

S vs Rebirth 451

Chapter 451 Checkmate

"!!!" The guy stumbled to the ground, having trouble to keep his body stable.

Anna's eyes flashed. She took advantage of the opening to appear behind him and slash his body.

The guy hurriedly ducked down to escape. Unfortunately, Anna faked her swing since the sword was let go and ended up dropping to the ground.

"Aaaaaaaaahhhh!" The guy screamed in pain as the sword actually landed and stabbed his calf.

Anna pulled that sword to cut his feet, but the guy endured the pain and hurriedly jumped with his uninjured foot.

He was gnashing his teeth, never thinking that two Spirit Wielders would be able to handle him. And due to their speed and attack patterns, it was impossible for him to use any big moves that would destroy the entire area.

When he started revolving his Spiritual Energy, Anna increased her speed with her lightning to arrive before him.

Clink!

Their swords clashed again, preventing the guy from using his Spiritual Energy. He could only muster a little bit of Spiritual Energy at a time.

'Is she truly only a Spirit Wielder? Why is her strength similar to mine? And that masked bastard... If there is no him, this woman's attack pattern will be full of holes.'

In his thought, he had recognized Noel and Anna's power. He also showed how Noel played a huge part in Anna's attack pattern. At the same time, it also meant Anna trusted Noel a lot since she left her back open.

Anna kept focusing on dealing as much damage as possible while Noel filled all the gaps between her movements.

Clink!

Clink!

Clink!

They ended up crossing their swords for another fifty times. Although the battle looked like it reached a stalemate, the enemy gradually lost its power due to the injury earlier.

Meanwhile, Anna and Noel managed to keep him at the area while keeping the people away by using Noel's Sword Fall.

But one variable occurred. They had taken their time in this fight, so it meant the Count, who was trying to escape from the city, had left his mansion and reached the street.

"What is happening here?!" The Count shouted in anger, peeking at the situation from his carriage.

The people who stopped a bit farther away from the battle ended up obstructing the way, so he couldn't leave.

It took him a while before he could reach this far. But everything changed when he saw Noel fighting together with Anna Stargaze.

As soon as he heard the Count's voice, Noel turned around with his mouth open as though he was completely shocked by his appearance.

"Not good!" Noel hurriedly moved between them while shouting, "Protect the Count. The enemy is a Spirit Master! He's planning to harm the Count!"

"!!!" Anna was shocked by what she heard and realized Noel just wanted to brand him as an enemy.

Meanwhile, the guy from the Supreme Devil Organization smirked as he could finally see the gap after the Count entered this place.

He was already angry at the Count for betraying them. So, he planned to kill the Count. With this intention, he should get some advantages in the battle.

Even Anna was shocked for a moment, giving an opportunity for him to jump toward the Count.

"You bastard. You had agreed to join the Supreme Devil Organization but you actually betrayed me by sending these two people?!" The guy shouted in anger, revealing an important piece of information.

"!!!" The people were shocked. The Count was dumbstruck. They were looking at each other as if they couldn't believe what he said.

Everyone knew about the Supreme Devil Organization and their evil deeds. So, it was clear what it meant to have a relationship with the Supreme Devil Organization.

"What?!" The people began questioning the Count.

"Is that true?"

"The Count is a person of the Supreme Devil Organization?"

While the citizens, who witnessed the battle, were questioning the Count. Noel had appeared between them and stopped the guy from killing the Count.

"I don't know if that's true, but you have to pass me first if you want to harm him." Noel righteously declared. "You are innocent until you're proven otherwise. And since you have declared you are from the Supreme Devil Organization, I'm going to kill you."

Clink!

"Gh!" The guy gritted his teeth as Noel's sword ended up stopping all his momentum. "Go away! Do you not know that the Count has set up a Demon Farm? And the current predicament of this city is because of his farm?!"

The guy declared the Count's deeds without hesitation. At the very least, even if he couldn't escape, the Count would surely be dead alongside with him. His life exchanged with a Count's life... it was worth it.

Little did they know, this was the reason why Noel didn't want to kill the enemy right away. He wanted to get information from this guy directly since it was clear that he was quite spiteful.

And when everything was revealed, all the eyes were locked on the shocked Count.

"What did you say? How dare you slander me! Do you think your trick by making up lies like that will work?!" The Count shouted back in anger.

Anna's eyes flashed right away. She suddenly raised her badge and stated out loud. "I'm Anna Stargaze, a direct subordinate of Arbiter Stargaze. I'm an Inquisitor in charge of protecting the kingdom's stability. We have some suspicion of the shady Demon Nests. It seems that both of you are truly working together..."

Everyone was completely startled by Anna's identity. They knew about the Stargaze Family, but they weren't aware of Inquisitor, considering the organization worked in the dark. However, it was a different case for an Arbiter.

Everyone knew about the kingdom's arbiters since all of them were the Kingdom's strength. And with Anna stating she was under her father's command, it was clear that the accusation wasn't empty.

And with this, they had checkmated the Count and this mysterious guy from the Supreme Devil Organization.

Chapter 452 Reinforcement

"What?"

"The Count is truly..."

The people around him were shocked as they stared at the Count.

They had lost many soldiers due to the attack this time. It was truly a great loss to the city, but it was an even greater loss to their families.

They weren't supposed to fight the monsters. Yet, due to the Count's farm, they died needlessly.

The anger was welling up in their eyes. But a part of them was still thinking it was impossible for them to kill the noble even if they wanted to. Even an attack alone was enough to make them go to jail or mine.

If they attacked him right now, the Count could easily kill them. They were afraid that the Count would silence them since they had all heard about it.

Even Noel couldn't predict what the Count would do, considering he might become reckless after his secret was exposed.

Still, it took both of them to handle this person. If one of them had to stop the Count from being reckless, it would mean this guy could use a powerful attack to destroy the city and cause more chaos. That way, many people would die even if they managed to take him down later.

That was why Anna wondered whether they had another backup or not. She had been going according to Noel's plan, but she was a bit worried about this situation.

And this was the time a reinforcement appeared.

"It seems that the Count has caused all this. We don't know the extent of the situation, but it seems I have to apprehend you first."

A female's voice echoed in everyone's ears as a blond-haired woman appeared right on top of the Count's carriage.

She took out her badge and stated her name. "My name is Rose. I'm from the Demon Banner Army, specifically the Demon Relief Squad, one of the squads that are helping the soldiers fend off the demons outside. I've come to detain the Count, so I hope everyone can cooperate with me."

"!!!" Anna was shocked, not expecting Rose to appear.

She was the one to witness Noel's death. So, it wouldn't be weird if Rose didn't want to appear. Yet, not only did she come to help them, but she also ignored her completely.

Anna didn't know yet that Rose was Noel's ally. She was already aware of the scheme.

Although it made her mad just thinking of how Noel and Anna plotted this and made her cry so much, she knew it was for Noel's safety. So, Rose didn't have any grudge against her... at least, it wasn't enough to mess up with the plan.

And as for the reason why Rose was here, it came from a few hours ago when they were still running on the field.

"Rose. I have something I want you to do." Noel looked at Rose with a serious expression.

Rose was surprised at first, but it seemed Noel already had a plan in mind whenever he became this serious. It showed how dire the situation was.

Knowing her role as his vassal, Rose nodded. "Alright. Tell me."

"I want you to help me later. I don't know how far the situation will go, but I'm afraid there will be a lot of people dying if something goes wrong. So, I want you to guide the group for a while.

"In the meantime, I'll try to enter the city and deal with the inner problem. I want you to go inside after that, but don't come out yet unless you deem the situation needs you to act in order to save a lot of people."

Rose didn't know that Noel was already aware of Anna's plan. But it was clear that something was happening inside the city.

After guiding her group for a while, Rose told them she would enter the city because she was worried about Noel's condition.

In the end, Paul gave permission, thinking Rose just didn't want to lose someone she had opened up to again.

This was the reason why Rose appeared before them and helped Noel apprehend the Count.

She jumped off the carriage and glared at the Count. "I'm afraid I have to ask you to remain inside. If you make any move, I'm going to use the strength of a Spirit Master to stop you."

The Count was completely shocked. He was scared as well since he had lost the trust of his people.

He glanced to the side and saw Anna and Noel suppressing the guy from the Supreme Devil Organization. Defeating Noel and Anna was their only way to escape, but since they had joined the Supreme Devil Organization, it was practically impossible to leave alive.

The Count didn't know what happened because everything happened so fast. But it was clear that Anna would take this chance to seize everything.

Even if he could escape from the punishment of having a deal with the Supreme Devil Organization, he would still have to endure the harsh jail and work in the mine. In other words, his career was already over.

The Count gritted his teeth and shouted, "I didn't do anything. It was just a false claim. Did you see who spread it? It was Anna Stargaze."

"I have heard that your newbie, Noel Ardagan, was killed by Anna Stargaze. She might use that statement to make you turn your anger on me instead of her. She is so manipulative. She—"

The Count tried to explain a lot of things, but Rose had her priority. Her task was simple. She had to keep the Count away from everyone.

So, she remained completely calm as she said, "I don't care what you're saying right now. I have separated my private life and work, so I'm going to detain you here even if it's the last thing to do. I can't afford to allow a potential criminal to escape."

The Count gritted his teeth. "I'll tell the Commander about this. I'm going to file a complaint after this. You'll be miserable at that time."

Rose snorted and stated coldly, "Feel free to notify our Commander. Though, you need to be free first."

Rose smiled as if she knew the Count couldn't get away from his crime this time.

Chapter 453 Cornering The Enemy

'Why did she not attack me? Is she already aware that ladre is Noel?' Anna glanced to the side. Although she was curious about the reason, she had to focus on the matter at hand.

They had been suppressing a Spirit Master this whole time, but as expected, it wouldn't be that easy to kill him.

It was true that the Spirit Master couldn't use any big move due to the constant attack. He simply had no time to gather his energy. But the same could be said for Noel and Anna. Although they had time in the transition, it was only enough to close the gap between Spirit Master and Spirit Wielder.

So, they were still finding a way to kill the enemy.

Noel seemed to have found an idea. They had injured this Spirit Master, and Anna even cut his fingers. This was something they could take advantage of.

Since only Anna and Rose were aware of his identity and no one else knew about Noel's abilities, Noel started to get serious.

He jumped toward the Spirit Master while revolving his Spiritual Energy.

The enemy did the same, planning to stop Noel with the same amount of Spiritual Energy.

However, the energy around Noel's sword suddenly changed its characteristics.

"!!!" The Spirit Master noticed it and muttered inwardly, 'What? That Spiritual Energy is changing from mild to... very sharp energy?'

He hurriedly held the sword with both hands as he struck Noel's sword.

Clink!

To everyone's surprise, the one who got pushed back this time was actually the Spirit Master.

"What?!" The guy was shocked as his hands felt a bit numb. The strike was different from any attack he had received. It was sharp to the point he could feel his sword getting sliced.

Luckily, his weapon had been blessed with a Spirit Enchantment, so it wasn't that easy to cut it. Still, Noel's threat level had risen exponentially after releasing that strength.

This was Noel's Everchanging Emotion Sword Style that emphasized anger. Noel believed he could cut the sword down after a few strikes on the same spot. That was why Noel continued to swing his blade, trying to hit the sword as many times as possible.

The Spirit Master noticed how dangerous it would become to clash swords with Noel. At the same time, Anna seemed to be approaching from behind.

So, he stomped the ground, gathering all that energy in his lower body to jump to the side. His movement was so fast that Anna and Noel were late for a second. It seemed that the Spirit Master was risking his life to get all that energy.

Unfortunately for him, he wasn't the only Spirit Master around. There was still Rose, who still had enough power left to help Noel and Anna.

The Spirit Master glanced at Noel and Anna when he was moving away. He planned to use this momentum to overrun them. Or at the very least, creating an opportunity when Anna tried to catch up using her lightning.

But he suddenly felt an overwhelming pressure in front of him. He felt he would die if he didn't duck down.

There shouldn't be anyone that would be able to kill him, yet, his instinct rarely went wrong.

The Spirit Master turned his head around, only to find a blade swinging at him.

"!!!" The Spirit Master hurriedly ducked down as the blade felt like it was cutting his hair.

But the sudden duck caused him to stumble to the ground, rolling a few times. He lost his momentum and the pair could catch up to him anytime.

The Spirit Master tried to go up as soon as possible, raising his stance. But he soon noticed the person who had swung that blade earlier.

It was actually not a person. Instead, it was a humanoid figure without any human features like hair, eyes, nose, and so on. It was a kind of shadow that came alive instead.

And that shadow swung the blade, scaring him.

As soon as they looked at each other, the shadow suddenly disappeared into thin air, showing the enemy that it was nothing but an illusion.

The guy widened his eyes in shock, noticing whose energy summoned that humanoid. It was none other than Rose.

He wanted to curse Rose, but Anna and Noel had arrived, swinging their swords at the same time. Anna aimed for his neck, while Noel wanted to split him in half.

The guy gritted his teeth while holding the sword with both hands. He didn't have any more momentum to block this, so he had to receive it and might get injured because of it.

Clink!

Anna's sword hit first, discharging a little electricity that numbed the Spirit Master's hands.

The Spirit Master gritted his teeth. Of course, he was happy he could stop Anna's attack, but when he raised his head, he saw another blade coming.

Noel's sword struck the back of Anna's blade, giving a push needed to break through the Spirit Master's defense.

"Kh!" The guy tried to hold it back but to no avail. After all, Noel was using the Disgust to turn his blade into a blunt bat.

The Spirit Master's sword instantly moved toward himself as if it was trying to cut its owner down. He had no choice but to abandon his sword and throw his body to the right, resulting in his left arm being cut down by the sword's momentum.

Unfortunately, they could only claim his left arm as Anna tried to stop the momentum and stabilize her posture. Noel, on the other hand, retracted his Everchanging Emotion Sword Style to regain his bearing.

He recovered first and tried to attack the Spirit Master.

As if knowing the two would attack him right after, the Spirit Master kicked his own blade into the air and grabbed it with his right hand, swinging it toward Noel.

Their swords collided again. As expected from a Spirit Master, it wouldn't go down easily.

Noel clicked his tongue since he couldn't take down a Spirit Master with that attack. Still, he applied his Everchanging Emotion Sword Style to the fullest as he began to overwhelm the Spirit Master, who could only exert a portion of his strength.

"Haaa!!!"

Chapter 454 Killing A Spirit Master

"Haaaa!!!" Noel shouted to pump up more spirit as he began pushing the Spirit Master back.

Because he couldn't use both hands, the Spirit Master ended up taking a few steps back until he was completely cornered with his back touching the wall.

'Impossible. How can I even lose against two Spirit Wielders?' The guy was still in denial even though he had recognized both of their power earlier. He simply couldn't believe that these two young people had this kind of ability.

Unfortunately, there was nothing left he could do since Anna had stabilized her posture and gone straight at him.

The Spirit Master tried to release his Spiritual Energy to blow Noel away as a last struggle, but Anna was one step ahead. She utilized her lightning to increase her speed so that she appeared before the Spirit Master before he could do anything.

He had no choice but to let his sword slide on Noel's blade before striking Anna's sword.

But Noel changed his sword style again into Fear as he released the quickest swing today.

The sword ended up cutting the guy's right arm and Anna blew the hand away, making sure the sword couldn't be picked up anymore.

The guy kicked Anna in his last struggle, but the latter managed to block it with her sword. She even grabbed his foot to stop him from doing anything to Noel.

This gave Noel a big opportunity to end his life.

Without hesitation, Noel used his Contempt to make a precise swing, sending his head flying.

"Huu..." Noel let out a sigh of relief. He felt happy that they could defeat a Spirit Master without allowing the enemy to use a powerful move. Though, the enemy was still a new Spirit Master, so he couldn't really call him the true Spirit Master like Rose and the others.

Still, this was a victory. So, he checked the system again to make sure he got the notification for killing the enemy.

After that, he glanced at Anna as if telling her to do her part.

Anna knew they weren't supposed to know each other. Although Rose was already aware of the situation, the people still had to think they didn't know each other. After all, it would be bad if an Inquisitor had a friend in the Demon Banner Army. Both of them had to be suspected as double agents.

So, Anna ignored Noel and started doing her job as an inquisitor.

After confirming the enemy's death, Anna let out a sigh of relief while scanning the area around. There was no sign of another enemy appearing, so she believed the guy operated alone.

She also cut the guy's clothes to find the Supreme Devil Organization's mark. As expected from a high level member, the mark itself was hidden with Spiritual Energy. There was even a thin layer of skin that hid the mark underneath.

Anna cut it and showed the enemy's affiliation, confirming the Supreme Devil Organization's involvement.

With this mark, Anna turned to the Count, knowing she had all the right to be suspicious of him.

But before confronting the Count, she had to meet Rose, who had been helping them take down the enemy. It was a little gesture, but that truly helped a lot.

Anna stopped in front of Rose with a grim expression. She knew Rose must be angry because of what she had done to Noel. But since she was already aware of Iadre's identity, she shouldn't be fighting her out of the blue.

That was why she was ready to hear Rose's rants for a bit before dealing with the Count.

But to her surprise, Rose only said, "I don't like you for what you did, but I can understand the situation. So, I won't do anything that will hinder you..."

"..." Anna thought Rose would be talking for at least a minute, but this was truly convenient to her.

After releasing everything she wanted to say, Rose stepped aside and said, "I believe this is your job."

"Thank you." Anna nodded. She was thankful that Rose helped her take care of the Count or else the situation would be much more serious.

Rose walked to Noel to discuss the situation while Anna glared at the Count and said with a cold tone. "I believe I don't need to tell you about anything else. I'm going to detain you right now and investigate the relationship between you and the Supreme Devil Organization."

"You... I'm not related to the Supreme Devil Organization. He's just framing me." The Count gritted his teeth, denying all the accusations.

However, he was so focused on the Supreme Devil Organization that he forgot Anna's original intention in coming here.

Anna narrowed her eyes and smiled, "I see. So, you do not deny that the current situation is because of you. It seems the rumor of you creating a demon farm is true. That alone is enough for me to investigate you. That's why I'm going to have you cooperate with me."

"Do you—" The Count wanted to stop her, but Anna simply said, "You won't have anything to worry about if you're not related to this incident. I'll even pay for the reparation for the damage and Arbiter Stargaze shall be clearing your name."

"However, if you're proven to be related to this case, I'll be dealing with you personally. Don't expect any mercy." Anna said all those words with a big smile on her face.

However, the Count couldn't feel any warmth or happiness from it. Instead, he just felt chills down his spine.

He knew Anna was using all these excuses to get all the documents he had. It would be fine if he managed to escape without meeting the guy from the Supreme Devil Organization since Anna couldn't fully investigate him that way. Yet, the situation wasn't in his favor.

The Count knew that no matter what he did, his life was already over. He was surely going to be executed after this.

Meanwhile, Noel and Rose left the area without saying goodbye to Anna. They still had the mission to eliminate the demons after all.

Chapter 455 Explanation

"So, there is no Superior Demon?" Rose asked while furrowing her eyebrows.

"Yeah. I have asked Anna before leaving." Noel nodded with a serious expression. He was afraid that there was a Superior Demon in the mix as well, but luckily, it seemed to be just their misinterpretation.

"Before leaving? When?" Rose was more focused when Noel actually asked Anna. After all, it was so fast and smooth that she didn't find them talking.

"Earlier." Noel had a hard time describing it, so he just ignored the problem and moved on. "Anyway, now that we have no worries left, we should focus on dealing with the demons and complete the mission as soon as possible."

Rose nodded. Though, she was still curious about something. "By the way, since when have you two planned this together?"

Noel glanced at Rose's expression, thinking it would probably be fine to tell her about it. Rose was trustworthy and had decided to be his vassal after all. It would be a waste if he didn't take advantage of her ability as his secretary.

He explained, "I met Anna right after discussing the plan with the Baron and the Demon Hunting Squad."

"Ah, at that time!" Rose remembered when Noel decided to go out alone to take a breather. It seemed they had truly planned their meeting. "I see. So, you're discussing the suspicion and the plan at that time..."

"Yeah. You should know about the Inquisitor, right?"

"I know about them. Basically, they're the government dogs used to keep other nobles or influences in check. So, Anna gave you that information while you exchanged our plans. That was why she brought the demons here?" Rose frowned upon Noel's action. It was true that this would help them to fight the Count. But his action resulted in the death of many innocent soldiers.

If Noel didn't give a satisfactory explanation, she would be disappointed. After all, she had two reasons for following Noel. She was indebted to him and knew that Noel was a kind lord that would lead his territory just fine.

Noel had already expected this reaction. The answer had been prepared long ago while he was still chasing after the person from the Supreme Devil Organization.

"Of course, I know that my actions will cause a lot of deaths. However, if I don't do this, there will be more deaths in the future." Noel shook his head. "Do you remember the matter that I once solved? Regarding the bandits using the demons to spread chaos."

"Ah!" That clue was enough for Rose to understand the whole situation. She thought for a moment and arranged the words in her mind before confirming the reason. "Are you saying the Count truly makes a Demon Farm?"

"And this farm can basically cultivate demons, considering we have seen a lot of Peak Level Demons. If the Count succeeds, he will be able to create an army of demons."

"This is something that the Supreme Devil Organization wants and that's the reason why they sent a Spirit Master to threaten the Count. Whether it's fortunate or unfortunate, we've come to intervene at the right moment, stopping the Count from colluding with the Supreme Devil Organization. Yeah, they should be about to reach an agreement with how that guy acted toward the Count."

"In other words, the Supreme Devil Organization originally planned to use the Count to make an army of demons and they'll control those demons."

"With that kind of power in their hand, they won't be afraid to attack the Demon Banner Army. There will be a lot of deaths after that, including the Demon Banner Army's knights."

Rose gasped, fully understanding the situation.

"Yes. That's the reason." Noel nodded with a grim expression, showing how severe the situation was. Even if he had to sacrifice all those people, he had to do it since more lives were at stake.

Rose couldn't say anything to him after learning about the situation. It was clear Noel was doing his best while minimizing the casualties.

Rose thought for a moment and asked, "What do you want me to do?"

"I'm planning to visit the Demon Hunting Squad's headquarters."

"Why is that?" Rose frowned, not understanding the reason. She personally didn't like the Demon Hunting Squad that much because of their arrogance. But Noel wouldn't suggest something without reasons, so she at least had to hear what he wanted to say.

Noel didn't hesitate to tell her the suspicion. "This is just my speculation, but I think the one that attacked their headquarters is..."

"The Supreme Devil Organization." Rose knew what he wanted to say, so she completed it. She tried to link the current situation with the answer. "So, you're saying the attack is just a distraction so that the captain of the Demon Hunting Squad can't do anything to help these people? Meanwhile, the Supreme Devil Organization takes advantage of this situation to get the Count..."

"Yeah. I believe that's the case. Without their captain, it's basically impossible for them to prevent the kidnapping." Noel confirmed her doubt.

"That's bad. In that case, I'll try to suggest it. And if possible, I'll make the Demon Hunting Squad owe us so that they will invite us to their base to thank us."

"Thank you." Noel smiled. Everything had become easier with Rose helping her. He didn't regret making Rose his left hand.

"But before we can go there, don't forget we still have a mission here." Rose pointed forward, showing the gate and a lot of people trying to leave the city. The soldiers were holding them back for the time being because there were still numerous demons outside.

Noel agreed with Rose. They had to solve this problem first.

"I'm going to help the soldiers and our squad to deal with the demons. You are going to support us from the top of the wall. At the same time, try to calm down the crowd. They don't need to leave anyway."

"Got it." Rose patted his shoulder with a smile as she slightly shifted her direction.

Chapter 456 End

"Alright. Everyone hear me out!" Rose took out her badge and used her Spiritual Energy to awaken it. The light emitted from the badge grabbed many people's attention. "I'm..."

Rose explained the whole situation in front of the gate. In the meantime, Noel made his way to the top of the wall and checked the situation at this gate.

Surprisingly, they had just finished one side and started turning to this side of the wall.

It would be better if he joined them now, so Noel checked the demons attacking the city first. As soon as he saw an incoming demon, he moved toward the demon and slashed it a few times before kicking it off the wall.

He stepped on the demon and used it as a cushion to fall, stunning the soldiers, who didn't even realize Noel was there until he fell down.

"That's ladre!" Paul shouted while pointing at the falling demon. "We're going to catch up to him. Make sure you don't hold anything back!"

"Oh!" The others shouted as they pumped their own spirit before unleashing a greater force.

When Noel saw their reaction from a distance, he realized those people were actually holding back. It seemed they were worried about the Superior Demon that they needed to preserve their strength in order to fight one.

That was why Noel immediately waved his sword toward the demons that stopped him from regrouping with his group.

"Move away!" Noel shouted as he used his Ignition Sword to cause several explosions, killing and blowing the monsters away.

It didn't take too long for him to regroup with his squad.

"Iadre!" Paul smiled. "How is the situation on your side?"

"Everything has been taken care of. We just have to deal with these demons before helping the Demon Hunting Squad take on the Peak Level Demons. As for the Superior Demon, it's just a false alarm.

"It turns out all those Peak Level Demons are staying in the same place because it's actually a demon farm related to the Count. That's why they're organized like that."

"What a demon farm?" The squad was completely dumbfounded when they heard the information. But no matter how inexperienced Noel was, they knew he wasn't someone who shared false information.

Paul trusted him for the time being and asked, "So, the entire situation is due to the Count and we don't need to worry about the Superior Demon?"

"Yeah. Rose is calming down the people for the time being and she will regroup with us soon. As for us..."

Noel didn't finish his words. All of them knew what they were supposed to do.

Since there was no more threat they had to consider, they had lost the reason for holding back.

That was why all of them released their Spiritual Energy to the fullest, planning to kill all these demons in an instant.

"Haaa!" Paul roared while smashing a demon's head with his warhammer. The head was obliterated and the weapon ended up hitting the ground, destroying the soil.

Jonathan raised his hand, using his Telekinesis to raise a few Low Level Demons. At the same time, Zion had leaped into the air and kicked these demons in rapid succession.

Ben and Stella also became the vanguard, dealing with all the demons around them.

Last but not least, Noel also contributed to the battle by swinging his swords multiple times at the demons while using the Ignition Sword. At the very least, he could kill some demons for his missions.

Rose soon regrouped with them, monitoring the situation from the top of the wall. She was using her illusion to inform them about the enemy's movement.

The group cleared the entire wall quickly to the point the soldiers on top of the wall were shocked and started cheering for them. It was clear that there was a huge burden relieved from their shoulders.

The Demon Relief Squad ignored those cheers as they continued sweeping the demons.

It took them an hour before they reached the other side, where all the Demon Hunting Squad stopped the Peak Level Demons. As expected of the lack of members of the Demon Hunting Squad, they could only stop the Peak Level Demons, not kill them.

However, this was enough because the balance was soon tipped over the moment the Demon Relief Squad came.

Paul split the group and allowed them to work together with the Demon Hunting Squad to kill their respective Peak Level Demon. Of course, Rose informed the Demon Hunting Squad about the misinterpretation regarding the Superior Demon.

When they heard there was no more threat after killing these Peak Level Demons, they became energetic again and started releasing all the strength they had left in their bodies.

It didn't take too long for them to completely kill all the Peak Level Demons, especially Paul, who worked together with Noel.

Just like how he did it with the Demon Hunting Squad's Vice Captain, he also helped Paul from a distance before delivering a killing blow.

After killing the first Peak Level Demon, he moved toward another one and got another kill.

In the end, Noel managed to kill two Peak Level Demons and severely injured one. Unfortunately, the last one didn't add his mission counts.

After Rose made sure there were no demons left around the city, she finally allowed them to gather while she made their way to the captain of the garrison. She had to inform them about their success so that the soldiers would be adjusted accordingly.

After that, she rushed to the Demon Hunting Squad and the Demon Relief Squad to suggest going to their headquarters.

But when she arrived, Paul surprisingly said with a smile as if he fully agreed with the suggestion. "Alright. After this, we're going to fix the bridge and head to the Demon Hunting Squad's headquarters. If possible, we will also repair some of the damage done..."

Rose thought it was her role to convince him, but she soon saw Noel, who winked his right eye playfully as if telling him he was the culprit.

Chapter 457 Lying

"Move the stone that way!" Richard shouted, ordering his teammates to bring the stones to a specific spot. He had been helping with the bridge's repair the most since he was the most grateful to the Demon Relief Squad, especially Noel.

Back then, he still remembered how Noel handled the situation. After dealing with all the monsters, they were about to discuss how to deal with the Superior Demon.

"So, where is the Superior Demon? We have to make a plan to handle the Superior Demon. I don't think we can fight it with our current condition and it doesn't seem we can inform a captain from the army to handle it. I guess we have to distract the demon and bring them somewhere else." Richard explained with a serious expression.

Although he didn't like the fact he couldn't hunt a demon, he was still thinking rationally and considered the best solution.

The rest seemed to have agreed with this decision as they were aware of the group's situation as well.

However, Noel raised his hand as if he had an idea.

"Hmm?" Richard furrowed his eyebrows. Although he had seen Noel's prowess, Noel hadn't shown anything about his intelligence. So, he was a bit doubtful when Noel wanted to suggest something.

But since Noel was an expert, he still asked for his opinion. "Yeah. Do you have any suggestions?"

"It's not a suggestion. I just want to inform you that the Superior Demon is a false alarm."

"Huh?!" Richard was confused, while the others were shocked. Richard asked while frowning, "What do you mean? I hope you can give me a logical explanation, or I will treat your words as jokes."

Noel nodded. "Well, I have my own methods to get insider information. So, I'll share the matter regarding the demon nests first."

"Alright." Richard turned serious, judging Noel. The rest also listened to him to confirm it.

"I'm going to talk about how the demon nests are formed... Hmm, I can't really call it demon nests since they're a farm instead of a nest."

"A farm? A demon farm?"

"Yes. Count Elezar has been building a demon farm this whole time. Let's take another look at the three demon nests, the two we're dealing with are stronger than the nest the normal army attacks, right?"

"Yes. What's about it?"

"To put it simply, the original farm is the weakest one. The Count creates a Demon Nest and plans to use it to host the demons. He uses it to let them grow stronger and harvests it for himself. I'm not entirely sure about the process as well, but that's the gist of the situation.

"Then, the two demon nests that we attacked earlier... Those two are basically the additional two nests that the Count prepared in order to get more farms."

Richard nodded in understanding. "But why do those two nests have stronger demons?"

"Have you forgotten?" Noel smirked playfully while raising one finger. "There was an incident not long ago where a huge number of demons attacked your base?"

"!!!" Richard and the other Demon Hunting Squad members shuddered. Richard pinched the bridge of his nose, feeling troubled. "So, you mean those demons are occupying the demon nests that the Count built?"

"Due to the large scale of the invasion, those strong demons were bound to slip past them. But because of the empty farm, the demons used it as their nests. Is that it?"

Noel confirmed it without hesitation. "Yes. The original farm was made by the Count and by seeing their strength as well as their number, it's clear that the Count has considered it carefully.

"First, the location. It's situated near the baron's city. The baron can handle all the demons inside that nest, so it's clear that the Count doesn't need to care about its safety since the baron will be there.

"The second will be this city. This city might be under his territory, but his city is still a bit further, so no one will know about his deeds here in case something happens with the demon farms.

"He is even planning to add the number of demon farms. Unfortunately for him, the situation changed when there was a large invasion. Due to the sudden attack, the demons entered the territory and found the nests.

"This is when he can't handle them anymore and calls us," Noel explained the whole situation. Of course, he was bluffing. Anna didn't have all that information, let alone him.

Still, Noel sure had a slick tongue as he almost convinced these people.

Ben, the sharpest one beside Rose, noticed something. "Wait a minute. We're just talking about this because you have an informant, right? We can't tell whether it's true or not."

Noel pointed at the city. He had prepared an answer to this question. "If you enter the city, you will find a Spirit Master from the Supreme Devil Organization. He should be a Devil Inspector."

"And I don't think I have to tell you about the whole reason why the Supreme Devil Organization wants to contact the Count, right? After all, someone in my generation has successfully found out about the way the bandits used demons. And the Supreme Devil Organization must have something to do with it."

The people gasped in horror. They could imagine what kind of a weapon they would have if they could get the Count.

They could simply confirm what Noel said as long as they entered the town and found the guy from the Supreme Devil Organization.

In fact, they could simply talk to Rose, who also entered the town.

Noel smirked when he saw their expressions. It was easy to convince them, and he only needed one more thing.

"If you don't mind, we should go to your base after repairing the bridge. This way, the Demon Relief Squad can help with the reconstruction as well as confirm the situation with your captain. We might find something else."

Paul was a bit skeptical about this suggestion, but he didn't rebuke Noel as if he was also curious about it.

Richard contemplated for a moment. Noel was indeed exceptional. If not for him, they wouldn't know about the entire truth.

Looking at the situation, it seemed they still needed Noel's expertise. So, he nodded, "Alright. I'll bring you to the base."

Chapter 458 Igor

After that discussion, Rose confirmed about the Supreme Devil Organization's involvement and thought this was their entire plan. Of course, they never thought everything was Anna and Noel's plan. However, they didn't know about it, so everything seemed to be fine.

Anna had also taken care of the Count as well, so they finally had the time to deal with the repair.

Though, the group went to help with the baron's soldiers too. It didn't take too long for them to crush the demons, considering the normal army had taken out most of the enemies. But as expected from a regular army, they ended up with some casualties.

After talking about the situation, they immediately moved toward the bridge to repair it.

Now that there was no more threat, the Demon Relief Squad began to work. Richard and a few others from the Demon Hunting Squad offered their help. Meanwhile, people like Becky and Shawn, decided to not take part in it as they were too embarrassed to help them. Richard ultimately ordered them to be on the lookout, to which they agreed.

Richard and the rest brought all the stones and trees necessary for the repair. Meanwhile, Paul led his group to fix the bridge as soon as possible.

Normally, it would take a long time for the bridge to be fixed since normal humans had a hard time moving the materials around, let alone doing it while floating in the air.

But for the Demon Relief Squad, they ended up fixing the bridge in two days instead of months if normal humans worked on them.

Richard was grateful since it meant they could finally bring supplies to their base. After informing the baron that it was accessible again, Richard brought the Demon Relief Squad to their base to discuss their finding with their captain.

As soon as they finished their work, the two squads immediately headed to their base.

The base didn't have a tall wall. They weren't big either.

The base was a square of only two hundred meters in length. It was supposed to hold a thousand people inside, so it was a bit too small, considering they still needed training areas.

The wall only reached up to seven meters. Even with the ditch, it didn't seem to be over ten meters. Even Noel could easily reach the top with a single leap.

There seemed to be less than five soldiers on top of the wall. Multiplying it by four, they had less than twenty people to watch over the area. It looked like they were in pretty bad shape, considering some parts of the wall were still in the middle of the repair.

As soon as they saw Richard's group, they seemed to inform the people in the town as they rang the bell in the city as if indicating someone had approached them.

Richard straightened his back as if he was going to meet an important person. This was the first time Richard looked so polite and restrained.

"..." Noel and the others were looking at each other, confused by the sudden change.

The atmosphere became tense as they gradually approached the gate.

Still, seeing how serious they were, Noel and the others decided to stay quiet while preparing for everything.

Though, the people didn't seem to be planning to open their gate for them as they ended up reaching the gate first before they even lifted the gate.

But after one minute of standing still, they suddenly heard the clicking sound of chains as it was being pulled up. The gate also began to be lifted up as there were two feet behind the gate.

The feet were massive and it looked like the one standing behind the gate had a body bigger than anyone here.

The more the gate was raised, the more they could see how big the person was.

Rose eventually knew who the man was behind the gate as she whispered to Noel. "It seems we're going to meet their captain directly."

"Their captain?" Noel was confused at first since he couldn't believe it when their captain met them like this. It made them look special since there was no way Clara would do the same.

"Yep. Just looking at that build, it should be him. The biggest human in the army, whose raw strength is said to be the strongest. The Demon Hunting Squad's Captain, Igor."

After that brief introduction, Richard pumped his fist before placing it on his chest. He slightly raised his head as if trying to match Igor's stature.

Noel was quite surprised when the body was seen since it was truly far bigger than any of them. Even Paul, who was the biggest in the squad, looked tiny compared to him.

The guy looked to be over two meters. His body was filled with muscle to the brim. Even his arm had the same size as Noel's head.

Noel could see his face soon after. Igor had short spiky black hair. He seemed to be growing his beard, but it didn't cover his mouth at all and had been trimmed neatly.

Because of his giant body, his t-shirt didn't have a sleeve and it looked so tight as the shirt was following his muscle lines.

Still, the most memorable thing Noel could see from him was his eyes. That pair of eyes were excluding fighting intent as if he was treating everything as his prey.

Their eyes met when Igor scanned the group and Noel could feel his body become tinier due to the pressure from him. He was the exact opposite of Clara.

A grin appeared on Igor's face as he opened his mouth, saying in a cracked, deep voice. "It seems that we have visitors here."

Richard bowed his head politely, followed by the others from the Demon Hunting Squad.

"We're back, Sir."

"Good work, Richard and all of you. It must be hard to deal with everything, so you should get some rest after this." Igor paused for a moment before glancing at the people from the Demon Relief Squad. "Of course, after introducing these guys."

Chapter 459 Story

"Of course, after introducing these guys."

The one who answered Igor was actually not Richard. As the Vice Captain of the Demon Relief Squad, he obviously had to show his worth as well so that his squad wasn't underestimated by others.

Paul stepped forward and extended his hand, "I'm Paul, the Vice Captain of the Demon Relief Squad. It's my pleasure to meet the captain of the Demon Hunting Squad."

"The Demon Relief Squad?" Igor frowned for a moment before understanding why Paul came here. "I see. The fact that you are here means you either have finished fixing the bridge or need our help. So, which one is it?"

"Of course, we have finished fixing the bridge. The supply route has been fixed, so you don't have to worry about the rest." Paul answered without hesitation. He was still extending his hand as if he hadn't given up on shaking Igor's hand to prove their squads were at the same level.

After hearing that they had accomplished the mission, Igor finally shook his hand. "In that case, I thank you for your help."

It felt like there was a spark between these two guys. On the one hand, Paul was only a Vice Captain, he wasn't at the same level as Igor. On the other hand, the Demon Hunting Squad wasn't even among the top five squads in the Demon Banner Army.

So, it looked like they had a competition going.

Still, Noel remembered that the strength of their captain mattered a lot for the squad's ranking. The fact that Clara could be ranked above him showed a lot of her strength.

And there were still four more squads above their Demon Relief Squad. He wanted to know Shale's strength since the latter had taught him in the past year. Above all, Shale's Demon Extermination Squad was ranked two in the army.

"Since you are here, it's only right if I invite you in." Igor extended his hand to the inside. "Please."

Paul nodded. He could say something to provoke him, but he chose not to. No one wanted to have friction between the two squads after all.

"Richard. It seems that there will be a banquet tonight. Help them." Igor shouted while grinning.

"Understood." Richard nodded as he became their guide. Meanwhile, Igor seemed to be going elsewhere as if he had something to do.

They didn't demand Igor to handle them personally, considering he was still the captain of this squad.

After taking over, the first place Richard brought them was none other than a small house where their guests usually stayed.

"This will be your accommodation for tonight. I know that you want to present a problem to him, but please understand that we haven't sent any message to him as well, so he wasn't aware of your visit this time."

"It's fine. We understand that." Paul nodded.

"For now, you can stay here and take a stroll. This squad is a bit aggressive, but they won't do anything to you unless you fall for their cheap provocation."

"We'll mostly stay here until we get an audience with your Captain."

"Alright. That's for the best." Richard nodded. "If you need anything, you just have to ring the bell in front of the house to call someone to help you."

"Got it." Paul understood everything. He had heard some reputation regarding the Demon Hunting Squad, so he knew it was better to stay inside than go around.

Meanwhile, Noel was looking around the area to see what kind of people the Demon Hunting Squad had. To his surprise, the pair of eyes that these people had was like that of a beast.

It seemed that their zero squad had been hiding it this whole time, but including their captain, most people in this squad smelled like a beast.

In the end, Paul led his team into the house. The house was quite big as it had enough space to host over twenty people.

"Alright. Since we're already here, it's better if we stay here for the time being. You can do anything you want inside. It's quite spacious anyway." Paul pointed to the inside.

The squad seemed to have no interest in taking on those people, so they agreed with Paul and stayed inside.

While waiting, Noel couldn't help but go to Rose, asking, "How much do you know about the Demon Hunting Squad?"

"Hmm..." Rose looked up, recounting all the information. "Hendry Igor. That's the name that once shook the Demon Banner Army. Unlike the others, Hendry didn't rely on his Spirit at all.

"He only relied on his overwhelming strength and control over his Spiritual Energy. Despite not using his spirit, Igor could be considered the strongest in the Demon Banner Army in terms of raw strength.

"I heard he once cracked a small hill with his fist."

"Hoh?" Noel was quite amused by this information. After all, it gave him a question. "Why does our squad rank above them if he's the strongest? I mean, the strength of the captain matters a lot, right?"

"Well, the Demon Hunting Squad has a lot of problems. First of all, Igor might be strong, but it only accounts for his power. His squad isn't flexible at all. Even though the others are a bit logical, Igor relies on his instinct when operating the squad and he has no intention of listening to his subordinates' suggestions.

"Still, I can't say everything is too bad because sometimes he is able to solve a huge problem where logic can't handle. But yeah, sometimes you have to deal with his mistakes.

"That's a big no-no for the squad ranking. Then, I already told you earlier that he didn't use his Spirit. There are a lot of problems and I don't think I want to list everything I know here.

"Still, you should get the idea. The strength of the captain might matter a lot, but not everything is not decided by it."

"I see..." Noel had some questions in his mind and began to ask Rose one by one.

Chapter 460 Competition?

"From what I can see, it's true that the Demon Hunting Squad is strong. And I can see why they have several problems in taking on a mission, especially about being not flexible." Noel nodded in understanding. He still remembered how Richard and the others were glaring at them and provoking them right after they met.

So, it was clear that the squad couldn't function properly. Still, it didn't change the fact that the Demon Hunting Squad's strength was among the top.

"Yeah. It seems the commander has a good relationship with Igor. After all, Hendry Igor is a former noble from another kingdom. He travels here and becomes a knight. The commander knows how to utilize Igor and the latter doesn't hesitate to accomplish the task." Rose explained a bit more about their story.

Noel was curious, but he felt there was one more thing that mattered in their current situation.

"Can we even convince him regarding the matter of the Supreme Devil Organization?" Noel asked.

"I am not very sure." Rose shook her head. "Though, Igor is a rather special captain. I think it should be fine."

Noel scratched the back of his head, not knowing what to say about that remark. Even Rose didn't know how to convince him, so Noel wondered whether their trip here was futile or not.

In the end, the group decided to go to their respective room to get some rest after working so hard in the last couple of days.

When Noel was about to relax on the bed, someone suddenly knocked on his door.

"You there?"

It was Jonathan's voice. Noel didn't know why Jonathan came to visit him, but since he was the one to explain the entire problem, Jonathan might want to discuss this matter.

Hence, Noel hurriedly opened the door for him, only to find Jonathan being alone. There were no Ben or Paul accompanying him.

"Can I talk to you inside?" Jonathan asked.

Noel didn't hesitate to invite him in and even brought him the wooden chair.

Noel was sitting on the bed, wondering what Jonathan wanted to say, especially with that serious expression.

Jonathan didn't beat around the bush as he asked, "Why are you hiding your face right now and changing your identity, Noel? No, I'm more curious about the reason why you're orchestrating your own death, causing misery to the group."

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. He never thought his cover would be blown away so suddenly.

But Jonathan seemed to be judging his answer as if he was going to hate him if Noel's answer wasn't something he liked to hear.

Noel thought for a moment and gradually took off his masquerade, allowing his hair and eyes to return to normal.

He looked at Jonathan with a smile. "I have a reason. If possible, I want you to listen to the whole story first before giving any comment."

Jonathan nodded. He didn't speak as if telling him that he wouldn't open his mouth until he finished his explanation.

Noel began to tell him about the story of how he almost got killed by the royal family and how he ended up with this second identity.

After listening to the entire story, Jonathan had the same stance as Rose. He was supportive of Noel's actions, but he was also angry that he couldn't be there for him.

Still, there was a doubt he wanted to confirm as soon as possible. It was regarding the spy Noel talked about a few days ago. "Is it Anna?"

Noel nodded, confirming that his spy was actually Anna, the woman who was supposed to order his family's execution. It was beyond belief that Noel could even forgive Anna, but Noel didn't plan to share anything with someone who wasn't his vassal.

He only apologized and asked for his understanding.

In the end, Jonathan had to accept the current situation. Although he didn't hate Anna, he didn't like her either.

After understanding the situation, Jonathan finally left him alone. He had agreed not to intervene with him as long as Noel didn't plan to hurt the group as well.

Of course, he was very supportive of his goal to rebuild his family. Although it was a shame that Rose was going to join him when that happens, he knew Noel always had a different path and his charisma would naturally bring people close to him.

...

Later that night, the entire base was in a festive mood. Because their supply could come again, they ended up throwing a small festival for the entire group. They had suffered a lot after their supply was cut after all.

So, they were using half of their remaining food supply to host this party.

The party was held in the middle plaza. The floor was soil and there were a few marks that indicated practice targets. So, it was clear this was their training ground that was used as a hall for the banquet.

Paul and the others were sitting near Igor, who seemed to be curious about their squad. It seemed Richard had told him a lot of things.

"Hahaha, eat eat, drink drink!" Igor laughed uncontrollably. The beastly eyes that made people cower were no more. Instead, it was just the unrestricted Igor who loved to enjoy parties, wine, and food.

Still, Paul had to break the mood as he had an important matter to discuss. "Captain Igor."

"Huh?" Igor glanced at him, half drunk. "What do you want?"

"I have something to report. I believe you have to know about this and react to the current situation." Paul wanted to inform him about the Supreme Devil Organization, but surprisingly, Igor cut him short.

"I don't care about that. If they come, I'll smack them hard. That's all..." Igor seemed to be nonchalant, infuriating Paul.

Paul gritted his teeth and raised his voice. "Still, this—"

Igor raised his hand, stopping Paul from talking. "Demon Relief Squad. This place is my home. If you want to discuss it, you should do it in our style.

"Let's make a small competition. If you win, I'll listen to everything you have to say and consider your suggestions. I might end up following them.

"However, if you lose..." Igor glanced at the other members, making others think he was trying to get the ladies. But the one he pointed at was actually Noel, confusing all of them.

"Huh?" Noel pointed at himself to confirm Igor's target.

"Yeah, you. Join this squad."