butler smirked, using his last bit of energy to say, "Glory to the Supreme Devil..."

The Water Lord tossed his body to the side while looking at the north gate. "What do you want to do after this, Demon Relief Squad's Vice Captain?"

"I'm going to join the rest of my squad. And since we're in this situation, I believe I should go to the south gate."

"If I'm not wrong, the attacker this time is the Blood Berserker..."

"Yes."

"I will kill him. So, you have to buy enough time for me on the other side. Is that possible?"

"Leave it to us. We'll definitely protect the gate." Paul nodded with a serious expression. No matter how ugly they accomplished their task, they had to kill the Blood Berserker to avenge Rose.

As soon as they reached an agreement, the Water Lord waved his right hand. Suddenly, the water particles in the air began to gather and form droplet after droplet.

The droplets joined together and formed a thread in the air.

"Alright. It's time for me to go." The Water Lord smiled as he grabbed the water thread and slid down, heading straight to the gate.

"!!!" The Blood Berserker widened his eyes, feeling the Spiritual Energy fluctuation. "This is stronger..."

The Blood Berserker instantly realized his plan had gone wrong. He turned around, trying to sense that presence.

"You dare to be distracted?!" Clara appeared behind him and waved her hand, releasing the threads.

"Tsk." The Blood Berserker clicked his tongue and jumped to the side, avoiding all the threads that cut the ground upon contact. If he hadn't protected his body with his ability the entire time, the threads would have cut him into pieces.

But the threat didn't stop there. After dodging Clara's attack, he raised both hands, covering them with blood-red energy.

Two spears made of water flew straight at him, hitting his fist.

"Kh!" The Blood Berserker gritted his teeth, feeling the water like that of metal. It was hard, yet, when the energy ran out, the water turned back to normal, splashing his entire body.

"As expected, the poison is not enough to stop you..." The Blood Berserker gritted his teeth, looking at the Water Lord who stood on top of the wall.

"Demon Relief Squad's Captain, Clara... I'm afraid I can't greet you properly..." The Water Lord ignored him and smiled at Clara.

"It's fine as long as..." Clara glanced at the Blood Berserker.

"Indeed." The Water Lord smiled.

"Haha..." Getting surrounded by an Elder from the Tower Association and a Captain from the Demon Banner Army meant death for a Devil Bishop like him. Yet, the Blood Berserker actually laughed. "This is hilarious!"

"There is nothing funny here." Clara snorted.

"No, this is funny. It feels like all the things we've done have been ruined... The union between demon and human, the mountain of Demon Crystals, and a lot more, including this one..." The Blood Berserker

was mentioning the change that Anna had brought in her second life. And that was why he was laughing. He had prepared another surprise for all of them.

"Since I know someone will be ruining my plan, all I have to do is to get even crazier with my plan! That's why I prepare..." The Blood Berserker smirked.

...

North Gate.

Roar!

Roar!

A series of roars suddenly came from the south, alarming all people.

"This is..." Lucian, the Captain of the Demon Assassination Squad, was startled, recognizing this roar. "No way!"

Although he didn't know the demons, the roar itself was infused with a lot of Spiritual Energy.

Lucian glanced to the side while sucking a cold breath. Unlike the bear who had a big body, this demon's size was similar to other demons. But Lucian could see the fluctuation of the Spiritual Energy. His instinct and eyes were telling him that there was a demon, not weaker than the bear, coming toward them.

"Another Superior Demon?!"

Lucian wasn't the only one who recognized the roar. As someone who had seen this level on a daily basis in her previous life, Anna could recognize the amount of Spiritual Energy the demon had.

She gasped as her body trembled in fear. If this was her previous life, she wouldn't be afraid of a mere Superior Demon. But the current her was only a Spirit Wielder. A Superior Demon was completely out of her reach.

"A second Superior Demon? Seriously?" Anna gasped.

"What?" Noel widened his eyes in shock. The plan in his mind began to crumble. At first, he thought it was possible to kill the Devil Bishop by faking the poisoned incident, but it seemed that he didn't take into account the possibility of the second Superior Demon.

'No, no. This shouldn't have happened. If there were two Superior Demons, the Demon Relief Squad wouldn't have died. After all, they won't hesitate to escape while evacuating the city. The Water Lord might use his life to stop them while evacuating the people... So, how come there is a second demon?' Anna trembled, not realizing the second Superior Demon had come because all her actions had changed the future.

Meanwhile, Noel stopped for a moment while glancing at the top of the wall. If they relied on the Water Lord to stop this demon, it would be possible to save the city. But it meant he would break his promise to Rose.

It was true that saving the city was more important than the promise since he could kill the Devil Bishop at another time, Noel wasn't someone who would take his promise lightly. Hence, he had to fulfill that promise no matter what.

And that was where he got an idea.

"It seems this is the perfect time to do it... I don't know how strong Dimitri is, but there is no other way but to test his strength in this situation..." Noel gulped down while shouting to Anna. "Anna! Lift me up!"

Chapter 375 Separation (1)

"Anna. Lift me up!"

Anna was confused by the sudden request and turned around, finding Noel coming to her.

"Wait, what?!" Anna was trying to understand the situation, but Noel didn't give her any chance to sort out her thoughts.

After working together with Noel for a long time, Anna understood how Noel worked a bit, so she ended up positioning herself near the wall while making sure she had enough distance from the monsters.

Luckily, they had killed a lot of demons before, so there weren't many demons left in the gap between the stone wall and the translucent wall.

Anna's hands joined together as she lowered her stance. As soon as Noel stepped on her hands, she utilized her strength to throw Noel up.

As expected from a Spirit Wielder, it wasn't that hard for them to reach the wall anymore. Anna didn't even use all her strength and Noel could land on the wall beautifully.

Of course, his action stunned the soldiers. If there were a lot of demons from the bottom, they would think Noel was a demon and begin to stab him. Luckily, the soldiers had an easier time after Noel and the others went down, so they could see it was him.

Noel ignored their reaction as he looked left and right, trying to find Rose. "Rose?"

"On your right!" Rose's illusion immediately told him her location. She even waved her hand so that he could find him.

Without hesitation, Noel ran toward her, planning to give her another plan.

"Rose! We have to change our plan." Noel's expression became serious, knowing the second Superior Demon had come.

"Another Superior Demon? I'm not sure since I can't really feel the Spiritual Energy from here, but there's no way you're coming here without something that bad going on."

"Yeah." Noel nodded and pointed to the opposite gate. "I need someone... No, I need Zion to go to the South Gate right now and tell the Water Lord to assist us here. Ben will clear the rest of the demons."

"How about you?"

"I will settle everything here, not just the demons, the Supreme Devil Organization, but also my problem." Noel smiled as if he had gathered his resolve.

"Huh? Your problem?" Rose was confused. However, Noel didn't give her any time to think as he had already jumped back to the ground to kill the rest of the demons. "I don't know if I still can do it, but if it's possible, I'll do my best to fulfill your revenge even if it means using my life. And... you don't have to thank me."

"Wait!" Rose tried to stop him but to no avail. In the end, she could only grit her teeth and inform them about their new plan.

"!!!" Zion widened his eyes when he heard about the new plan and information about the second Superior Demon. Without waiting one more second, he immediately returned to the wall and asked for confirmation.

Although he wasn't sure about it, he had to go to the South Gate because he was the fastest. Failure wasn't an option since they couldn't afford to handle the second Superior Demon without the Water Lord.

Rose, on the other hand, changed her focus from the entire battlefield to Noel because she felt something bad was going to happen with how he explained it.

"He's still trying to fulfill my revenge even when our situation is not possible anymore? But why does Noel want to warn the Water Lord who is in the South Gate? No, since when the Water Lord has gone to the South Gate? I did hear an explosion from the castle..."

"Don't tell me, the poisoning incident is just a scheme to draw the enemies out? After that, they're using that chance to eliminate the Blood Berserker to fulfill my revenge. But because of the second Superior Demon, the Water Lord has to go here?"

"In that case, how does he plan to kill the Blood Berserker..." Rose fell silent, trying to figure out Noel's plan. "With his own life... Don't tell me he's planning to risk his own life?"

Rose instantly frowned. If Noel planned to exchange his life to fulfill her revenge, there was no way she would accept it. She preferred to live and pursue revenge for the rest of her life to use Noel's life to fulfill her revenge.

Unfortunately for her, it was already too late.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

A series of roars resounded across the battlefield, showing a big change.

Rose was startled by the roars and instantly turned back to the battlefield, seeing the demons moving to the side.

"Huh? What's going on? Why are they going there?!" Rose hurriedly took a peek to the side, finding the demons chasing after two people.

Yes, Noel and Anna had gone out of the barrier to lure the demons away.

"Wait. Don't tell me... With his own life... Noel is planning to lure all those demons as a distraction so our side can deliver a killing blow? But that will endanger his life... The Low Level Demons might not pose any threat to him, but it's a different case if he's luring them to a Devil Bishop. So, that's why he's planning to risk his life for my revenge... No, I can't allow him!"

Rose couldn't allow such a thing. Noel's existence had become a big part of her heart like any other member of the Zero Squad. So, she wouldn't allow Noel to act that recklessly even if it meant he had to slap him.

"You little bastard. Do you think I'll be happy if you sacrifice your life just for my revenge?" Rose gritted her teeth, chasing Noel and Anna.

Of course, there were many demons following her, ready to prey on her as soon as they got an opportunity.

"Tsk." Rose had a hard time maneuvering because of the number of demons Noel and Anna had brought with them.

Luckily, the moment she reached the hill, she could find Noel and Anna's silhouettes in the distance. But she might not be able to say she was lucky to catch up to them because what she saw was Anna stabbing her sword into Noel's body.

"Do you think I don't know your plan? You're planning to use the demons and me to go to the Blood Berserker so that I will die because of him. Is that how you're planning to kill me, Noel? It seems you haven't learned anything."

Chapter 376 Separation (2)

"Do you think I don't know your plan? You're planning to use the demons and me to go to the Blood Berserker so that I will die because of him. Is that how you're planning to kill me, Noel? It seems you haven't learned anything."

Anna shouted out loud so that everyone could hear it, especially Rose who was following them.

They had put a lot of distance before doing this, so they had some time.

But for Rose, this was an absolutely heart-breaking scene.

In that instant, her heart dropped and her face became pale. Anna and Noel looked like a cute couple when they were doing things together. That was why the thought of them fighting each other, like the rumor, had disappeared from her mind.

She never thought that the rumor was true. These two were just hiding it this whole time.

"Anna Stargaze! What have you done?!" Rose shouted in anger. She wanted to reach them, but the distance was too far. At the same time, the demons were alarmed as they chose to attack her instead of them. "Kh!"

Rose had a hard time fending off these demons. Although she was a Spirit Master, her fighting ability wasn't that high. She couldn't obliterate all these Low Level Demons in an instant.

And the duo had reached the end of their performance.

Noel's face became pale, but a smile soon appeared as if he didn't mind all this.

Anna was also hurt by doing this alone. She couldn't help but remember what Noel had told her earlier.

"Anna, I want you to stab me with your sword to make it more believable. Rose will surely watch us, so this is the perfect time to do it."

"Stab you with a sword? Isn't the plan just throwing you off the cliff?"

"It's not enough. Even if you push me off a cliff, it won't kill me. It will be a different case if you weaken me to the point I can't do anything."

"But stabbing you with my sword..."

"Please." Noel looked at her with pleading eyes. This might be the last thing he asked before they went their separate ways.

"..." Anna ultimately agreed to this plan. Noel believed in her skill in avoiding the vital, so the wound was treatable, considering Dimitri would be there for him.

And Noel gave her the line to speak to fool Rose.

Anna gritted her teeth, remembering their conversation. She thought about rewinding the time again, not choosing this path because her hands felt heavy and her breath became rough. She just wanted to throw up after stabbing the person she respected the most.

'It was said you wouldn't realize your feelings until you lose it... And I think I understand that feeling right now...' Anna muttered inwardly. She wanted to cry, but if she didn't act here, Rose wouldn't believe everything. So, she could only give Noel a cold gaze.

On the other hand, Noel was free to express himself. He smiled at her and weakly raised his hand, touching her cheek gently. He said everything she wanted to say. "My father told me I won't realize my feelings until I lose them. I think I remember that feeling once again. I once lost my parents and realized how I should have treasured them before it was too late.

"And now, our fate, once intertwined, has now become loose and gone separate ways. I had come to realize that when I was with you, I felt assured. I could give all kinds of plans for our success because I knew you were there."

Noel glanced to the side. Although Rose had stalled the demons for a moment, some of the demons had turned back to them.

Hence, Noel said his last words. "Anna... If there's a second chance, I hope that we can meet again, not get entangled in all kinds of schemes... Just you and me... together."

Noel moved back, pulling out the sword himself as he weakly fell off the cliff. He had said everything he wanted.

The memories of them together resurfaced in his mind. At first, Anna was a truly hateful person. He only wanted to kill her.

That was actually the truth. Anna was indeed a terrible person if she didn't have a memory of her past life.

However, Noel had seen her change in the one year they were together. And he came to realize that he enjoyed Anna's company. She was reliable, strong, and a bit childish but mature at the same time.

A bad person wouldn't always be a bad person. And it took a strong heart to change it. People would have given up on their rationality and believed Anna should die because of their weak hearts and temper. But Noel was different.

At this last moment, he couldn't help but remember what his father had once said.

"Listen, Noel. It's easy for us to wish for people to die. But it won't solve the problem. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth... If the world is filled with bloody revenge, then that will be the time for the world to collapse. He killed my father, so I killed both of his parents. He killed my entire family, so I have to kill all the people related to her... The blood will continue to flow like that of a river. And when you reach the end, the cost is your everything... your family, your wealth, your people, your emotions, your body, your everything."

"But if I forgive them, he will think I'm weak and kill more people. What should I do, Father?" The young Noel asked.

Luke smiled and gave him one more message. "Being a good person does not mean you have to put up with other people's wickedness. But... a strong person knows the solution. If you're in that position, what will you do to solve the hatred?"

Noel closed his eyes, smiling.

'It seems my father has been preparing for me this whole time... As expected, I truly want to see you next time...' Noel looked at Anna with a longing face. '...but this time, there's nothing behind us. My father's scheme, the Ardagan Family, the Stargaze Family... It's just you and me, Noel and Anna. See you... Anna.'

Noel expressed all his emotion in his last smile. No matter how dense Anna was, there was no way she couldn't understand that expression. She clenched her fists until the nails pierced her palms.

There was nothing they could do. This was their path.

Noel wanted to apologize to Anna for making her do something like this. But he also had to apologize to one more person.

Before he fell, Noel glanced at Rose with a small, weak smile, saying, "I'm sorry."

Rose was horrified as she called his name desperately, hoping everything was just a dream.

"NOEL!"

Chapter 377 True Start

"NOEL!"

Rose, who didn't know anything, screamed his name, albeit nothing had changed. She couldn't do anything because she was stopped by so many demons.

This might be the first time she would lament how she didn't have an overwhelming strength like the others.

"Anna Stargaze! What have you done?!" Rose glared at Anna, who was standing still, watching Noel fall.

She also didn't want to do this, but the only way to convince Rose this wasn't a scheme was when they went this far.

Anna felt like she wanted to cry. Her heart was wrenched in pain. Without her memory of her past life, this might be the happiest thing she had done. But after the reincarnation and the things they went through in the past year, it was the exact opposite of happiness.

However, if she broke her character here, everything Noel had done would go to waste. So, Anna bit her lips before glaring coldly at Rose. "I know. And this is necessary. Although our meeting was brief, I did enjoy your company. There is no need to see me off."

Without hesitation, Anna turned around and ran away, not caring about what Rose was going to do next. She had planned her escape route since she had no intention of returning to this group.

She kept running until her feet felt hurt. It was already winter, so it was harsh even for Anna.

Even so, she didn't stop until she reached a safe distance where she couldn't be tracked anymore.

After that, she dropped to her knees as her feet went limp. She could continue running for a few more hours, but the acting took a toll on her mind, heart, and body.

"Ha..."

"Ha..."

She panted a few times, breathing out the cold-wrenching air. She hugged herself and screamed.
"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!"

'This is for the best.' Anna clenched her fists. 'If I didn't 'kill' Noel, his life would be in danger because the Royal Family might send an expert to assassinate him soon. But why... why does my heart feel so much pain?

'In the past year, I experienced a lot of things with him. He had been my greatest ally, covering all of my mistakes. Even with this, we would still meet again next time. I was once separated from him for months, but I never felt this... So, why?'

Anna gritted her teeth. This was the first time she had experienced this pain. Even in her past life, she never had gone through something like this.

'Is this the pain of losing someone you care about?' Anna looked at the sky, noticing the small white balls falling to the ground. It had started snowing as if the cloud was showing its sympathy. It was crying.

'I knew Noel for almost a year. There was a connection between us, but it couldn't be compared to his relationship with his parents. If I had to endure this kind of pain just with this, how much did he endure in the past?' Anna bit her lips.

She didn't realize she had been treating herself as someone closer than a friend or a comrade to Noel. But because she had no experience with it, she thought of him only as her comrade.

'Noel's feeling... My inability to create a better plan than Noel, my relationship with the Spirit, my bloodlust... There are so many things that I have to fix. It seems that despite getting reincarnated, I haven't fixed anything. I have been too ignorant this whole time...

'Just like the Thunder Berserker Spirit said, it's always been about me. I don't know about others... No, it's more like I don't want to know about them...'

Anna placed her hand on her chest. "This pain is the reminder of my weakness. I don't have to experience this kind of pain if I'm strong enough to protect everything. I didn't need to kill Noel if I could protect him...

"That's why this pain will become my witness. O' God of all Spirits, I hereby swear that I'll create a world full of happiness. This time, it's not just about my happiness... But also the people around me. If people kill me because I'm too strong, then I shall get even stronger so that they won't be able to think about it. If people try to kill the ones around me, I shall etch my name into history, so I can protect the people I care about with my name alone.

"This time, I, Anna Stargaze, shall make everything right!"

Anna took a deep breath. After letting out all of her emotions, she felt a bit more refreshed. There was a newfound determination in her heart.

Suddenly, there was a familiar voice ringing in her ears. "The fact you have no flaw is a flaw itself. And no human is perfect, so everyone, including you and me, will have a flaw in ourselves. That's why we come together... It's so that we can cover each other's weaknesses."

Anna couldn't help but smile as she stood up and began to walk.

"That's right. I have my flaws. However, Noel is there for me, covering my flaws. That's why this time, I shall be a person he can rely on, I shall be the person my spirit can trust, I shall be the person to solve their problems... because I know Noel will cover me up, my spirit will help me back, and the connection with the people will become a treasure one day. I shall become a better person than yesterday, and I shall walk on this path until the day my feet can't move anymore."

Anna was determined to face every problem from now on. In fact, this might be the true start of her reincarnation.

....

If Anna found a new determination, Noel actually found a new comrade.

"Huu..." Noel weakly leaned on the tree as a middle-aged man stitched his wounds. He, of course, recognized this man since he had been the one taking care of him since he was a child.

"I can finally meet you again... Dimitri."

Chapter 378 Overwhelming

"I have finally met you again... Dimitri."

Dimitri's eyes were still glued to the wound, but he didn't forget to respond to Noel. "Yes, Young Master. It's my pleasure that we can meet again... You have truly grown up."

Noel smiled. "Since you are the one saying that, that's true, I guess."

"Ahaha, Young Master knows how to joke around now." Dimitri had a gentle smile on his face, feeling gratified to see the change in his young master.

"There are a lot of things I want to talk about."

"I know. But I have to warn you that I don't think I can answer a lot of your questions, not because I'm forbidden to answer them, but because I'm clueless like you."

"In that case, my first question is... how strong are you? Can you do something about the Superior Demon or the Devil Bishop?"

"That's two questions, Young Master."

"I mean the first pair of questions." Noel smiled.

Dimitri couldn't help but chuckle as this action reminded him of his master, Noel's father, Luke Ardagan.

Dimitri hesitated for a moment and thought carefully to give a perfect answer. "My strength is indeed enough to do something about them. However, I don't want Young Master to rely on me... I'd like to see you grow by overcoming difficulties like you've done from the start."

"I know. Unfortunately, I have promised someone that I'll fulfill their revenge... As the next lord of the Ardagan Family, I can't afford to break my promise."

"If that's the case, I'll help them if Young Master gives me a satisfactory answer."

"Hoh? What's the question then?"

"What are you planning to do after this? Are you going to meet up with them or..."

Noel smiled. "I'll be traveling with you for one month. In that month, I'd like you to teach me about things I don't know and keep training me. After that, I'm going to use my second identity to meet them again. I know it'll be unfair to them and they'll figure it out sooner or later, but I should do this for many reasons...

"After that, I'm going to reinstate the Ardagan Family and get an explanation from my parents! Whatever they're going to do next, I shall become the new Patriarch of the Ardagan Family!"

"So, Young Master would stop after rebuilding the family?"

"Of course not. I don't have the ambition to become the richest man or the strongest man in the world. They're too restricting for me." Noel smirked. "I think you already know my nature, Dimitri... And what I want the most..."

Dimitri closed his eyes for a moment with a smile on his face. He couldn't help but picture the lazy young master who was lying on top of a maid's lap, enjoying his time. "I have to tell you this... Your path might be harder than becoming the strongest or the richest man in the world."

"I'm ready for the challenge. But to do that, I need your help."

Dimitri fixed the last stitch and stepped back before kneeling on one knee, lowering his head.

"I, Dimitri, swear my loyalty to the next lord of the Ardagan Family. Please give me your instructions!"

"I order you as your lord. Kill the Blood Berserker!"

"Your wish is my command."

Without hesitation, Dimitri carried Noel to a hill next to the South Gate so that he could see what was going on.

He saw Clara having a hard time fighting the Blood Berserker. Although the Blood Berserker had more wounds on his body, Clara seemed to be the one suppressed. She looked exhausted.

Even though she was a captain, she was still a healer. So, it was clear that their strength wasn't at the same level. Even Clara had a hard time healing the wound on her body, showing how tough it was for her.

"Young Master. Have you learned about two Approaches?"

"Yes. Hard Approach is for explosive use, and Soft Approach is leaning to control."

"That's right. I'll start with the Soft Approach... What do you think about Control?"

"The control of my Spiritual Energy?"

"Yes. What does it change for you?"

"Hmm... The penetration force? The direction?" Noel tilted his head in confusion.

"No." Dimitri shook his head. "Penetration force? You can change the shape of your Spiritual Energy into something like a needle to increase the penetration force. Direction? You can twist the shape so that it flows like your shape. It doesn't change all that... Instead, it changes... Dimension!"

Dimitri waved his hand. Suddenly, the shadow underneath his feet turned into one sharp blade on the ground, expanding toward the South Gate.

"You change its shape, extend it, expand it, or whatever you like! And this time, I'm extending my own shadow and..." Dimitri paused for a moment.

The Blood Berserker, who was fighting Clara, felt another powerful presence coming from the side.

He saw the shadow coming toward him and tried to jump away. But at the same time, the shadow suddenly came out of the ground, turning into chains and wrapping around his wrists and ankles.

"...Change its shape." Dimitri smiled as he pulled out his sword. "When you manage to capture your target, all you need to do is to cut it down."

The black energy around his sword was blazing like a flame.

"That's where the Hard Approach comes in. You gather all your energy into one spot and release it at once!" Dimitri waved his blade, releasing the black energy.

"!!!" The one who was shocked the most wasn't Noel, but the Blood Berserker.

He was trying to rip the shadow apart, but the shadow seemed to be changing its dimension continuously, acting like a rubber.

And before he succeeded in freeing himself, a huge sword strike ran down the hill and headed straight to him.

Compared to other attacks, the Blood Berserker felt he would lose his life if he took this attack head-on. He felt... fear for the first time.

He instinctively jumped back to avoid this attack, but it was too late.

His left hand was a bit too late to react and this black sword strike cut his left arm. All it took was two moves from a distance for Dimitri to cut a Devil Bishop's hand. This showed the difference in their strength.

There was only one word in Noel's mind.

Overwhelming.

Chapter 379 On A Whole Different Level

Noel was completely stunned at the level Dimitri showed. He never expected Dimitri to be this strong.

However, Noel wasn't the only one shocked. Stella, Zion, and Jonathan dropped their jaws to the ground.

They knew what kind of existence a Devil Bishop was. Even their captain was struggling against him.

Yet, a mysterious force entered the battlefield and cut down his hand so easily. Their strength was simply on a whole different level.

"What is this?" The Blood Berserker gritted his teeth, staring at his hand. He easily endured the pain, but the situation started looking bad for him.

At first, he believed another Superior Demon was all it needed for them to take down the Demon Relief Squad, the Water Lord, and the two Captains.

But it seemed he was wrong. There was actually someone even stronger among them.

And looking at the people's expressions, it seemed they weren't aware of this existence this whole time.

"To fool your enemy, you have to fool your ally first." He muttered while gulping down. He had used a lot of his energy to fight Clara, so there was no way he could escape from this existence.

On the other hand, Clara widened her eyes when she saw the shadow moving.

'Shadow? This kind of ability and control... I don't think there is more than one person who can utilize the shadow this skillfully...' Clara gulped down, glancing at the hill. 'The one who utilized this shadow must be...'

While Clara had recognized this person, Noel couldn't help but ask, "Who are you really? A Devil Bishop is similar to a captain, yet, you're bullying him from a distance. You're even sparing some of your attention to teach me... No, I think I know who you are... I have heard about it somewhere. There was once a man who was about to become a commander..."

Dimitri smiled at him and shook his head. "It's not something I'm proud of. But I guess I have to introduce myself formally to you, Young Master. I am the former captain of the Demon Assassination Squad, known as Shadow, Dimitri."

Noel sucked a cold breath. Even though he had figured it out, it was still surprising to hear it from Dimitri himself.

"A man who almost became a commander, his strength couldn't be compared to a normal captain."

However, Dimitri added, "I'm not fit to be a commander because I lack leadership, politics, and even care. The Demon Banner Army would decline if I took the mantle."

"I do want to hear your story though. Because I can't imagine how my father actually got you to be our family's butler..."

"That can wait for the time being. There is a pest that I have to take care of."

"Indeed."

"In that case, I'm going." Dimitri released his shadow, turning them into a fire. Then, this black flame began to cover his entire body, turning into armor that completely hid all his skin.

Before Noel said anything, Dimitri disappeared.

"!!!" Both Clara and the Blood Berserker felt his presence.

Clara stopped in that instant while the Blood Berserker gritted his teeth and jumped away, trying to escape from him.

But in that instant, a black string was attached to the Blood Berserker as the shadow warrior pulled it, preventing him from escaping.

"!!!" The Blood Berserker gritted his teeth, trying to destroy the thread attached to his body but to no avail. He then raised his head, staring at the shadow warrior.

The black flame began to flare up and began to form a huge coat.

"Who are you?!" The Blood Berserker tried to observe this shadow warrior because he didn't know such a person was hiding among them.

"A dead man doesn't need to know." A deep voice echoed from inside the shadow armor. Dimitri, as a Demon Assassination Squad's captain, should know the restrictions as an assassin. He shouldn't talk, leave traces, and fight the enemy head-on like this. Yet, he still did it, showing to the people he had changed. He wasn't the shadow anymore. Instead, he was the proud butler of the Ardagan Family.

"If you kill me, the entire Supreme Devil Organization will hunt you down!" The Blood Berserker didn't know how to escape anymore to the point he started threatening him with whatever he could come up with.

"Then, bring it on. A mere bishop dares to talk big in front of me, even your saint has to pray not to get targeted by me!"

"!!!" In that instant, the Blood Berserker realized who the person before him was. There was a rumor among the higher-ups of the Supreme Devil Organization.

There was once an assassin that struck a deep fear in the Supreme Devil Organization. With a one hundred percent success rate, he could assassinate all people in the world without fail.

And it was said his sword was so sharp that it could kill even a Devil Saint.

"You—" The Blood Berserker suddenly trembled, noticing the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy on his back. It turned out Dimitri was using all those useless talks to set up his own execution ground.

The Spiritual Energy behind him affected the Blood Berserker's shadow, giving it a life.

Suddenly, the shadow emerged from the ground. Two curved blades were extended out of its hands, perfectly matching the neck's shape.

The shadow waved its hands, trying to cut the Blood Berserker's neck.

"No!" The Blood Berserker shouted while releasing a huge amount of Spiritual Energy to blast the shadow. But this shadow was his own shadow, so it would continue to be attached to him.

The Shadow instantly stood back up and waved its swords.

The Blood Berserker ducked down to avoid it before jumping to the side after feeling the Spiritual Energy from behind him, which turned out to be Dimitri.

"Kh!" The Blood Berserker gritted his teeth because Dimitri released the same strike that cut his arm earlier to cut another one.

Without any arms, there was no way the Blood Berserker could even stop the attack from his own shadow. The only thing he could do was reinforce his own skin to prevent the shadow from slashing through.

"Gah!" The Blood Berserker suddenly felt a sharp pain in his heart. He looked down and saw another branch come out from the shadow body, piercing his heart. When he glanced back, he saw Dimitri pointing his sword at his heart. "The sword is attracting the shadow... No, I was too focused on my own shadow that I didn't notice..."

The Blood Berserker couldn't believe it, but he died without being able to put up a fight against Dimitri. This was the strength of someone who once almost became the commander.

After killing the Blood Berserker, Dimitri turned around, staring at Clara for a moment before disappearing from the battlefield.

Chapter 380 Truth

"..." Clara was dumbfounded. She never expected to find a living legend here. Although the Blood Berserker was quite exhausted, Dimitri was simply on a whole different level.

When Dimitri was still working as the captain of the Demon Assassination Squad, she had seen him defeating one captain after another. His strength was already extraordinary back then and it seemed even after retiring from the army, he still improved himself.

"Captain!" Zion and the others jumped down, trying to figure out what had happened.

"Who is that shadow, Captain?"

"It seems that you know that person."

Clara took a deep breath to calm her mind. "What are you talking about? Are you sure you can't recognize him? There is only one person whose shadow ability has surpassed the level of a Devil Bishop..."

"What?"

"Is he..."

Clara nodded. "I don't know why he is here, but it doesn't change the fact he has helped us. With this, we can clean up the Supreme Devil Organization before helping the people at the other gate. Zion, Jonathan... I'll leave the people of the organization to you. Stella will go with me to reinforce the other gate."

"U—Understood!" They were also shocked by the sight of a living legend. But they still had a job to complete.

Unbeknownst to them, they would only receive devastating information from Rose when they reached the north gate.

In the meantime, Dimitri had returned to Noel and asked, "Are you sure you want to learn things from me, Young Master?"

Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"My training might be hard for you to endure..."

"Haven't I gone through an even bigger hurdle?" Noel asked back, showing his determination.

"..." Dimitri closed his eyes for a moment. "In that case, please stand up. We'll leave here."

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes before making a weird smile. "You're not going to carry me? You're faster than me, right?"

"Not at all. Since Young Master wants to learn from me, then I'll be starting now. I want you to endure all that pain and follow me to another place. I'll be here to close your wounds if it opens again, but I hope that Young Master can adjust your movement and speed so that your wounds won't open again.

"If Young Master wants to know the reasons... It's simple. Do you expect there will be a healer or a comrade next to you every time? There will be a time when you're alone and have no one to rely on while fending off demons and your enemies.

"At that time, you have to do all this to survive. That's why I'd like Young Master to master all kinds of survival abilities. Also, this will be the training for your Spiritual Energy as well. Are you up to the task, Young Master?"

Noel answered Dimitri with his action. He took a deep breath before standing back up. The constant pain numbed his body and mind, but Noel gritted his teeth and just endured it. They still had to walk far away, so it was going to be an arduous trip.

"I'm ready."

Dimitri smiled and started walking. "Please follow me then."

Pant!

Pant!

Pant!

Noel was struggling to walk, especially because he had to maintain small steps to avoid opening his wound.

"Since there are a lot of things you want to talk about, please ask me questions. I'll see if I can answer it or not." Dimitri smiled.

'Are you serious?' Noel bit his lips. It took his all just to keep this pace. He couldn't even think of anything in this state.

"Does Young Master not wish to know more? I don't really mind either way. By the way, there might be a time when you're in this state, running away from your enemy. At that time, you have to rack your brain to get away from them."

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue. After two more minutes, Noel finally opened his mouth. "Why..."

"Why what?" Dimitri asked again with a teasing smile.

Noel took a few deep breaths before finishing his question. "Why did you quit the Demon Banner Army? Aren't you supposed to be undefeated? I heard the rumors that you went on one thousand missions and completed all of them."

"Hahaha. They're exaggerating my achievement. In fact, I only took 653 missions and completed 652 of them."

"Huh? You failed one mission?"

"Yes. The failed mission was also my last one. And that mission was... to kill an innocent baby. I have assassinated so many people, even children. However, in my last mission, I couldn't do it for two reasons. First, I was tricked by the house owner. Second, the one who gave that mission had betrayed humanity."

"Huh? Tricked by the house owner... A baby... You're not talking about me, right?"

"It is you, Young Master. My last mission was to assassinate you. And now, as the punishment for the assassination attempt, I'm working as a butler, raising you." Dimitri looked at Noel with a gentle smile.

"..." Noel didn't expect there was such a history in his family. Although the first reason piqued his interest, he had to know more about the second reason. "Who actually gave that mission?"

"That's... probably the reason for everything you experience right now. The reason why Master and Madam are hiding and why you're here alone.

"He was once the captain of the Demon Adjudicator Squad, or you could say Demon Beholder Squad.

"He gave me a fake mission to kill a baby that was born two days prior, poisoned the previous commander and resulted in his death, and betrayed the entire kingdom to join the Supreme Devil Organization as one of the Devil Saints."

"Devil Saint?" Noel widened his eyes.

"Yes. There were three candidates for the next commander in the past. The Demon Assassination Squad, the Demon Adjudicator Squad, and the Vice Captain of the Demon Adjudicator Squad."

"Huh? Who are they?"

"Their Vice Captain is the current commander, Oscar. But the captain of that squad was once known as Laufey Ardagan."

"Laufey... Ardagan..." Noel widened his eyes in shock.

"Yes. Your Father's younger brother... Your Uncle."