

## **S vs Rebirth 71**

### Chapter 71 Panic

\*Boom!\*

The Spiritual Energy flew in all directions. As expected from the Ancient Demon Tree, all the Spiritual Energy that had been absorbed by the seal could even reach the fort a few kilometers away from its position.

"!!!" As the current two strongest people in the fort, both Shale and Oscar felt the intense amount of Spiritual Energy.

"This is..." Shale gulped down and hurriedly flew toward the wall to check the situation.

As expected from the veterans, they thought alike. Oscar had also reached the wall and tried to see the situation from the top of the wall.

"Commander." Shale greeted Oscar and said, "I couldn't see anything."

"Yes. It seems the Spiritual Energy traveled that far... But it needed a ridiculous amount of Power. Even I couldn't do it. A being that could do something like that could easily destroy this fort." Oscar gritted his teeth. "But there shouldn't be a being that powerful around us. Is there any record about such a being near the forest?"

"No. In that case, there might be an ancient being residing in that fore..." Shale suddenly fell silent.

"What's wrong?"

"This is not good." Shale's face became pale as he looked at the commander and panicked. "Noel Ardagan and Anna Stargaze are in the forest right now."

"!!!" Oscar widened his eyes. Those two were the top in their generations. Anna even surpassed them by a large margin. Their potential was simply too big. If they died here, the loss they needed to bear would be too much for them to handle.

Still, when Oscar thought he should go there to save those two right now, he didn't forget that he was the commander of this fort. There were numerous people living in this fort, so he couldn't abandon them simply because of his hot blooded head.

"Wind Extermination General Shale! Heed my orders!"

"Yes, Sir!" Shale straightened his back as his expression turned serious.

"All fort guards are to prepare for an evacuation. Demon Extermination Squad under you shall follow me to march to the forest to handle this unknown being and all the remaining squads will stand by on the wall."

"Yes, Sir!" Shale disappeared as soon as he received the order.

Oscar gritted his teeth as he kept staring at the distance.

"This is not good. We can only march there in five minutes and will arrive in another five minutes. Those two might already... No, I hope that those two are not close to that being." Oscar kept maintaining his composure while thinking about all possibilities.

Unbeknownst to them, Noel and Anna were actually in the middle of the storm.

"I underestimated the seal and the Ancient Demon Tree..." Anna clenched her fists. "Instead of an hour, I'm afraid we only have a few minutes."

"What do you mean?" Noel asked while turning around as if he was preparing to escape.

"You surely remember the Advance Level Demon we met previously, right? That demon would surely come here to check about the intense Spiritual Energy. When that happen—"

Before she finished her explanation, Noel threw a rope to her.

"What?" Anna was startled while catching the rope.

"Tie your body up. At first, I thought we could use the water to break our fall a bit and utilize our Spiritual Energy to lessen the damage, but the water is now gone. Falling from that high is the end, so we should use this rope." Noel explained while tying the rope on his waist.

Anna understood Noel's concern and immediately tied herself too. This way, if one of them fell, the other two could help them.

"Don't forget to match our movement and if possible, use your sword to climb the tower. Our grip might not be enough to take the force from the fall."

"Don't worry, I know." Anna nodded with a serious expression.

"Although I want to understand the situation right now, we don't have too much time, right? In that case, I just want you to answer one question. Can we defeat it?"

"The Spiritual Energy shocked me, but the Ancient Demon Tree is indeed only at Mid Level Demon range." Anna nodded. "We can... no, we will kill it."

"Five minutes then. We'll slay this demon within five minutes."

"Got it."

Anna smirked as they stood next to each other.

As soon as they exchanged nods, they ran at the same speed, heading straight to the Ancient Demon Tree that had yet to be aware of their presence.

Noel could also see the giant face fifteen meters above the ground. It was close to the top of the tree, considering above the face was only a small area that could be said to be its brain where the crystal was located and the branches.

As if sensing the incoming presence, the roots started to emerge from the ground. Each root had a diameter of two meters, making them even bigger than Anna or Noel's height.

"Seriously?" Noel widened his eyes and shouted, "Anna!"

"I'm the vanguard, so follow me." Anna replied with a confident face.

Since they were attached by a rope, Noel nodded and followed her.

Anna leaped onto one of the roots and continued running, approaching the tree.

When Noel followed her, there were a few other roots that came out from the sides, trying to squeeze him to death.

"Kh. I'm not going to be left behind." Noel gritted his teeth, utilizing his Spiritual Energy to strengthen his two feet.

After that, he leaped into the air in Anna's direction, avoiding the roots.

As expected, those roots actually attacked Anna, but she skillfully and quickly avoided them, so he was the one that got attacked instead.

Luckily, the rope was five meters long or else they wouldn't be able to do anything.

"Where are we going?" Noel shouted while realizing Anna had been moving around the tree instead of going straight to the trunk.

Anna didn't answer him because she thought the Ancient Demon Tree could understand their conversation. She only told him to follow her.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue and followed her. He soon noticed that they were rising bit by bit just by going around. It turned out the roots were overlapping each other because they kept swarming at them to kill them. 'So, she's using the roots...'

#### Chapter 72 Spirit Ability

As soon as Noel understood Anna's intention in using the root to increase their elevation, he finally saw the path that Anna planned to take.

They might be moving up and down for a minute, but Anna skillfully came closer and closer to the trunk at the highest elevation they could get.

"Four, no... Five meters. As long as we can reach five meters, we should be able to avoid all the roots. And..." Noel raised his vision and saw the branches start moving. "Anna! Above!"

"I know." Anna shouted and calculated their best path. "We might not be able to reach the best position."

"Indeed." Noel nodded. At least, tell me a second prior so that I can react." Noel nodded in understanding, preparing to avoid both the roots and branches at the same time.

As expected, the Ancient Demon Tree might not have its past power, but it could understand their language.

As soon as Noel and Anna reached an agreement, the Ancient Demon Tree sent its branches to the ground.

"This is insane." Noel gulped down when he saw the tip of the branches begin to extend and bend to the ground, aiming for their lives.

"Here they come!" Anna shouted while glancing to the left and right. The roots were stopping next to the one they were stepping on, forming a wall on both sides.

"Walls? We need to get away somehow." Noel furrowed his eyebrows while trying to find an escape path.

"We're not going anywhere." Anna clicked her tongue and clasped her hands. "North Sword, South Lightning. Sword D'Dantalian."

Noel's vision soon darkened as he realized the culprit was the sword that gradually formed on top of them, blocking the moonlight.

The sword had the same length of a human's height, but the body was covered by lightning.

'What is that? No, that's a Spirit Ability and the incantation. Unlike the Spirit Technique that derived from human research, Spirit Abilities come directly from the Spirit themselves like my Mega Slash and Ice Control.' Noel sucked a cold breath.

The lightning sword flew forth, hitting the right root that blocked their path from escaping.

\*Boom!\*

The lightning sparked, creating a small explosion on the root. The spark was so strong that it could manage to destroy a part of the giant root.

'She destroyed a part of the root, so we can escape.' Noel observed her action.

Anna proved his speculation by jumping to the destroyed part and using it as her footing to jump on top of the ruined root.

Noel followed the path and glanced at the right and left. 'We can jump back to the ground or back to the roots.'

It seemed they were fast enough because not long after they got to a higher elevation, the branches began to shoot down.

"Here they come!" Noel shouted.

Ten branches fell down on top of him. The pointed tips impaled the roots, albeit missing both Noel and Anna.

Anna skillfully tilted her body and avoided all the huge branches, but Noel's reaction time was still slower than her, causing the roots to graze his right arm and waist.

"Are you alright?" Anna asked while lowering her speed.

"It won't be a problem." Noel nodded before widening his eyes. "Anna, jump!"

Anna didn't see anything in front of her, so the first thing she did was turn around and saw spikes coming out of the roots.

Anna clicked her tongue and lowered her head, barely avoiding the spike with only a graze on her cheek.

At the same time, Noel managed to avoid it completely due to him being able to see what was coming sooner.

"We need to start climbing right now." Anna gritted her teeth, knowing that the more they wasted their time on the roots, the more dangerous the situation would become.

"Will the trunk let out a spike?" Noel started thinking about the potential danger on the trunk.

"It wasn't a spike, but the branches that bent inside the roots."

"Ah!" Noel remembered the branches that impaled the roots earlier. It turned out they were the culprit of the spikes. After that, he pointed at the front a few meters in front of them. There was a perfect curve near the trunk, so it should be a perfect spot to jump.

Anna nodded in agreement as she jumped to the root on the other side so that she could be closer to the target.

Noel followed suit and followed her, preparing to jump right after her.

"Here I go!" Anna shouted while looking at the branches that were coming for them.

"Hurry up!" Noel gritted his teeth. He might end up dead if he was late just by one second due to his position.

Anna saw the branches had begun to fall down, so she jumped to the trunk. Noel gritted his teeth and used his fastest speed to reach the edge and jump to the trunk, next to Anna.

He planted Ardagan into the trunk, making sure he didn't fall down. He looked back and saw the branches impaling the roots.

"Noel, it's going to bend again!" Anna shouted as she wondered how they could avoid this with both their hands and feet getting tied down in gripping the trunk.

But when she turned to Noel, the latter had already looped around the sword and used the impaled sword as his footing to avoid the incoming branches.

'He's too smart.' Anna gritted her teeth, realizing that she hadn't improvised enough. She hurriedly followed Noel and stood on top of her sword.



When the branches were about to impale them, they jumped, avoiding the branches. Of course, she had a specific direction so that when she landed, she was on top of the impaled branch.

Noel had the same thought because he was already standing on top of them.

"Your sword!" Noel shouted.

"I..." Anna glanced at her sword and shook her head. "No. I'll focus on using my Spirit Ability."

Noel nodded as they jumped from one branch to another, trying to climb the trunk with the impaled branches. Due to Noel acting first, Anna ended up being the one that followed him so that their rope didn't stuck to one of the branches.

However, slowly but surely, they were climbing the trunk together.

#### Chapter 73 Teamwork

"Watch out!" The incoming branches that bent inside the trunk began to emerge, trying to kill them.

But because of the bulging trunk, they managed to locate them and avoid them easily while making their way to the top. With their efforts, they somehow managed to reach 10 meters mark. They only needed to find a way to cover the remaining ten meters.

And the Ancient Demon Tree had learned its mistake. With the addition of the danger that would come when impaling his body at this height, the tree decided to approach in a different way.

Instead of impaling them again and hurting itself in the end, the tree tried to pierce them from the side or simply wipe them off its body.

"Incoming!" Noel shouted. Since he was the one leading now, he said, "Normal way is too much for us, so we'll risk our lives right now."

"What are you pl—" Anna was about to ask, but she saw Noel jumping into the air as the branch almost pierced him. To her surprise, Noel landed on the branch that almost impaled him.

Instead of climbing the normal way, he ran on top of the branch. Since the tree was going to impale them from the sides, the branches needed to have the right slope for them to climb due to the branches coming from above. It needed a part of the branches to be twisted in one part, so the rest would just be a smooth slope.

"Let's go!" Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, due to the tree's big branch and root, they could easily run on top of them without fearing to fall. Of course, Noel was scared when running on top of the branches due to him being above ten meters high. Even so, he needed to do it because the tree would take an even more extreme measure to knock them off.

Hence, the only solution to reach the top of the tree was to utilize any unorthodox way.

"He is insane." Anna complained but still followed him. She realized that even without her, Noel could still climb the tree. He could easily find a way to do it even if he needed to improvise due to an additional person.

The Ancient Demon Tree also started retracting its branches, knowing that Noel planned to take advantage of it. So, Anna hurriedly followed him, making sure that she wasn't left behind.

Lightning even sparked around her boots, increasing her speed by causing a small spark in every step she made.

However, they also needed to worry about another threat other than the tree.

**\*Roar!\***

A huge roar erupted from the ground, startling both Anna and Theo.

"!!!" Anna glanced to the bottom and saw a humanoid figure with a red skin. The humanoid figure didn't have a single hair on its body and it didn't even have gender. However, it still had a mouth and nose like a human.

But the one that took her attention the most was a pair of horns on its head.

"Noel! It's the Advance Level Demon from earlier! It's going to help the Ancient Demon Tree!" Anna shouted.

"Seriously?" Noel gulped down and asked, "What should we—"

When Noel glanced at the bottom, he saw the demon opening its mouth, forming a red-colored light ball in front of it.

"I'm going to take care of that beam!" Anna raised two fingers and drew a cross in the air with her Spiritual Energy. "Lightning Fall!"

The cross shaped lightning soon fell down to stop the Advance Level Demon.

On the ground, the light ball had grown to the size of the demon's head as the demon soon shot it like a beam.

"Can you even stop t—" Noel doubted Anna's Spirit Ability could stop it, but he soon saw something that shocked him.

A symbol appeared below her attack before forming a circle surrounding it.

With his current knowledge, he could recognize this symbol and its form.

Both of them said the same thing.

"Amplification!"

As soon as the cross-shaped lightning passed through the circle, the lightning sparked and expanded its size. The power behind it was also amplified like the name implied.

This was one of the basic runes, Amplification. However, he hadn't been able to draw that rune due to Ardagan requesting him to either master the Increase Agility or Strength Blessing Rune first.

The beam soon struck the Lightning Fall, causing it to explode. However, the explosion was so fierce that it bent the beam, shifting its path a little bit, barely avoiding them. The beam even struck one of the tree branches at the top and destroyed it.

As if getting angry because Anna and Noel were like a pest that couldn't be exterminated, the tree shot a branch to the ground, creating a slope that could allow the Advance Level Demon to climb.

"The Advance Level Demon is going to reach us by using that branch. What should we do? One of us might need to fight it to buy time..." Anna gritted her teeth.

Noel wanted to talk about her knowledge about Rune, but he knew this wasn't the time. Even Anna also didn't want to explain everything in this situation, since this was a secret that she wouldn't reveal if not for the sudden threat.

'For real. How did Noel even climb to the top and kill the tree in my past life? Has my regression actually weakened Noel? No, I'm sure that Noel has become stronger from his past life due to his hate to him. So...' Suddenly, Anna's thought was disrupted by the sudden power surge in her body.

She felt more powerful and her body was lighter.

"This is..." Anna widened her eyes and saw Noel using two runes.

"It will only last five minutes. Normal way won't work anymore. So, we're going to skip all this and immediately go to the top. Make sure you don't fall!" Noel shouted as he jumped into the trunk again. "Swing me to the top, Anna!"

Anna widened her eyes because she saw Noel planning to drop himself after reaching the trunk. Since they were on a branch, Anna could make a full swing that could throw him straight to the top with her ability. And that rune was the amplification she needed to accomplish the mission.

In other words, Noel planned to use the force from the throw to reach the tree's head in one go. This way, they could outrun the Advance Level Demon.

Anna smirked as she realized how insane his brain could work. She became excited because she could see some hope in killing this demon tree.

As soon as Noel dropped himself, Anna stomped the branch so that her feet were slightly buried. She glanced to the side and saw the branch continued to retract itself, so she only had one shot. If she missed, both of them were going to fall.

The moment she felt Noel's weight, she gritted her teeth as her body slightly tilted to the front. "Kh. It's too heavy!"

Even so, she endured all the pain and weight and hung on while glancing at Noel's momentum.

The moment he returned to the trunk, she utilized and amplified the centrifugal force to toss him to the top. "GOOOO!!!"

Noel flew into the top at fast speed. And now, he prepared himself for Anna's weight since they were going to climb together.

But to his surprise, he never felt Anna's weight. He glanced back and saw Anna falling down after cutting the rope.

Anna was smiling at him while saying, "You go to the top and defeat the Demon Tree. I'm going to stop this Advance Level Demon from stopping you."

#### Chapter 74 Fulfilling Their Role

Noel gritted his teeth and planted his sword into the tree. While hanging on, he looked down to see Anna had turned around.

She created a circle with her Spiritual Energy and pushed it forward, creating a chain made of lightning. After that, she channeled her energy into her hands, skillfully forming a sword.

This lightning sword would be her weapon against the Advance Level Demon.

The Advance Level Demon stopped climbing and looked at the lightning circle with its bloodshot eyes. It raised both hands and caught the lightning.

"Burn it away!" Anna shouted while snapping her finger.

The lightning sparked for a split second, but the Advance Level Demon ripped the ring apart.

"As expected, I don't have enough Spiritual Energy to conjure a more powerful lightning attack." Anna clicked her tongue and slashed her sword downwards, trying to knock the demon off the branch.

However, the demon managed to grab Anna's sword easily. If it was a normal junior knight, they would be shocked by its power, but Anna had fought against demons stronger than this one. Hence, the moment the demon caught her lightning sword, Anna let the sword go and kicked him from the side, knocking him off.

After that, she landed on the branch and waved her left hand. "Sword D'Dantalian."

The lightning sword she conjured earlier to destroy the Ancient Demon Tree's root appeared again. She shot it right at the Advance Level Demon who was still trying to find a way to avoid getting shot down.

Unfortunately for the demon, Anna's sword was faster than it expected. The sword arrived in an instant, causing the demon to catch it again.

\*Boom!\*

The sword sparked and exploded, launching the demon to the ground. As if it wasn't injured, the demon still had a clear vision of Noel who almost reached the top of the tree while avoiding the branches.

It opened its mouth again, charging the Spiritual Energy to shoot Noel down.

Anna wouldn't let the demon do whatever it wanted, so she jumped to the ground and stomped the demon's stomach, getting its focus again. Even the beam disappeared due to the disruption she caused.

When the demon realized Noel had reached the top of the tree, it was clear that he couldn't shoot him anymore. Hence, it shifted all its focus to Anna who was on top of him.

Suddenly, an eruption of Spiritual Energy shook the area, creating a shock wave to blow Anna away.

Anna skillfully directed the Spiritual Energy with her own, but the demon moved its body, forcing her to leap off the demon's body.

But as soon as she landed on the ground, the demon appeared next to her.

"Too fa—" Anna couldn't even finish her thought, but her instinct managed to react by putting both arms next to her head where the demon struck her, blocking it.

As one would expect from an Advance Level Demon, the force from the sweep was extraordinary.

\*Bam!\*

Anna was blown away and crushed into a tree several meters away from her original position.

"Kh." Anna gritted her teeth and hurriedly rose from the ground, thinking, 'Without the Increase Agility Rune, I wouldn't be able to react to that attack. And the Blessing Strength allowed me to sustain only minor injuries from this. As expected, an Advance Level Demon is different.'

She took a deep breath while letting her instinct take over. 'My speed can't match an Advance Level Demon yet, so I need to use my instinct to react to its movement. Five minutes best or in the worst case scenario, I need to wait for ten minutes until Noel digs up the core and kill the Ancient Demon Tree.'

While she was grabbing the Advance Level Demon's attention, Noel had finally reached the top of the tree.

To his surprise, the top of the tree looked like it had a platform on it. The branches came out only on the edge.

"This is..." Noel was amused by the tree's structure, but he soon raised his vision and saw the branches coming from above. Noel leaped to the side and avoided getting his body pierced by the branches.

However, he noticed an important detail. When the branches were about to hit him, they decelerated until they were slow enough to not pierce through the trunk.

'The branches are now afraid of injuring the trunk? As expected, the core is near the top.' Noel looked down and thought, 'There are two ways to kill a demon. The first one is to split the demon into two, especially sever the head and the body. For a tree like this, I just need to cut right below the tree's face. Or the second way is to crush the demon crystal. As long as the crack is big enough, the tree will die because the demon crystal acts like a human heart. One stab is enough.'

'But the problem right now is... where is the core?' Noel looked at the platform above the tree. The tree trunk was ten meters in diameter and this platform had roughly half the size of the trunk. Even so, it would be hard to dig up everything in this environment.

Yet, when Noel should start digging out for the core, a ridiculous thought appeared in his mind.

'Now that I think about it, I don't need to rush here. The Ancient Demon Tree won't become stronger for the first one hour. If that's the case, I can wait for a bit until the Advance Level Demon kills Anna before killing this tree.'

It was such a logical idea because this occasion was perfect to kill Anna and the blame would go to the Advance Level Demon instead of him.

However, Noel had an uncomfortable feeling in his chest. It wasn't love.



He simply disliked the idea.

Clenching his fists, he shook his head, 'This is why I hate owing someone. It makes me hesitate to kill them. I can become like that evil woman and kill her with this scheme, but why should I become a hypocrite and do something like the person I hate?

'If someone owes me a debt, I'm going to settle that debt first before I kill them. That's the same for you, Anna Stargaze. People will think I'm an idiot, but at least, I'm not a hypocrite. Be grateful, Anna Stargaze, for I am not someone like you!'

Noel glanced to the top and avoided the branches again before he started striking the tree's trunk with his sword.

Mega Slash.

Chapter 75 A Plan

Mega Slash.

\*Bam!\*

With the help of Increase Agility and Strength Blessing Runes, Noel's attack was amplified greatly. In addition of Mega Slash, the moment he struck the trunk, a portion of it was shattered as if he used an axe to hit it.

'It's too shallow. Am I going to dig this whole place?' Noel clicked his tongue and leaped to the side again, avoiding the branches again.

'I can't waste too much time here, so I need to correctly pinpoint the core's location, but how?' Noel furrowed his eyebrows before placing his hand on the ground.

Suddenly, the ice spread from his hand to the surrounding, covering the entire platform with a thin layer of ice.

He then slid on the ice while observing the branches' movements.

Whenever the branches were about to strike him, they decelerated. However, the moment the tree realized there was a thin layer of ice on top of him, it thought he could go a bit more faster.

\*Bam!\*

The ice cracked when the branches hit it, but it was clear that the ice was able to contain much of the impact, allowing the demon to go all out.

This looked like a foolish plan coming from Noel.

And in addition, Noel even said, "Not good. It seems that the ice is too strong. It can withstand that kind of attack that should be able to crush me."

Noel clicked his tongue and kept sliding around.

After the fight with Azgar, he learned that he should practice how to slide on his ice. If possible, he should continue sliding on top of the ice, allowing him to gain good control in a fight like this.

Although his speed was lower than when he was on a hard surface, his movement was smooth due to the lack of friction between his shoes and the ice.

He simply needed to tilt his body when the branches fell down again. And he managed to avoid all of them without even using his stamina.

Soon, the thing he was looking for appeared in front of him.

He had been moving around for two minutes and the branches had been raining him down with barrages of attacks. The thin layer of ice had been crushed. Some even got shattered and overlapped with each other.

Yet, he found a place where the ice didn't break at all. It was one meter to the side from the middle point.

Anna had been emphasizing how the Ancient Demon Tree had enough intelligence to understand them. And Noel had observed enough to know what she said was correct.

Hence, the foolish provocation he had earlier was actually a way to bring more branches down.

With this, he could see which place the tree deliberately avoided, considering the thin layer of ice managed to withstand its attacks.

This foolish plan was actually a well considered plan. And with all the ice shattered, he managed to find the place where the core was hidden.

Without hesitation, Noel slid to that area before retracting the ice floor.

Mega Slash!"

Noel struck the spot and chipped away the wood. However, it was too shallow. He might need tens of hits to open up the core.

And in the meantime, the Ancient Demon Tree would rain him down with so many branches.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue as he was forced to jump away due to the branches.

However, the Ancient Demon Tree seemed to be able to engage in a mind battle with Noel. The branches that went down this time formed a small circle, protecting everything inside.

'Seriously? A demon can be this smart?' Noel gulped down and wondered how he should proceed this time.

'No. I won't make it this time. If I try to do something else, I am not strong enough to dig this kind of trunk until it's too late. Then...' Noel suddenly remembered one more thing. He had always saved a couple of Honor Points in case of emergency.

To think he would be able to rely on them again, he couldn't help but smile.

He had 9 Honor Points and exchanged 4 Skill Points. Mega Slash needed 5 Skill Points and Ardagan Swordsmanship needed 7 Skill Points. Hence, there was only one more way to fight this tree.

He increased his proficiency in his rune.

Strength Blessing Rune (2/3)

Requirement: 5 SP

Noel smirked and formed another Blessing Rune to increase his strength.

The power surge was even more amazing than he expected. The rune earlier could only increase thirty percent of his strength, but this rune now managed to increase seventy percent of his strength.

With that additional force, Noel struck the tree with Mega Slash.

\*Bam!\*

Instead of chipping the wood away, it formed a small crack on the surface. If he continued this way, he should be able to reach the core easily.

However, the crystal was still guarded by the branches. So, he went straight to the branches and struck them with all his strength.

Mega Slash.

\*Bam!\*

"What?" Noel widened his eyes when he failed to cut the branches. Not even a single one was sliced. It seemed that gathering in one group increased their resistance.

"Fine by me. If I can't deal with you this way, I'll find another way to strike." Noel started utilizing his Mega Slash next to the wall while avoiding the incoming branches. This way, he could dig a hole near the demon crystal and hit it from the side instead of the top.

And the Ancient Demon Tree didn't have enough branches to cover this large area.

"Haha, come here! I'm going to beat you up." Noel smirked as he continued smashing the woods, gradually digging deeper and deeper.

However, he almost forgot about the time he took to dig this kind of hole.

Even though he managed to do so much with the Strength Blessing Rune, Mega Slash, and Ardagan's sharpness, five minutes passed in a blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, Anna's condition was horrible. Her left eye was closed due to the blood running from her forehead to her left cheek. Her right eye had gradually lost its focus due to the amount of injury.

Even so, she still tried hard to maintain her consciousness while fighting against an Advance Level Demon, trying to keep it away from Noel.

"How long do I need to fight again?" Anna panted a few times with her eyes still locked on the demon.

Chapter 76 Meeting Oscar Again

Anna truly had a hard time holding on her consciousness. She was too injured to continue the fight. However, she still needed to hold on until Noel defeated the tree.

As long as they fought this Advance Level Demon together, even if they couldn't defeat this demon, they could escape together.

She had even lost track of the time.

"How long do I need to fight again?" Anna muttered in a low voice before seeing the demon charging toward her. "Tsk."

When the Advance Level Demon arrived before her, a middle-aged man landed in front of her, protecting her from the demon.

She had a hard time recognizing this man due to her vision being fuzzy, but she soon noticed the word that he spoke.

"Scram."

When the word was uttered, a powerful shock wave shook the area and turned into a powerful tornado that ran through the ground, shredding the demon's body apart. The tornado was so powerful that it destroyed everything on its path. The trail was even longer than fifty meters.

'That's... Soul Spirit Ability.' Anna recognized the man from his ability, thinking, 'To think that the commander would appear here and kill an Advance Level Demon with a single word. Soul Stigma, that's the name of his Spirit. The powerful ability that can be used just by stating a word.'

Now that the commander had appeared here, she felt that her role had been completed and dropped to the ground, feeling exhausted.

The commander glanced at her for a moment before turning to the Ancient Demon Tree. "So, this is the cause. The power is not that strong... What is this demon?"

"I am assuming it's the Ancient Demon Tree," Anna answered despite her condition.

"Ancient Demon Tree..." The commander's expression turned grim as if he recognized the name. "Its appearance here, that kind of Power... I see, it seems that the Ancient Demon Tree has just been awoken. That burst of Power is the result of the Power from its awakening. At least, it appears here instead of somewhere else. I can kill it right now before it restores its power."

"There's no need to do that, Commander Oscar," said Anna while raising her vision.

"Hmm?" The commander furrowed his eyebrows, finding another presence on top of the tree.

Suddenly, the Ancient Demon Tree released another shock wave along with a huge echo.

\*Ngoong!\*

However, neither Anna and the commander were shaken by the sound or the shock wave as they realized that it was the last voice that the Ancient Demon Tree made.

[Mission: Eliminate the weakened Ancient Demon Tree within 30 days.]

[Description: There's an Ancient Demon Tree sleeping underneath the Dark Demon Forest.]

[Reward: Demon Hunter Medal and 7 SP]

[Penalty: Lose your qualification to wield Ardagan.]

[Congratulations. You've completed the mission and gained Ardagan's recognition.]

[Ardagan is expressing its will to completely support you from now on.]

Skill: Sword Fire (0/3)

Requirement: 3 SP

Skill: Ignition Sword (0/3)

Requirement: 3 SP

"It seems that Ardagan has recognized me as its wielder now." Noel smiled, realizing that this was the true start for him. He looked down and sighed, knowing that it would be impossible for him to absorb the crystal. "Still, the part that covered the crystal was the one that we came for, right?"

After some considerations, Noel cut some more wood around it since the rest had been shattered by his continuous attacks. Even he felt a bit exhausted after using Mega Slash many times. So, he slowly cut them down before he heard a familiar voice echoing in his ears.

"Why are you here, Noel Ardagan?"

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes and turned around, finding Oscar standing next to him. "Commander..."

"I am asking you what you're doing here."

Noel took a deep breath to regain his calm and stated, "I killed this tree."

"I can see that already. How do you know the tree's location? And why do you happen to be near when the tree is awakened?"

'Ah, this must be him interrogating me. He's suspicious of me.' Noel thought before saying, "When we conducted the retake exam, I found something weird in this place."

"And you didn't report it?"



"We had no obligation to report it. In fact, we didn't know anything about it... I'm just a fallen noble. Will someone actually listen to my words?"

Oscar looked at Noel's expressionless face as if he had given up on everything. "And why are you here?"

"To do some missions of course. Both Individual and Group Missions. To survive, we need a water source and this lake is good for camping. When we returned to the camp, the demon emerged."

Oscar glared at him for another minute before closing his eyes to calm down. After that, he said, "Nonetheless, you have defeated the tree. You will surely receive your rewards and your deeds shall be honored. Even though the condition of this tree is still weak, the fact that you can kill it proves your identity and strength."

"Can you hide this kind of achievement?" Noel asked.

"It seems that you haven't forgotten your objective."

"Yes. If the royal family knows about this, they're going to kill me as soon as possible." Noel nodded.

"Fine. I'll hide your achievement for you. And to think that you would join hands with Anna Stargaze."

"I'm simply observing her power and progress. I'll continue to learn everything about her so that I can use it to kill her in the future." Noel shook his head, assuring him that he still had the hatred in his heart.

"That's good then. From now on, when you go for an individual mission, you should go a bit farther away. And I'll provide you a mask that can change your appearance and a new identity. Use that to build up your second identity's reputation. During the group mission, you can use your real face if you don't want to make her suspicious."

"I understand. I shall follow your arrangement." Noel nodded in agreement.

"In that case, let's talk about your reward. Even though you want me to hide this achievement, you surely won't let go of the reward, right?" The commander understood them since that was what he would do as well.

"Yes."

"Then, state what you want right now."

Chapter 77 A Different Scenario

"I want to learn more about Spirit Technique. You surely won't mind if I enter the fort's treasury, right?" Noel asked.

"Not holding back, huh? Great." Oscar smirked and said, "Fine. I allow you to enter the treasury. This Ancient Demon Tree is among the strongest, so I will feel bad for giving you some scraps. So, I'll allow you to take out two items from the treasury."

"Thank you, Commander. However, I do have one more request."

"What is it?"

"I don't think I can take any of this back, but can you spare a bit of this tree, specifically this one." Noel pointed at the part that he had just cut.

"The Ancient Demon Tree is quite sturdy and durable despite being a tree... It's quite a good armor for someone like you."

The commander instantly saw through his intention. However, if one took another look at it, there was no way he didn't see it through, considering Noel had no other use to take this much of wood.

Noel didn't answer, so Oscar continued, "You can get it. But you need two things to turn it into a good armor."

"Two things?" Noel widened his eyes, not knowing what they were since Anna was the one suggesting the armor.

"You need the blacksmith and a priest, a high level one on top of that. I don't think any blacksmith of the fort can handle this material, so you should go to that place..."

"That place? In fact, who can handle this kind of item?"

"Master Blacksmith. However, you don't have the means, connection or even money to pay for a Master Blacksmith, so you should go to one certain Master Blacksmith. He won't take your money or anything as long as you bring a unique thing for him to work with."

"So, he'll make an armor for free because of this material."

"That's right. I'm going to pass the details later, but you should have no problem in doing that, right? I'm not going to help you in this."

"Yes. I'll do my best." Noel nodded.

"Then, the second one is the priest. Since you're a soldier of my Demon Banner Army, it's obvious you need to fight demons most of the time. Hence, you should get a priest to bless this armor. However, this one is not urgent, considering the basic armor alone is enough for the time being. Just remember about this."

"Yes. Thank you for the advice, Commander." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"Alright. Leave everything here. I'll send this piece of wood to your room later. You should go back." Oscar then grabbed Noel's waist and jumped off the tree, landing smoothly on the surface.

Noel saw Anna in such a bad shape. The soldiers seemed to have treated her with first aid, bandaging all the wounds, but she was still in such a bad shape.

"Eric. Come here." The commander shouted, calling a person.

"Yes, Sir." A blond man hurriedly walked to him and stood still.

"Take them back to the fort. The rest will focus in dealing with the aftermath here with me."

"Yes, Sir." Eric acknowledged the order and immediately assigned the people.

Meanwhile, Noel walked to Anna. Her head, her two hands, and her left thigh was bandaged.

Eric came over and asked, "Can you walk?"

"I think I can." Anna tried to stand up but her body was staggering. A single flick was all it took for her body to fall down.

"Easy." Eric tried to grab her so that she didn't fall, but Noel had already squatted in front of her.

"Come. I'll carry you," said Noel with a cold tone. "I hate to do it, but he can protect us better this way."

"Noel..." Anna was surprised by this sudden twist of fate. This was the first time he saw Noel so kind to her.

"Hurry up." Noel clicked his tongue as he wanted to escape from this embarrassment. To think he would show mercy to his enemy, this was unthinkable before.

"Y-yes." Anna hurriedly took his offer and gently pressed her body against him before Noel lifted her up, carrying her on his back.

"Let's go then." Noel nodded to Eric as the signal that they were good to go.

"Mhm. Alright." Eric smiled while thinking, 'These two look cute together. He looks cold but he's so warm inside. Ah, he must be a person who can't be honest to his feelings. Well, I'll protect them from a bit farther away, so they can have more time together.'

Eric didn't know anything about their identities and relationship, so if Noel heard his thoughts, he might have the urge to swing his sword.

'Tsk. I hate owing someone... the Ancient Demon Tree and this one... I shall consider this as repaying the favor. Next time, I'm going to kill her for sure. No more hesitation.' Noel gritted his teeth but still walked away from the scene.

,m Meanwhile, Anna had no more energy to react. She simply rested her body on Noel's back.

She didn't know why but there was a warmth feeling in her heart.

'I had been a genius in my previous life. I didn't rely on anyone because they couldn't match up to me. Now that I think about it, the one who was with me the most was actually Noel. From all sorts of harassment to real fights, he was the only one who could keep up with me and actually motivate me to keep getting stronger. Though, for an entirely different reason.

'Even so, this is the first time I felt his back... Somehow, this makes me comfortable. It's tiring to rely on myself, bearing all that burden. Maybe if the execution didn't happen, there would be a chance for us to have another form of relationship.'

Anna thought as her consciousness became fuzzier. Her eyelids were heavy as she had a hard time fighting the sleepiness.

She couldn't help but imagine the life if the execution never happened and the misunderstanding never took place in the first place. She could see there was Noel who could actually share a portion of her burden, the burden that a genius needed to bear.

'Ah, if we didn't have any hatred between us, we might become a friend... a best friend... or even a lo— zzz...' She couldn't finish her thoughts as her consciousness faded away.

Chapter 78 Anna's Thought

"You don't know anything, Anna. You are always inside the cage that you've created yourself." Noel looked down on her.

"I don't know what you're talking about." Anna gritted her teeth, glaring at Noel.

'Eh?'

This was a scene where they had a final fight before they got betrayed. The current Anna could see both her past and Noel's past figures before her eyes.

Her consciousness didn't question what happened to her or what kind of body she had right now. Instead, she was asking to herself about the reason why she had this kind of dream.

When she looked at this stand-off, she couldn't help but feel pain in her heart.

'That's right. Why did I fight against Noel in the first place? I think that the first time I fought Noel was at that time... I was visiting a small village and got angry due to the fact that they didn't have any good places to stay.

'The past me didn't have a memory like this, so I was immature back then. If I wanted something, I could get it. If I couldn't, I would do anything as I pleased.

'Yes, I was a genius, but my behavior was terrible. I might look nice on the outside, but I was a horrible human being on the inside.

'Back then, Noel was the guide to complete the mission and I was tricked by him the first time. I got lost and almost died in that mission.

'Still, all I had was hatred back then. By the time I got tricked on the second time, I got rescued by the local people. Yet, when they saved me, I didn't thank them. Instead, I killed them. That was the start of my regret.

'I noticed something when I looked at the happy smile they had when they found me and the horrified expression when I killed them.

'Noel might be taking revenge for this slaughter by forcing me to live in the wilderness without anything. Yes, he somehow trapped me in the middle of nowhere. I hated everything at that time, but to survive, I needed to eat everything.

'No one helped me anymore. For days, I suffered. I was hungry, thirsty, tired... basically, I did everything by myself for the first time. I realized what a commoner felt when they were hungry but had no money to buy something to eat.

'I knew how thirsty they were when they needed to walk for half an hour just to fetch out some water. Yet, those same commoners were killed by me previously despite them offering me food and water after they rescued me.

'When I was rescued, I tried to act differently. I wanted to fix my past and started thanking people no matter how small their help was.'

The scene flashed before her eyes where when she had a nightmare of the people she had killed so far because of her impulse. She ended up puking hard that night and couldn't sleep for days.

She had realized that what she had done was too much even for a noble.

'After that, I accidentally saw Noel in another place, helping the people in need. They were smiling genuinely... Their smiles were much brighter and bigger than the people that smiled at me.

'At that time, I realized that the people around me were smiling because they feared me, not because they were happy being with me.

'When I tried to help them like Noel, they couldn't give me the best smile. I didn't know why. I did my best to help them and gave the best solution, yet, there was no smile like that.

'Why? Why? Why? I kept questioning myself but never found the answer. Why could Noel make people happy while I couldn't despite doing the same thing as him? Why could Noel gather so many loyal people under him while those who followed me came because of fear?

'I didn't understand... and I still don't...' Anna clenched her fists. 'Why? I did better than Noel. I was hailed as a genius unlike him. Yet, I couldn't attain what he got.'

The scene changed into the scene where Eric and the others were kidnapped. When they saw Noel, the kids became so hopeful and their expressions brightened.

Even when Noel left them, they swore to themselves that they would repay everything to Noel.

Yet, when they saw her, they were horrified and angry. Although it was an act, she never had the need to clarify it. In her mind, there was Noel's figure that could fix everything.

'Why does Noel give hope to others but I can't even though we do the same thing?' Anna bit her lips before she recalled the first scene.

"You don't know anything, Anna. You are always inside the cage that you've created yourself."

"A cage... What kind of cage that I've created?" Anna gritted her teeth. "I don't understand. I haven't created any cage..."

She suddenly fell silent as her stories flashed in her mind. She somehow could see the reason why Noel always tricked her and let her suffer.

It was revenge, but if she looked at it a bit more, she realized there was one more reason.

When they first met at the first time, she acted like a horrible person, so Noel tried to crush her by making her fall into the trap. When she almost died, her trusted knight died to protect her.



Despite having treated him like a dirt, the knight only smiled at his last moment and said, "I'm glad that you're alright, Miss Anna. I hope that you can live better."

"The second time we met, he wanted me to experience what it felt to help and to be helped. Yet, I threw that away and slaughtered those kind hearted people. After that, I was known as a ruthless genius.

"The third time, I got lost and lived like a normal commoner in the middle of nowhere. I learned how they lived and wanted to make a change.

"However, it was already too late. Everyone only treated me well because they feared me. No matter how hard I tried to change it, there was nothing that could be done.

"Yes. After that, everything was just about me. I did this for them, so they should thank me. I did the best, so you should be grateful. It was all about me. I was never sincere to them because I did it for myself, not for them.

"The reasons the kids loved Noel and wanted to follow him was because Noel thought himself as a part of their group. It wasn't about Noel, it was about them. Even if he left, it was for them.

"The reason why I never gained anything was myself. The cage I've created myself, for me, and about me.

"I see. To think that it took so long for me to realize it... I saved the kids for Noel, not for the kids. When I tried to gain my strength, I took something from Noel's future without the need of paying him back.

"Now that I think about it, Noel carried me back because he felt indebted to me for stopping the Advance Level Demon, not knowing that I was simply taking advantage of his knowledge about the Ancient Demon Tree. He hated me so much, yet, he could still put down his hatred for the sake of repaying favor. And I was taking advantage of him this whole time...

"I shouldn't have done that. There's no way I can solve the hatred between us by scheming and using him.

"That's right. After this, I should also share the fortunate encounters that my past self got to repay him for the future that I took from him.

"Is this the meaning of my second life? To fix every mistake that I made? Ah..." Anna closed her eyes as she said, "There is one thing that I've never said to Noel. If you want to make up with someone, you should say 'Sorry.' I've never said it once..."

Anna felt her consciousness began to return as if she was about to wake up.

Her last thought was, "That's right. I know it's hard, but I should apologize to Noel. After I wake up, I should apologize to him. I should say, 'I'm sorry,' to Noel."

Her consciousness gradually returned as Anna opened her eyes, waking up from her slumber. However, the first thing she saw wasn't the ceiling.

It was a black sword that was only a few centimeters away from her face. Yes, it was Noel.

"What the..."

## Chapter 79 Simple

Noel was sitting next to Anna, who was sleeping on the bed. Even though the situation had been handled, he still needed to wait Anna to wake up to get their rewards.

He looked at Anna's sleeping face. She looked so weak and defenseless that he could kill her easily with a single swing.

However, this wasn't the revenge he wanted. He still remembered the despair, fear, and anguish that he experienced when he saw his parents' heads were severed by the guillotine.

He wanted Anna to fall into despair first before dying. He wanted to destroy her family first so that she could understand the feeling of losing a family. He wanted to break everything around her so that she could feel the helplessness from it.

A life worse than death. Only when she had nothing that he would kill her.

'To do that, I need to wait. Even right now, she's already that strong. What about her family? The royal family? I still need to become stronger and stronger. When I'm strong enough, I'll crush everyone so they would know the true pain.' Noel bit his lips.

However, he couldn't help but remember when Anna cut the rope at the last moment, sacrificing herself to buy some time.

'What was your thought when you asked the execution of my parents? What was your thought when you came here to bully me? What was your thought when you cut that rope to help me?' Noel looked at this innocent face that he couldn't believe was the cause of his despair.

He bit his lips and asked, "Why?"

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, Anna was thinking about what to do in her dream. She wanted to apologize to Noel and ended up talking in her sleep.

"Noel... I'm... sorry..."

Her expression showed remorse and her tone was sad as if she wanted to repent.

That statement shocked him to the core. All the bad memories about the execution as well as the good memories about his life with his parents flashed in his mind.

'Sorry? After everything you've done, you're saying sorry now? In that case, why did you steal everything from me? If you're sorry, then you shouldn't have done it. Why? After everything happened... Why did you say 'Sorry'? Are you just toying with me even in your sleep?'

Noel couldn't help but rise from his seat while pointing his sword at Anna, wanting to kill her right away.

However, he hesitated. He wanted to make her experience the same pain first before killing her. A revenge that he desired.

Even if everyone told him it was foolish, even if they told him that his parents wouldn't come back to live even if he kill her, he still wanted to do it.

'If I don't let you suffer the same thing, my revenge will never be done. Even if I kill you right now, my heart can't move on!' Noel gritted his teeth, restraining himself from killing her.

And it was at this time that Anna gradually opened her eyes.

"Eh?" Anna widened her eyes in shock. The sleepiness was gone as her eyes focused on the sword.

When she was about to act like the usual her, she remembered everything in her dream vividly.

Her heart calmed down as she closed her eyes again with a smile this time. She said with a gentle tone as if she had given up. "Go on. If I know about you correctly, you want me to suffer before dying. So, dying in your hand peacefully sure feels nicer."

Noel gritted his teeth and glared at her. Ultimately, he retracted his sword and unsheathed it again.

\*Creak!\*

Suddenly, the door was opened as Evan had returned from the outside, looking at this bizarre scene.

"Hey, you two. I don't care about your relationship, but my infirmary is a place to save lives, not to take it away." Evan narrowed his eyes. "Noel. If you do it, then do it. However, I won't heal your wounds or allow you to go to the library again."

"..." Noel paused for a moment before retracting his sword and unsheathing it. He then walked away while saying with killing intent. "You won't die a peaceful death."

Anna looked at Noel's back before calling him out loud. "Wait Noel, I'm—"

\*Bang!\*

Noel didn't wait for her. He slammed the door and left.

'There goes my chance... Well, I have a long time ahead. I can do it at another time...' Anna sighed before checking her body condition. "My wounds are closed and other than my stamina, everything has recovered."

"Of course, I was the one who treated you after all."

"Ah." Anna looked at Evan for a second, stunned. She then politely bowed her head and said in an awkward tone. "Doctor... Thank... Thank you."

This time, she thanked him from the bottom of her heart. She had decided to be a bit more sincere in this second life to fix all her mistakes. Still, this might be the first time she said something genuinely. There was no her, only gratitude to Evan.

"Mhm?" Evan widened his eyes in surprise. "So awkward."

"Sorry..." Anna looked down, feeling embarrassed.

"But well..." Evan made a small smile. "You're welcome."

Anna looked at his smile and opened her mouth in shock. This was the first time she felt something from someone's smile. Even though the smile wasn't as bright or big as she imagined, the smile warmed her heart.

A tear couldn't help but come out of the corner of her eyes.

"What's wrong with you? You're crying now of all times? Seriously? I am not here to babysit someone like you. Leave this place right away..." Evan paused for a moment. "But at least, lie down for another hour to make sure that everything is alright. After that, you can leave... no, you should leave."

"Yes." Anna nodded furiously as Evan hurriedly walked away to his desk.

'Ah... Why didn't I realize something so simple this whole time? If you can't even be sincere to others, there's no way others can do the same.' She made a big smile as if she had just won something big.

#### Chapter 80 Report

After resting for an hour, Anna finally got the permission to leave.

Instead of her room, Anna walked to the commander's room while remembering what Evan said earlier.

"He is probably waiting near the commander's room since you're going to receive the rewards together. Rather than going back to your room to rest and fix your appearance, you should visit the commander as soon as possible."

She received a spare uniform from Evan and changed into it before going to meet Noel. As Evan said earlier, she saw Noel in the corridor leading to the commander's room.

His eyes were closed as though he was sleeping. However, Anna noticed the Spiritual Energy around him, signifying the connection between Noel and his spirit.

Instead of calling him, she simply sat next to him and waited until Noel finished. His connection lasted for ten minutes and Noel immediately picked up the presence next to him.

"So, you've come." Noel glanced at her as if checking her condition.

"Yes. Actually, I want to talk to you about something..." Anna lowered her head because she felt a bit guilty.

Her actions reminded him of the words she said during her sleep. Ultimately, Noel turned around and refused to hear it. "Let's go then."

"Ignored again..." Anna made a wry smile. Though, she could understand why Noel didn't want to hear her apology. 'Still, there's something changing in Noel. I don't know what it is.'

When Noel was about to knock on the door, the commander's voice echoed from inside. "Come in."

"..." Considering the commander's strength, he should have picked up their presence long ago. So, Noel slowly opened the door, finding the commander reading the paper in his hand. "I apologize for making you wait, Commander."

"It's fine." Oscar looked at Anna and Noel who stood next to each other. The third prince was a losing faction in the throne war. As his supporter, Oscar obviously knew that Anna's family was the supporter of the current royal family.

However, he had no intention in harming an innocent person. Even in his report to the third prince, he had stated that he wouldn't treat Anna badly as long as she followed the rules.

This middle-aged man then put his paper down and said, "The demon has been confirmed. It's called Ancient Demon Tree, its strength is among the strongest. According to the record, this demon was sealed by your ancestor, Noel Ardagan."

Noel widened his eyes, acting as if he was shocked. He didn't want to give too much information to the commander or Anna, so he needed to pretend here. "My ancestor?"

"Yes. Your ancestor, the first and strongest marshal, Arvart Ardagan."

"Ah..."

"It seems that it was your destiny to kill what your ancestor couldn't. According to the report, the seal would suck the Ancient Demon Tree's Spiritual Energy, so when it awakened, the demon didn't have much Spiritual Energy. Even the current me would have no problem in defeating the demon.

"However, even I couldn't claim that I was near what your ancestor could do in the past. So, I believe he had predicted everything and allowed you to kill it."

"I see." Noel closed his eyes like he had a hard time accepting this fact.

'What an act... He obviously knew about runes, so it's not fate or something,' thought Anna while taking a peek at Noel's expression.

The commander paused for a moment and said, "Anyway, I have promised you to give you a reward. Although it won't be befitting your achievement, it's the best thing I can give you at your current state."

"Thank you, Commander." Noel slightly bowed his head. Anna also followed suit to express her gratitude.

The commander then rose from his seat and said, "Follow me to the treasury. Both of you can take out two items each."

After that, Oscar went through the fort a bit as if he was walking around aimlessly. However, Anna could see that the commander was emitting a faint Spiritual Energy. Although she didn't know what he was doing, it was clear that he had another intention.

The trip took fifteen minutes before they reached a room guarded by four soldiers.

"Open the gate," Oscar commanded.

Two soldiers moved and channeled their Spiritual Energy to their whole body before using all their strength to push the door.



With a single glance at the thickness of the door, Noel and Anna knew that the door itself weighed tonnes. Not only did it show the strength of the guard, but also the protection of the treasury.

"You have thirty minutes inside. Pick anything you like, I'll stay here," said Oscar with a serious expression as if warning them not to make a mess inside.

Noel and Anna nodded solemnly and walked inside.

The gates were closed once again, giving them the privacy they all needed. If Oscar entered together with them, they would have refrained themselves a bit after all.

"Woah! Look at these..." Anna sucked a cold breath, impressed by the entire collections.

The treasury seemed to be divided into three parts. On the left, they could see a few shelves and racks filled with equipment, from armor to various types of weapon.

On the right side, they could see many accessories like a necklace or bracelet. In the inner part, they could see many raw materials too.

However, their focus lied on the opposite side of the room.

There were books and many bottles that seemed to have been filled with extremely powerful liquid.

Anna couldn't contain her curiosity as she took a closer look at them. "Seriously? There is a National Treasure in this place? And this armor... isn't this an armor created from a lost technology? Take a look at this necklace, it has the Sea Lord Jewel. It's said to be able to boost your Water Spirit's power. Wait a minute... Is that the Demon Dragon's scale?"

Anna was truly impressed by the entire treasury to the point she thought this was the royal treasury.

"Ah, now that I think about it, the Demon Banner Army was created by your ancestor, Arvart Ardagan. It had so many outstanding achievements over the centuries. Even the country sometimes gave them

National Treasures to reward them for their achievement. I guess all those items have been stored here." Anna made a little grin and looked at Noel. "Don't you think we're very lucky to be here?"