

Shota 111

Chapter 111 Pst, Over Here

As I stood outside the room, I couldn't help staring at the door that had been closed behind me.

As I stood there, I really didn't know what to do.

After all, meeting the count and hoping that I would be able to borrow some of his men was my final resort.

There was the option of using that money to hire mercenaries in the city, but the moment that I did that and the count found it, it would be considered hostility towards the count. And there wasn't any noble that I was close to in the city that I could borrow men from either...

So now I was just stuck here with nothing to do.

The most logical plan now was to leave this place since I had already achieved what I wanted to achieve by buying the food and supplies, but there was a part of me that didn't want to leave.

After all, there was the side quest that I wanted to finish.

I didn't know what kind of things I would face in the future, but there was nothing wrong with getting more items from the system in preparation. As long as I had these items, I would surely have an easier time.

That was the faith that I had in the system that my saviour gave me.

But there was nothing that I could do as I was just standing there in front of that door.

So with a heavy heart, I turned to leave.

This time, the servants and the guards didn't seem to care about me as they watched me go. The only way that they would do anything was if I suddenly stopped and didn't leave.

As I was walking out, I couldn't help thinking about all the different things that I could do. However, I wasn't really able to think of a single good idea that didn't have some kind of consequence attached to it.

It seemed that unless I risked my life or the people I cared about, I wouldn't be able to do anything.

So my heart hung heavy in my chest.

That is until I suddenly heard a voice that said, "Pst, over here."

I was still in the count's manor when I heard this voice and I couldn't help looking around.

However, there wasn't a single person who was currently in this empty corridor with me. All I could see was the terrible art that the count hung up in this hall.

So I couldn't help knitting my brows before walking forward again.

But then that voice said once more, "Not that way, come with me."

This time, there was also something that hit me in the back of the head.

I turned around to see where it came from, but once again, I wasn't able to see a single thing.

It was as if there was a ghost that was playing around with me, taunting me.

If it really was a ghost, I wouldn't be surprised since I was sure that there were plenty of innocent people who had been harmed by that pig count.

But in the end, there was something that caught my attention.

It was a few rocks on the ground that formed an arrow that was pointing in a certain direction. This was placed right in front of me, as if it was leading me to a certain place.

Seeing this, I couldn't help revealing a bitter look on my face that was filled with a bit of disbelief.

I couldn't help wondering if someone was really using this kind of method to lead me somewhere.

But there was no denying that this thing was on the ground in front of me.

So with a heavy sigh, I decided to head in the direction of this arrow.

I turned around and started moving in the opposite direction that I had been going. If there had been any guards around, they definitely would have forced me to leave.

Luckily for me, the guards didn't show any interest in me.

It was as if they weren't afraid that I would do anything.

Following this arrow, I soon arrived at the end of the corridor where there was a fork that was waiting for me. I had walked past the set of stairs that I had come down from and had reached the end of the corridor.

As I was looking around, I found that there was another arrow made of stones that was waiting for me.

So I took that fork that the arrow was pointing in and followed it until...I found another arrow that was pointing at one of the doors in this hallway.

I looked at this door for a bit before opening it and peeking in.

I found that this was a simple kitchen, but there was no one in this kitchen right now.

At the back of the kitchen, there was a door that had another arrow in front of it.

When I went out this door, I found that I was outside. However, this place was on the side of the manor that was still inside of the fence, so it wasn't as if I could leave from this place.

On the ground, there was another arrow pointing in a certain direction.

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I saw this.

No matter how I looked at it, it was like being sent on a wild goose chase.

But for some reason, I couldn't help feeling a bit excited by this.

This was like a real adventure.

Following the arrow, I was led to a gap in the fence that I had to duck through and then I made my way through the city following the arrows that had been left.

Eventually, I was led to a place that didn't seem like it was very safe...

There were people who had dangerous looks that were walking around this place.

But I didn't have to wander this place for long before I reached a house that had an arrow in front of it.

This arrow was pointing for me to enter this house.

Chapter 112 Secret Group (1)

As I stood in front of the house, I couldn't help taking a closer look at this place.

This place looked like the other houses in the area, but there was also something different about it.

The material, the decorations, and the other parts of the building looked different from that of the other houses. They seemed like...they were much more expensive than the other houses and they seemed much sturdier.

It was as if this building was specially made to withstand attacks.

I couldn't help being confused why a building like this was in a place like this, but I didn't question it too much.

I did what I could to see into the house to see what was there, but the blinds were completely pulled up and all the windows were closed. It was as if whoever lived here didn't want any interaction with the outside world.

Now that I was here, there was nothing else left for me to do but to knock on the door.

The safer and saner option was to leave this place since there was nothing that seemed like it was a good thing here. Almost everything seemed to point to this being a trap for me.

But I didn't know why it felt like there was something in here that was attracting me.

So in the end, I went up and knocked on the door.

After knocking a few times, the door opened and there was a butler dressed in a black suit that appeared in front of me.

When this butler saw me, he gave a slight bow before saying, "I've been waiting for you, Lord Zwein."

Then he moved out of the way and gestured forward before saying, "If you would follow me. The master is waiting for you in the reception room."

I looked past the butler at the interior of this house, but there wasn't anything special about this place.

This just looked like a simple manor with the decorations, but I could tell that the decorations were anything but simple. These were clearly expensive items that would only be used to decorate the houses of nobles.

I knew because I saw these everyday at Baroness Rose's manor.

But if that was the case, what would a noble be doing in this area of ill repute in this town?

Also, what did this noble plan on doing with me?

I looked at the butler, but he didn't look back at me at all. It was as if he was trying to avoid talking to me, so I couldn't ask him a single thing.

It didn't take long before we arrived at a pair of large doors.

The butler came forward to open them and when he did, there was a flash of light that came from inside.

This hallway was actually quite dim, much dimmer than the bright room in front of us. So with the difference in lighting, I wasn't actually able to see much of the interior of the room.

The butler just stood there with an inviting gesture and a smile on his face as he said, "The master is waiting for you inside."

I looked at him and tried to get some clues from his expression, but I wasn't able to see a single thing.

So I just gave a nod and walked in.

When I came in and my eyes adjusted to the light, I was surprised to see who was waiting there for me.

This was a face that I could recognize slightly because I had seen it before.

It was one of the nobles that had been there when I had met the count for the first time. He was one of the nobles that had been sitting there eating with the count, laughing at me.

But this time, he didn't laugh at me.

He had a smile on his face as he looked at me and he gestured for me to sit down in front of him.

However, all I could feel in that moment was wariness.

The noble sitting there could see the tense look on my face, so he said with a smile, "I don't mean you any harm...or at least not yet. So why don't you sit down and let's have a talk?"

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I heard this.

Who would say that they didn't have any intentions of harming him right now?

That was basically saying that there was the possibility that he would intend to harm him in the future.

But I could tell that this person didn't really have any hostility towards me. He might have said that, but it was more of a joke rather than an actual threat.

Since that was the case...I wanted to see just what this person wanted.

So I sat down in front of this person and took a sip of the tea that had been set.

Since it was there, there was no reason for me not to drink it.

When the noble saw this, he couldn't help saying with a smile, "You really have nerves of steel, don't you?"

I just looked at him with a smile without saying a thing.

To say that I had nerves of steel was wrong...it was more of I had already experienced many things and something at this level wasn't enough to faze me.

After a period of silence, the noble said, "I've been watching you for a while now and I can see that you're quite special, aren't you?"

I couldn't help revealing a confused look when he said this, but I didn't say anything as I waited for him to continue.

The noble didn't mind that I remained silent as he said, "I heard that you went to see the count today to ask him for some men to help you with something. I don't need to ask to know how that went."

I couldn't help knitting my brows this time.

It seemed that this person's information network was much more developed than I thought.

This was something that had just happened and he already knew about this...

So what did he want?

Chapter 113 Secret Group (2)

The noble didn't mind this once again as he continued, "You can say that I'm interested in the things that you are planning on doing and I'm someone that likes to make investments. So I'll give you the men that you want."

This time, I couldn't help being surprised when I heard this.

After narrowing my eyes to look at this man in front of me for a bit, I asked, "What do you have to gain from this?"

The noble revealed a smile when he finally heard me speak. He wasn't offended at all that I questioned him like this and instead, he said with the same smile, "I have my own matters and you can be sure that I will profit from this. So what do you say? Will you accept my offer?"

I didn't say a thing as I kept looking at this man with narrowed eyes.

I looked him up and down, as if I was trying to figure out exactly what he was playing at.

But no matter how I looked at him, I couldn't see through him.

The smile on his face, the calm way that he sat there, it was as if he had been specially trained on his poker face and he didn't give any signs at all.

I just couldn't understand what his intentions were.

After a pause, I asked, "Is there anything that you want from this? Do you want money or do you want some kind of favour?"

The noble gave an appreciative nod after hearing this before saying, "I want nothing at all. Like I said, this is an investment since what you are doing most likely aligns with my interest. Since that's the case, your success will yield plenty of benefits for me."

I couldn't help revealing a confused look once again.

He said that what I was doing aligned with his interests...then did that mean that he had some connection to Haley, her father, and her husband?

Could it be that he was also interested in Haley?

No, that shouldn't be the case since it would be easy for him to do what he had done and approach Haley. With her current situation, if a noble were to offer to help her with the store, then that would be a dream come true.

Her father and husband wouldn't be able to do anything against them, especially since this noble had the backing of the count.

So it shouldn't be for Haley or the store.

Then it was most likely related to the husband or the father.

I looked at the noble again with narrowed eyes before asking, "Do you plan on hurting anyone?"

That was my bottom line.

I didn't know what this person was planning, but if they were planning on hurting the people involved, then I didn't want to get involved in them. After all, Haley being hurt was the last thing that I wanted and it would be bad if her father was hurt as well.

As for the husband...I couldn't care less.

The noble looked right at me before saying in a serious voice, "I don't plan on hurting anyone, but if they plan on fighting me, then I have no choice but to defend myself."

I just looked into his eyes as he said this.

After confirming that he was indeed serious about this, I gave a nod in response.

This was the best that I would get out of this person and I was fine with it.

I knew that it was impossible to completely get them to give up violence, but if they did what they could to prevent casualties, that was good enough.

The main thing was that I didn't have any other options at this point.

So I said with a nod, "I'll accept these men from you."

The noble revealed a smile once again as he said with a nod, "Good choice."

With a snap of his finger, one of the doors to this room opened and a person dressed up in normal clothing walked out. He came over to where we were sitting and he gave a bow to the noble before giving a bow to me.

The noble said, "This is Shaka. He is the leader of the team that I'm handing to you and he will command this team for you. If you need anything, you can just ask Shaka."

I looked at the one that he called Shaka.

This person...had a very ordinary face. All of his facial features were very normal and very forgettable, it was a face that one would completely forget if it was in a crowd. But there was one feature of his face that was prominent.

It was a scar that was on his right brow.

After looking at him for a bit, I reached my hand out to him and said, "It's a pleasure working with you."

Shaka reached his hand out to grab my hand as well before saying, "It's a pleasure."

I turned back to the noble who was just sitting there with a relaxed smile on his face.

Seeing that I was looking at him, the noble asked, "Is there anything else that you need?"

I couldn't help being surprised when I heard this.

Normally, they would say something to signify that this was the end of the meeting. However, this time, the noble in front of me acted like I should understand that this was the end and that I should show myself out.

But before I left, I asked, "Is it worth it going against the count like this?"

The noble was surprised to hear this before saying with a smile, "I have no idea what you're talking about. However, what he doesn't know doesn't hurt him, right?"

I knitted my brows when I heard this, but then I gave a nod and stood up to leave.

That last question confirmed it...this noble was acting without the knowledge of the count.

If the count were to learn about this, it was hard to imagine what would happen.

Chapter 114 Secret Group (3)

After he had left, the noble just sat there staring at the door that he walked out of.

Not long after, there was another door that opened and the same butler that had brought Zwein in walked out of it. The butler came up to the noble sitting at the couch and asked, "Master, do you really think that this investment is worth it? Is he really that special?"

The noble sitting there was silent for a bit before giving a nod in response.

He took a deep breath before saying, "Since we've heard about him, he's given us nothing but surprises."

The noble on the couch reached over to a stack of papers that had been hidden behind the couch. He picked up a few of these documents and then spread them across the table.

He pointed at one of them and said, "Do you really think that a normal person would be able to drive away a monster wave, especially one that had been stirred up by the demons?"

On this piece of paper was a detailed report about what had happened in Baron Mordo's territory over two months ago.

This included a detailed account of the demon order, the monster wave, and even the succubi who had been sighted nearby.

With how detailed it was, it was almost as if it was a report written by someone who had witnessed everything first hand.

The butler gave a slight nod to show that he agreed with this, but then he said, "Even if he isn't a normal person, don't you think that it's dangerous to engage like this? Isn't it better to observe and see what other secrets that he might be hiding?"

The noble fell silent when he heard this and he just sat there as if he was thinking about something.

After a long silence, the noble finally said, "I'm thinking about recruiting him."

The butler couldn't help revealing a shocked look when he heard this.

He just looked at the noble sitting there in disbelief, almost as if he couldn't understand what his master was saying. But then his expression suddenly changed as he said, "Master, you should know what doing something like that would mean. This isn't something that can be done that easily. If the others were to find out, then..."

His voice suddenly cut off as he noticed the noble staring at him.

Seeing this, the butler immediately bowed his head and said, "I've overstepped my bounds, I apologize for this."

The noble just gave a soft snort before turning back to look at the pieces of paper in front of him. As he read through them, he couldn't help revealing a faint smile.

Then in a soft voice that almost seemed like he was talking to himself, "I'm looking forward to seeing what kind of surprises you will show me this time."

Then without waiting for the butler, he stood up and walked off.

But the butler just remained standing there with his head slightly down. His eyes were also looking at the pieces of paper that the noble had left behind on the table.

There was a dark glow in his eyes as he stared in that direction and it was clear that he was planning something.

Then after a while, the butler also stood up and walked out of the room, leaving those pieces of paper on the table.

...

After leaving the house, I just stood there in the street with Shaka.

As I stood there, there was an awkward look on my face because...I didn't know where to go.

I had been following the arrows that had been left for me, so I didn't actually know where I was going the whole time. So now that I had to go back, I really didn't know where to go since I was unfamiliar with this part of the city.

Shaka just stood there watching me until he finally couldn't take it anymore and asked, "What are you doing?"

It would have been fine if he didn't say anything since I could keep trying to remember the way that I came from, but...now that he said something, it wasn't as if I could just keep standing there in what seemed to be a daze.

But Shaka had his own right to say this since he had kept three people from robbing me just now.

These people had been pickpockets who had thought that Zwein was an easy target, but Shaka had skillfully taken back what they had taken from his pockets.

Still, seeing him just stand there in a daze wasn't a good thing, so he had no choice but to say something.

I just stood there with an awkward look before finally admitting, "I don't know which way to go..."

As my voice trailed off, Shaka couldn't help looking at me with a strange look.

It was like he was trying to figure out if I was being serious or not...But the strange thing was that there wasn't a trace of disdain in his eyes.

After confirming that I was indeed serious and I didn't know where to go, Shaka put his hand to his face and shook his head while letting out a sigh. The awkward smile on my face became bigger when I saw this.

In the end, he simply said, "Where do you want to go? Do you want to go back to the count's manor or do you want to go back to your inn?"

I was surprised that he said this since it implied that he already knew where I was staying.

This might all seem innocent, but in reality, it was dangerous.

It meant that they had already been watching me for some time and that they had a lot of information about me. If that was the case, then what were they planning?

Why did they need all this information about me?

This clearly seemed like they were planning on doing something...

But for now, I decided to keep my expression calm as I said, "To the inn."

Shaka gave a nod before leading the way.

Chapter 115 Information

With Shaka leading the way, it didn't take long for us to reach the inn.

One thing to note was that...Shaka was quite the kind person.

He could have walked at his usual pace and outpaced me since I was much shorter than him, forcing me to run to catch up to him, but he didn't do that. Instead, he deliberately walked at a slower pace so that I would be able to keep up with him.

It seemed like there was still a lot that I could learn about this new companion of mine.

When we arrived at the inn, I found that Nicole and Jessica were anxiously waiting outside.

The moment that they saw us coming over, they both ran over to me and hugged me.

As they hugged me, I could feel many people's glares on me.

Both of them were beautiful girls, so when they had stood there with worried looks on their faces, it had invoked the protective feeling of quite a few men. They had all watched over them, but they hadn't dared to make a move since they could see Jessica's sword.

Now that the cause of their worry had appeared, namely me, all of them glared at me.

I revealed a bitter smile as I received the hatred of all these men, but I patted the two girls on their back and calmed them down before asking, "What's wrong?"

The two of them looked up at me and said, "You disappeared after the meeting, so we thought that something had happened to you."

I shook my head and said, "Didn't I already say that I might be late since I would need to take care of some other stuff?"

"The driver came back without you, so we thought that something happened."

I remembered that I came with the driver and I had left him alone...

It was a good thing that he came back on his own, or else he would still be waiting there in front of the manor for me. Who knows how long he would have remained there if nothing had been said...

It seemed like I owed the driver an apology...

I patted them on the back again before comforting them by saying, "It was my fault. It was an urgent matter and I forgot to say something to the driver before heading off."

The two of them just kept glaring at me and I had no choice but to apologize.

Seeing the way that I acted around these two girls, Shaka looked at me with one brow raised as if he was surprised by something. Though if you thought about it, it wasn't strange that he would be surprised.

Nobles wouldn't act this way.

Even if I was a commoner that had married a noble, one would assume that I had been taught on how nobles acted so that I wouldn't embarrass my spouse.

But that didn't seem to be the case here.

After I finished calming them down, we headed into the inn to rest up.

After we reached my room, I realized that I had forgotten about something.

I turned to Shaka and asked, "Do you have a place to stay or are you going to stay here?"

Shaka calmly said, "I'll stay here with you. It's easier to coordinate with you if I'm nearby."

I gave a nod before saying, "You can just stay in this room with me then, there's plenty of room here."

Shaka was surprised by this, but he still nodded in agreement.

It was then that both Nicole and Jessica realized that Shaka was there. They had been focused on me since they had been worried about me, but since I had addressed him, they had no choice but to acknowledge Shaka.

Both of them looked at him curiously before Nicole asked, "My lord, this is?"

I introduced Shaka to the two of them before saying, "He's the helper that I found for us, so I hope that you will work well with him."

The two of them looked at Shaka with wary looks, but they still agreed to work with him in the end.

Once the two of them were settled and there was only Shaka and I left in the room, I told him the situation that we were facing and how I needed information.

Shaka just gave a simple nod in response before heading off to give command to his men to get the information that I wanted.

It didn't even take a day for them to gather this information.

The next morning, Shaka had already prepared the information that I asked for and presented it all to me.

The information that I had asked for was about Haley's father and her husband.

I needed to know what kind of things they would be capable of before thinking of countermeasures.

There wasn't much information about her husband since he was from a lower class to begin with. His whole family was from the slums and there wasn't much information about his father other than he had

some kind of connection with Haley's father. It was unknown what kind of connection it was, but it should be some kind of life saving debt with how Haley's father treated her husband.

As for Haley's father, he was the chairman of the Zephyr Company, the fourth largest company in the entire kingdom. They were based in the north and this was the south, which was why there were few mentions of them here. There were a few Zephyr Company stores scattered about, but there weren't any in this city since Haley's own Big Bear Company was here as a branch.

The influence that they had wasn't small, they even had ties with several counts and a duke. This was a company that had a lot of backing, but it was just too bad that it was all based in a single area, so they couldn't access it.

But one thing of note was that...Haley's husband had been making ties with some people of ill repute in this city...

Chapter 116 Sudden Change

Proxy Connection Failed!

After going through all of this material, I decided that it was better if we kept an eye on the husband just in case he decided to do anything drastic.

Of course, it wasn't as if we could just take care of him without him doing anything since that would be a crime.

So I chose to adopt a wait and see attitude with this man.

A few more days passed and a week had passed since I had first gone to see Haley.

In the morning, she had sent someone to find me at my inn to tell me that all the goods were prepared. All they were waiting for was me to head back to the town with.

Since they were prepared, I didn't waste any time heading off to the store.

The sooner that these goods could reach the town, the better off my people would be. Even if I had become a baron from marrying Baroness Rose, I still cared about the people because they had come to become my family.

The time that I had spent in that town hadn't been for nothing.

When I arrived at the store, I found that there were carriages loaded up that were waiting outside.

There was no need to guess to tell that these were the ones for us.

So I headed over and called out to the people that were still loading up the carriages.

One of them turned and I immediately recognized this person.

This was the same clerk that had helped me both times that I had come to the store. I didn't know his name back then, but I had learned after that his name was Kevin.

Kevin also greeted me when he saw me and he came over to help us while the rest of them kept loading up the carriage.

I asked him, "How long will it take for us to head over to the town?"

Kevin thought about it before responding, "It should be three to four days."

I gave an understanding nod when I heard this.

It took us only two days to come here, but that was because we had been traveling light.

For a large caravan like this to only take three or four days, it was clear that they were already pushing it.

That was something I was grateful for since I knew that they were rushing on my behalf. I had told Haley how urgently my town needed this, so she had given them the order to go as quickly as possible.

I really had to thank her for this.

But when I looked around, I saw that I couldn't find her at all.

It was as if she had completely disappeared.

However, that was strange since she was supposed to come to our town with me.

This wasn't in the plan at first, but after her father showed up, it was decided that she would come to our town. At least she would be able to hide out for a bit if she came to our town and waited until her father left.

Her father showing up had been a surprise, but she knew that it was impossible for him to stay here forever.

He was the chairman of a large company, one that did business all over the kingdom. He was an even busier person than Haley who ran just the third largest company in the city.

So there was no way that he would be able to stay in this place for long.

She had done all that she could to avoid him so that she would be able to avoid a conflict.

Even now, personally making this delivery was partly because of this. The other part was because of what I had done for her before, so she wanted to make sure that the delivery reached the destination without a problem.

But the fact that she wasn't here was concerning.

So I asked Kevin, "Do you know where your boss went?"

"The boss?" Kevin looked around with a confused look before saying, "She said that she wanted to take care of some business and she would be right back, but it seems like she's not back yet."

When I heard this, I couldn't help knitting my brows as a bad premonition filled my heart.

I quickly turned to Shaka and said, "We need to find her."

He just gave a nod in response before giving a whistle with his fingers.

This was the secret signal that he sent to his men that would send them into action.

I had asked about this before and he told me that different tones meant different things, but I wasn't able to hear a thing. Still, since they were using it, it should mean that they could tell the difference and that was enough for me.

As for me, I started running in the direction that Kevin said that Haley had gone in.

But as I moved in that direction, I couldn't find a single thing.

I couldn't help feeling more and more anxious as I ran along.

If something did happen to her, it would be too late to save her and I would fail the side quest.

Of course, the more important thing was that Haley would be in danger.

So I wanted to find her as soon as possible.

I didn't find a single thing until I turned the corner and there was a carriage that caught my attention.

I went over to it and I went around it, I saw that there were several men who were carrying something into the carriage. When I looked more closely, I found that it was a woman's figure.

Not to mention, it was a woman's figure that I recognized.

It was Haley and she was being kidnapped.

I looked to Jessica who immediately pulled out her sword, but before she could reach them, the men had already put her into the carriage and they drove off.

With how fast the horse was, we weren't able to even touch the back of this carriage.

Chapter 117 Crow Gang (1)

When the carriage disappeared from sight, I couldn't help punching the wall to the side as I said, "Damn it!"

Both Nicole and Jessica looked at me as if they were waiting for orders, but I didn't have any orders to give.

After all, I had no idea who had even kidnapped Haley and why they had done it.

Even if I had guesses, that didn't mean a thing since they weren't solid leads. The longer that we wasted chasing these unreliable leads, the longer Haley would remain in their captivity.

In situations like this, the longer that the captive was in captivity, the more danger they were in...

So we had to find Haley as soon as possible.

But we had no idea where to go.

That was until Shaka said, "My men are following them right now."

I couldn't help turning to look at Shaka with a shocked look, but I knew that he wouldn't joke around at a time like this. So I gave him a nod before letting him lead the way.

Shaka quickly led us through the streets of the city until we came to a part of it that was not as clean. However, this wasn't the same place that I was led to the other day.

That shady part of the town was to the east while this shady part of the town was to the west.

In short, the outer rings of the town were where those that weren't as rich lived, so the neighbourhoods weren't as good.

There was only the main gate to the north that was well defended since that was the main entrance to the city. It was considered the official face of the city and the face of the count, so there were plenty of guards there keeping order.

As for the city itself, it was only the center that was well guarded since that was where the count and the other nobles lived.

In short, the further one got from the center of the city, the worse public order became.

But their carriage was the carriage of a noble and no one was crazy enough to mess with a noble in this city. They knew that the moment that they messed with a noble, it would mean their death.

Once we were close to our target, I had the carriage stop in a nearby alley and drop us off.

There was someone that was waiting there for us.

When this person saw us, he immediately bowed to me before turning to Shaka to say, "It's right over there." He was pointing at one of the buildings in the distance as he said this.

This person was one of the men under Shaka's command and the one who had been following the carriage that had taken Haley.

When Shaka looked at the building that he was pointing at, he couldn't help slightly knitting his brows.

When I saw this, I couldn't help asking, "What's wrong?"

Shaka was silent for a bit before saying, "That's the hideout of the Crow Gang."

I also knitted my brows when I heard this.

The Crow Gang was the ill reputed connection of Haley's husband. They were one of the gangs that populated this city and they were considered quite powerful with over a thousand members.

As for our side, we had the four of us and a few other men that were under Shaka's command.

If we were to rush in to save Haley...

After a long silence, I asked Shaka, "Can we get the city guards to help us? This is a kidnapping, isn't it?"

Shaka shook his head and said, "They have already made bribes to the city guards, so unless it's the order of the count or one of the commanding officers, the city guards won't come to this place."

The order of the count or one of the commanding officers...that was impossible.

The count was definitely impossible based on how he had treated me in our last encounter. I would never have enough money to compel him to act and even if I did, with how shameless that pig count was, he would just take the money without doing anything.

So it was just up to us alone to face an entire gang.

In total, there were less than twenty of us adding in all of Shaka's men.

So this would be considered a suicide mission if we decided to take it...

After thinking for a bit, I asked Shaka, "Can your men get us in?"

Shaka gave a nod in response, though he was doubtful how that would help.

At the very least, if we could get in and see what the situation was, we would have a better judgement of the situation. It was better than sitting out here without knowing a single thing about what was happening inside.

Though sneaking in was without a doubt dangerous as well...

I just couldn't sit here and do nothing, that was what I felt.

Seeing that I had made a decision, Shaka gave a nod to the man who was there and then there were several others who appeared in this alley.

There were a total of fifteen of them and all of them were armed. They didn't have large swords, but rather small daggers that they could easily hide on their bodies if they were ever discovered.

When they appeared, Shaka gave them a few simple orders before they all disappeared again.

Shaka then turned back and said, "Give them ten minutes and they'll be able to secure a path in."

I gave a nod in response and then anxiously waited.

I didn't know what was happening inside, but I knew that the situation wouldn't be good for Haley who was trapped inside. For all I knew, they might be doing all kinds of things to her...

No, when I thought about it clearly, I knew that they wouldn't do that since they needed her in one piece for whatever plan they had.

But I just didn't know what plan they did have.

Chapter 118 Crow Gang (2)

Ten minutes slowly passed by and when it was time, Shaka led the way forward.

We walked over to the building and there wasn't a single person that noticed us.

That was because all the people who had been around this area had somehow disappeared.

When we came closer to the building, I could see that there were a few people that were lying on the ground. From afar, it looked like they were napping, but when one looked closely...there were traces of red.

I couldn't help turning to look at Shaka, but he didn't bother acknowledging this.

I turned back to look at the figures that were on the ground and I couldn't help wondering just what kind of person I had gotten involved with...

I had thought that the noble that I borrowed these men from just wanted to do a few things under the nose of the count for his own benefits, but now it didn't seem to be the case.

After all, people that were this skilled at "silencing" people were not people that could be recruited by a simple noble like this.

There was clearly something much deeper at work here.

But for now, I didn't think too deeply about it.

I had already paid the price, so I would face the consequences later. If I thought too much about this and got distracted, I would lose my life in the end.

It was better to throw this to the back of my mind and deal with these matters when they came up.

For now, I should focus on saving Haley.

So I let Shaka lead the way in.

The path that we took had also been cleared of all guards. I didn't see a trace of the guards in this hallway, but I could see out of the corner of my eyes that there were streaks of red that lined this hallway.

It was clear that what happened outside had also happened here.

I couldn't help wondering if Shaka's men were currently hiding in the surrounding area, watching over everything.

πάντας ἦθνε | When we reached the end of the hall, I found that one of Shaka's men was there waiting for us.

Shaka went over to him and after exchanging a few words, he turned away from the door in front of us and walked over to the wall. Then as if on cue, there was a rope ladder that was dropped down for us.

The three of us quickly climbed up this ladder and we found that we were in the ceiling. This was a space between the second floor and the first floor that was big enough to fit us.

Waiting there were a few more of Shaka's men.

Seeing that Shaka was here, they quickly took their positions before one of them led us to a certain area in this ceiling part. Waiting there was a peep hole in the floor that we could look down on.

When we arrived, both Shaka and Jessica looked at me, as if they were giving me the honours.

I didn't hold back and moved over to the peep hole before putting my eyes over it.

Looking down, I found that we were currently over a dark and large room. I couldn't see very well because of how dark it was there, but my eyes soon adjusted and I was able to see what was inside.

Sitting on the ground under me, tied up in ropes was Haley.

However, it wasn't just her that was sitting there tied up.

Sitting beside her was...her father who had also been tied up.

In front of them were several rough looking men who were all holding daggers and surrounding them. In the center of this group was...Haley's husband and someone that looked to be the boss of these men.

Haley's husband was sitting there in a chair in front of them, looking down on them.

I couldn't see too clearly, but it seemed like his mouth was moving, as if he was saying something to them. They were just too far away for me to hear what they were saying clearly.

That is until Shaka suddenly handed me something.

I looked down at it to see that it was a pair of earplugs.

I couldn't understand how earplugs would help me in this situation, but I trusted him and put them in my ears.

The moment that they were inserted in my ears, as if by , I was able to hear the sound of Haley's husband speaking.

I couldn't help looking at Shaka with a surprised look, but he just looked back at me with a calm look.

I knew that it was useless trying to get more information out of Shaka like this, but I couldn't help changing my opinion of him and the noble that he reported to even more. After all, this was clearly a item.

Any organization that was able to get a item definitely wasn't a normal organization.

It was clear that they were a powerful organization that had some kind of goal and that goal...involved me.

But for now, it was useless to think about it, so I turned my attention back down to what was happening below.

"If you just do what we tell you, then we'll let you go without a problem." Haley's husband said.

Haley had a fierce look on her face as if she wanted to rip him apart, but her father just had a crushed look on his face.

He looked at Haley's husband and asked, "Alex, why are you doing this?"

Haley's husband looked down at her father and said, "You know why you forced me to do this. If I can't have what's mine, then I'll take it by force."

Haley's father looked crushed as he said, "I've always treated you like my son and I've always given you everything you wanted. If there's any way that I've wronged you..."

"Shut up!" Haley's husband suddenly shouted.

Then taking a deep breath, he said, "You'll be able to make it up to me soon."

After he said this, he revealed a smile that clearly showed that he had evil intentions.

Chapter 119 Crow Gang (3)

When they heard this, both Haley and her father revealed different expressions.

While they both had traces of confusion on their faces from hearing what he said, they also had traces of other emotions.

Haley had a look of disgust and disdain while her father had a trace of disappointment on his face.

But neither of them had time to say anything else as the boss of the gang came over. He placed his hand on the husband's shoulder and said, "Alex, stop playing around with them and get them to sign it already. We don't have much time to waste, someone will try to come for them eventually."

The husband called Alex had been enjoying his time torturing the two of them, but he knew that the boss was right. So he said, "Big brother, I'll get it right away."

Then turning back, he placed the piece of paper in front of Haley's father and said, "Father in law, if you just sign this, I promise that we'll release you and your daughter right away."

Haley's father had a complicated look on his face when he heard this.

Alex had been offering this to him the entire time, but of course he didn't want to sign this thing.

After all, this was a contract that would transfer the shares of his company to Alex.

He had planned on doing this eventually when Alex and Haley came back to help him with his company. Then he would retire and leave the company to the two of them...

But Haley chose to run off and start this company on her own, which had completely ruined that plan...

Still, this was the culmination of his life's hard work, it wasn't something that he could give up that easily. But on the other side was...his precious daughter.

Even though he spoke in the way that he did to her, she was still his precious daughter that he lovingly raised.

He knew that he had wronged her by forcing to marry Alex because of the debt that he owed to his father. He knew that he had wronged her by stopping her from pursuing her dream for the sake of the future that he planned.

So now that she was in danger, he couldn't help thinking of her.

While he was agonizing over this, Alex turned to Haley and placed another piece of paper in front of her before saying, "It's the same for you. If you sign this, then we'll let you go right away."

Haley didn't even need to look at it to know what it was.

It was a contract that was just like the one that had been offered to her father. If she signed this contract, the store that she had worked hard to build in this city would be given to Alex.

So naturally she didn't even look at it.

Unlike her father, she was willing to die before giving up that store since it wasn't just the culmination of her hard work. It was the culmination of all the hard work of the staff that had been with her the entire time.

She wasn't willing to let anyone touch that store, even if it meant death.

Seeing the looks in their eyes, Alex knew that it was a lost cause to try and convince Haley. On the opposite side though, it seemed like it was possible to convince Haley's father into signing the contract because the look in his eyes was wavering.

So he figured that it was better to start with the father than to try to change Haley's mind.

But before he could say anything else, the boss suddenly said, "Wait."

All of the rough looking men stopped glaring at the two tied up and looked at the boss with a confused look.

Alex turned and asked with the same confused look, "Big brother, what is it?"

The boss knitted his brows and said, "We have a rat."

The moment that I heard this, I couldn't help being taken aback.

I quickly looked around myself, but I wasn't able to find anything that indicated that we had been discovered. I couldn't help feeling confused how we had been discovered, but I knew that there wasn't time to waste here.

I quickly gave a signal to Shaka and mouthed, "We've been found."

Shaka immediately understood what I meant and he was about to turn around to leave, but there was a creaking sound that came from beneath us.

Before any of us could move an inch, the boards of the ceiling under us cracked apart and we started falling.

As we were falling, I could see that one of Shaka's men was just lying there without moving. Even though this seemed very normal, there was a bright red streak that was on that person's neck.

It was the red of blood.

It seemed that the Crow Gang's boss also had an assassin that was watching over the place and they had been the one to find us. They were so skilled that they had managed to kill one of us before we could even react.

Luckily, we weren't too high up, so we didn't fall that far.

As for me, I had also started training my body, but there was only so much that I could accomplish in the short amount of time that I had. So it wasn't as if I had any major results in just a few weeks of training.

Luckily for me, Shaka and Jessica both twisted their bodies to help shield some of the impact for me.

The two of them were well trained, so a small fall from this distance wouldn't be enough to hurt them.

When we landed, we fell right beside the two who were tied up, facing the group of rough looking men in front of us.

Though one of us didn't land like the rest...

This person fell to the ground with a thud and there was a spray of blood that scattered around.

Chapter 120 Crow Gang (4)

When Shaka saw this, he couldn't help lowering his head a bit, almost as if he was offering a silent prayer for that person.

But then he quickly focused on the people in front of him.

At the same time, Jessica pulled out her sword and she moved in front of me.

The rest of Shaka's men who had fallen with us also pulled out their daggers and prepared for a fight.

The sound alerted the ones who had been outside and they also came in with weapons raised.

But even then, we were completely outnumbered.

There were less than ten of us and there were over fifty enemies standing there in front of us. To win, we would have to each take out five enemies, but that was assuming that we could...

For someone like me, one would even be considered too much...

After we had landed, the boss of the Crow Gang looked at us and said, "It seems like there are quite a few rats that snuck in."

There was a figure that landed beside the boss.

This figure was completely covered in a cloak, so there was no seeing what their real appearance was like. However, that figure was holding a dagger that had a trace of blood on it.

It was clear that this was the person who had just killed one of Shaka's men.

Staring at us, the figure brought the dagger in their hand up to their face. A long tongue came out from under the hood and came out to lick the blood off the dagger.

Then the figure said, "Boss, it seems like your men really are poorly trained. The ones out there are all dead."

When the boss of the Crow Gang heard this, he couldn't help knitting his brows as he looked at us. There was a trace of hostility that could also be found in his eyes, but he held himself back in the end from attacking us then and there.

After a minute of silence, the boss finally asked in a low and threatening voice, "Who are you?"

The boss of the Crow Gang was the boss for a reason. He didn't become the boss by beating everyone in submission, but rather he became the boss because everyone wanted him as the boss.

He was a smart man who had reached the top of the gang with his intelligence.

He was someone that always came up with plans that they profited on and gave them the fewest casualties, so he was someone that everyone willingly followed. At the same time, he treated everyone under him like they were his brothers.

So that was why he felt anger when he heard that his men were killed.

As I faced this gaze from the boss, I just looked back at him with a calm look in my eyes. But during this time, I was looking around myself and trying to find a way out for us.

I knew that this was a bad situation that we had landed in and if we didn't find a way out, we would slowly be worn down by them.

But before anyone else could say anything, Alex suddenly said, "It's him!"

Everyone from the Crow Gang turned to look at Alex with confused looks, waiting for him to explain.

Alex quickly turned to the boss and said, "Big brother, this is the person that I was telling you about! This person is her lover!"

As soon as he heard this, the boss of the Crow Gang revealed an understanding look.

Then when he turned back to look at us, his eyes filled with killing intent.

Not only was this group the ones who had killed his brothers, they were also the ones that had stood in the way of his plans.

Since he now knew who these people were, there was nothing left for him to do but...to kill them all.

But that was strange for someone like the boss of the Crow Gang who always thought logically.

If one thought about it, it wouldn't make sense for him to attack a noble like this.

That is unless he didn't know that Zwein was a noble.

That was the one detail that Alex had left out when he had reported this back because he knew that as soon as the boss of the Crow Gang knew about this, he would immediately back out. He knew that the boss of the Crow Gang was someone cautious and wouldn't act for big profit unless he was certain that it was safe.

So he knew that he had to hide the fact that Zwein was a noble from him.

Both sides could see that they were prepared to fight now and there was nothing left for them to say, so both sides raised their weapons.

However, before any of them could make a move, Haley suddenly spoke.

The moment that she saw that Zwein was here, she knew what the situation was. At the same time, she knew that she had to say something, or else the situation would develop much worse than what she wanted.

So she immediately said, "He's a noble! If you do anything to him, you will be charged with the crime of harming a noble!"

As soon as they heard this, the Crow Gang thugs all stopped.

The boss of the Crow Gang also looked at Haley with a look that seemed like he only half believed her.

But then when he looked back at Alex who avoided his gaze, he knew that what she was saying was the truth.

Nobles...that was a wall that no one could overcome in this kingdom.

Because this was a kingdom that was created by and run by nobles, so they were the highest class in this kingdom.

There was no one that could go against nobles without suffering.

That included the Crow Gang.

If it was found that they had hurt a noble, every single one of them would be executed.

So this would be a risky business if they decided to continue with this.

But then a voice said, "I'll take care of him if you take care of the rest."