

S vs Rebirth 581

Chapter 581 Chaos

When the Third Prince reached the mansion, he opened all the rooms inside the mansion, trying to find anything useful from them.

But when he reached Count Leinberd's office, he dropped his jaw, realizing what had happened.

The entire room was a mess as if someone had just entered and tried to find something hidden in this room. And seeing how there were no broken windows or conflicts earlier, it was clear that the other party had found their objective and ran away without anyone noticing.

"!!!" The Third Prince gritted his teeth. He was angry at a few things. The first one was the incompetence of his subordinates, who couldn't even find out what was happening inside the mansion.

He also directed his anger at Marquis Walford. Before handling this situation, there were only a few involved parties.

The countess had done her job well. He was supposed to have the book already, but it was stolen by Count Leinberd and Marquis Walford.

Marquis Walford seemed to have understood the importance of the book, so he also conducted a massacre to silence Count Leinberd and retrieve the real book.

And there was someone who was strong enough to do it without his subordinates noticing.

'If I'm not wrong, Marquis Walford has a former knight of the Demon Banner Army. He was once a member of the Demon Beholder Squad's Zero Squad. His current strength should be Spirit Grandmaster...'

The Third Prince fell silent, knowing where he had to go next. Since Marquis Walford tried to take what he wanted, he had to take action personally.

He looked at the subordinates who carried out the massacre. He wanted to kill them right away, but he had lost too many subordinates in the past few days. So, he changed his plan.

"I give you one more chance. Go back and bring two Spirit Grandmasters to me. We are heading to Marquis Walford's territory. Remember, you only have three days. If you fail this time..." The Third Prince didn't finish his words, but the meaning was already clear.

Three days were already close to impossible. They had to run with all their strength tirelessly. But if they couldn't do it, they would die.

So, these four could only obey him just to keep their lives.

They immediately disappeared from the mansion while the Third Prince looked around first to find out what was going on. He also wanted to find something that the other party had missed.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find anything.

And the city was soon shocked by the massacre that happened on this day. However, even if the Royal Family got involved in the investigation, the only trace that remained was that of the Third Prince.

Although the current king had won the throne war, it didn't mean the Third Prince was stripped of all his power. He still had enough power to fight the current king to a standstill for a few years.

So, the current king might have to choose to ignore this fact while trying to find a way to further reduce the Third Prince's strength before eradicating him in one go.

And the marquis, who became the scapegoat, didn't realize that his current life had been targeted by the Third Prince.

Though, there was one thing that everyone didn't know. The real culprit for the count's assassination was not those people. Instead, it was a third party not related to them.

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Sleeping Flower Brothel.

Anna, who had just finished her job, took off her tight suit that looked similar to the assassins under the Third Prince.

While she was trying to change her clothes, someone knocked on the door.

"Miss Anna. This is Illia."

"Come in," replied Anna while putting on her clothes.

When Illia entered, she glanced at the black clothes on the floor but didn't say anything.

"I have entered the mansion and killed the count. However, not much could be found." Anna sighed while tossing a few scrolls and books. "These are the account books as well as some other important records about the count's transaction. It should be useful for your investigation."

"Though, I don't think Count Leinberd is connected directly to the Supreme Devil Organization. So, we might have to go to Marquis Walford after this."

Illia nodded. "Our people have spotted a few people coming out of the city. Their identities are quite special and they left the city in a hurry as if they were doing something risky. I believe the other party is moving toward the marquis as well. So, I suggest that we should wait for a bit before going there."

"Alright." Anna nodded. "But we don't have much time either. And I don't think we will have a lot of opportunities in Marquis Walford's mansion."

"Actually, Sir Noel has solved this problem." Illia shook her head.

"What do you mean?" Anna frowned, wondering if Noel had told her all the plans or not.

"I might be with you right now, but this entire operation involves our leader as well. He is leading a team to set up an ambush for Marquis Walford's group. We have also sent some fake birds to give information about the massacre. By making it look like multiple organizations reporting about what happened in this city, we could force the royal family to hear about this matter."

"!!!" Anna widened her eyes. "By ambushing them, we could force the marquis to come out of his mansion. And we shall use that time to infiltrate his mansion. Even if he doesn't come out, the biggest threat will be leaving the mansion to take care of this matter personally due to the importance of the task."

"So, we can find more things from the marquis before the Third Prince's group arrives..." Anna looked down, realizing what Noel wanted to do.

She never thought that Noel had prepared everything. And the chaos that he brought wouldn't be small.

"I see. It seems that chaos is necessary for him." Anna nodded with a serious expression. She glanced at Illia, asking, "When are we leaving the city?"

"At dusk."

"Got it. I'll get some rest to recover my stamina."

Chapter 582 Oliver Ve Lenfenth

Three days later.

Royal Palace.

A middle-aged man was sitting on his throne. There was no one in the room aside from him. He had just finished the meeting in the throne room but chose to stay behind for a bit as if waiting for someone.

Suddenly, a figure appeared next to him as if he was a ghost that had just manifested. He brought a small piece of paper and presented it to him.

"Your Majesty. We've received an urgent report. That man has made his move."

"!!!"

Yes, he was the king of the Muivell Kingdom, Oliver Ve Lenfenth. He was surprised because the person in his subordinate's mouth was none other than the brother he fought in the throne war. He was the Third Prince, Elvien Ve Lenfenth.

His expression turned grim because he had been trying to suppress the Third Prince this whole time. Hearing the other party making his move could give him a reason to go after him and reduce his strength even further.

So, Oliver immediately became serious, trying to figure out what was going on. He grabbed the paper and read the message.

"He has massacred the entire family of Count Leinberd?" Oliver frowned. There were a lot of nobles, especially lesser nobles, in the kingdom. Even he had a hard time remembering an insignificant noble with no big achievement. "If I'm not wrong, he is the ruler of Valvas..."

"Yes, Your Majesty. According to our information, the count is extremely close to Marquis Walford. Our people are checking the mansion right now, but from the description of the massacre, it seems that there is a big reason behind it. And it is closely related to Marquis Walford."

"Hmm? Marquis Walford, the Spirit Bearer..."

"Yes. The Inquisitor Organization has some information and suspicion about the marquis as well. It seems that they are related to the Supreme Devil Organization."

"..." The king fell silent when he mentioned the Supreme Devil Organization. He looked like he wanted to condone that action, but he tried his best to calm down to think about their next move.

"Why are they fighting?" The king muttered the question with no answer. "There's no way he is killing an entire noble family for the Supreme Devil Organization. No matter if he is planning to justify his name or what, he's not someone who will do something like that.

"If that's the case, there might be something bigger that we know nothing about." The king thought for a moment. "Who's free in the capital?"

"Who..." The guy paused. He was confused at first but soon understood the people who the king was talking about. He immediately answered, "Sword, Lightning, and Fleeting are free in the capital right now."

"Order Sword and Lightning to head to Marquis Walford immediately. You have to save Marquis Walford to the best of your ability. As for whether he is related to the Supreme Devil Organization or not, it can be investigated at a later date. I want them to save him and get all the information, including why he is targeted by my brother."

"Understood. I shall pass your decree to Sword Arbiter and Lightning Arbiter right away. This might be presumptuous for me to say, but won't Sword Arbiter be enough to handle this matter? Besides, there is an inquisitor that is currently investigating the matter. She is Anna Stargaze, so I think Fleeting Arbiter is more suited to this job."

"Do you question my judgment?"

"No. I don't dare." The guy immediately lowered his head.

"You are the Darkness Arbiter, so I know you have seen their strength. But that man is far more dangerous than you think." The king clicked his tongue, annoyed.

Since the king had given the decree, the Darkness Arbiter immediately disappeared from the throne room to give his order to the two Arbiters.

When the silence returned to the throne room, the king couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"I don't think this is such a coincidence. Anna Stargaze, the daughter of the Fleeting Arbiter, Kevin Stargaze. There are also Elvien and the Supreme Devil Organization. They have been hiding from my eyes the whole time, but it's clear that they are scheming something.

"For them to get exposed like this... I'm afraid whatever we're going to find from Marquis Walford will shock the kingdom. I know my brother's ambition so well. Even when I'm sitting on this throne, he is still pointing his sword at me, preparing to retake the throne for himself.

"As for Anna Stargaze's involvement..." The King fell silent. On the one hand, he had never gotten involved in Anna's matter after giving specific instructions to the leader of the inquisitor organization. He had told him to push Anna to the corner, but the leader had never succeeded in his attempt.

As a result, he still hadn't got his hand on Anna.

"It seems that the Marquis Stargaze is planning something. But we don't have any evidence right now. Although I can remove him from his position, he will use it as a reason to strike me back for abusing my power. I have to find evidence first and frame the marquis.

"I have to weaken him enough until I get my hand on Anna Stargaze. As long as she belongs to the royal family, the royal family will prosper."

The king pinched the bridge of his nose. Despite his concern about the marquis and Anna, he didn't mention anything about Noel. It was clear that he had put the matter regarding the Ardagan Family and Noel behind. And with the news about Noel's death, he thought he could focus on other things first.

Still, there was one thing that confused him. "Now that the marquis is in this situation, what is he planning to do next? He should have seen that his family's end is coming..."

As the head of the Stargaze Family and one of the Arbiters, Kevin Stargaze should know that the moment he lost against the king, he would lose everything, including his daughter. And with his personality, he would surely fight back.

So, Oliver was worried about that strike since he hadn't found anything related to the marquis. And he wanted to see whether it was a coincidence that this big matter started when his daughter got involved in it. It might be his chance to take down the marquis.

Chapter 583 Marquis Walford

Marquis Walford's mansion.

Just like the king, Marquis Walford also received a piece of news. However, his news was not related to the movement.

"What did you say?" the marquis widened his eyes, staring at his butler.

"The expedition has been ambushed and we couldn't recover anything."

"..." The marquis's eyes turned red as he knew what this meant. He waved his hand while closing his eyes.

The butler nodded his head and left the room, giving the marquis some time to think about this matter.

Right after the butler left, a woman's voice echoed in the room.

"It seems that you are in trouble, Marquis."

The marquis glanced to the side. The woman was standing behind the shelf, but the shelf wasn't thick enough to cover her entire body.

Yet, despite such a person standing so close to the marquis, the butler didn't notice her at all. It felt like she never existed in the first place.

Now that she had spoken, her presence returned and the marquis could see her clearly. He narrowed his eyes while asking coldly, "I am in trouble? Don't you think I should be the one to ask you that question?"

"You have promised us that book, Marquis." The woman smiled. She had long braided hair that hid in her coat. She was wearing a black dress like someone who was about to join a banquet. Yet, the marquis didn't even bother to look at her with any vulgar intention.

"Yes, I have promised you. But it will be a different case if your organization doesn't try to meddle in this matter." The marquis gritted his teeth.

"Are you suspecting us?" The woman narrowed her eyes.

The marquis seemed to be suspecting the Supreme Devil Organization, who had ambushed his knights.

"Am I wrong? The only people who know about the entire operation are me, you, and Count Leinberd."

"You forget about the Third Prince, Elvien Ve Lenfeth. It seems that you are still underestimating what he can do, Marquis Walford."

"Of course, I know. But even the Third Prince shouldn't have made his move just yet." Marquis Walford gritted his teeth while pointing his finger at her. "The Third Prince is going after me here, not my knights. So, the only one who could snatch that book is you."

The woman's expression turned serious. She was annoyed by the fact that he suspected them. After all, she also didn't know anything about this matter. And the organization had entrusted her with this task.

So, the fact that the marquis tried to suspect them like this put a gap in their relationship. "Are you planning to join us? How dare you suspect the organization! It seems that you don't want to join the organization, marquis... Even after everything you have done... You have sacrificed your wife, your son and your daughter to join us, but you..."

The marquis gritted his teeth and slammed the table. "I don't need you to remind me about it."

The woman and the marquis glared at each other.

"I am not suspecting the organization. I am suspecting you..."

"You shouldn't overestimate yourself, marquis. Do you forget who is standing before you right now?" The woman's glare became even sharper as a sharp killing intent leaked out of her eyes.

The marquis wasn't afraid of her as he also stood up, standing in front of her. "Of course, I know. You are one of the Devil Bishops, known as Serpent. People say that the more beautiful a woman is, the more poisonous they can become. I can believe in the organization, but not you."

The woman's body was shaken for a split second. She suddenly waved her hand, pushing his body.

That small push actually blew away the marquis to the other side of the room until he crashed into the wall.

The marquis might have Spiritual Energy, but he wasn't a fighter. His Spiritual Energy came from the crystal he got from money. So, he might be stronger than normal people, but he was just a mere ant in front of the woman before him.

The woman stated coldly, "I can assure you that I haven't done anything. There might be a third party that is trying to split us up and aim for those books. So, we shouldn't fight among ourselves.

"We should focus on finding the real culprit along with those books. It will be troublesome if someone else takes the books. One of our Devil Saints wants that book, understood?"

The marquis gritted his teeth. He wanted to beat this woman, but he was powerless. He could only swallow his anger for the time being.

He swore that he would find the book and present it to the Devil Saint personally. When that happens, he could force the Devil Saint to grant him a couple of requests.

He took a deep breath, seeing the woman disappear in his vision. It seemed that the woman was planning to investigate it as well.

He didn't like the existence of the third party and wanted to eliminate them personally. He knew his personality perfectly, so he knew what he had to do.

Without hesitation, the marquis stood up and opened the door, looking at his butler who waited for him not far from the room.

"Where is Gaston?"

"He is in the barrack, Sir." The butler answered without hesitation. "Should I call him?"

"No. I'm going there personally." The marquis clicked his tongue and walked away. He had to move fast if he wanted to beat the woman.

He didn't realize that everything was a trap.

The moment he came out from the barrack with a few knights along with his best knight, everything was ready.

Illia had been waiting inside the brothel. When she heard he was leaving the city, she immediately headed to Anna's room to inform her.

"The marquis has left."

Anna's eyes were closed as she sat on the bed. When she heard the report, she couldn't help but say, "Not yet. There is one more presence in the mansion... it's faint, but I can feel it. If we infiltrate the mansion right now, we will be found out."

Chapter 584 Suspicion

"..." The woman who was inside the marquis mansion frowned. She had been staying here for a while as if waiting for the mastermind to come. But it seemed she was mistaken. Their aim was the book, not the relationship between the marquis and the Supreme Devil Organization.

She glanced at the marquis' office once more. She wanted to destroy all evidence related to the Supreme Devil Organization, but if she did it and the marquis returned with the book, her life would be in danger. After all, the marquis would think she was manipulating him this whole time. This sabotage was clearly the reason why the marquis suspected her.

In fact, the marquis might not return to the mansion directly.

"..." The woman frowned, wondering what she had to do. On the one hand, she didn't want the Supreme Devil Organization to be found out. On the other hand, she had to chase after the marquis so that everything went smoothly.

"It seems that I have to prioritize the books and the marquis first." The woman let out a long sigh.

Of course, the woman was making sure that no one was around when all of them were away.

She even hid her presence as much as possible to the point if she stood in front of a normal person, they wouldn't have noticed her. With this kind of presence, she searched around while trying to find out any people that tried to find out about her.

After making sure that no spies were inside the city, she started picking up her pace to follow the marquis.

And this was when Anna opened her eyes.

"It seems she has left." Anna muttered with a serious expression.

"Hmm?" Illia, who had been working on gathering information for her, couldn't help but look at her and ask, "What do you mean?"

"It's time to infiltrate the mansion." Anna shook her head helplessly, saying it in a simple way.

"Are you sure about that? How do you know there is a person that can do such a thing?"

Anna fell silent before ultimately shaking her head. "Unfortunately, I couldn't tell you. Just think about it as a Spirit Ability."

Anna wasn't lying. This ability came from the spirit, but it wasn't a Spirit Ability. What she had was the Spirit Link and the instinct that came from the Lightning Berserker Spirit.

After receiving that instinct and acknowledging the connection between her and the spirit, she finally began to train her own instinct. She tried to use it to detect every living being around her.

It was a kind of enhancing her senses like Rose, but it was her sixth sense.

Her instinct had been telling her that there was a danger hiding inside the mansion. So, she tried to avoid any form of action that would expose her.

After her instinct told her the threat had left the city, she finally woke up from her meditation.

"Either way, it's time for us to infiltrate the mansion and find something useful."

Anna and Illia exchanged looks. Although Illia was more adept in this kind of mission, Anna's ability was extremely useful. After all, she managed to escape from the ambush.

No matter what, she wasn't a Spirit Master, so it was impossible for her to recognize such a threat. She didn't know that the enemy this time was a Devil Bishop, who was a Spirit Grandmaster. There was no way she would survive if she had infiltrated the mansion without Anna's warning.

After reaching an agreement, they immediately rose from their position and began to change their clothes, preparing for the infiltration.

Although it would be good to use the darkness as their cover, they didn't have much time to begin with. So, they could only rely on their ability to erase their presence and their expertise in hiding their trace to do it.

As one would expect from someone who had lived twice, the moment she erased her presence, it was so thin that even Illia was startled.

"!!!" Illia widened her eyes and even used her Spiritual Energy as if she was trying to confirm her presence. "You can erase your presence to this degree?"

"Yeah. My current power is not enough to do more, but this should be enough for the current situation, right?" Anna smiled.

Illia and Anna nodded at each other. Instead of going with their normal black tight suit, they infiltrated the mansion in a maid uniform.

This way, even if they were caught, they could pretend to be a maid and retreat smoothly. Besides, the black suit stood out during the day, so it wouldn't be good for them to use it.

After putting on some makeup to alter their appearance a bit, they began to walk into the mansion.

They were wandering around the mansion before finding a spot to jump over the wall. It was a similar infiltration to the Ardagan Family's mansion.

But this time, there would be a lot of people inside the mansion, so they had to be careful.

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While they were entering the mansion, the marquis reached the place where his people were attacked.

There was nothing left other than the blood on the ground. Even the corpses had been burned completely and the armor had gone as if they were stolen. It looked like a bandit's deed, but his group was an elite group. There was no way a mere bandit group could crush them like this.

So, this was truly an assassination set up by someone.

He immediately looked at the trusted knight he had, asking, "Do you think you can trace it?"

"Let me try." A middle-aged man approached the corpses and clasped his hands. Suddenly, the Spiritual Energy burst out of his palms and started enveloping the corpses.

In that instant, the ground started to emit golden light as they projected the elite group as if they had been recalled from the land of the dead.

All of them couldn't speak, but they did the same thing. They were pointing their hands to the east.

Chapter 585 Information

Marquis Walford's Mansion.

"This is..." Anna gasped, looking at the document.

"Have you found the document?" Illia frowned while looking around the shelves.

"I think yes. The marquis is insane." Anna frowned, reading the document. "He actually sacrificed his wife and children in order to join the Supreme Devil Organization."

"Sacrificed?" Illia was confused. "I don't think I've heard about such a thing. Aren't his wife and children supposed to die from an incident? No, wait... The incident is related to a bandit attack and no one survived... Don't tell me..."

"Yeah. I think that's the situation."

"The Marquis is insane. From the information we've gathered regarding that incident, it's said that those three died brutally. I don't think I have to tell you the details, but when the corpses were found, it was said that their limbs had been torn and their faces were almost unrecognizable. If that kind of accident was planned, then..."

Illia was shivering from the thought alone. To think the marquis would be able to do such cruelty. "Though, I still haven't got my answer. We've been following any news regarding the organization.

"We have even found and tortured their members for information. Unfortunately, the low ranking members didn't know many things. As you might already know, the organization has several ranks: Worshiper, Officer, Inspector, Bishop, Saint, and the Supreme Devil.

"We have captured a few Worshipers and Officers and one Inspector. But aside from the Inspector, who chose to kill himself before we could interrogate him, the rest don't know the details about the organization."

Anna thought for a moment, recalling the information she had regarding the organization. Unfortunately, Noel was the one who handled the organization, not her. Even if she wanted to reveal the secret, she could only follow everything Noel did in his past life.

This marquis was one of them. He was once a high ranking member. When the Demon Banner Army subjugated him, they needed a lot of people, including Noel. They suffered quite a bit as well, so she chose to investigate the marquis first before he became a high ranking member. This would further weaken the organization.

"I once worked with Noel. At that time, Noel pretended to be captured and tried to save some Apprentice Knights. There was a Devil Inspector that controlled the entire situation and he said that a Devil Bishop would be coming.

"I think we can safely assume that the organization is using the Devil Inspector as the middleman."

When Illia heard this assumption, she couldn't help but connect some pieces of information. "I think you are right. The Devil Inspectors should be the ones in charge of recruiting the Spirit Apprentice and Spirit Practitioners. Judging from the current information, they are training those people.

"And if they find some good seedlings, they will contact a Devil Bishop to bring them to their headquarters for further training.

"I think that's the reason why they are able to create hideouts after hideouts without having any trace," Illia explained her own thought with the information she had.

It seemed they were on the right track. It was basically impossible to find the Supreme Devil Organization just by getting information from Devil Inspectors or below. Even their hideout wouldn't contain that information.

However, they thought about something new that might be able to help them locate the headquarters.

"What if we lure the Devil Bishop and follow them? They are Spirit Grandmasters, so I don't think it'll be easy to follow them. As for another way, we can select a few people to rise through the ranks... But I'm afraid the Supreme Devil Organization has a way of brainwashing them or finding their lies.

"Last but not least, there should be a separate rank for those who are manipulating everything behind the scenes. The Devil Bishop and other ranks are simply a measurement for strength, not the brains of the organization.

"And these people are extremely useful. After all, they should have more information than those fighters."

With that thought in mind, they looked at the room again, knowing that this was a big chance. They had to get everything. They believed the marquis belonged to the third category, so they had to find as much evidence as possible.

They continued to search the room and found multiple interesting pieces of evidence.

"This is the account book of this mansion."

"There is actually a hidden project in an abandoned mine? Are they training a new batch of Devil Worshipers here?"

"The marquis was actually involved in the Devil Inspector where Noel and I tried to save two Apprentice Knights?"

"This is..."

They found a lot of evidence regarding the marquis's involvement. However, they couldn't find anything that would lead them to a clue to the organization's operation along with their hideout.

It seemed that the marquis was also a pawn to the organization. But since he would become a high ranking member in the future, Anna ended up finding a lot more evidence than she expected.

"This is good... To think that the marquis is involved with so many things... I'm afraid that they don't expect us to infiltrate the marquis' mansion due to how powerful the mar—" Anna suddenly stopped as her instinct was telling her that the threat was back.

"Not good!" Anna gritted her teeth and grabbed everything she could and said, "We have to run. The threat has returned."

Illia was startled, but she was an expert in this field. The moment she heard the warning, she followed Anna as quickly as possible before leaving the mansion. Obviously, they met a few people, so Anna ended up knocking them out with her lightning.

Clang!

The windows in the office suddenly shattered as the Devil Bishop returned. When she saw the mess inside the mansion, she realized that the enemies truly tried to find the information about them.

"This..." The Devil Bishop gritted her teeth. She returned because she tried to lure those people into this mansion, but she never expected that the other party would be able to move one step ahead by leaving the mansion first.

Chapter 586 Die

"!!!" Illia widened her eyes in shock. They had left the mansion and escaped from the Devil Bishop. Though, she didn't believe they were chased by such an existence the whole time.

Unfortunately for her, the reality was presented right in front of her. Because of the shock and anger, the Devil Bishop leaked a portion of her energy and killing intent.

Normal people wouldn't be able to see the change, but those who had exceptional senses should be able to sense those two. She couldn't help but tremble.

If Anna wasn't here, she would certainly die on this mission.

She looked at Anna, wondering how a person could be so talented. She was still a Spirit Wielder, yet, she could easily sense a Spirit Grandmaster.

She wanted to express her shock, but she still had to look like they were not concerned about whatever happened inside the mansion. They even brought a bag to hide all the documents before disappearing into the crowd as they made their way toward the brothel.

"We have found a lot of things." Anna smiled while putting down their harvest. There were a lot of documents to read, but these documents would be extremely useful for their next move.

While Anna was happy with the information, Illia was still standing next to her without doing anything.

"What are you doing?" Anna asked, concerned about her situation.

"I'm thankful for your warning. If I carried the task alone, I would have died." She bowed to Anna.

"It's fine. I didn't do much. Without your help, I wouldn't be able to achieve all this. So, let's just call it even since both of us need each other. Instead, we should focus on sorting these documents."

Illia nodded and started working with her. They had received a lot of information from the marquis. Unfortunately, they couldn't share the information with Noel.

While they were sorting the documents, the marquis was facing multiple problems at once.

He tried to find the murderer but to no avail. It seemed that the group that ambushed his people was skilled and understood his knight's ability to track them.

When they marched toward the direction the deceased pointed at, they couldn't find any trace as if the group had disappeared into thin air.

Meanwhile, there were two other parties that planned to join the battle. The first party was the Third Prince, who had brought reinforcements to crush the marquis and retrieve the books, not knowing everything had been stolen.

The second party was the Arbiters. Both Arbiters had personally come to the marquis' territory to save the marquis.

In addition to the Supreme Devil Organization, the marquis territory would soon plunge into chaos.

And the masterminds behind all the chaos... one was having a peaceful trip while the other one was sorting the harvest.

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One day later.

"Shit! I have to get away!" The marquis gritted his teeth when he heard about the incoming parties.

"Where are you planning to go?" The Devil Bishop narrowed her eyes, planning to stop him in case he ran away with all the information.

The marquis had given up the search after a while. He didn't have any more traces to track, so he could only leave the rest to his trusted subordinate. Meanwhile, he returned to the mansion to handle the problems from behind.

But the moment he returned, he found out that his mansion had been raided without anyone noticing. Even the Devil Bishop blamed him for this mistake, not telling him that the Devil Bishop had tried to capture them but to no avail.

"You are going to bring me to the Supreme Devil Organization!"

"You are not a part of the group yet. You can't even handle this problem and bring the books. You are overestimating your worth." The Devil Bishop snorted, pushing all the blames on him.

"You must be the one ambushing my group because you don't want me to join the organization! You vile whore! Do you think I don't know what you think?!"

"I told you I never did anything to your group." The Devil Bishop narrowed her eyes, becoming more annoyed.

The two were gritting their teeth. On the one hand, the marquis knew he couldn't force the Devil Bishop since the other party was stronger than him. Even if he tried to locate the headquarters and made direct contact, it was impossible for them to think much of him when he failed miserably.

On the other hand, the woman understood the implications this marquis would bring. If the marquis were still alive, he might expose all his deeds, trying to take them down out of spite.

So, there was only one conclusion where the organization would come on top.

And it seemed that both of them thought the same thing.

The marquis' face became pale as he stepped back, gritting his teeth. "What are you planning to do?"

The woman smiled. "We both are smart people. I'm sure we are thinking the same thing, Marquis Walford. It's a shame, but I have the full right to this mission. I might have failed the mission, but I have to ensure that no information about us can get out."

The marquis immediately released his Spiritual Energy to stop her, but the woman was faster. Her hand pierced through the marquis' body and pushed him to the wall while covering his mouth.

"Unfortunately, our cooperation ends here." The woman stated coldly. The marquis had sacrificed a lot of things. But he ended up dying without getting any reward.

They knew that when the Arbiters and the Third Prince arrived, they would die no matter what. So, it was better to kill the marquis and destroy any evidence about them before they arrived.

That day, the marquis' mansion was enveloped by a great fire.

...

Not far from the city, there was also a clash between giants.

On the one side, the Third Prince led a couple of experts. On the other side, there were two Arbiters standing next to each other.

They happened to meet on the way and knew the clash couldn't be avoided.

Chapter 587 Clash

The Sword Arbiter was an elderly man. His face looked aged and his hair was already white. However, due to his continuous training, his eyes remained sharp and his posture remained gallant. From the aura excluded by his body, it was clear that he was still enough to crush anyone that tried to attack him.

The Lightning Arbiter was actually Anna's teacher. Anna had a Lightning Element Spirit, so it was obvious that she would become her teacher.

When they met the Third Prince's group, she gently bowed her head and greeted him. "I greet the Third Prince."

The Third Prince, backed by multiple experts, frowned. "It seems that the royal family is planning to get involved in my matter."

The Lightning Arbiter shook her head. "I apologize, Third Prince. We are only following orders, so we don't have anything to tell you. Our job here is to keep the marquis alive."

The Third Prince clicked his tongue before shouting in anger. "Do you seriously not know? The marquis ambushed my people. Do you think I will let him off?!"

The Lightning Arbiter remained calm and explained, "I have long heard about the Third Prince's care for his people. Unfortunately, we couldn't do anything about it since we have our own order. So, I have to ask the Third Prince to leave."

"Are you sure you want to be my opponent?" The Third Prince narrowed his eyes.

The Sword Arbiter couldn't help but slam the ground with his sword. "Third Prince..."

The Third Prince's expression turned grim when the Sword Arbiter made his move. "Old man..."

"I apologize, Third Prince. This old man might know you personally, but my loyalty lies in the royal family. I have received my order, so I have to carry it out even if I have to fight you." The Sword Arbiter started releasing his Spiritual Energy as if trying to scare him and his group.

"..." The Third Prince fell silent for a moment. His Spiritual Energy was gushing out from his body as well, telling the Sword Arbiter that he wasn't scared. Even the Spirit Grandmasters behind him had released their Spiritual Energy as if planning to step in.

The Third Prince gritted his teeth. His energy continued to erupt. The pressure from that energy increased to the point the ground started to crack.

The Lightning Arbiter thought, 'I heard that the Third Prince joined the military in the past. His strength might not be a Spirit Grandmaster, but that record was twelve years ago. I don't think his current strength is less than a Spirit Grandmaster...'

The Lightning Arbiter believed that the Third Prince was going to unleash his strength. Even though they had two Arbiters, the opponent had two Spirit Grandmasters and the Third Prince himself. Even with their power, they might not be able to win.

So, the Lightning Arbiters chose to make the first move. The lightning spark on her fingertip as she waved it toward the Third Prince, releasing a quick and precise lightning strike.

The Third Prince simply opened his eyes wide as the pressure surrounding him changed its direction and hit the lightning, neutralizing it.

The two Spirit Grandmasters saw the attacks and immediately moved forward, so the Lightning Arbiters had no choice but to release her full power.

But before she could make any move, she felt a sharp pain in her neck.

"Eh?" The Lightning Arbiter was shocked as she felt her body lose all strength. She tried to reach out her neck, thinking someone had just slashed it.

"It's still intact..." The Lightning Arbiter coughed a few times before turning to the side, looking at the Sword Arbiter. She noticed something amiss from the Sword Arbiter. His sword was actually not completely unsheathed as if he had just used it. "You..."

"Spirit Sword, Greater Shock." The Sword Arbiter muttered the technique's name as if telling her that he was the one making her move. At the same time, the Spirit Grandmasters that were about to move suddenly stopped because the Third Prince had used pressure to stop them.

In the end, the Sword Arbiter and the Third Prince were staring at each other.

The Third Prince said, "I don't want to fight you, old man."

"The feeling is mutual."

The Sword Arbiter was one of the strongest Arbiters. Even if they outnumbered him, they wouldn't escape unscathed.

The Third Prince knew this fact and tried to reach an agreement. "That's why I'm going to propose something. I won't kill the marquis. In exchange, you allow me to extract information from the marquis first."

The Lightning Arbiter gritted her teeth. She never thought that the Sword Arbiter would move against her. But she realized another thing. It seemed that the Third Prince was exceptionally strong to the point even the Sword Arbiter didn't want to fight him. Although it looked like they were considering their previous relationship, she could feel that both of them were judging each other's strength and chose not to fight.

'The Third Prince has this much power?' The Lightning Arbiter fell silent, thinking something.

The Sword Arbiter actually agreed without hesitation. "Our mission is to keep him alive. Since we can keep his life, then I can agree to this agreement. It's just... I hope that the Third Prince will be a bit lenient since this old man will be in trouble if you cripple him or something."

"Don't worry. I can promise you that."

"In that case, we have a deal."

Both of them reached an agreement. The Third Prince prioritized the books, while the Sword Arbiter only focused on his mission.

So, they instantly dropped their weapons. The Third Prince waved his hand, telling them that they were going to cooperate with each other.

The Sword Arbiter also said, "Lightning... I know that you are one of the Arbiters, but I hope that you don't forget that the Third Prince was a member of the royal family. I wouldn't tolerate such rudeness."

Chapter 588 Another Clash

The two groups might have reached an agreement. They had sheathed their weapons and retracted their Spiritual Energy, but they had to face one more problem.

They never thought there would be another party that was aiming for the marquis' life. The moment they reached the city, they saw the entire town panicking.

They were confused at first and tried to find out what was going on.

păndă Йovê1,còM The answer could easily be seen when they reached the marquis' mansion.

Not a single of them thought that the marquis would have died and the mansion would have been burned to the ground earlier.

The Third Prince frowned before saying, "Old man. I think we need a truce first. We have to put out the fire and find any trace of the marquis."

"Indeed..." The Sword Arbiter nodded in agreement. He stepped forward while unsheathing his sword. "I shall make the first move..."

The Third Prince waved his hand as if telling his people to step back. He focused on the old man. The reason why he didn't want to fight the Sword Arbiter was because of his strength.

'The Sword Arbiter is one of the oldest Arbiters. His strength is also among the strongest... And his blade...' The Third Prince fell silent, watching the Sword Arbiter gathering his Spiritual Energy around his sword.

The moment the Sword Arbiter slashed downward, the Spiritual Energy flew away like that of a gale. The sharp energy cut everything in its path. The wall, the soil, and even the fire itself.

The burning planks on the ground immediately perished and the blazing fire that made contact with the gale immediately dispersed as if the energy could cut everything into pieces.

The energy continued until it hit the wall of the mansion, destroying it as a way for them to get inside.

With just a single slash, the Sword Arbiter had cut everything down, allowing them to enter the mansion through a straight path.

The Third Prince said, "We are going to enter the mansion right now. Our priority is to find the marquis and his office. Save every book you can find. Understand?"

The two Spirit Grandmasters nodded, waiting for their liege to proceed.

But before they entered, they found something weird.

"Hmm?" There was a single page of brown paper that flew in front of the Lightning Arbiter. She wasn't that surprised, considering the wind could easily blow away the paper from the marquis' office. But what shocked her the most was the content inside the paper.

"This is... This symbol... Why does it look like a Spirit Enchantment?"

Her statement alarmed both the Third Prince and the Sword Arbiter. Though, the latter was more concerned about the fact there was such a big reaction from the Third Prince.

"Isn't it just a normal Spirit Enchantment? He is a marquis, so we should expect him to have a few Spirit Enchantments, right?" The Third Prince tried his best to remain calm while trying to take a peek at the paper. He even extended his hand and asked, "Let me see..."

The Lightning Arbiter was still ignorant about the matter, so she handed the paper without any thought. She only added something that shocked the Sword Arbiter. "Please. Though, I feel something weird about this paper. It feels like the drawing is more complete and refined. I have seen a lot of Spirit Enchantment as an Arbiter, but this one is more complex than the one I have seen..."

The Third Prince smiled, not saying anything.

However, the Sword Arbiter had seen through the matter and realized that the reason why the Third Prince came here was to get this information. He told his subordinates to save every book earlier, meaning whatever he searched for was in the form of a book.

It wasn't that hard to link everything up. The Third Prince was actually trying to find a book related to the Spirit Enchantment which was more complex than the actual one. That book could be a result of research or something completely groundbreaking.

With that thought in mind, the Sword Arbiter frowned and said coldly, "I'm afraid that our cooperation has to end here, Third Prince..."

"Old man..." The Third Prince frowned. Although the Sword Arbiter was a man of focus, he still prioritized the Royal Family over his mission. The fact that there was knowledge that might threaten the royal family meant he had to stop whoever wanted it even if that person was the Third Prince.

They were glaring at each other again as the tension rose into the sky. Even the other three Spirit Grandmasters had started releasing their Spiritual Energy, preparing for the fight.

The Lightning Arbiter never thought that the situation was more complicated than she thought.

'A book that has this kind of knowledge? Something more complicated than the rune... if it's research, it's truly groundbreaking. If it's new but complete knowledge...' The Lightning Arbiter fell silent.

On the one hand, the Royal Family was a big figure. They were the strongest power in the kingdom. On the other hand, the Third Prince seemed to have connections and more resources to this kind of special knowledge. It couldn't help but pique her interest.

They might be having a conflict and might start a fight soon. But it didn't change the fact that the Third Prince seemed to be more resourceful than the current royal family.

"..." The Lightning Arbiter looked at the Third Prince mysteriously.

While the tension was rising in the city due to five Spirit Grandmasters, Anna and Illia were preparing to leave the city.

Illia asked, "Are you sure it's alright to show that kind of paper?"

"I know her personality. She must have blurted all kinds of information she had in her head when she saw that paper. It would create another wave of chaos. That's why we have to leave this town immediately. We have done our job and that hidden threat has left the city as well. We have achieved our objective."

Chapter 589 Reactions

No one could describe what happened inside that city. The city was ruined by the fight between five Spirit Grandmasters.

Due to the importance of the knowledge, the Sword Arbiter had to challenge the Third Prince.

Although they outnumbered them, the Third Prince had to retreat because of the Sword Arbiter's overwhelming power.

In the end, the two Arbiters had the priority to take everything from the mansion. Unfortunately for them, the battle lasted a bit too long. Everything that could be burned had been reduced to ashes. So, they couldn't find anything from the mansion.

The only thing they could bring back was the small remains from a corpse they found in the office room. They expected him to be the marquis, so they concluded that there was a third party that tried to find the book.

The Sword Arbiter could only report this matter to the royal family.

Though, both the Third Prince and the royal family were facing their own problems. It became bigger when they heard certain information that came from Marquis Walford's city and Count Leinberd's city.

In that place, the knowledge about runes started to spread. They had copied Noel's introductory rune book and spread it to normal people. There were some merchants that carried the books as well. But

the most important fact was how some mysterious people actually taught normal people about these runes.

Although they were normal people, these mysterious people only taught the people who had Spiritual Energy in their bodies. So, they were mostly soldiers.

Most of them couldn't learn the runes easily. Even if they could, the royal family and the Third Prince would have returned to the city to interfere.

But there would always be a hidden genius among the people. They couldn't be found before because they didn't have the right environment to grow.

But when they learned about the runes, they started showing exceptional growth. They could even conjure the runes even though they still failed to activate them.

Still, that fact alone turned the entire kingdom upside down.

The Third Prince gritted his teeth before blowing up. "Aaaaaahhhhh!"

He roared to the sky because of this problem. "Who are they? Who are the ones spreading that knowledge? I was supposed to be the only one who monopolized that knowledge!"

The Third Prince wanted to blame everyone, but he certainly couldn't say anything about Noel and Countess Christina. The former had given the book to be checked since he didn't want to harm the Third Prince, while the latter had checked and given the book.

But everything went awry the moment his people received the book as if everything had gone according to someone's plan.

And the biggest suspect was none other than the Supreme Devil Organization.

"We have to impose an information blackout, Sir." One of his advisers came and suggested something.

But the Third Prince snarled, "Do you think we can do that? There are already many people learning about this knowledge. Even the merchants are carrying the book. If the knowledge is spread, I can't monopolize it anymore.

"Whoever that person is must want to spread this knowledge. He must be trying to take away my chance to reclaim the throne." The Third Prince gritted his teeth.

It was already impossible to stop the spread of knowledge. The people would be spreading it mouth to mouth while the merchants would spread the books. Once this matter was known, it would be impossible to find the culprit who did all this.

And the other kingdoms would surely want a piece of it.

He had no doubt that the Muivell Kingdom was strong enough to stop the other three kingdoms for a while, but the problem was that the Greenwood Kingdom had the original Spirit Enchantment Book.

If they found this book and realized Noel could be considered royalty from their kingdom, they would do everything to grab both Noel and the book. In the end, the Greenwood Kingdom would get all the knowledge.

However, he didn't know that Noel had asked his grandfather to spread the knowledge not only in the Greenwood Kingdom but in the other two kingdoms. This way, everyone would get a piece of the pie, preventing any monopoly.

This was Noel's plan to spread the knowledge without doing it directly. His achievement would soar and his name would echo in all kingdoms. It would be risky, but if he played his card correctly, he would be able to gain the biggest benefits.

...

Royal Palace.

The king was also gritting his teeth, having a similar problem as the Third Prince. Although the knowledge was important, the king focused more on the author of the book.

Introductory Rune 1.

Noel Ardagan.

He gritted his teeth before slamming the table. "Ardagan. Even when that family is gone, I still see them. I shouldn't have stopped myself from killing that child... I should have executed Noel Ardagan alongside his parents!"

The king roared. He was angry that everything happened because Noel was exiled instead of executed.

On the one hand, Marquis Stargaze had sent Anna, who became the scapegoat, to chase after Noel. She even personally killed Noel in front of a member of the Demon Relief Squad. On the other hand, Marquis Stargaze had a good relationship with Count Ardagan. He couldn't help but suspect him to be involved.

He never thought that an ant that was supposed to die in the Demon Banner Army would come to bite him again. At the same time, he had no idea what he should do, considering Noel had died.

"Kh..." The king gritted his teeth, feeling frustrated. He wanted to kill Noel, but he couldn't kill a dead person whose remains had already become the monster's snack.

"Immediately impose the information blackout!" The king ordered.

"What? I don't think it's possible to stop them even with a decree. We also have to come up with a story to stop people from talking about it. And how big the area..."

The King stated without hesitation. "The entire kingdom. We can't contain the knowledge in that single city, but we have to stop it from spreading to another kingdom. No matter what, this is our possession!"

Chapter 590 Laufey Ardagan

Aside from the king and the Third Prince, there were some other groups that received the news.

One of them was none other than the Supreme Devil Organization, specifically Noel's uncle, Laufey Ardagan.

"That's what happened, Sir." The woman, who was known as Serpent, knelt before a middle-aged man. The middle aged man didn't have black hair like Noel or his father. He instead had short spiky brown hair.

They were inside a room. There was nothing special in the room, only one table on the side, a window that became the source of the lighting of this room, and the chair at the opposite side of the room where Laufey sat.

When he heard the report, his expression instantly became cold. "You couldn't even handle such a thing?"

"There were a lot of variables, Sir. If I didn't escape, there were already five Spirit Grandmasters that might attack me. The least I could do was esc—" The woman suddenly stopped because he felt the sudden shift in his position.

She widened her eyes in shock because the next thing she realized, she was standing in front of the wall. And Laufey Ardagan had stood in front of her, extending his hand.

Bam!

"Gah!" The serpent coughed because her neck was choked and she was pinned to the wall. "Sir..."

She looked at Laufey, who was raising her as if trying to make her stop breathing. She struggled a bit, but it was useless. She couldn't attack her superior as well.

"One thousand years ago, the great Ardagan gave a book to the Greenwood Kingdom's royal family as dowry. The book led to a controversy and there were many people that wanted the book.

"In the end, the book was gone, replaced with a new one. Unfortunately, that new one was the inferior version. Yes, That's the book of the Spirit Enchantment.

"The great Ardagan left his legacy. But contrary to normal people's beliefs, the legacy was far simpler than anyone could imagine. There were only three books and the sword that accompanied him.

"There was nothing like the Spirit Enchantment to the point people thought the great Ardagan abandoned his future generations. However, after searching frantically for an answer, I got the real answer.

"The real inheritance was not the books. It was the sword. The sword carried all his legacy. It was proved even further by that brat's swordsmanship.

"That's why the kid would bring out the Spirit Enchantment inheritance sooner or later. That's why I tasked you to retrieve the books for me! Yet, you failed the job."

Laufey's eyes started emitting killing intent.

The woman was gasping for air as she struggled while trying to explain herself. "Please give me a second chance, Sir. I wil—"

"Shut up!" Laufey gritted his teeth. "You were lucky that I didn't kill you right away!"

Laufey started releasing his Spiritual Energy out of anger. The Spiritual Energy was so violent that the entire room cracked in an instant.

The woman stopped struggling out of fear. The suppression also tried to crush her body. If not for the fact she was a Devil Bishop, she would have died.

'This is... ' The woman had the shock of her life. The person before her was one of the two Devil Saints the Supreme Devil Organization had. His strength had reached Spirit Transcendence.

Even with the kingdom's power, the only one that could stop them was either the commander of the Demon Banner Army or the Captain of the Twelve Arbiters.

Their strength was already beyond anyone's reach. And the fact that Laufey could reach this point was one of the books that he stole from the Ardagan Family.

If one book alone was able to allow him to reach this stage, what if he got all the books? She couldn't imagine what kind of existence he would become. Yet, he said those three books were not the true inheritance.

She couldn't help but wonder what would happen to Noel, who had the Ardagan Sword, the sword that was said to be the real inheritance. He might surpass this stage in the future.

Laufey gritted his teeth. He wanted to kill this woman, but it was true that she was more useful when she was alive.

He seemed to be contemplating whether he should spare her or not. Although she was about to run out of air and her face already became as pale as a dead person, she tried to avoid making any movement or sound so as to avoid angering him. At the very least, she got the chance to live.

Her consciousness started to disappear due to the lack of air. But it seemed that she got her second chance as her body dropped to the ground.

Cough!

Cough!

Cough!

She was holding her neck while coughing. She tried to get as much air as possible out of instinct. Tears were coming out of the corner of her eyes and her body fell limp.

When she was trying to regain her composure, Laufey opened his mouth. "You are still useful to me. So, I won't kill you yet.

"That's why I'll give you another chance to prove that my decision to keep you alive is not wrong. You shall investigate Noel Ardagan's death. Everyone said that his corpse had been eaten, but those monsters wouldn't be able to destroy the sword.

"Investigate his death and find the sword. If you can't find the sword, don't bother to come back."

"Y-yes, Sir." She struggled to answer him. Although her body was weak, she tried her best to drag her body out of the room.

She knew that if she stayed any longer, she would die. So, she used the last bit of her body to leave while gritting his teeth.

People said Noel Ardagan had died, but Laufey didn't believe it. After all, there was nothing they brought back as proof of his death. Even the sword was missing, so she had to investigate the entire area to see whether the demons had stolen the sword or not.