S vs Rebirth 661

Chapter 661 New Mission

"This is your next mission." Clara placed down a piece of paper. Everything related to the mission was written on it.

Noel and Paul were the first ones to look at it, considering one was the one responsible for the group while the other was the squad's brain.

But surprisingly, Noel only took three seconds to look at it before stepping back, saying, "Rose. You should take a look at it first."

"!!!" Rose was surprised that Noel gave her a chance, considering his opinion was worth more than her. Although no one said it, they knew that Noel's plan was better than Rose's.

However, as the future head of the Ardagan Family, Noel had to know how to give his people a chance to develop their talents. If he was the one taking care of everything, he would die because of overwork.

Hence, he wanted to create an independent system where he, as the head of the family, was there to supervise them instead of doing everything by himself.

Rose doubted her power a bit, but since Noel had given her a chance, she chose to step forward, trying to understand the mission.

Rose furrowed her eyebrows for five minutes before explaining, "First of all, I'm going to brief you about the mission."

"This time, the mission will be a joint effort again. Our partner will be the Demon Barrier Squad."

"According to the information, the Demon Barrier Squad is having a few severe problems due to the recent demon's activity."

"More and more demons are coming out of their nest, wreaking havoc in a few cities nearby. The Demon Barrier Squad has been using all their strength to stop them, but because of their number, they have stretched themselves thin. If they overexert themselves, there's a high chance that one of the cities will be breached."

"Hence, our mission is to provide support to help them pass this matter." Rose paused for a moment. "In this case, we can provide three types of support. The first is the supply. This supply will include healing potions, so the Demon Barrier Squad will be able to last longer. There is also a possibility that we are being their errand boy to connect all those cities. The demons need to be strong enough to stop us, after all."

"The second type is to become their backup, providing a boost in their firepower. But I don't think this will happen since if they need more firepower, they will call other squads like the Demon Hunting Squad."

"So, that arrives at the last type, the additional structures such as forts or any fortifications. This is our core, so I think they want us to fortify their walls."

Clara closed her eyes, letting her subordinates discuss it. Of course, she didn't mind if they discussed it here since she wanted to see their improvements. They had experienced a lot during the expedition and some of them even felt helpless fighting against those demons. Their desire to improve became stronger than ever, especially after seeing Noel fighting on the front line by himself.

They didn't want to lose to Noel. So, they started improving themselves ever since they came back.

Paul asked, "In that case, what should we do? Should we go to them and ask them about our job?"

"That is normally the case, but... I think everyone knows that it is just the bare minimum. That's why we will go one step further." Rose's expression became serious as she declared. "We are going to bring some supplies for them. So, even if they need anything, we will have them in our storage."

Clara and Noel couldn't help but smile. Normally, they would come to them first to know about their role. Rose knew that nothing would change if she didn't improve. So, she thought one step further.

Though, there was a problem. Noel was the one to ask it. "Still, if we bring a lot of supplies at first, there will be a problem with the number of luggage. We might have to bring additional carriages, you see."

Rose nodded and said, "That's not a problem. We will only add one carriage. By looking at the situation, it seems that they have some problems with the injured, so we'll focus on bringing potions to help them. It should relieve some pressure from their healers as well."

"In exchange, there are two water sources in the area, one from the river next to this Moah Town and the other from the city's well. Food shouldn't be a problem as well since there are a lot of demons."

"With this, we should be able to compress our luggage into three carriages. With ladre becoming a Spirit Master, our strength has been bolstered, so it shouldn't be a big problem taking care of three carriages."

Noel didn't raise any more objections after that explanation, indirectly telling everyone that he had agreed to this plan.

After some thought, Clara also gave her approval. She had seen Rose's improvement. As for the rest, they had to wait until the battle came.

Rose glanced at Paul and asked, "What do you think, Paul?"

"I don't have any problem with the plan itself. But the sorting will be a bit more difficult, so how many days do we have left before the departure?"

"We are leaving the day after tomorrow. We should arrive at our destination in seven days. Due to the amount of time we need to reach our destination, I believe bringing more medicine is better. Well, that's my reason" Rose explained.

"I see." Paul nodded in understanding. "Two days should be enough to prepare. Besides, our city is like storage, so we have everything prepared. It should be fine if we also open our squad's storage, right?"

Clara nodded as she stood, declaring, "The Zero Squad shall leave in two days. You are allowed to bring anything you need from the storage within your privilege. If the storage doesn't have any, you are to procure it by yourself. That's all."

All the people in the room pumped their left chest, receiving her instruction.

After receiving their order, they immediately scattered to do their jobs. Although it wasn't that visible, there was an improvement in the group. Without them saying anything, they seemed to have realized their own role and started working on it.

Jonathan and Ben approached Rose, discussing how many items they would bring. Stella and Paul also came together since they were the ones organizing their defense. If there was any attack from the demons, they were the ones responsible for commanding the group.

All that was left was Noel and Zion.

Zion looked at Noel and asked, "Well, my speed is better for you to use. So, I'll be supporting you. What should we do?"

"..." Noel shook his head helplessly. He said, "There aren't many things we can do right now. However, you should conserve your stamina because you have to run some errands on the way."

"What do you mean?"

"Before reaching our destinations, we are going to pass a few cities, right?"

"Yeah. There should be a total of seven cities on our way, in which two of them are under attack."

"I want you to start going around to check the last four cities." Noel raised four fingers, implying that the four cities were the most important.

"I see. The two cities are indeed the priorities, but the other two before it are important because the battle might affect them... is that right?" Zion asked with a serious expression. "Yeah. That's the problem." Noel nodded with a serious expression. "Yeah. The people will panic once they know about the situation. After all, several cities have been impacted. And a lot of noble and wealthy families should have evacuated from the cities. That's why we need to check their condition to see whether the chaos is happening or not. One wrong move, there will be a lot of casualties after all." Zion nodded in understanding. "Yeah. I can see that. In that case, other than those four cities, should I go around to look at the others after our arrival? No, it should be my job, right?" "Not yet. We have to gather the information first. The Demon Barrier Squad will provide us with some information while you shall go around to confirm it and see if there are more." "Only after confirming the problems shall you go to other cities. Although those cities are important, it doesn't change the fact that the main problem is the Demon Barrier Squad." ραπdα nova | com "I see." Zion sighed. It seemed that his improvement still couldn't hold a candle to Noel's brain. But since he had understood his role, Zion said, "Alright then. I will make my preparation. I need a lot of things so that I can conserve my energy while moving around, after all." "Sure." Noel waved his hand and proceeded with his own task.

Two days later.

Clara personally saw them off since this mission was the chance to see their personal growth.

Clara said, "I believe in you guys. Go out there and make those people from the Demon Barrier Squad feel ashamed for their lack of ability."

"Yes, Captain."

Chapter 662 Movement In The Shadow

Their departure was also seen by Damian, albeit from a farther spot since he didn't want to alarm Clara.

Damian couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, staring at this group.

He couldn't help but mutter, "To think they are coming out just like this, do they not know that they are being observed from all directions?"

Damian still remembered the information he had gotten before coming to this country.

He looked at the document while furrowing his eyebrows. "The Demon Relief Squad retreats to their base due to them being targeted by the Supreme Devil Organization. This is just a conjecture, but after looking at most clashes with the Supreme Devil Organization, the Demon Relief Squad should have become the priority to be destroyed."

He didn't know what happened for such an organization to exclusively target only a specific group, but once he looked at the list of the squad's achievements, he could finally understand why.

The squad had stopped the organization a few times. So, it would be a problem if they continued to live.

So, they wanted to eliminate them as quickly as possible. There was also an incident in the previous expedition.

With this, he knew that even if there were no people around this place, they were still following the movement of the Demon Relief Squad.

"Hmm..." Damian narrowed his eyes. "First of all, the Demon Banner Army is putting a lot of resources into this Demon Relief Squad. I'm sure their commander is doing their best to ensure the group's safety. But that is not enough."

"After all, the royal family will be interested in it as well. I don't know what they have done, but if I'm not wrong, Noel Ardagan is pretty famous in the kingdom."

"Although most people still don't know he is still alive, it doesn't change the fact that there are already a lot of people who know his identity."

"He has expected that once he reveals that information to someone, it's bound to spread no matter how they try to keep it a secret."

"But someone like him wouldn't do something so foolish unless he has something to gain..." Damian fell silent for a moment before gasping as if he had realized something. "Don't tell me, he is spreading his information on purpose?"

"If that's the case, what's the reason for it? I don't know the exact reason, but I'm pretty sure that they want to focus on him... But he has been carefully building up his power, so why would he reveal it..."

Damian suddenly remembered one piece of information that shocked him the most about Noel. He never trained his muscles, let alone learned about spirits before coming to the Demon Banner Army.

Yet, in a short period of time, he managed to become a Spirit Master and his strength couldn't be underestimated.

"Is he making all those people focus on him so that he can find out about their plans?"

"No. He must want to force them to make their move. After all, it's better to fight an enemy where you know they will attack than fighting an enemy that can wait for the end of time to find a perfect moment to kill you."

Damian didn't realize that his opinion was only half-correct. There was one more reason why Noel did such a thing.

The world didn't need to know that Noel Ardagan was still alive. However, those who were in the dark had to know. After all, among them were his parents.

That was right. Noel still hadn't given up on finding his parents. He had a lot of things to say, especially his frustration for not being able to participate in their scheme. He wished they told him about it.

Hence, Noel tried to bait them to appear.

They knew that Dimitri was protecting him. But there was a chance that they were observing Dimitri as well, so he tried to chase Dimitri away for some time, leaving him in danger.

But as someone careful, he added Damian as his guardian, so in case his plan failed, he could still protect himself.

It was a reckless plan, but this was the only plan that could lure his parents out. After all, the fact that they had prepared all kinds of protections for him after being 'executed' showed that they still cared for him. So, he planned to use that 'care' to lure them out.

And this mission was related to it.

Coming out after an expedition like this would surely alarm the people lurking in the darkness. Those from the royal family would surely report and continue observing them, but the Supreme Devil Organization would surely make their move.

In fact, the fact that there was a sudden increase in demon's activity alone was already suspicious.

This was why Noel didn't do much during the preparation. He was calculating what the enemies planned to do during the mission.

... Three days later. As Noel expected, the Supreme Devil Organization had learned about the Demon Relief Squad as well. And the one who had been paying close attention to that squad, especially Noel, was his uncle, Laufey Ardagan. "Sir..." The direct subordinate of the Devil Saint Laufey Ardagan, the serpent, came to him with a report. "We have found out that the Demon Relief Squad is moving toward the Demon Barrier Squad's base. They are going to arrive in four days." Laufey narrowed his eyes, glaring at the woman. "Did you come back just to tell me this useless news?" "No, Sir." The serpent gulped down. She didn't want to anger him again since she would die. So, she immediately stated her purpose. "I have returned from my investigation. I—" "Enough with the process, I want the result. What's the conclusion?" The serpent took a deep breath. Although she was a bit disappointed that her superior didn't even care about her, she still had to tell him the result. "I have concluded that Noel Ardagan is still alive." "As expected..." Laufey clicked his tongue. It seemed that he had predicted all this and acted according to his prediction this whole time. "If that's the case, Noel Ardagan should be this knight ladre. They are

"However Sir, this ladre has a Fire Element Spirit whereas Noel Ardagan has an Ice Element Spirit. It's true that his masquerade is suspicious, but there are also his eye colors and hair colors... I don't think ladre is Noel Ardagan."

Laufey snorted. "You don't know a single thing."

both talented..."

Laufey turned around, glancing at the book on his desk. The book had no title, but it was very old. Even when Laufey opened it, he handled it with care.

'Back when he was alive, the ancestor of the Griffith Family is said to have two different elements. However, because he is using his other abilities a lot, that fact is often forgotten.'

'That's why I'm sure ladre is Noel Ardagan. The element he is using must be inherited from that sword. Yeah, I can finally believe completely what this book says... Ardagan Sword should be the only living spirit in this world.' Laufey narrowed his eyes, staring at the book. 'In that case, I should be able to obtain that power if I can steal the sword from him and force the spirit to obey me.'

'It's said that the spirit can choose its host, so I'm pretty sure that I can find a way to force the spirit to abandon Noel and choose me.'

Laufey took a moment to think about the current situation. He glanced at the serpent and asked, "Who is in charge of making trouble for the Demon Barrier Squad?"

"Devil Bishop, Arhan Arhatt."

"Then, tell him that I will personally go there. You, and that crazy pair shall follow me."

"!!!" The woman was startled, never thinking that the Devil Saint wanted to make a move personally.

"I will stop Dimitri and that crazy pair will buy some time from the Demon Barrier Squad's captain. I want the two of you to kidnap our target by any means necessary. If you prove yourself useful this time, I'm going to forget all your past mistakes."

"..." The woman lowered her head. This was a rare opportunity. If he was going to forgive all her mistakes, it meant that she would have a chance to pursue an even higher rank. As long as she could behave after that and produce results, nothing could stop her anymore.

She became even more determined. Even if she had to sacrifice something, she had to kidnap Noel.

"Yes, Sir." The woman immediately left the room to find the pair.

After she left, Laufey turned around and glanced at the book again. He couldn't help but smile when he looked at this book.

"If only I can get all of them... I would have gotten Ardagan's recognition too. I guess I should be content with this book. After all, it tells me a lot about the Ardagan Family's ancestor..." Laufey smirked.

Chapter 663 Worse Than Expected

During the trip, Zion moved according to the previous plan Noel had. He went to check the cities that were supposed to be affected by the current situation.

As they expected, the people in the cities were panicking. On those who hadn't been attacked yet, there were already so many people leaving the city to avoid all those battles. Meanwhile, the cities that were under attack could only lock them down until the situation became stable again.

Although the Demon Relief Squad could help them, they decided to head straight to the Demon Barrier Squad's headquarters to understand the situation better.

Finding their base was easy, but entering it was an entirely different case. From the looks of it, they were under a heavy attack. There were around five hundred demons surrounding the city. It looked small, but because they were located near the border, the strength of the demons was higher.

In fact, there were at least a hundred Advanced Level Demons and ten Peak Level Demons surrounding the city. Even with their fortified base, they wouldn't be able to kill all of them easily.

The Demon Relief Squad stood almost one kilometer away from the base. They were watching the demon attack carefully, trying to find anything useful to enter the city.

Paul glanced at Rose, asking, "Rose. How many squads does the Demon Barrier Squad have?"

"There are 21 squads, with a total of 243 people. Though, the report stated that there are only 15 squads around since those six are on a mission. And because there are many cities that get attacked, they have divided themselves further into five groups."

"I see." Paul narrowed his eyes. The Demon Barrier Squad had to be praised to be able to withstand all these attacks with only three squads each.

He could see the glowing inscriptions on the wall. There were also some ditches filled with demon blood. It seemed that they had a gruesome battle before their arrival.

"There is something wrong, Paul." Noel suddenly came to him while watching the demon's movement.

"What's wrong?" Paul asked. Since Noel had spoken, the situation might be more severe than they originally expected.

Noel said, "If we take a look at the report, it doesn't seem that they are in distress. However, take a look at the walls..."

"!!!" Rose, who had the sharpest vision as well as some of Noel's knowledge, could easily understand what he meant. "This is..."

"What's wrong, Rose?" Paul narrowed his eyes while the others listened to her, wondering what was happening.

"Although the Demon Barrier Squad's base doesn't have a lot of people, they should still have some trainees and normal people that help them with everyday life. And those people would have gone to the wall to help those soldiers."

"At the very least, there should be at least a hundred people on the wall for various jobs. But right now, I can only see approximately thirty people..." Rose gulped down. "It seems that the situation has gotten so much worse than reported. This must've happened within our travel since the report we received is not a distress message."

Paul's expression darkened. "Then, are you implying that the demons have dealt serious damage?"

"Yeah. I think they are already sending a few birds to call for help, but they might not last long." Rose nodded. She was also worried about the situation.

Paul glanced at Noel and asked, "What do you think? Should we enter the city?"

"Knowing that the situation is worse than we expect, we should immediately help the Demon Barrier Squad. However, we have to be careful since we are bringing precious medicine."

"So, it's better to find an opening. Also, we have to contact the people inside. Jonathan should be able to carry the carriages across the ditches, so all we need to do is for them to open the gate.

"For now, you and Stella should start making preparations for the charge. Zion and I will go around to check our surroundings, making sure there wouldn't be any second wave. Rose will stay here to formulate a concrete plan. Last but not least, Ben and Jonathan will take care of the luggage. We can't have the medicine to be destroyed or something during the charge." Noel explained his plan.

Paul nodded in agreement. "Alright. Let's move immediately. We have to be fast, but don't forget to be careful."

"Got it."

As soon as they received the instruction, they dispersed. Noel jumped around the woods while Zion tried to circle around the base.

There was another reason why Noel chose to stay near the woods. Using the trees as a cover, Noel poured some Spiritual Energy into the badge, calling his helper.

Noel looked around, wondering when Damian was going to make his appearance. But before he realized it, there was a voice coming into his head.



"Ha"
"Ha"
A young man with short, spiky brown hair was panting. He had been running for a while and finally reached the city center.
Inside the city, there were already a lot of empty buildings. It wasn't that they had been evacuated.
Instead, most of the people that lived on them had passed away. There were numerous cries all around the city as people lost their loved ones.
The people weren't panicking anymore. They had gone to despair, thinking this would be the end.
In the city center, there were a lot of injured people lying down. They had been taken care of, but still, there were too many people in this place.
And among them was the target of the young man. He had a big, muscular body. His eyes were sharp and filled with killing intent.
However, there was a big hole in his right arm, so he came to this place to get treated.
His injury had been bandaged, and he seemed to be planning to return to the city wall.
But before he left, the young man arrived in front of him.
"Captain. I have good news. Northwest of the city, there is a smoke signal. It seems that they are our reinforcement, but I don't think they are the reinforcement we're hoping for" The young man reported with a worried expression.

That was right. This big man was none other than the Demon Barrier Squad's captain, Faust. He was the man Noel found when he returned to the headquarters with Rose.

He was still in the middle of training the new knights. But because of this problem, he had rushed back to make sure that his squad was alright.

Unfortunately, the situation was worse than he expected.

Even he was injured after fighting for so long. And this time, they received good news, but they were a bit unsure since this good news might not affect the current battle.

"..." Faust fell silent for a moment and grabbed the bow next to him. The black bow didn't seem to be anything special, but its weight might be similar to Paul's warhammer. Even the string used to attach it came from a thread of a Peak Level Demon Spider.

Nonetheless, good news was still good news. Since there was reinforcement, he had to bring them in.

"A helping hand is always welcome in this situation. I am going to create a path for them. You go to the gate and prepare to raise it for them."

"Understood." The young man nodded.

Both of them immediately ran toward the gate. Despite his big body, Captain Faust had speed far faster than the young man. It only took him two minutes to reach the gate from the center of the city.

He didn't recognize this smoke, but there was only one more reinforcement that had this small number of people.

"I see. It seems that they are from the Demon Relief Squad, the first squad we asked for help." Faust narrowed his eyes. "The Demon Relief Squad doesn't really have the strength for combat, but they are, by no means, weak. I guess it's better than nothing."

Faust glanced at the demons before shouting, "We are about to let the reinforcement in. Everyone takes your position. Ready to provide some support."

"Yes, Sir." Those who heard him answered. T

Meanwhile, Faust raised his bow, aiming at the sky. On his right hand, an arrow made of Spiritual Energy appeared.

He shot this arrow into the sky. When it reached its peak, an explosion occurred. The thunderous sound shook the area and purple particles scattered in the air.

This was the signal that the people in the base had recognized and prepared for their arrival.

The Demon Relief Squad had gathered in one spot, ready to charge in. Once the signal was seen, Paul ordered, "Stella and I will take the lead. Jonathan, Rose, and Ben will provide support. Iadre will provide the firepower and Zion will take care of the unexpected situation."

"Got it."

Now that they were ready, they immediately ran forward. Since they brought three carriages, Jonathan, Rose, and Ben are the ones driving them. Stella and Paul ran in the front while Noel stood on top of the middle carriage, looking around.

It seemed that the demons had realized their presence as well. Some of the demons suddenly turned around and ran to them.

"Paul." Stella raised her sword, using her ability to cover the swords.

"Yeah." Paul nodded. He also poured Spiritual Energy into his hammer.

They jumped forth to reach the demons earlier.

With a single wave of the hammer, Paul blew a demon back, causing four demons to crash into this demon. Meanwhile, Stella skillfully killed three demons in rapid succession.

Still, there were at least thirty demons coming toward them. So, they had to prepare for the remaining demons. In addition, there were some demons that would block the gate.

Noel raised his head, looking at the big man that stood on top of the city wall. There were two people next to him that stopped the demons from reaching him.

He seemed to have aimed the arrow at these demons. Once released, the arrow flew like that of a bullet.

Before it reached the demons, the lightning arrow let out a spark, causing it to scatter into fifteen smaller lightning strikes. Each lightning strike hit a demon, creating a hole in their body and killing them.

Stella and Paul smiled since their job had become easier. Meanwhile, Noel had gathered Spiritual Energy in his fingertips and waved his hand, summoning a black colored phoenix.

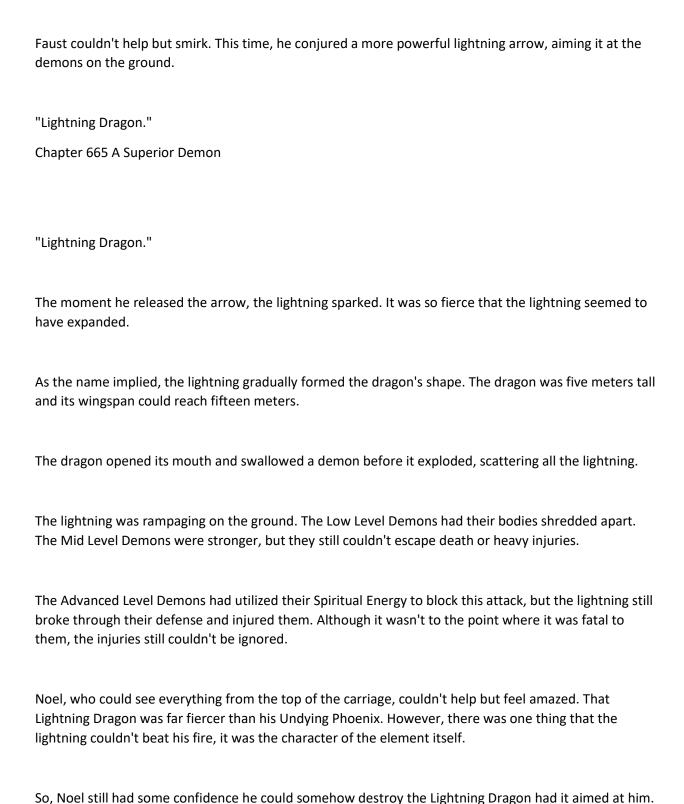
Cry!

The phoenix let out a cry as if it was alive. It ignored the demons below it. Instead, it flew straight to the demons near the gate.

One of the demons spotted this phoenix and jumped into the air, striking this phoenix with his paw to take it down.

But in that instant, the phoenix exploded and the fire scattered around, burning the demons that touched it.

Even though they hadn't fought together, both squads knew their role. And they were going to open up a path.



Even so, releasing this kind of power with such ease should be expected from the Demon Barrier

Squad's Captain.

Though, Noel didn't forget their current situation. That Lightning Dragon had killed or heavily injured the demons around the gate.

There were only less than ten demons near the gate, so this was the perfect chance for them to go through the gate.

Although it was extremely slow, he could see the gate was lifted up.

"The gate is going to be opened. We are—" Noel shouted, but before finishing his sentence, he noticed the injury the captain had. There was no way these demons could do such a thing to Captain Faust. So, he realized there might be something waiting for them.

Noel immediately scanned the area and suddenly found a surge of Spiritual Energy on the horizon. He could only see it through the help of the Spirit Link.

Noel gritted his teeth and pointed in the Spiritual Energy's direction, shouting, "Jonathan. I need you to throw all those demon bodies in that direction!"

"!!!" Jonathan wasn't the only one who was surprised by that instruction. Rose also raised her head, trying to follow the direction Noel pointed at. With her sharp sense, she realized why Noel wanted to do such a thing. She shouted without hesitation, "Do it!"

Jonathan was still confused, but his teammates weren't people who would order such a weird thing without any reason.

So, he immediately raised the demon corpses with his Telekinesis, shooting them in the north direction.

Suddenly, a huge ray of light flew into the sky. Once it reached its peak, the light suddenly turned into a giant circle.

This circle split into hundreds of smaller needles and started falling in the Demon Relief Squad's direction.

Although Noel wanted to focus on this sudden attack, he had to see the Demon Barrier Squad Captain's reaction. There was no way the demon who released such an attack was an ordinary demon. So, this demon might be at least a Peak Level Demon.

With such power, Faust would surely warn them. Yet, he didn't. That was why Noel had to confirm whether this person was an ally or not.

Although he had a hard time looking at his face, it seemed that Faust was also shocked. They might have to question Faust after this.

After getting his answer, Noel turned around, wondering what the ray of light could do against them.

As expected, the demon's attack was far stronger than they imagined.

Even though Jonathan had used the demon corpses as their shields, the light pierced through some of the corpses and fell on top of them.

Stella suddenly appeared in front of them. She spun her body, causing the wind on her blade to erupt and create a tornado. The tornado spun some of the attacks while the rest were stopped by Rose and Ben.

Rose had to use the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune, while Ben simply used his weapon.

Nonetheless, they managed to stop this attack. And it seemed that Faust had changed his focus.

As soon as he saw those attacks, he immediately formed another lightning arrow, aiming at the source of the light.

The arrow flew like that of a cannon. With the power and momentum, the lightning arrow blasted everything in the area.

The explosion created a crater and the lightning destroyed everything. If he ever used this attack to hit a fortified wall, that wall would surely be destroyed within a few strikes even if it had been enhanced by powerful Spirit Enhancement.

But due to the blast, a demon suddenly jumped into the air, dodging the blast.

This was the first time he saw this kind of demon. The demon looked like a human, but instead of standing on two feet, this demon stood on four feet like that of a lizard. It didn't have a tail, but it had spikes on its back.

Still, the most important thing to notice from this demon was its mouth. It had a long jaw like that of a barrel. When it opened its mouth, a blue light shone from the throat and flew like a beam.

Faust wasn't going to lose. He also sent forth his arrow and struck the demon's attack. Each blast neutralized the other as if their strength was equal.

Judging from its strength, it seemed that the demon was a Superior Demon.

"This is going to be harder than I originally thought..." Noel bit his lips before turning around. "But our objective doesn't change."

That was right. They still had to enter the base first before they could relax.

Paul was still leading at the very front and charged at the demons. He opened up the way for them until they reached the ditch in front of the wall.

The gate had been raised to a human height, but it would still be a bit too low for their carriage to go in.

At the same time, the demons tried to enter through that gap while some humans came out to protect it.

This was their last battle before reaching the gate.

"Paul, Stella. Focus on the demons near the gate. Zion, go straight to the gate and help those people. I'm going to support all of you."
Chapter 666 Condition
Boom!
Boom!
Boom!
A series of explosions occurred. Some of them came from the clash between Captain Faust and the Superior Demon. Some of them originated from Noel's Fire Ability.
"Kill them!"
"Hurry up!"
The knights near the gate shouted while fighting the demons.
Meanwhile, the carriage was already levitating in the air, flying straight at them. But because the horse was confused by Telekinesis, Jonathan had to lift them until they passed through the gate.
The landing was bumpy and almost broke one of the wheels. Nevertheless, they managed to enter the city.
Noel helped them to shoot down the enemies with his power while the soldiers inside lowered the gate.

Ultimately, the gate was shut down and the Demon Relief Squad could finally enter the city. As if knowing that it had failed in its assassination, the Superior Demon retreated as if it was trying to find another opportunity to kill more humans.

But because he wasn't sure whether the enemies would still attack or not, Faust had to remain on top of the wall.

That was why the Demon Relief Squad was divided into two groups. Paul, Noel, Rose, and Ben went to the wall while the rest remained near the carriages.

When Faust saw them, he said, "I am Faust, the Captain of the Demon Barrier Squad. As you can see, our situation is like this. We are grateful for you to come here, but I'm afraid that if you want to help us, I have to ask the Demon Relief Squad to fight. We don't have any problems with food or water for the time being."

Paul smiled and said, "Paul, Vice Leader of the Demon Relief Squad. I have brought the Zero Squad to assist the Demon Barrier Squad. And, of course, we know that. Hence, the three carriages bring a lot of medicine. This should help the people in the city for a bit, right?"

"What?" Faust widened his eyes in shock. He never expected that the Demon Relief Squad would have a lot of medicine. He thought those carriages were filled with food, water, and tools for their jobs.

Paul smiled, "Our member has considered what might happen during our travel, so it ends up this way."

"..." Faust thought for a moment and said, "In that case, you should go to the city center and find a person called Historia. She is the squad leader of the First Squad. You should ask about the distribution of the medicine as well as the explanation of our current situation. I have to remain here to make sure the Superior Demon doesn't attack us again."

"Got it." Paul nodded. "In that case, we'll go there right away."

Paul hastily turned around, ready to go down. But before he left, Faust added, "Thank you for your help, Demon Relief Squad. I hope that many people can be saved."

Paul's expression turned grim. Even though Faust looked like he was someone who talked with fist than mouth, he seemed to have a certain understanding as well as the power to lower his pride for the sake of the people.

Paul knew that since such a man had asked them to save people, he had to do his best.

Paul and the others immediately regrouped with the rest and headed to the center.

On the way, Rose couldn't help but say, "That's surprising. I have heard that Captain Faust is someone who has a fiery temper, but it seems that I have misjudged him."

"But you should know that since he has asked us that way, we shouldn't disappoint him." Paul sighed.

The mood in the group became heavy because they knew the severity of this task. It took them five minutes to reach the city center and asked someone to guide them to meet Historia.

They were guided into a small building near the city center.

Inside, they met a petite woman with blond hair. She wore big round glasses and her eyes made one feel like she was a scholar. She was completely the opposite of Faust.

When the group arrived, she immediately dropped everything on her hand and politely bowed to them.

"I thank you for coming to our aid, Demon Relief Squad. I am Historia, the Squad Leader of the First Squad of the Demon Barrier Squad."

"As you can see right now, we have a deep problem, and I don't have a lot of time to entertain all of you."

"So, I shall brief you about our situation. There are a total of five cities that are under the demon attack."

"The captain is protecting this place while his right hand and left hand man are protecting two other cities. The rest are protected by a few more squads."
"So, I remain here to handle all the problems so that the captain can fight without any worries."
"We have been under attack by a lot of demons, and according to the captain, there is at least one Superior Demon among them."
"We don't know much about the situation in other cities since the route has been blocked off."
She stopped for a moment, so Paul took this opportunity to explain their luggage. "We have brought a lot of medicine from wound medicine to fever medicine since we expected that the city would be under a fierce attack."
"So, we can distribute them right now. There are a total of four thousand low grade wound medicines. I think this will be useful for you. That's why I want to ask about the numbers of the casualties, including the wounded."
"!!!" Historia widened her eyes. She understood why the captain sent them to her. Without hesitation, she answered everything that Paul wanted to know.
"We have a total of three thousand people in this city, including the civilians and normal soldiers."
"Three hundred soldiers have died and seven hundred people have been wounded. So, we are going to distribute the healing medicine to them. While keeping some for future use, we would like to send them to other cities as well. Is that possible?"
Chapter 667 Speculation

"Is that possible?" Historia looked at them with a worried expression.

Paul thought for a moment and said, "It's possible. In fact, that's the reason we are here. We can even assist you in bringing the medicine around. With our squad, it's impossible for the demons to crush us that easily. In exchange, you have to tell us everything and do one thing for us."

"I understand." Historia nodded. She opened the map of the region and pointed at five cities, including the one they were in. "These are the five cities that are under attack. From our observation, there are approximately four thousand demons attacking this base alone.

"As for the others, their situation might not be as bad as this place, but they still have to fight at least one thousand demons. It's hard for a small group to handle that kind of number."

"This situation has been going on for three days. And currently, there are around thirty Peak Level Demons surrounding the city, and more importantly, there is a Superior Demon."

"It launched a sneak attack on the captain not long ago, injuring him. So, our morale is a bit lower at the moment. If we have your medicine, we can increase their morale to a certain level."

"Last but not least, we don't know about the source of this attack. Although we have been guarding this place for two years, this is the first time there has been a swarm like this."

"At first, the demon activity increased to a disturbing level. So, we have to report the situation to the captain, resulting in him coming back to this place."

"We haven't found anything during our investigation. And the only thing we know is that the demon attack seems to be extremely organized."

"!!!" Paul widened his eyes in shock as he couldn't help but confirm it. "Do you mean there is a powerful demon that schemes against us?"

"No. It's because we are one of the Shields of the Demon Banner Army that we know the Demons aren't that aggressive. It's true that we are at the border, but demons rarely come to our base."

"Even if they come, they will be disorganized. There will only be a few types of demons coming as if they are a tribe. So, this kind of organized attack is a bit suspicious. We are expecting there might be something that disturbs the demon..."

Noel furrowed his eyebrows. He had an idea in his mind. On the other hand, Rose was glancing at Noel's expression.

She could easily find a clue from his expression since there weren't many things that could become a reason.

Rose raised her hand and asked, "Paul. What do you think if this is organized by the Supreme Devil Organization?"

"Hmm?" Paul frowned, not understanding her way of thinking. "I can understand if you have a grudge against the Supreme Devil Organization, but currently, there is not a single clue of what's really happening, right? So, even if they are the enemies of humanity, we still can't put the blame on them. At least, not right now since we have to find the true source of the problem."

Rose had expected this, so she immediately explained. "No, there might be a clue... Do you remember our expedition? That chaos..."

"Yeah, the demons suddenly became crazy, causing a mess to our expedition." Paul nodded with a serious expression before gasping. "Are you saying that the Supreme Devil Organization is using this trick to cause a problem?"

"Yes. I don't know what's the reason, but with how the demons are fighting like this... I'm afraid that the Supreme Devil Organization has succeeded in controlling a powerful demon. I don't think it's complete control, but even some influence can force a Superior Demon to come out."

"A Superior Demon has an amazing brain, so it's possible for the Superior Demon to organize the demons. I'm afraid this is the Supreme Devil Organization tactic. Influence the top and let them do the rest."

Paul couldn't really rebuke her despite her idea being wild. At the same time, another question appeared in his mind. "In that case, why did the organization attack the Demon Barrier Squad?"

Historia raised her voice, answering that question. "Is it because our captain was at the headquarter, training the apprentice knights? With the lack of a leader, they thought they could destroy our squad. Unlike most squads, our headquarters are also near the border where many demons reside. So, we are a perfect target..."

They wanted to deny this fact, but the reason made some sense. In the end, they couldn't dismiss this reason.

"Well, whatever the reason, our job doesn't change. We are going to distribute the medicine and escort the medicine to other cities. In exchange, I hope that you can provide us with food and water since we have forsaken our supply for medicine," said Paul.

"Of course. We are going to do our best to give you everything you need. We are already grateful enough for the medicine." Historia nodded.

"Good." Paul nodded.

Even though there were a lot of things they discussed, Noel surprisingly remained silent the whole time.

His hand was supporting his chin all the time as he fell into deep thought.

'The Supreme Devil Organization... I don't think that's all there is to it. I'm afraid that the situation is more complicated than we originally thought. There is also a Superior Demon. If the Supreme Devil Organization has organized this attack, it means they are using the Superior Demon to stop Captain Faust. And there might be a few Devil Bishops that will come to attack us...'

I still have Damian as my trump card, but I'm afraid that I would go broke if I don't do something.' Noel's expression darkened.

Like Noel thought, the situation became more complicated than everyone thought. In fact, even Noel wouldn't expect that there were three influences that were connected to this incident: the Supreme Devil Organization, the Demon Banner Army, and the Royal Family.

Chapter 668 A Bigger Problem Than Expected

Demon Banner Army's Headquarters.

Commander Oscar had been sitting with a frown for a while. He was staring so hard at the report Septa submitted not long ago.

The report contained the four important things he discovered in the Plant Lord's place.

"Noel Ardagan and Anna Stargaze being on the list... We can only find this out because they both come to the Demon Banner Army, exposing them to danger."

"Then, there is this Saxalia Grass that can fool the demon's senses... If it's used correctly, I'm afraid we will have to face a problem bigger than anything we have prepared for."

"Now that I think about it, they have been using it for Low and Mid Level Demons. It seems that they have improved their power. But how much has it been improved? And if they use it all around the kingdom so that all the borders in the kingdom are attacked by the demons..."

Oscar's expression darkened.

"There is also the case about the Fagant Leaf as well as the Demon Farm... What if everything is connected?" Oscar narrowed his eyes. He couldn't imagine the consequences.

It seemed that the Supreme Devil Organization was raising their strength to an unprecedented level. If they didn't act now, they might be crushed by their scheme.

Oscar didn't know that Anna and Noel had been crushing their plans. Though, Noel wasn't aware of the future.

Anna was the one who had been causing a lot of problems for the Supreme Devil Organization; from the Geolythic Mountain to the Treasure Cave, she had been stealing a lot of things that could strengthen the organization.

Oscar wasn't aware of her deeds. So, he only thought that they had to intercept the Supreme Devil Organization as quickly as possible.

Oscar called a name out loud. "Milfa!"

It only took her a few seconds to open the door, entering his office. From his voice alone, it was clear that there was a big problem.

"Yes Sir? How can I help you?"

Oscar tossed the paper to her. He imbued a small amount of Spiritual Energy to harden the paper, so it could fly to Milfa easily.

Milfa grabbed and made a quick scan of the report before realizing the problem was bigger than she expected.

"What do you want me to do?" Milfa asked.

"I need the map as well as information."

Milfa frowned. "A map? What kind of map?"

Oscar stated with a cold tone. "The kingdom map."

"!!!" Milfa widened her eyes in shock. The fact that he wanted the kingdom map meant the problem would involve the entire kingdom.

Understanding the degree of the problem, Milfa immediately disappeared, grabbing the map.

One minute later, she reappeared and opened the map on Oscar's table.

"The Supreme Devil Organizations... you should have received the information about their movements, right? Is there any active movement?"

Milfa recounted the information and pointed at two places. "These are the two places. The Demon Hunting Squad as well as the Demon Protection Squad are protecting those places respectively."

"..." Oscar narrowed his eyes.

"Should we send reinforcement to them, Commander? If the Supreme Devil Organization is going to make a big move, then it will definitely wipe out a squad. It will be too big of a loss for the army."

Oscar remained silent, staring at the map as if he didn't hear her question. He suddenly asked, "In that case, is there any squad facing a problem?"

"There are three problems. The Demon Extermination Squad has just gone on a new mission and has a problem with the new region. The Demon Beholder Squad has shifted their camp to match the report earlier and is under heavy supervision from all sides. And lastly, there is a huge demon swarm that attacks the Demon Barrier Squad. They have asked for reinforcement from nearby areas, and it seems that the Demon Relief Squad has been sent there prior to the distress call."

"!!!" Oscar remembered the list. With Noel being so high on the list, it showed which one he had to prioritize.

Oscar said, "We need to send reinforcement to the Demon Barrier Squad immediately."

After hearing it, Milfa didn't react immediately. Instead, she took a look at the map and thought about the situation.

"Don't tell me, the Supreme Devil Organization is going to do something in this place... The Demon Barrier Squad shouldn't be that important in the organization's eyes. Then, their target... Wait, do they know Noel Ardagan is Knight ladre?" Milfa frowned. She couldn't believe that Noel's identity could be found so easily.

The only reason she could figure out Noel's identity was due to her being around with the commander, who had that secret. But the Supreme Devil Organization wasn't near anyone who should know about this information, so she didn't know how they could figure it out.

Oscar nodded. "And I think there is a way for them to find out about his identity..."

"You don't mean..." Milfa gasped as she immediately pumped her chest to salute. "Commander. Please dispatch me and the Demon Adjudicator Squad to help the Demon Barrier Squad."

"That's my plan. However, you need to be careful." Oscar's expression became grim. "You should know that your opponent might be a Devil Saint."

If anyone could find out about Noel's identity, it would be someone who knew a lot of things about the Ardagan Family. In other words, it would be his relative.

And there was one relative that was in the Supreme Devil Organization. He was the Devil Saint, Laufey Ardagan.

He was the reason why Milfa came to Noel personally. She wanted to know whether Noel would become someone like Laufey in the future.

After all, Laufey was once the captain of the Demon Adjudicator Squad. As the current captain, she felt responsible and wanted to capture this traitor personally.

Of course, everything was only speculation. It might be just a false alarm, but with all the information they had received, it was true that the Supreme Devil Organization had been preparing for something big.
They didn't know what it was and when it would be coming, so they could only proceed carefully.
Oscar also didn't return to his seat. Instead, he came out of his room like Milfa. There was one place he needed to go with all this information.
It was none other than the capital, specifically the royal castle. Oscar was planning to have an audience with the king.
Chapter 669 Message
In a remote village, Anna was standing on top of the roof, enjoying the gentle breeze.
She had come to this village to fulfill her mission, but at the same time, she was thinking about something.
The scene of the expedition as well as the people who participated in it couldn't help but flash in her mind.
Back then, Noel led the Demon Banner Army in Shale's stead.
"Go!"
"Attack there!"
"Send ten people to the west!"
Noel kept instructing the people while fighting against multiple Peak Level Demons.

When she saw this, Noel's figure couldn't help but change to that of his form in his previous life.

Noel was fighting against multiple enemies at that time. He never became a captain of a squad, but when he was a noble, he led an army of elites to fight against demons as well as the Supreme Devil Organization.

No matter how hard the situation he was facing, his back was as reliable as always. The people, who were about to fall into despair due to the long battle, regained their energy and courage just by looking at his broad back.

They knew they could depend on Noel.

She wasn't related to the Supreme Devil Organization, but she was also one of the people that attacked Noel. After all, Noel had forced her to endure all kinds of things. The hatred had piled up and she fought Noel continuously.

Anna gradually changed as if she had become annoyed just by hearing Noel's presence. At the same time, she was also curious. What kind of reason made Noel keep attacking her?

"Back then, I didn't know a single thing... not because the opportunity wasn't there, but because I refused to listen to all the clues around me. Noel kept attacking me, and I did the same. As time passed, my cloudy mind started to clear up a bit and I wondered the reason for Noel's action."

"Unfortunately, not long after that, Noel and I had to die together. We had been taken advantage of by everyone around us... the Third Prince, the Royal Family, and even the Supreme Devil Organization. Or it was only me... since Noel was smart."

"Nonetheless, after reincarnating, I always want to see something... What if, in the past, my mind was clear and I understood all the clues around me? Would I be able to become Noel's friend?"

Anna closed her eyes for a moment, recounting everything about Noel.

"Noel and I were supposed to become a Spirit Grandmaster four years later. However, that was because our pace wasn't as great as this."

"Also, due to the Demon Relief Squad having their Zero Squad destroyed, Noel didn't get the best group to join."

"Besides, there was also the mysterious facility. It was supposed to be cleared after another two years."

"The progress was extremely slow because of the uncertainty, and there were a lot of problems, such as the Demon Banner Army getting weakened due to the relentless attacks from the Supreme Devil Organization."

"They had lost a thousand knights due to Kirika's incident and even more due to the controlled demons. In addition to the constant annoyance from the Supreme Devil Organization, the Demon Banner Army couldn't put a lot of manpower into exploring the mysterious facility."

"However, one thing was clear for now. Once the mysterious facility had been figured out, there would be a lot of things happening due to the drugs. A year after the exploration was completed, there would be a pill that could force awaken one's spirit. I had managed to gain that person's cooperation, so I didn't have to worry about him too much."

"But there are a few more pills that will circulate in the market. And one of them is the Berserk Pill. It released all the latent talent of someone, using it in one go. As a result, the person who used it would be either crippled for life or die. But for a moment, the surge of strength would make a huge problem for the army. After all, there were a lot of lunatics in the organization."

"But because we have cleared it far quicker than in the past life, and because the Demon Banner Army remains this strong, the time limit should be extended a bit. That's why I want us to become Spirit Grandmasters within one and a half years."

"It could be said that the mysterious facility was one of the biggest reasons why the chaos even happened. I thought the expedition was for something else, but after seeing the building, I know that it's time..."

Anna couldn't help but recall the bet they had, including the little kiss. She became flustered just by recalling that action.

Before, she was still too cool because she was sorting her thoughts. There were so many problems that would occur, so most of her attention span was thinking about it.

The rest was to talk to Noel. However, that kiss was a bit unnecessary when she recalled it.

However, a part of her was actually a bit unsure of that opinion.

When she closed her eyes, she saw her past life.

She kept clashing with Noel. So, in this life, she wondered what would happen if she and Noel joined hands.

Noel had the power to keep up with her, who had the knowledge of her past life. It allowed her to skip all the training required to master a skill and focus on increasing her Spiritual Energy.

Yet, Noel could keep up with her speed. No matter what Noel was hiding, she was sure that it would be the key to a better future.

She remembered what Noel said before they died together.

"You're too naive."

"You can keep believing in your ideal. I don't care, for I have seen everything."

Anna muttered those words and let out a long sigh. "Yeah. I was too naive. I thought I was right, but I was the one who was wrong this whole time."

"That's why I want to see the correct choice... What if we join hands? Will our future be different?"

Chapter 670 A Moment Of Realization?

While reminiscing about the past, she also remembered the few pieces of information Noel gave in the end.

"There's no need for that corrupted kingdom to continue. Do you think they were willingly fighting against the demons? You're too naive."

"I always thought of you as my archenemy this whole time, but I realized that you were just a mere puppet controlled by the demons. I lost my interest in you."

"As long as you leave this land and stop getting controlled by the demons, I will spare you and your family."

"If you don't disappear right now, I won't hesitate to fight you. After killing you, I will destroy your family."

"I see. He used me this whole time."

"You were right. I should have trusted no one."

Anna also thought about it during the expedition. There were a few things that made her doubt her current condition.

"The corrupted kingdom... The Muivell Kingdom is indeed corrupted, not about the money, but the way of their thinking. But there is something weird about the second part. They have spent a lot in order to stop the demon invasion..."

"But if we're talking about the past life, the demon invasion was caused by the Supreme Devil Organization. They had used their research to cause the demons to attack them. And the Demon Banner Army and the Royal Family joined hands, fighting together to stop their invasion."

"What if... the Royal Family was only acting this whole time? The real reason why they stopped them was because they were related to the invasion itself. This way, the Demon Banner Army and the Tower Association would be weakened... When I thought about it, I remembered that the Royal Family spent a lot of money to recruit more soldiers to stop the invasion."

"However, their core strength remained intact. The royal army hadn't been deployed the whole time. In other words, when the two influences got weakened, the royal family would crush and absorb them, becoming the absolute ruler of the country. And the Supreme Devil Organization would be there to do all the dirty work."

"Then, I was just a controlled puppet who worked for the Royal Family. That was why he told me to leave this land."

"When I think about it, and that my father wants me to change... I have realized that he has been kind to me this whole time. He is trying to change me and protect me. It might be due to my father and the relationship between our families, but it didn't change the fact that he was trying his best to make me leave the kingdom."

"This way, I could live happily with my family. But because of my stubbornness, I died... we died. After all, if I didn't leave, he would kill me and my entire family."

"Getting killed by our own friends head-on might be better than having someone backstab you..."

After thinking about it, Anna wanted to repay Noel's kindness. He had shouldered everything. It must be painful, it must be heavy.

That was why she told him about the bet. She kissed him on the cheek.

Just for a moment, she wanted to thank him. When she gave a little peck, she muttered inwardly, "Thank you for everything, Noel."

That gratitude had two meanings. The first one was pure gratitude for his sacrifice. And the second one was her determination.

From that point onward, she was going to move forward.

That was right. One of the biggest causes of the future chaos was the mysterious facility and its drugs. Now that the drugs could be seen and used by a lot of parties, it would mean that future change might be irrelevant to the past event.

There might be some relevance, but it wouldn't be that useful. Hence, she presented the bet.

She couldn't think about it by herself. That was why she wanted to give this information to Noel.

Of course, telling Noel for no reason might cause Noel to be confused or even suspicious of her. That was why she made this bet. She just wanted a reason.

Even if she ended up winning and getting Noel's secret, she would still share about her past life.

Anna tried to close her eyes again, recalling some other parts. But there was one thing that made her flustered.

Her face reddened and she started rolling around as her body couldn't remain still. She was too embarrassed.

"Still... there should be a way to thank him, right? Other than the kiss..." Anna clutched her head while looking down. "That's right. There are many ways to thank him, but why did I kiss him? Did my instinct... my instinct..."

Anna suddenly fell silent. She couldn't help but ask herself, "Did my instinct actually make me kiss him?"

When that question entered her mind, a few scenes flashed in her mind.

There was a scene where Noel almost hit her with his sword, but she parried her sword and overwhelmed him.

"I will kill you." Noel glared at her, full of killing intent.

"I dare you to try." Anna smirked confidently.

Another scene was when they discovered the secret of Ardagan Family's execution as well as when she dared to use the bed because she didn't find anything to restore the sheet.

Back then, there was no meaning other than spite in that action. But when she thought about it, she had once slept with Noel on the same bed.

Finally, she arrived at the scene where she celebrated her adulthood with Noel. It was just a simple celebration, but the winter at that time felt so warm. From killing each other to experiencing a wholesome moment together... it somehow made her smile.

At the same time, it also made her more and more embarrassed.

"Ugh... Don't tell me... No, no, no... That's not right... right?" Anna tried to deny it to the best of her ability.

And it looked like her savior came as she saw a person carrying a message for her. She tried to distract her thoughts by getting the message.

Little did she know, she would fall into a deeper embarrassment as that message contained Noel's message that could easily be 'misunderstood.'